

22<sup>ND</sup> ASEAN SUMMIT  
24 - 25 APRIL 2013

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



# FACT SHEET

ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC)



one vision  
one identity  
one community

## ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC)

- A Rules-based Community of Shared Values and Norms
- A Cohesive, Peaceful and Resilient Region with Shared Responsibility for Comprehensive Security
- A Dynamic and Outward-looking Region in An Increasingly Integrated and Interdependent World

The APSC aims to ensure that the peoples and Member States of ASEAN live in peace with one another and with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment. To achieve this, the APSC promotes political development in adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, and respect for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as inscribed in the ASEAN Charter. It also subscribes to a comprehensive approach to security. At the same time, the APSC seeks to strengthen the mutually beneficial relations between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners and friends.

The APSC thus envisages the following key characteristics:

- (a) a rules-based Community of shared values and norms;
- (b) a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security; and
- (c) a dynamic and outward-looking region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world.



ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 10-11 April 2013.

The APSC has the following components: political development; shaping and sharing of norms; conflict prevention; conflict resolution; post-conflict peace building; and implementing mechanisms.

Notable progress has continued to be made across the various areas and sectors under the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) since the Blueprint towards establishing the APSC was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in 2009. The APSC Blueprint is guided by the ASEAN Charter and the principles and purposes contained therein. It provides a roadmap and timetable to establish the APSC by 2015. It also leaves room for flexibility to continue programmes/activities beyond 2015 in order to retain its significance and have an enduring quality.

The APSC Blueprint envisages ASEAN to be a rules-based Community of shared values and norms; a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security; as well as a dynamic and outward-looking region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world. In the area of political cooperation, the stature of the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) has been further elevated with the accession by Brazil, the United Kingdom (UK), and the European Union (EU) in 2012, bringing the total number of High Contracting Parties to the TAC to 31. With the accession of Brazil as the first High Contracting Party to the TAC from Latin America, the significance and profile of the TAC as a code of conduct of inter-State relations in Southeast Asia has been significantly enhanced. International interest in the TAC continues to grow.

ASEAN is also making progress in conflict resolution and management. The launch of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) during the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit is a testimony to this effort. AIPR shall be the ASEAN research institution on conflict resolution and conflict management to enhance peace, security, and stability in the region. In an effort to provide a framework for regional cooperation to tackle the humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit adopted the Statement on the Establishment of an ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC).

In further strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in the region, ASEAN adopted the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and signed the Phnom Penh Statement on the adoption of the AHRD at the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2012. This is another milestone for ASEAN in the implementation of relevant human rights provisions as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the APSC Blueprint. Moving forward, the focus of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) will be on the implementation and dissemination of AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement, including the translation of AHRD into the national languages of ASEAN Member States.

On security cooperation, the ASEAN Regional Forum, which is entering into its 20<sup>th</sup> year, has been working towards enhancing coordination with other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies on cross-cutting issues in view of promoting synergy and complementarity among existing ASEAN mechanisms. Cooperation under the framework of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) has been progressing steadily. Among others, work is being carried out towards the establishment of the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network and the ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration. On the ADMM-Plus front, three major exercises in the areas of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) and Military Medicine, Counter Terrorism and Maritime Security will be conducted in 2013.



Flags of ASEAN and Dialogue Partners.

On the external relations front, ASEAN is vigorously intensifying dialogue and cooperation with its Dialogue Partners, international and regional organisations as well as with other external parties. External parties increasingly regard ASEAN as one of the most successful regional organisations, which serves as the central locomotive for peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond. ASEAN is actively engaging its Dialogue Partners to further enhance dialogue and cooperation with them. In addition, ASEAN is solidifying its engagement with regional and international organisations as well as international institutions and UN Specialised Agencies.

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The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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General information on ASEAN appears online at  
the ASEAN Website: [www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org)

Catalogue-in-Publication Data

Fact Sheet of ASEAN Political-Security Community  
Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, June 2013

320.0959  
1. Politics – External Relations  
2. ASEAN – Political Community – Security Community

ISBN 978-602-7643-49-9

Supported by Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) 

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