



ASEAN Newsletter

ASEAN Committee in Ankara—Newsletter

Issue No. 1

A publication by the ASEAN Ankara Committee



ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Very warm greetings to our readers throughout Turkey!

The ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) is pleased to announce the circulation of the ASEAN Newsletter as a media to promote ASEAN and ASEAN-Turkey relationship to our distinguished readers. ASEAN and ASEAN-Turkey relationship have developed significantly in recent years and the AAC deems it very important that various stakeholders in Turkey are updated in this regard.

Issue No.1 covers 2019. Subsequent editions of the ASEAN Newsletter will be published twice a year for the period of January-June and July-December .

ASEAN ANKARA COMMITTEE (AAC)

The ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) is one of the 54 ASEAN Committees in Third Countries and International Organisations (ACTCs) that have been fully endorsed and formally established in the national capitals and other key cities around the world.

In accordance with Article 43 of the ASEAN Charter, the ACTCs are established to promote ASEAN's interests and identity in the concerned host countries and/or international organisations. The ACTCs abide by the Rules of Procedure (ROP) and Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ACTCs, adopted by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the 43rd AMM on 20 July 2010.

The importance of the ACTCs is also highlighted under the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, section C.2.2., in which, ASEAN is to develop and maintain effective partnerships with external parties to support the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 by utilising more effectively the role of the ACTCs to promote ASEAN and cooperation between ASEAN and the host countries/international organisations.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2015



An introduction on ASEAN and ASEAN member states

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation among its ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

ASEAN countries have a population of nearly 640 million people and a combined GDP of \$2.57 trillion. The group has spurred economic integration, signing six free-trade agreements with other regional economies. The region has one of the largest economies in the world, and it is believed that by 2050, it will have the 4th-largest economy in the world.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The alliance was founded during the Cold War in order to make the region more stable.

Brunei Darussalam then joined on 7 January 1984, Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up what is today the ten Member States of ASEAN.



There are two observer nations: Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste.

The goal of the organization is to promote stability and economic growth across these nations. It also focuses on boosting economic and trade growth, with all member states having a free trade agreement. Travel within the region is also easier for member states.

All member states have signed a treaty against the development of nuclear weapons. Most have also signed on to a counter-terrorism pact.

Technical and research cooperation is also promoted across the member states. Initiatives include overseeing the protection of the environment and wildlife through the Center for Biodiversity.

It has one of the largest labor forces in the world, falling only behind India and China. The total region stretches across over 1.7 million square miles.





1. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Population : 442,400 (2018)
 Size : 5,765 sqkm
 Capital city : Bandar Seri Begawan
 Year of independence : 1 January 1984
 Currency : Brunei Dollar (BND)
 National airline : Royal Brunei Airlines
 Official language : Malay
 Main ethnic groups : Malay, Chinese, Others
 Religion : Islam
 Average population growth : 1.0 (2017) Fertility rate : 1.8 (2017)
 Life expectancy at birth : 77.3 year (2017)
Politics and institutions
System : Monarchy (Sultanate)
Head of State and Government :
 His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.
GDP (2017) : USD 12.13 billion
GDP per capita (2017): USD 28,858.63
GDP composition: Approximately 60% Industry (Oil & Gas and Non-Oil & Gas), 39% Services, 1% Agriculture.

Brunei is a small country with just 5,765 square kilometers of land. "Darussalam" was added to the country's name by the third ruler, Sultan Sharif Ali, revered in history as the first Sultan to build a mosque in the country and governing according to Islamic principles. The term, which is Arabic, means 'Abode of Peace'. Bandar Seri Begawan, affectionately referred to as 'Bandar' by the locals, is the capital city of the sultanate, and hosts some of Brunei-Muara District's most prominent tourist attractions as well, including the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque and Kampong Ayer. The city also lies along the Brunei River. Brunei has an estimated population of 442,400 with an incredibly colourful mix of cultures. The country has four districts and is located on Borneo Island, between East Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak. It also has a 160km long coastline of sandy beaches, all of them perfect spot to gaze at Brunei's golden sunsets.

Bahasa Melayu, or Malay, is the official language of Brunei. However, English is the language of business and widely spoken at all levels. Mandarin, Chinese dialects and native Borneo languages are also spoken by various segments of the population. Bruneians are predominantly Malay, though significant Chinese, Indian and indigenous Bornean populations add to the cultural makeup of Brunei.



Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque



2. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Population (2019) : 16.28 Million
 Size : 181,035 sqkm
 Capital city : Phnom Penh
 Year of independence : 1953
 Currency : Riel
 People and Official languages : Khmer
 Main ethnic groups (2019) : Khmer
 Religion (2019): 90% Buddhism, 10% others
 Annual population growth rate : 1.36
 Life expectancy: Woman (68.67), Man (65.56)
 Politics and Institutions
System: Parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Head of State: His Majesty King Norodom Sihamony
 Head of Government: Prime Minister Hun Sen
 Economy - Income level: **GDP**: USD 27 billion

With peace and stability, Cambodia is enjoying economic development with high economic growth of around 7% per annum, becoming a popular tourist destination, and playing an active role in all regional and international affairs on equal footing and with equal rights as other nations. Cambodia has recently graduated from low-income country status to lower middle-income country. Cambodia is committed to achieve its goal of becoming an upper middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050.

As one of the most open economies in South East Asia & Central location in a dynamic region, and with macroeconomic stability (low debt to GDP ratio), competitive labor force, natural endowment, and pro-business government, Cambodia is also the prospective investment destination in the region.



As one of the fastest growing

tourism destinations in Southeast Asia, Cambodia's rich heritage and natural resources offer a wide range of cultural and eco-tourism sites that are dynamic and sustainable. This year (2019), according to a study conducted by online travel platform YouDiscover, Siem Reap, Cambodia, ranks first in

Southeast Asia, largely thanks to its proximity to Angkor Wat. (<https://www.youdiscover.de/asien/southeastasia/>).





Indonesia is a sovereign archipelago in Southeast Asia and the fourth most populous country on earth after China, India, and the United States. Indonesia is made up of more than 17,000 islands with over 1.9 million square miles of land. Indonesia has a total population of around 260 million. Most of Indonesia's population are living on Java island. Most Indonesians are descended from Austronesian-speaking people. Indonesia has more than 300 distinct ethnic and linguistic groups, although the largest is Javanese. Other major ethnic groups include: Sundane, Malay, Madurese, Batak, Minangkabau, Betawi, Bantenese, Banjarese, Balinese, Makasserese, Chinese, and Melanese (particularly in the eastern part of the country). "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika" which translates to "Unity in Diversity" is the national motto of Indonesia. This message is inscribed in the Indonesian national symbol, written on the scroll held by mythical bird Garuda's claws.



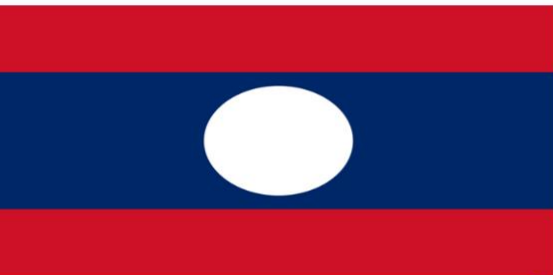
3. REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Population (2018): 260 million
Size: 1,910,900 sq km
Capital city: Jakarta
Year of independence: 1945
Currency: Indonesian rupiah (IDR)
Official language: Bahasa Indonesia



Bundaran Hotel Indonesia (Central Jakarta City)

Religion (2010): Muslim (87.2%), Protestant (7), Roman Catholic (2.9), Hindu (1.7), other (0.9) (includes Buddhist and Confucian)
Median age: 30.2 years
Average population growth: 1.1%
Fertility rate: 2.4 Life expectancy at birth (years): 69
Politics and institutions
System: Constitutional democracy
President: Joko Widodo
Vice President: Ma'ruf Amin
GDP: US\$932 billion
GDP per capita (2016): US\$3,570
GDP composition: Services (45.9%), Industry (40.3%), Agriculture (13.9%)



4. LAOS (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

Capital: Vientiane
Population: 6,500,000
Languages: Lao, Thai, Hmong, Khmu
Geographic Region: Asia, South-Eastern Asia
Geographic Size (km sq): 236,800
Year of Present State Formation: 1975
Gross Domestic Product : \$11.140 Biliion
Per Capita Income ((Adjusted): \$1,646 (CID)
GDP Growth: 8.30 (%)
Human Development Index (HDI): 0.57
Gini Index (Income Inequality): 36.70
Unemployment: 1.40%
President : Bounnhang Vorachith
Prime Minister: Thongloun Sisoulith

In 2019, the population of Laos is estimated at 7.06 million, which ranks 105th in the world. The population is spread very unevenly in Laos, with most people living in the valleys of the Mekong River and tributaries. The capital city of Vientiane prefecture has an estimated population of 783,000. The people of Laos are usually considered by their location as this relates to ethnicity. The lowland people (Lao Loum) account for about 60% of the country's population and are ethnic Lao. This group is descended from migrants who came south from China during the first millennium. 10% belong to other lowland groups. The Mon-Khmer tribes, known as Lao Theung, inhabit the central and southern mountain areas. These are the indigenous inhabitants of northern Laos, although there are some Vietnamese, Chinese and Thai minorities. Lao Theung account for 30% of the population. Laos also has the youngest population among any Asian countries with a median age of 21.6 years and life expectancy has grown from 54 in 2007 to 60 for men and 65 for women in 2012 as more people gain access to clean water and health care. The population is growing at a rate of 2% per year.





5. MALAYSIA

Malaysia is a federal state that has a monarchy system of governance. It is comprised of 13 large states and 3 different federal territories. Its area is about 330,803 square kilometers. The Malaysian land is divided into two parts, namely Malaysian Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia, between which the South China Sea flows. The population of Malaysia is estimated in 2019 to be around 32.45 million, which ranks 45th in the world. Malaysia consists of people of different cultures and religions. Kuala Lumpur is the capital and is also the center of financial and commercial activities. A city named Putrajaya was constructed in Malaysia taking over Kuala Lumpur as the administrative function city. The capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur boasts a shimmering skyline, which is dominated by the world's tallest twin towers - Petronas Towers. It is also the tourist hub of the country with magnificent attractions like Aquaria KLCC, Merdeka Square, Batu Caves, Istana Budaya, Thean Hou Temple and a dozen museums, parks and shopping centres. Providing a striking contrast to it are the traditional longhouse villages and pristine rainforests in the state of Sarawak. You can spot orangutans, crocodiles, proboscis monkeys, and the world's largest flower - the Rafflesia here. Adventure seekers can take a 'flying coffin' riverboat up the Batang Rejang river, or to the fascinating Bat Caves and extraordinary rock formations of Gunung Mulu National Park. The state of Sabah also lure tourists with its turquoise-fringed islands having mesmerizing coral reefs. The multi-ethnic and multicultural

make-up of the society in Malaysia is evidently seen in the type of cuisine it offers. Chillii peppers, Belacan, Rempah, soy sauce and coconut are indispensable to Malaysian kitchens. Lemongrass is a common herb used in preparations whereas fried tofu is served with most dishes as a side accompaniment. Not to miss, the dishes of Congee, and nasi lemak must be tried here..



6. REPUBLIC UNION OF MYANMAR

Capital city: Naypyidaw

Population: 53.9 million

National language is Burmese

National currency: Kyat (MMK)

Major religions : Buddhism

Life expectancy : 64 years (men), 69 years (women)

GDP (purchasing power parity): \$330.9 billion (2017),

GDP - per capita (PPP): \$6,300 (2017 est.)



Nationality: Malaysian(s).
Population: 31.6 million (2016)
Ethnic groups: Malay 50%, Chinese 24%, Indigenous 11.0%, Indian 7%, Religions: Islam (60%), Buddhism (20%), Christianity (10%), Hinduism (6%), Confucianism (2.6%), Animism (1%), others
Languages: Malay, Cantonese, Hokkien, Mandarin Chinese, English, Tamil, indigenous.
Natural resources: Tin, petroleum, timber, copper, iron ore, natural gas, bauxite.
Currency: Malaysian Ringgit (MYR)
Total Area 330,803 km² (127,724 sq mi)
Population : 31,818,000 (2018)
GDP (PPP) : US\$922,057 billion (2017)
Per capita : US\$27,267 GDP (nominal)
2017 estimate Total : US\$296,359 billion
Per capita : US\$9,360



Sometimes known as Burma, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which is often shortened to Myanmar, is a sovereign state in Southeast Asia. Myanmar is the 26th most populous country in the world, and the 40th largest country by area, with a 2019 estimated population of 54.34 million. Now, the last partial census was conducted in 1983, and until 2014, the last officially recorded nationwide census hadn't occurred since 1931. Myanmar has 676,578 square kilometers of surface area available within its boundaries. This includes 1,930 km of coastline. When calculated with the estimated current population of 54.34 million, the population density overall is approximately 79 people per square kilometer. Rangoon/Yangon is the largest city and the capital of the area. It contains 4,477,638 residents. Mandalay comes in second, with 1,208,099; and is also known as the economic center of the country. The country is very ethnically diverse with 135 ethnic groups recognized by the government.



There are at least 108 ethnolinguistic groups in Myanmar. Ethnic minorities in the country prefer to be called ethnic nationalities to fight against the proliferation of the dominant Bamar people. Myanmar is a beautiful, captivating country home to a diverse array of ethnic groups and some unforgettable sites and landscapes.

Its relatively undeveloped nature means venturing out to rural regions is a rewarding and fascinating way to gain greater insights into the country and its people. Myanmar is an ideal place for adventure. Wherever you go in Myanmar, whether it be cruising down the mighty Ayeyarwaddy River in style, drifting over the ancient city of Bagan by hot air balloon, or searching for that elusive tiger on the back of an elephant, there is always a feeling of exciting and challenging.

The trek places stretch from mountain trekking and rafting in the far north to world class diving in the Mergui Archipelago.





7. REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines is the fourth largest English speaking country in the world. It has a rich history combining Asian, European, and American influences. Prior to Spanish colonization in 1521, the Filipinos had a rich culture and were trading with the Chinese and the Japanese. Spain's colonization brought about the construction of Intramuros in 1571, a "Walled City" comprised of European buildings and churches, replicated in different parts of the archipelago. In 1898, after 350 years and 300 rebellions, the Filipinos, with leaders like Jose Rizal and Emilio Aguinaldo, succeeded in winning their independence.

Population (2019) : 108,120,000
Size : 300,000 sqkm
Capital city : Manila
Year of independence : 1898
Currency : Philippine Peso (Php)
National airline : Philippine Airlines
Official languages : Filipino and English
Main ethnic groups (2019) : Tagalog
Religion (2019): 83% Roman Catholic; 17% Others (Islam, Protestants, etc.)
Average population growth: 1.72 Life expectancy at birth (years) : 69
System : Unitary Presidential Republic
President : Rodrigo Roa Duterte
Vice President : Maria L. G. Robredo
GDP: US\$ 330 billion
GDP per capita (2019): US\$ 3,153
GDP composition: - Services: 57.8%; Industry: 34.1%; Agriculture: 8.1%

Philippine culture is a confluence of Malay, Spanish and American heritage. The country has 80 major ethno-linguistic groups speaking 500 distinct dialects and a mixture of foreign influences which have molded a unique Filipino culture. The first half of the year, from January to May, is the best time to visit the country. November to February is cool, while March to May is hot and dry. June to October is rainy, with the months between July and September characterized by typhoons. Average temperature is 78 degrees F/25 degrees C; average humidity is 77%. (http://www.tourism.gov.ph/history.aspx)



Some of the famous beaches in the Philippines as featured by CNN Travel in 2018 include (1) El Nido, Palawan (2) Boracay, Aklan (3) Palau Island, Cagayan Valley (4) Panglao, Bohol (5) Bantayan Island, Cebu (6) Caramoan, Camarines Sur (7) Samal, Davao (8) Siargao Islands, Surigao del Norte (9) Great Santa Cruz Island, Zamboanga (10) Pagudpud/Bangui, Ilocos Norte.

Singapore is ranked by the Pew Research Foundation as the world's most religiously diverse country in the world, with Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, as well as adherents of other religions living and working alongside each other in a country the size of Yalova Province in Turkey, but with a population of 5.6 million which is equivalent to the number of people living in Ankara. The country also has a cosmopolitan character, with 29 percent of its residents coming from other countries. Singapore's rich multicultural and multi-religious diversity have made it a dynamic place to live and work in. Given its strategic location along global trading routes, Singapore has positioned itself as a major transshipment and aviation hub in the Asia-Pacific region.



8. REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

The Port of Singapore holding the record for being the second busiest port in the world. In 2018, the Port of Singapore handled 36.6 million TEUs of cargo. Annually, more than 130,000 ships call at Singapore. The Singapore Port is well-connected to 600 ports in over 120 countries.



Population (2019) : 5.68 million
Size : 721.5 sqkm
Capital city : Singapore
Year of independence : 1965
Currency : Singapore Dollar
National airline : Singapore Airlines
Official languages : English, Mandarin, Malay, Tamil
Main ethnic groups (2019) : Chinese (76.2%), Malay (15%), Indian (7.4%), Others (1.4%)
Religion (2019): Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Other religions
System : Parliamentary System
President : Halimah Yacob
Prime Minister: Lee Hsien Loong
GDP: US\$ 361 billion
GDP per capita: US\$ 64,567

It serves more than 100 airlines flying to 400 cities in 100 different countries. 7400 flights land and depart from Singapore each year, and 65.6 million passengers pass through the airport annually. With limited natural resources, Singapore has invested heavily in the education of Singaporeans, in order that Singapore might be able to remain relevant in the global economy.





Since 1932, the Kingdom of Thailand has been a parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy, making it one of the oldest democracies in Asia. The administration of the country is carried out by the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister under a bicameral parliamentary system. As the second largest economy in Southeast Asia and the world's 19th largest manufacturer, the Kingdom of Thailand has consistently achieved robust economic growth thanks to the country's strong fundamentals and diverse industries. The Thai economy registered 2.8% growth in the first quarter of 2019. The overall economic expansion for the Thai economy in 2019 is projected in the range of 3.3—3.8%. Thailand's exports grew by 2.2% in the first quarter of 2019. Looking to the future,

Thailand's economic development is set to follow a 20-year National Strategy Plan, with a vision of achieving security, prosperity and sustainability. The 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan, in effect from 2017 to 2021, was thus mapped out in line with the National Strategy Plan. The principles of the "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" continue to be a vital element of the 12th Plan, as they have significantly contributed to balanced and sustainable development in Thailand over many years.



9. KINGDOM OF THAILAND

Population (2019): 69,639,440
Size: 513,120 km²
Capital city: Bangkok
Currency: Thai Baht
Official language: Thai
Religion: Buddhist (94.6%), Muslim (4.6%), Christian (0.7%), other 0.1%)
System: Constitutional Monarchy
King: His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua
Prime Minister: General Prayuth Chan-ocha
Nominal GDP (2018): USD 505 billion

GDP Growth (2018): 4.1%
Unemployment rate: 0.9% (Q1/2019)
GDP per capita (2018): 7,445.4 USD
Foreign tourists (2018): 38.28 million
Foreign direct investment (FDI) (2018): 401 billion Baht
Export: 254 billion USD (Jan.-Apr. 2019)



Lying on the eastern edge of the Indochinese peninsula, Vietnam is a strip of land shaped like the letter "S", bordering China to the north, Laos and Cambodia to the west, and the East Sea to the east. Viet Nam is a beautiful country with four thousand years of history of building and safeguarding itself, rich culture and numerous attractive tourist sites. Launched in 1986, the "Doi Moi" economic reforms transformed Vietnam with-

Capital: Ha Noi
Official Language: Vietnamese
Land area: ~ 331,900 sq km.
Population: ~ 97 million (2018)
Literacy: 97.6%
Administrative division: 58 provinces and 5 cities under central government
GDP growth: 6,8% (2017), 7,08% (2018)
Main industries: Food processing, Garments, Shoes, Machine Building, Mining, Coal, Steel, Cement, Chemical Fertilizer, Glass, Tires, Oil, Mobile Phones.
ASEAN Membership: 28 July 1995

10. SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

with per capita income of less than \$100 into a dynamic economy with per capita income of over \$2,540 as at 2018. The country has become one of the fastest-growing economies in the world over the last few decades. Vietnam has been internationally regarded as a country with proven political stability. The country has now established diplomatic relations with 187 countries and trade and investment ties with 220 countries and territories. Vietnam is a member of over 70 international organizations including the

UN, ASEAN, APEC, ASEM, and the WTO. In June 2019, for the second time in history, Vietnam has been elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2020-2021 tenure.



Ha Long Bay, Quang Ninh Province - One of the New 7 Wonders of Nature





The ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) Activities

ASEAN Friendship Badminton Tournament 2019 at Kecioren TBF Badminton Hall, Ankara, organized by the ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) in association with Turkish Badminton Federation (TBF), on Saturday 16, February 2019, participated by a large family of 7 (seven) representatives of ASEAN member countries in Ankara; Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The tournament took place in a lively, sporty and in a warm familial atmosphere.

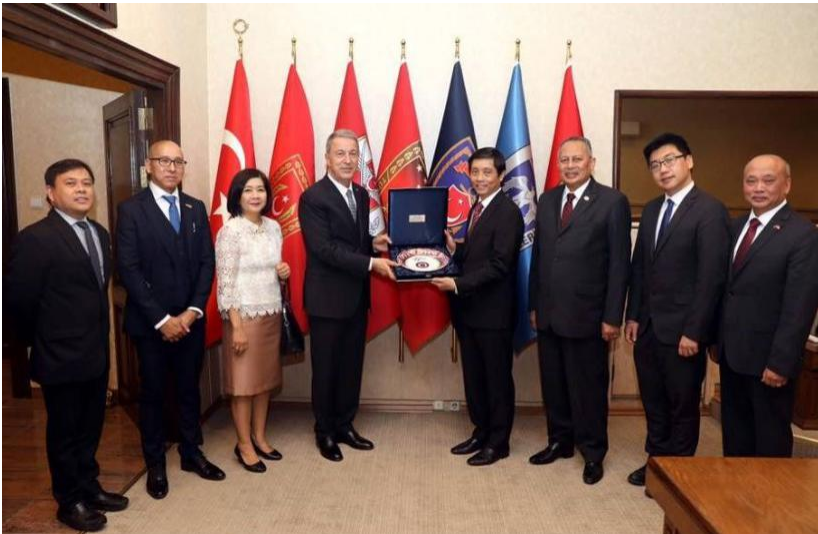


ASEAN Friendship Badminton Tournament 2019 at Kecioren TBF Badminton Hall, Ankara, organized by the ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC)



Medal presentation (front left to right) : President of TBF, Mr. Murat Ozmekik, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Shafiee Kassim, Ambassador of Malaysia. H.E. Dato' Abd Razak Abdul Wahab, Ambassador of Singapore, H.E. Jonathan Tow, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Hikmat Moejlwan





AAC COURTESY CALL TO THE TURKISH MINISTER OF DEFENSE

The ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) on 9 April 2019 conducted a joint courtesy call to the Turkish Minister of Defense, Hulusi Akar. This courtesy call is one of AAC's leadership activities under the Ambassador of Viet Nam, H.E. Tran Quang Tuyen. Present at this event were the Ambassadors of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Thailand; Chargé d'affaires of the Republic of Indonesia and Philippines; DCM Singapore.

Present at this event were the Ambassadors of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Thailand; Charge d’Affaires of the Republic of Indonesia and Philippines; DCM of Singapore.

The Turkish Defense Minister received AAC at the Turkish Ministry of Defense building and began by expressing appreciation for the arrival of AAC. It is said, ASEAN is an important region and its member countries have excellent bilateral relations with Turkey.



The Ambassador of Viet Nam expressed his gratitude. It was said that the purpose of courtesy call was in the context of introducing ASEAN and AAC and knowing the perspective of defense and security.

[Left] Turkish Minister of Defense, Hulusi Akar and Ambassador of Viet Nam, H.E. Tran Quang Tuyen.





ASEAN SEMINAR

The ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) in collaboration with Middle East University (METU), Ankara, held a seminar on ASEAN cooperation on 13 March 2019. The seminar was attended by around 150 students and lecturers from the International Relations Department of METU and guests from outside METU. AAC is represented by the Ambassadors of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam; while Indonesia and the Philippines are represented by Chargé d'affaires .



Starting the seminar, METU Rector, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Verşan Kök accepted the Heads of Representatives of the ASEAN countries while expressing his appreciation for the initiative of AAC to organize this seminar.

There are 26 students from ASEAN countries in METU namely 22 (Indonesia); 1 (Brunei Darussalam), 1 (Philippines), 1 (Malaysia) and 1 (Singapore).

The Rector also explained that METU cooperates with some of universities in ASEAN.

At the seminar session, the Ambassador of Vietnam, Mr. Trang Quang Tuyen as Chair of the AAC and Ambassador of Thailand, Mrs. Phantipha Lamsudha Ekarohit as Chair of ASEAN 2019 delivered a presentation.

The Ambassador of Thailand delivered a history of the formation of ASEAN which was motivated by the Cold War, until the development of the formation of the ASEAN Community with its three key pillars of Economic Community, Political



The Ambassador of Vietnam delivered a presentation on ASEAN-Turkey cooperation following the acceptance of Turkey as an ASEAN dialogue partner in 2017.





Welcoming New ASEAN Heads of Mission

In 2019, the ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) bade farewell to the following Heads of Mission: (a) H.E. A Selvarajah, the Ambassador of Singapore, and (b), H.E. Dato’ Abd Razak Abdul Wahab, the Ambassador of Malaysia, and welcomed new Ambassadors: (a) H.E. Jonathan Tow, Ambassador of Singapore, (b) H.E. Raul S. Hernandez, Ambassador of the Philippines, and (c) H.E. Dr. Lalu Muhamad Iqbal, Ambassador of Indonesia. The AAC also welcomed the new Charge d’Affaires of Cambodia, Mr Heng Sophea.



JOINT MEAL WITH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TURKEY

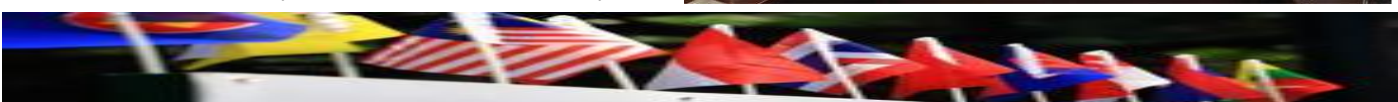
On 11 July 2019, H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey hosted the AAC Heads of Mission to dinner at his residence.

During the meal, Minister Çavuşoğlu had a fruitful discussion with AAC Heads of Mission about his forthcoming visit to Bangkok to represent Turkey at the ASEAN Summit in its capacity as an ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partner. Ambassador of Thailand, represented the AAC and briefed Minister Çavuşoğlu on ASEAN’s priorities under Thailand’s Chairmanship of ASEAN. They also exchanged views on Turkey’s engagement of Asia as well as developments in the region.

JOINT CALL ON MINISTER OF TRADE OF TURKEY

On 18 September 2019, the AAC Heads of Mission paid a joint call on H.E. Ruhsar Pekcan, Minister of Trade of Turkey. During the call, the Heads of Mission had a fruitful discussion with Minister Pekcan about her priorities and plans to grow trade between Turkey and other parts of the world.

They also exchanged views on how they could contribute towards promoting and facilitating trade and investment flows between their respective countries and Turkey.





EXCHANGE WITH ACADEMICS

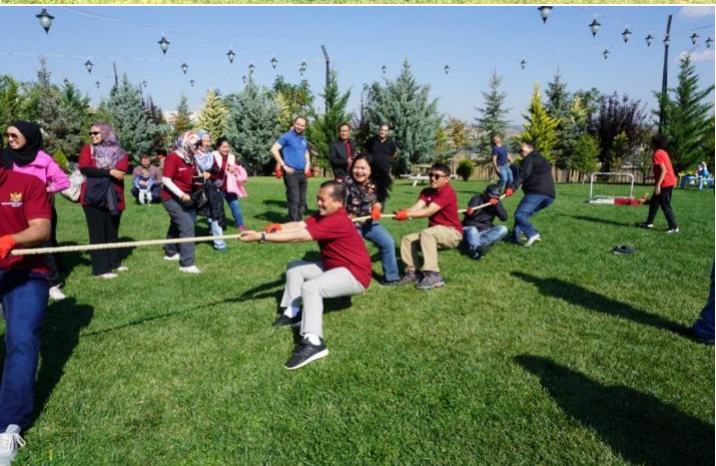
As part of the AAC’s engagement of leading Turkish academic thinkers, the AAC hosted a working lunch for Professor Hüseyin Bağcı, a Professor of International Relations at METU and Professor Selçuk Colakoğlu, a Professor of International Relations at Yıldırım Beyazıt University.

During the lunch, the Heads of Mission had a good exchange with the academics about Turkey’s relations with ASEAN as well as its outlook towards regional developments.



ASEAN DAY

The AAC celebrated ASEAN Day on 8 August 2019 to mark ASEAN’s establishment on 8 August 1967. The ceremony was held at the premises of the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam with hoisting ASEAN Flag Ceremony and presided by H.E. Shafiee Kassim, the Ambassador of Brunei. The Guest-of-Honour was Ambassador Namik Erpul, the Director-General of Asia-Pacific at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Representatives from other ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partners were also in attendance.



During his speech, H.E. Shafiee recalled the core principles of ASEAN and said that Turkey strongly supported the ASEAN vision of regional peace and stability.

ASEAN FAMILY DAY

On 12 October 2019, the AAC organised the ASEAN Family Day. The ASEAN Family Day is an annual event that brings together the staff and family of the ASEAN Embassies for a day of games and bonding. The 2019 Family Day was held on the shores of the Moğan Lake. Games such as tug-of-war, tele-match and football were played and there was even an opportunity for participants to show off their singing talent with a karaoke session! As with such events, participants got to enjoy a range of delicious food from all the different ASEAN countries.





ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025

1. The implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2015 has been substantively achieved in, among others, eliminating tariffs and facilitating trade; advancing the services trade liberalisation agenda; liberalising and facilitating investment; streamlining and harmonising capital market regulatory frameworks and platforms; facilitating skilled labour mobility; promoting the development of regional frameworks in competition policy, consumer protection and intellectual property rights; promoting connectivity; narrowing the development gap; and strengthening ASEAN's relationship with its external parties.
2. ASEAN recognises that regional economic integration is a dynamic, ongoing process as economies as well as domestic and external environments are constantly evolving. In this context, ASEAN has initiated two studies for the AEC Blueprint 2025. The AEC Blueprint 2025 has been developed taking into account the recommendations of the two studies, namely, by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), as well as inputs from other stakeholders. The measures taken have to lead in creating a networked, competitive, innovative, and highly integrated and contestable ASEAN.
3. The overall vision articulated in the AEC Blueprint 2015 remains relevant. The AEC Blueprint 2025 will build on the AEC Blueprint 2015 consisting of five interrelated and mutually reinforcing characteristics, namely: (i) A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy; (ii) A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN; (iii) Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation; (iv) A Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented, and People-Centred ASEAN; and (v) A Global ASEAN.
4. The immediate priority is to complete the implementation of measures unfinished under the AEC Blueprint 2015 by end-2016. The continuing commitments of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) under the AEC Blueprint 2015 up to 2018 are also incorporated under the AEC Blueprint 2025.
5. In the next decade, ASEAN will also provide a new emphasis on the development and promotion of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in its economic integration efforts. At the same time, ASEAN will likewise embrace the evolving digital technology as leverage to enhance trade and investments, provide an e-based business platform, promote good governance, and facilitate the use of green technology.



6. The AEC 2025 is envisioned to:

- i. Create a deeply integrated and highly cohesive ASEAN economy that would support sustained high economic growth and resilience even in the face of global economic shocks and volatilities;
- ii. Engender a more equitable and inclusive economic growth in ASEAN that narrows the development gap, eliminates if not reduces poverty significantly, sustains high growth rates of per capita income, and maintains a rising middle class;
- iii. Foster robust productivity growth through innovation, technology and human resource development, and intensified regional research and development that is designed for commercial application to increase ASEAN's competitive edge in moving the region up the global value chains (GVCs) into higher technology and knowledge-intensive manufacturing and services industries;
- iv. Promote the principles of good governance, transparency, and responsive regulatory regimes through active engagement with the private sector, community-based organisations, and other stakeholders of ASEAN;
- v. Widen ASEAN people-to-people, institutional, and infrastructure connectivity through ASEAN and sub-regional cooperation projects that facilitate movement of capital as well as skilled labour and talents;
- vi. Create a more dynamic and resilient ASEAN, capable of responding and adjusting to emerging challenges through robust national and regional mechanisms that address food and energy security issues, natural disasters, economic shocks, and other emerging trade-related issues as well as global mega trends;
- vii. Incorporate a sustainable growth agenda that promotes a science-based use of, and support for, green technology and energy;
- viii. Promote the use of the ASEAN Protocol on Enhanced Dispute Settlement Mechanism (EDSM) and develop other approaches to speed up economic dispute resolution;
- ix. Reinforce ASEAN centrality in the emerging regional economic architecture by maintaining ASEAN's role as the centre and facilitator of economic integration in the East Asian region; and
- x. Work towards a common position and enhance ASEAN's role and voice in global economic fora.