

## Concept Note

# Report on ASEAN's Critical Assessment and Practical Reforms

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### Overview

Established in 1967, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) aims to maintain regional peace and security amidst the ideological tensions during the Cold War. From the initial inception period and the expansion of membership, to a formalization with vision-setting, ASEAN has indeed achieved a reputation for maintaining regional peace and stability in Southeast Asia for more than five decades. An ASEAN Scholar, Amitav Acharya labelled it as “a durable regional grouping in the developing world”.

Despite having been operating for over five decades, achieving numerous milestones, navigating the region through the Cold War and many key turning points in international politics, ASEAN is still fiercely criticized by pundits for various strategic matters, and most notably for the principles of its Charter on consensus mechanism and its conflict management system, just to name a few. ASEAN's progress has been relatively slow and often faces obstacles due to the internal and external conflicts.

In recent years, ASEAN has faced a tremendous set of challenges, and indeed, the geopolitical and strategic factor had a crucial role to play in the continuous development of ASEAN itself. These range from the Russia-Ukraine conflict, food and energy insecurity, the political crisis in Myanmar, the downturn of the global economy, as well as the intensified major power rivalry between the US and China. ASEAN arrived at a crossroads where it must do more / step up to ensure resilience and relevance in shaping its own regional architecture. The policy and mechanisms for the full realization of the ASEAN Community must be properly drafted with careful strategic calculation, effective implementation, and meaningful evaluation.

Recognizing that there are loopholes and obstacles, as well as existing and potential threats that may hinder ASEAN from addressing the regional and global issues, a few questions must be raised: How can ASEAN revitalize itself? What are the practical reforms to foster regional integration? What efforts should be undertaken to realize a people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN Community?

This special publication aims to explore ASEAN's weaknesses or loopholes in its existing working mechanisms, policies and initiatives by looking at its main three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), and to offer recommendations for practical reforms. This will be an evidence-based study, co-led by the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation Offices in Cambodia and the Philippines, in close cooperation with the Asian Vision Institute (AVI); and it will gather eminent

scholars with expertise on ASEAN across the region to provide critical assessment and formulate feasible recommendations based on each of ASEAN's three pillars.

Therefore, KAS and AVI would like to invite distinguished scholars with a research interest in ASEAN to submit their abstract based on a selected pillar to partake in this study.

## Objective

- Provide critical assessment on ASEAN based on each pillar through evidence-based studies, or any potential challenges that may hinder its future relevance
- Identify the existing and potential issues facing ASEAN
- Gather scholars and experts in ASEAN, along with outsider perspectives, to provide feasible policy inputs, recommendations, and in-depth revitalizations proposals to ASEAN.

## Preferable Theme

This report shall contain the following structure:

- Critical Assessment on ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) and Practical Recommendations
- Critical Assessment on ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and Practical Recommendations
- Critical Assessment on ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) and Practical Recommendations
- Any other necessary solutions to the potential challenges of ASEAN

## Call for Authors

All distinguished scholars and experts with a research interest on ASEAN that meet the following eligibility criteria are welcome to submit their abstracts.

### **Authors' Eligibility**

- Academic Background: at least a master's degree in the field of political science, international relations, social science, or any other relevant fields
- Research Interests: Southeast Asian studies, ASEAN Community development (in all pillars), etc.
- Has experience in producing research papers, journal articles, or any other type of academic publications

### **Authors' Incentive**

- Honorarium: 500 USD (withholding tax included)

### **The selection and report writing timeline:**

- **16<sup>th</sup> February – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023:** Announcement of call for authors on KAS & AVI media
- **March – April 2023:** Application review and shortlisting by the Editorial Board
- **April 2023:** Announcement of selected authors via email
- **June 2023:** Deadline of First Draft Submission by the Authors
- **July 2023:** First Draft Review and Feedback by the Editorial Board

- **August 2023:** Deadline for Final Draft Submission by the Authors
- **August 2023:** Final Draft Review by the Editorial Board
- **September 2023:** Design and Printing
- **October 2023:** Report Launching Event in Metro Manila, Philippines

#### **Application procedure:**

Interested candidates shall submit their application attaching with the following:

- Abstract: 300 words max.
- Brief Personal Biography (academic, research, and professional background)

The application shall be submitted to the three people as follows:

- Mr. Lim Menghour, Director of Mekong Centre for Strategic Studies, Asian Vision Institute  
Email: [l.menghour168@gmail.com](mailto:l.menghour168@gmail.com)
- Mr. Soth Chhayheng, Program Manager for Foreign Affairs, KAS Cambodia  
Email: [chhayheng.soth@kas.de](mailto:chhayheng.soth@kas.de)
- Ms. Tonette de Jesus, Senior Program Manager for Governance and Foreign Relations, KAS Philippines, Email: [tonette.dejesus@kas.de](mailto:tonette.dejesus@kas.de)

## **Instruction for Authors**

Material accepted for publication will need to be modified to the following conventions:

### **1. Word limit**

Each chapter manuscript should be between 5,000 and 6,000 words. This includes tables, references, figure captions, and footnotes.

### **2. Formatting**

- **Font:** Use Times New Roman font in size 12 with 1.5 spacing.
- **Margins:** Margins should be 2.5cm (1 inch).
- **Title:** Use bold for your article title, with an initial capital letter for any proper nouns.
- **Headings:** Please follow this guide to show the level of the section headings in your article:
  1. First-level headings (e.g. Introduction, Conclusion) should be in bold, with an initial capital letter for any proper nouns.
  2. Second-level headings should be in bold italics, with an initial capital letter for any proper nouns.
  3. Third-level headings should be in italics, with an initial capital letter for any proper nouns.
  4. Fourth-level headings should be in bold italics, at the beginning of a paragraph. The text follows immediately after a full stop (full point) or other punctuation mark.
  5. Fifth-level headings should be in italics, at the beginning of a paragraph. The text follows immediately after a full stop (full point) or other punctuation mark.

### **3. Spelling**

Please follow British spelling conventions as found in the Oxford series of dictionaries with the exception of material in a direct quote, which should follow the original source.

### **4. Capitalization**

For titles of books or articles written in languages using the Roman alphabet, capitalize the first word of the title plus the first word after a colon or semi-colon, as well as any proper nouns. In transcribing from languages written in non-Roman scripts, capitalize only proper nouns. When in doubt, do not capitalize.

## ***5. Italics***

Words of non-English origin should be italicised and followed by their English translations in square brackets. Do not italicise terms that have been incorporated into the English language. Avoid italicising words for emphasis.

## ***6. Inverted Commas/Quotation marks***

Use double inverted commas to indicate quoted material within a quotation. All punctuation used in connection with phrases inside inverted commas must be placed according to the sense: if the punctuation marks are part of the material quoted, they should be placed inside the quotation marks; otherwise they should be placed outside the closing quotation marks.

## ***7. Quotations***

- Fragmentary quotations must fit grammatically into the text in terms of syntax, verb tenses, personal pronouns, etc.
- Block quotations or extracts of more than forty words should be set off from the text by indenting them a few spaces in from the left-hand margin. Inverted commas are not placed around block quotations, and paragraph indentation for the first sentence of the quotation is unnecessary. If, however, the quotation consists of two or more paragraphs, the second and any subsequent paragraphs should begin with a paragraph indentation. Use font size 10 for block quotations.

## ***8. Brackets***

Use square brackets [ ] to enclose explanatory matter inserted into a verbatim quotation, or matter inserted to complete the meaning of a translation and intended to read as part of the translated text. The translation of the title of a book or article in a foreign language, if given, should be placed in square brackets after the original title.

## ***9. Ellipses***

For ellipses within a sentence use three full stops ... and for ellipses at the end of a sentence use four full stops ....

## ***10. Numerals***

Numbers of less than two digits should be spelled out except in technical or statistical discussions involving their frequent use, or in footnotes where space saving is recommended. Fractional quantities are also expressed in figures. 'Per cent' is written as two words, and the symbol % should not be used, except in Tables.

For dates in the main body of the text, use the following patterns:

11 March 1999  
eighteenth (not 18th) century 1990s  
(not 1990's)  
the fifties

## **11. Citations and References**

Manuscripts should follow the Author-Date Bibliography System of Chicago Manual Style (17<sup>th</sup> edition).

## **12. Diagrams, Illustrations, Tables, Maps**

All figures and tables should be numbered consecutively. Titles should be put right above the

figures and tables to identify them briefly. (Mixing of different kinds of information in one column is to be avoided; for example, put dollar amounts in one column, percentages in another, and so on). The source(s) of the information presented in a figure or table should be indicated immediately below it. Italicise the source(s) with font size 10.

### **13. Appendices**

Each appendix should start on a new page; appendices should be arranged in alphabetical sequence (Appendix A, B, C, ...) and each should be given a title.

## **Contact**

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