ASEAN@50 Anniversary

Bangkok Declaration 1967

ASEAN Summit 2017
ASEAN’s 50-year journey is a story that needs to be told to this and future generations. Thus, to commemorate ASEAN’s golden anniversary, ERIA and the Government of the Philippines collaborated to produce the five-volume ASEAN@50 publication. This volume, Volume 1, presents insights and personal reflections of political luminaries comprising Leaders and Senior Officials of ASEAN Member States, and ASEAN Secretaries-General; academics from ASEAN+ countries; and ‘friends’ of ASEAN – all of whom have been the prime movers of the organisation since its birth in 1967. It also discusses the three pillars of ASEAN that are significant elements in the association’s progress and transformation – the Political-Security Community, the Economic Community, and the Socio-Cultural Community – and how its relations with its dialogue partners evolved.

Featuring memorable quotes from the ASEAN founders, photos of ASEAN’s milestones since its establishment, personal reflections and stories of ASEAN Leaders and ‘friends’, this volume will hopefully make ASEAN’s journey come alive for readers and paint a clearer picture of its and the ASEAN peoples’ future.
ASEAN @ 50 Volume 2
Voices of ASEAN: What Does ASEAN Mean to ASEAN Peoples?

Edited by Ponciano Intal, Jr. and Lydia Ruddy

ASEAN has provided a platform for continuous discussion amongst Leaders, which has helped the region address challenges and adapt to constantly changing circumstances. But what do the people of ASEAN think about ASEAN? What are their hopes and expectations for ASEAN as a region? Are they aware of how ASEAN institutions work on their behalf? And are ASEAN programmes and initiatives addressing their key concerns? To address these questions, this book presents and discusses the results of an ASEAN-wide public opinion survey conducted in 2016 by ERIA and research partners based in each of the 10 ASEAN Member States. A total of 2,322 respondents from selected sectors participated in the survey. The findings indicate optimism about the region’s future and the potential for ASEAN as an institution, providing key insights that will be of interest to policymakers, academics, and the media – indeed anyone interested in Southeast Asia today.
The ASEAN region has been drastically transformed economically in the past 50 years, driven by domestic reforms, the pursuit of open regionalism, and the growth of regional production networks woven by international trade and investment linkages. ASEAN’s economic transformation occurred alongside the pursuit of ASEAN’s regional integration agenda. The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 is the formal affirmation of the beginning of the drive towards deeper integration.

The papers in this volume discuss the evolving role of ASEAN’s economic integration agenda in the domestic policies of ASEAN Member States as well as their contribution of autonomous liberalisation policies to ASEAN economic integration. The varied country experiences amongst the member states, especially during the past 2 decades, bring out the fact that the challenges and successes of the AEC lie in the interplay of national interests and ASEAN goals and the concordance of the regional integration initiatives on the one hand and each member state’s domestic policy imperatives on the other.
ASEAN @ 50 Volume 4
Building ASEAN Community: Political–Security and Socio-cultural Reflections

Edited by Aileen Baviera and Larry Maramis

ASEAN has gradually built, based on shared interests and common principles and norms, various practices and mechanisms that helped prevent conflict amongst its members and allowed it to play an autonomous role in shaping the regional security architecture. Overcoming the member states’ preoccupation with their own national concerns to give way to advocacy of collective interests has remained difficult, but progress is being made. Part A of this volume looks at the processes and dynamics, challenges, and opportunities of ASEAN political–security cooperation as part of the ASEAN community-building project.

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Vision 2025 is a powerful statement, reinforced by the ASCC Blueprint 2025 designed to engage and benefit its peoples, with purposeful actions and outcomes that are inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic. Part B examines the ASCC’s progress and explores the ASCC’s newest role in empowering its people, stakeholders, and institutions as it leverages issues such as social technology, faces sustainable and resilient development pathways, and designs interactive processes and services that secure regional social integration based on shared cultural values.
ASEAN @ 50 Volume 5
The ASEAN Economic Community Into 2025 and Beyond

Edited by Rebecca Sta. Maria, Shujiro Urata, and Ponciano Intal, Jr.

ASEAN has successfully promoted economic integration by increasing intra-ASEAN trade and investment over 5 decades. This is despite the diversity of its member states in terms of the stages of economic development, political systems, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds, thereby contributing to rapid economic development and growth. Progress in economic integration is realised through a step-by-step confidence-building approach – or the ‘ASEAN way’ – towards integration by adopting various ASEAN-wide schemes, including the ASEAN Free Trade Area in 1993 and the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015.

Looking to the future, ASEAN needs to undertake investment actively, increase productivity, and enhance connectivity to continue and accelerate economic growth and to realise sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Towards this end, the papers in this volume elaborate on several critical policy measures for moving the AEC forward into 2025 and beyond: promoting seamless trade facilitation, managing rising non-tariff measures, reframing trade service sector development and liberalisation, institutionalising good regulatory practice, enhancing connectivity and participation in global value chains, promoting innovation, and others. The papers effectively sharpen the logic and deepen the insights for the above-mentioned policy measures which are identified and presented in the AEC 2025 Blueprint and other ASEAN blueprints. In addition, the volume emphasises that effective and speedy implementation of these measures by ASEAN and ASEAN Member States requires not only strong political will and commitment, but also a monitoring and evaluation system that engenders deep engagement of, and collaboration with, the business community, think tanks and research institutes, and civil society for constructive feedback.