

## Pacific Rim Topic Paper

For the National Federation of High Schools 2015 Topic Selection Meeting

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When I first began research on this topic, I was initially surprised that the term “Pacific Rim” was a commonly used term of art, as I knew that the many countries bordering the Pacific Basin were very different. Indeed, the 54 countries commonly identified as Pacific Rim come from four different continents and represent vast differences in development and challenges. Because of the size and complexity of this region, as well as the fact that the ground for debate had no clear common factor, led me to consider narrowing the focus while still staying in the same region.

After looking at a variety of options, I settled on ASEAN, or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Comprised of ten nations – Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), and Vietnam – this organization represents an economic region that, according to the ASEAN Community in Figures (2014), would rank as the seventh largest economy if it were a single nation.

ASEAN presents several interesting options that I will continue to explore as my research develops. First, it is about to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> year as an organization, since it was founded with the Bangkok Declaration in 1967. Second, it is dedicated to being both an economic and political organization, much like the European Union. Third, it is actively engaged in the region and has strong ties to regional powers like China and Japan. Fourth, among its aims are continued progress in development, education, and security. Finally, one of its stated goals is forging a regional identity separate from each individual nation’s identity.

### **ASEAN and TPP**

Several ASEAN nations are part of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, the trade deal that has had been in the news the past few months and is part of the discussion of President Obama’s search for fast-track authority to negotiate trade deals. Unfortunately, the secretive nature of some of the elements of the deal and unlikely political allies in Washington have

obscured the deal. But here are some of the known quantities. The Trans-Pacific Partnership is part of President Obama's "pivot" to Asia, a policy initiative designed to refocus US foreign policy away from its Cold War-era focus on Europe as well as a way to recognize the growing economic and political clout of China, as well as nurture traditional US allies such as Japan and South Korea. According to the Office of the US Trade Representatives (2015), TPP "seeks to boost U.S. economic growth and support the creation and retention of high-quality American jobs by increasing exports in a region that includes some of the world's most robust economies and that represents nearly 40 percent of global GDP."

The Office continues.

"The large and growing markets of the Asia-Pacific already are key destinations for U.S. manufactured goods, agricultural products, and services suppliers, and the TPP will further deepen this trade and investment. As a group, the TPP countries are the largest goods and services export market of the United States. U.S. goods exports to TPP countries totaled \$698 billion in 2013, representing 44 percent of total U.S. goods exports. U.S. exports of agricultural products to TPP countries totaled \$58.8 billion in 2013, 85 percent of total U.S. agricultural exports. U.S. private services exports totaled \$172 billion in 2012 (latest data available), 27 percent of total U.S. private services exports to the world. America's small- and medium-sized enterprises alone exported \$247 billion to the Asia-Pacific in 2011 (latest data available)."

The 11 nations listed as part of the TPP are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. Four of them – Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam – are ASEAN members. So, while any discussion of ASEAN must include the impact of TPP, this does not directly destroy ground regarding US economic policy with ASEAN countries.

In addition, the US has a separate free-trade agreement with Singapore, in force since 2004.

Even though ASEAN is made up of ten individual nations which are at different points in terms of economic growth and development, they share some common ties that I believe make the debate manageable from a ground stand-point.

### **A brief history of ASEAN**

ASEAN stands for Association of Southeast Asian Nations and was established in 1967 with the Bangkok Declaration. Five countries signed the initial document - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam then joined in 1984, followed by Vietnam in 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar in 1997, and Cambodia in 1999 (ASEAN 2015).

The initial agreement arose out of a time in the region when nations were attempting to normalize relations against the backdrop of regional instability, including the US-Vietnam War as well as regional conflicts in Thailand, the Philippines, and Malaysia. Diplomats and foreign ministers for each country discussed the importance of regional cooperation and stability in the face of the challenges of the region as part of the developing world.

At what would eventually become the formative meeting for ASEAN in Bangkok, the Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Narciso Ramos, said, "The fragmented economies of Southeast Asia,...(with) each country pursuing its own limited objectives and dissipating its meager resources in the overlapping or even conflicting endeavors of sister states carry the seeds of weakness in their incapacity for growth and their self-perpetuating dependence on the advanced, industrial nations. ASEAN, therefore, could marshal the still untapped potentials of this rich region through more substantial united action."

"We the nations and peoples of Southeast Asia," [Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia in 1967] Tun Abdul Razak said, "must get together and form by ourselves a new perspective and a new framework for our region. It is important that individually and jointly we should create a deep awareness that we cannot survive for long as independent but isolated peoples unless we also think and act together and unless we prove by deeds that we belong to a family of Southeast Asian nations bound together by ties of friendship and goodwill and imbued with our own ideals and aspirations and determined to shape our own destiny". He added that, "with the establishment of ASEAN, we have taken a firm and a bold step on that road" (ASEAN 2015).

ASEAN identifies its own aims and purposes as the following:

1. To accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations;
2. To promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries of the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter;
3. To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields;
4. To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres;
5. To collaborate more effectively for the greater utilisation of their agriculture and industries, the expansion of their trade, including the study of the problems of international commodity trade, the improvement of their transportation and communications facilities and the raising of the living standards of their peoples;
6. To promote Southeast Asian studies; and
7. To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes, and explore all avenues for even closer cooperation among themselves. (From <http://www.asean.org/asean/about-asean>)

An interesting element of ASEAN are the communities that it identifies as “pillars” of the organization: Political-Security, Economic, and Socio-Cultural. According to ASEAN, “The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community aims to contribute to realizing an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented and socially responsible with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the peoples and Member States of ASEAN. It seeks to forge a common identity and build a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and where the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the peoples are enhanced. ASCC is focused on nurturing the human, cultural and natural resources for sustained development in a harmonious and people-oriented ASEAN.”

ASEAN is led each year by one of the member countries acting as chair. The chair rotates annual based on the alphabetical order of the country’s English name. Malaysia is the 2015 chair. Duties and responsibilities of the chair include to “chair the ASEAN Summit and related

summits, the ASEAN Coordinating Council, the three ASEAN Community Councils, relevant ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies and senior officials, and the Committee of Permanent Representatives” (ASEAN 2015).

ASEAN conducts diplomacy independently of each member state’s own foreign policy. For example, there are 83 ambassadors to ASEAN, including Nina Hachigian of the US.

Another interesting element of ASEAN is its move toward establishing the AEC, or ASEAN Economic Community. “The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) shall be the goal of regional economic integration by 2015. AEC envisages the following key characteristics: (a) a single market and production base, (b) a highly competitive economic region, (c) a region of equitable economic development, and (d) a region fully integrated into the global economy.” This would establish ASEAN as not just a single economic zone, but move it toward a common currency just like the Euro for the European Union.

According to Ron Corben of Voice of America News (2015), the recent ASEAN summit in April 2015 discussed how the ASEAN member-states each face a different set of challenges.

Chulalongkorn University political scientist, Thitinan Pongsudhirak, an observer at the meeting in Malaysia, said ASEAN appears to be facing a loss of confidence.

“You have the domestic challenges within key countries, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia with its pre-occupation on the developing maritime capacity and the Philippines. When you add them up, external geopolitical, geo-economic, regional - too much focus on the AEC [Asian Economic Community] and not really prepared - then you have uncharted waters that ASEAN is moving into, not with a lot of confidence, but a lot of apprehension and anxiety,” he explained.

Thitinan said amid fears over a loss of momentum will add pressure on Laos in 2016 when it takes over the ASEAN chair, in which China is now the leading foreign investor.

The AEC is expected to take effect by the end of 2015, but faces some challenges. Lim Cheng Teck, CEO for ASEAN, Standard Chartered Bank, wrote in 2015 that, “With the AEC, Asean aims to create a single market, with freer flow of capital, services, products and skilled workers across borders. Big hopes abound of rivalling the European Union 10 or 15 years down

the line, fully integrating Asean as a powerhouse in the global economy.” But he added, “But it’s worth remembering that Asean countries are highly diverse – historically, culturally, politically and economically. More help is needed for businesses venturing into the Asean marketplace to make sense of the vastly differing administrative policies and regulatory standards. In fact, Asean is so complex that it can be easier to pursue opportunities elsewhere. For example, it takes four days on average to clear goods being imported into Singapore, 14 days for Malaysia, and 23 days in the case of Indonesia. Asean must eliminate these speed bumps by creating a more consistent set of regulations and rules.”

### **ASEAN and the US**

In addition to having an ambassador to ASEAN, the US has several other relationships with ASEAN. The US began diplomatic relations with ASEAN in 1977, discussing economic policy with the then-member states. In 2002, the US and ASEAN issued a joint declaration to combat terrorism. The purpose of the declaration was to increase information sharing and cooperation regarding terrorism in Southeast Asia. Indonesia, in particular, has had significant terrorist activity due to the Bali bombing of 2002 when 202 people were killed and 240 wounded (including Western tourists) by Jemaah Islamiyah, a radical group aiming to form a caliphate in Southeast Asia. But US engagement with ASEAN has largely been economic in nature. Of course, the US has strong ties with several individual ASEAN member states, such as the Philippines, that go beyond economic issues.

### **ASEAN and China**

ASEAN’s relationship with China is complicated. “Today, the complex relationship between China and ASEAN combines aspects of cooperation and tension. China’s aggressive posturing in the South China Sea illustrates its increasing naval capabilities and willingness to deploy them, whether to secure offshore hydrocarbons and fisheries or to exact leverage over its smaller neighbors to the south. At the same time, China’s rise exerts a powerful pull on ASEAN economies, from component manufacturing in Malaysia to banking in Singapore and copper mining in Burma. At once a manufacturing hub and an important source of capital, China has the potential to buoy the ASEAN economies, but also to create structural imbalances that damage the region in the long run.” (Salidjanova et al 2015). The current highlight of tensions are over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. The islands are claimed by Brunei, China (People's

Republic of China), Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan (Republic of China), and Vietnam. China's recent process of island reclamation and building, including adding possible military emplacements, have set off claimants and have involved the US, creating a flashpoint of possible escalation. Though currently, China appears to have delayed or at least temporarily suspended its work on the islands, this issue is unresolved. Analysts say any conflict over the South China Sea's waters could impact major shipping lanes and undermine the region's bright economic prospects.

### **ASEAN and Climate Change**

Adapting to climate change has become a hot topic in the region. The organization is about to have its sixth meeting of a working group on climate change, and has stated, "The vulnerability to and impact of climate change is a major concern to ASEAN... Southeast Asia is highly vulnerable to climate change as a large proportion of the population and economic activity is concentrated along coastlines; the region is heavily reliant on agriculture for livelihoods; there is a high dependence on natural resources and forestry; and the level of extreme poverty remains high" (<http://environment.asean.org/asean-working-group-on-climate-change/>).

### **ASEAN and Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is another issue that involves ASEAN. At a recent ASEAN-US seminar, "In his opening remarks, Lt. Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Home Affairs emphasized the importance of international cooperation in combating human trafficking which has become a global phenomenon and security threat in the world. According to him, "human trafficking is one of the priority areas not only for ASEAN but also for Myanmar." He commended the U.S for their initiative in raising global awareness of human trafficking. Further, he encouraged both sides to better understand different approaches in combating trafficking in persons (TIP), the challenges being encountered and most importantly, to explore mutually beneficial activities for future ASEAN-U.S cooperation" (<http://www.asean.org/news/asean-secretariat-news/item/asean-us-tackle-human-trafficking-at-a-seminar-in-myanmar>).

According to the US State Department's 2014 Trafficking in Person's Report, none of the ASEAN member states meet the Tier 1 designation of full compliance with minimum standards

and two, Malaysia and Thailand, are listed as Tier 3, the worse designation (Curtis and Enos 2015).

### **ASEAN and Space**

Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand all have domestic space agencies, and Indonesia has launched a communication satellite via NASA. ASEAN does have a Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology and does have a sub-committee on Space Technology and Applications, but currently has no active space program. There was a proposal in 2010 to consider an ASEAN Space Organization, or ASO, but nothing concrete has been done to create such an agency.

### **ASEAN and the Oceans**

One of the most important shipping lanes in the world, the Strait of Malacca, is located in the territory of ASEAN member states of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. The strait connects the Indian and Pacific Oceans and is a critical link between Asian markets. It is also home to significant pirate activity. Only Laos among the ASEAN member states is landlocked, meaning maritime policy is an important part of ASEAN member states. Almost all major international maritime policies and treaties impact ASEAN, including the Law of the Sea and US free-trade agreements. The flashpoint of the South China Sea certainly falls under ASEAN maritime policy. China also is proposing a maritime “silk road,” part of its “One Belt, One Road” policy, that would pass through the Strait of Malacca and South China Sea, and hopes it will continue to integrate the economies of Southeast Asia.

### **Possible Affirmatives**

There are many possibilities for US engagement with ASEAN and possible cases. The US and ASEAN could cooperate on climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as other environmental regulation. Because of concerns about human trafficking, maritime piracy, and terrorism, the US could increase its cooperation with ASEAN in these areas of security and law enforcement. As the US pivots to the Pacific and seeks to contain China, a possible security arrangement with ASEAN, particularly over the contentious South China Sea, could be a possibility, as well as the US brokering some type of treaty over the islands and resources in the South China Sea between China and ASEAN countries. The US could also actively seek a free-



trade agreement directly with ASEAN as a single group, modeled after the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Partnership agreement with the European Union.

### **Possible Negatives**

There are a variety of reasons why the US should not engage with ASEAN. Building a more integrated relationship with ASEAN at the expense of US-China relations could be a mistake. There are many concerns about US intervention in the South China Sea and the larger geo-political considerations to any kind of confrontation there. With a rise of Russian antagonism to the US, a pivot away from Europe may also not be in the best interest of the US. Several ASEAN countries, particularly Malaysia, have come under fire from many groups regarding their human rights and human-trafficking efforts, and a large focus of opposition to the TPP is exactly that. Any discussion of climate change in the US is politically charged, and climate change initiatives that are not global and do not address China and India are likely to have little or no impact. Counterplan ground seems balanced, especially agent counterplans focusing on other regional powers such as China, Japan, South Korea, and India. Critically, the capitalism kritik along with other popular kritiks are possible.

### **Possible Resolutions**

1. The United States federal government should substantially increase its engagement with ASEAN in one or more of the following areas: climate adaptation, human rights, law enforcement, security, trade.
2. The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic and/or security engagement with ASEAN.
3. ASEAN should substantially create a comprehensive program of economic and/or security policy.
4. ASEA should substantially increase its engagement with China, Japan, and/or South Korea.
5. ASEA should substantially decrease its engagement with China, Japan, and/or South Korea.

## Pacific Rim Terms

## Pacific Rim

- Pacific Rim: an economic and social region including the country's surrounding the Pacific Ocean. (<https://quizlet.com/5367213/ap-human-geography-vocabulary-the-cultural-landscape-an-introduction-to-human-geography-chapter-11-12-vocabulary-flash-cards/>)
- Pacific Rim: The Pacific Rim are the lands around the rim of the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Basin includes the Pacific Rim and the islands in the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Rim roughly overlaps with the geologic Pacific Ring of Fire. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific\\_Rim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Rim))

This is a list of countries that are generally considered to be a part of the Pacific Rim, since they lie along the Pacific Ocean: North/East Asia (Russia, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan); Southeast Asia (Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, East Timor); Oceania (sovereign) Australia, Palau, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, New Zealand, Tuvalu, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa, Niue, Cook Islands; Oceania (dependent) External territory of Australia (Norfolk Island); Realm of New Zealand, (Tokelau); French overseas collectivities (New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, French Polynesia); British overseas territory (Pitcairn Islands); United States insular areas (Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa); North America (Canada, United States, Mexico); Central America (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama); South America (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile).

- Pacific Basin: Searches on Wikipedia, The Free Dictionary by Farlex, and Water Encyclopedia.com all list the Pacific Basin as the Pacific Ocean itself rather than a geopolitical location.
- Pacific Rim: The countries and landmasses surrounding the Pacific Ocean, often considered as a socioeconomic region. (American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2011 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing

Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.)

- Pacific rim n 1. (Commerce) the regions, countries, etc, that lie on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, esp in the context of their developing manufacturing capacity and consumer markets (Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003)
- Pacific Rim' n. the group of countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean, esp. the industrialized nations of Asia. (Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.)
- Pacific Rim: Area comprising of countries on the boundary of the Pacific Ocean, specifically Canada, China, Japan, Taiwan, and the US. In general, this term may also include Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Laos, North Korea, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. (Read more: <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/pacific-rim.html#ixzz3YfHdnoz7>)
- The "Pacific Rim" includes the countries that lie along the Pacific Ocean. It includes: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Korea, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, United States of America, Vietnam, Plus, the island countries of the Pacific.

## APEC

- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. It was established in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific economies and the advent of regional trade blocs in other parts of the world; to fears that highly industrialized Japan (a member of G8) would come to dominate economic activity in the Asia-Pacific region; and to establish new markets for agricultural products and raw

materials beyond Europe. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia-Pacific\\_Economic\\_Cooperation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia-Pacific_Economic_Cooperation)).

## ASEAN

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a political and economic organization of ten Southeast Asian countries. It was formed on 8 August 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.[8] Since then, membership has expanded to include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), and Vietnam. Its aims include accelerating economic growth, social progress, and sociocultural evolution among its members, protection of regional peace and stability, and opportunities for member countries to discuss differences peacefully. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association\\_of\\_Southeast\\_Asian\\_Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_of_Southeast_Asian_Nations)).

ASEAN Member States Information (from <http://www.asean.org/asean/asean-member-states>)

### **Brunei Darussalam**

Head of State: His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah

Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan

Language(s): Malay, English

Currency: B\$ (Brunei Dollar)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade of Brunei Darussalam Website: [www.mfa.gov.bn](http://www.mfa.gov.bn)

### **Cambodia**

Head of State: His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni

Head of Government: Prime Minister Hun Sen

Capital: Phnom Penh

Language: Khmer

Currency: Riel

Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Cambodia

Website: [www.mfaic.gov.kh](http://www.mfaic.gov.kh)

### **Indonesia**

Head of State: President Joko Widodo

Capital: Jakarta

Language: Indonesian

Currency: Rupiah

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia Website: [www.kemlu.go.id](http://www.kemlu.go.id)

### **Lao PDR**

Head of State: President Choummaly Sayasone

Head of Government: Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong

Capital: Vientiane

Language: Lao

Currency: Kip

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR Website: [www.mofa.gov.la](http://www.mofa.gov.la)

### **Malaysia**

Head of State: His Majesty The King Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Al-Haj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah

Head of Government: The Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak

Capital: Kuala Lumpur

Language(s): Malay, English, Chinese, Tamil

Currency: Ringgit

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Website: [www.kln.gov.my](http://www.kln.gov.my)

ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat Website: [www.kln.gov.my/myasean](http://www.kln.gov.my/myasean)

### **Myanmar**

Head of State: President Thein Sein

Capital: Nay Pyi Taw

Language: Myanmar

Currency: Kyat

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar Website: [www.mofa.gov.mm](http://www.mofa.gov.mm)

### **Philippines**

Head of State: President Benigno S. Aquino III

Capital: Manila

Language(s): Filipino, English, Spanish

Currency: Peso

Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines Website: [www.dfa.gov.ph](http://www.dfa.gov.ph)

### **Singapore**

Head of State: President Tony Tan Keng Yam

Head of Government: Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

Capital: Singapore

Language(s): English, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil

Currency: S\$ (Singapore Dollar)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Website: [www.mfa.gov.sg](http://www.mfa.gov.sg)

### **Thailand**

Head of State: His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej

Head of Government: Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha

Capital: Bangkok

Language: Thai

Currency: Baht

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Website: [www.mfa.go.th](http://www.mfa.go.th)

### **Viet Nam**

Head of State: President Truong Tan Sang

Head of Government: Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung

Capital: Ha Noi

Language: Vietnamese

Currency: Dong

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam Website: [www.mofa.gov.vn](http://www.mofa.gov.vn)

Additional demographic information is included in the three attached ASEAN statistical documents, including population, land area, GDP, and foreign direct investment.



Image from <http://m.kinibiz.com/tag/ASEAN/page/7>



## Selected basic ASEAN indicators

as of December 2014

Indicators	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013 <sup>p/</sup>	Remarks
<b>Total land area</b>	km <sup>2</sup>	<b>4,435,670</b>	<b>4,435,674</b>	<b>4,435,617</b>	<b>4,435,618</b>	
<b>Total population</b>	thousand	<b>600,291</b>	<b>609,161</b>	<b>617,165</b>	<b>625,091</b>	
<b>Gross domestic product at current prices</b>	US\$ million	<b>1,884,068</b>	<b>2,184,833</b>	<b>2,321,075</b>	<b>2,395,253</b>	Cambodia 2013 figure taken from IMF WEO October 2014
<b>GDP growth</b>	percent	<b>7.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>	ASEAN figure is estimated using country growth rates and country share of world GDP valued in PPP\$ from the IMF WEO Database October 2014.
<b>Gross domestic product per capita at current prices</b>	US\$	<b>3,139</b>	<b>3,587</b>	<b>3,761</b>	<b>3,832</b>	
<b>International merchandise trade</b>	US\$ million	<b>2,009,116</b>	<b>2,388,444</b>	<b>2,476,427</b>	<b>2,511,517</b>	
<b>Export</b>	US\$ million	<b>1,051,614</b>	<b>1,242,199</b>	<b>1,254,581</b>	<b>1,271,128</b>	2013 figures are as of 4 December 2014
<b>Import</b>	US\$ million	<b>957,502</b>	<b>1,146,245</b>	<b>1,221,847</b>	<b>1,240,388</b>	
<b>Foreign direct investments inflow</b>	US\$ million	<b>100,360</b>	<b>97,538</b>	<b>114,284</b>	<b>122,377</b>	2013 figure are preliminary as of 30 July 2014
<b>Visitor arrivals</b>	thousand	<b>73,752.6</b>	<b>81,229.0</b>	<b>89,225</b>	<b>98,016</b>	2013 figure are preliminary as of December 2014, Myanmar's figure only for Jan-July 2013

Sources ASEANstats, ASEAN Secretariat

### Symbols used

- not available as of publication time
- n.a. not applicable/not available/not compiled
- Data in *italics* are the latest updated/revised figures from previous posting.
- p/ **preliminary**

Table 1

**Selected basic ASEAN indicators**

as of December 2014

Country	Total land area	Total population <sup>1/</sup>	Population density <sup>1/</sup>	Annual population growth <sup>1/</sup>	Gross domestic product at current prices	Gross domestic product per capita at current prices		International merchandise trade <sup>4/</sup>			Foreign direct investments infow <sup>5/6/</sup>	
	km <sup>2</sup>	thousand	persons per km <sup>2</sup>	percent	US\$ million	US\$ <sup>2/</sup>	US\$ PPP <sup>3/</sup>	Exports	Imports	Total trade	US\$ million	US\$ million
	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2013
Brunei Darussalam	5,769	406.2	70	1.6	16,117.5	39,678.7	73,775.0	11,445.4	3,611.8	15,057.2	864.8	908.4
Cambodia	181,035	14,962.6	83	1.5	15,511.1	1,036.7	3,081.8	9,148.2	9,176.0	18,324.2	1,557.1	1,274.9
Indonesia	1,860,360	248,818.1	134	1.4	860,849.5	3,459.8	9,467.1	182,551.8	186,628.7	369,180.5	19,137.9	18,443.8
Lao PDR	236,800	6,644.0	28	2.0	10,283.2	1,547.7	4,531.6	2,592.8	3,292.0	5,884.9	294.4	426.7
Malaysia	330,290	29,948.0	91	1.5	312,071.6	10,420.5	23,089.0	228,331.3	205,897.4	434,228.7	9,400.0	12,297.4
Myanmar	676,577	61,568.0	91	1.0	54,661.2	887.8	3,464.4	11,436.3	12,009.1	23,445.4	1,354.2	2,620.9
Philippines	300,000	99,384.5	331	1.8	269,024.0	2,706.9	6,403.8	53,978.3	65,130.6	119,108.9	2,797.0	3,859.8
Singapore	716	5,399.2	7,540	1.6	297,941.3	55,182.5	78,761.9	410,249.7	373,015.8	783,265.5	59,811.5	60,644.9
Thailand	513,120	68,251.0	133	0.5	387,573.8	5,678.7	14,131.6	228,730.2	249,517.1	478,247.3	10,699.2	12,999.8
Viet Nam	330,951	89,708.9	271	1.1	171,219.3	1,908.6	5,314.7	132,664.1	132,109.9	264,774.0	8,368.0	8,900.0
<b>ASEAN</b>	<b>4,435,618</b>	<b>625,090.5</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2,395,252.5</b>	<b>3,831.8</b>	<b>9,389.8</b>	<b>1,271,128.1</b>	<b>1,240,388.4</b>	<b>2,511,516.5</b>	<b>114,284.0</b>	<b>122,376.5</b>

Sources ASEAN Finance and Macro-economic Surveillance Unit Database, ASEAN Merchandise Trade Statistics Database, ASEAN Foreign Direct Investment Statistics Database (compiled/computed from data submission, publications and/or websites of ASEAN Member States' national statistics offices, central banks and relevant government agencies, and from international sources)

## Symbols used

- not available as of publication time  
n.a. not applicable/not available/not compiled  
Data in *italics* are the latest updated/revised figures from previous posting.

## Notes

- 1/ Refers to/based on mid-year total population based on country projections
- 2/ Cambodia 2013 country figure is not yet available; this figure taken from IMF WEO October 2014
- 3/ Computed based on IMF WEO Database October 2014 estimates and the latest actual country data
- 4/ ASEAN IMTS Database 2013 figures are as of 4 December 2014
- 5/ Unless otherwise indicated, figures include equity, reinvested earnings and inter-company loans
- 6/ FDI, 2013 figures are preliminary as of 15 December 2014

Table 2

**Selected key ASEAN macroeconomic indicators**

as of December 2014

Country	Growth rate of gross domestic product at constant prices	Inflation rate (year-on-year growth of CPI at end of period)	Exchange rate at average of period <sup>1/</sup>		Unemployment rate <sup>2/</sup>	International merchandise trade <sup>5/</sup>						Year-on-year change in foreign direct investments net inflow <sup>3/4/</sup>	
			national currency per US\$	Currency		Ratio of exports to GDP	Ratio of imports to GDP	Ratio of total trade to GDP	Growth of nominal value of exports	Growth of nominal value of imports	Growth of nominal value of total trade	US\$ million	percent
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013
Brunei Darussalam	-1.8	0.2	1.25	Dollar (B \$)	1.7	71.0	22.4	93.4	(13.2)	(1.7)	(10.7)	43.6	5.0
Cambodia	7.0	4.6	3,995	Riel	0.3	59.0	59.2	118.1	23.0	(18.3)	(1.8)	(282.2)	(18.1)
Indonesia	5.8	8.4	10,586	Rupiah (Rp)	6.2	21.2	21.7	42.9	(3.9)	(2.6)	(3.3)	(694.0)	(3.6)
Lao PDR	8.2	6.9	8,224	Kip	1.9	25.2	32.0	57.2	(2.4)	(6.0)	(4.4)	132.3	44.9
Malaysia	4.7	3.2	3.16	Ringgit (RM)	3.1	73.2	66.0	139.1	0.3	4.8	2.4	2,897.4	30.8
Myanmar	7.5	-	938	Kyat	4.0	20.9	22.0	42.9	22.8	30.7	26.7	1,266.7	93.5
Philippines	7.2	4.1	42.89	Peso (PhP)	6.4	20.1	24.2	44.3	3.8	(0.4)	1.5	1,062.8	38.0
Singapore	3.9	1.5	1.25	Dollar (S \$)	2.9	137.7	125.2	262.9	0.5	(1.8)	(0.6)	833.4	1.4
Thailand	2.9	1.7	30.73	Baht	0.7	59.0	64.4	123.4	(0.3)	0.7	0.2	2,300.6	21.5
Viet Nam	5.4	6.0	20,934	Dong	3.6	77.5	77.2	154.6	15.9	16.6	16.2	532.0	6.4
<b>ASEAN</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>104.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>8,092.5</b>	<b>7.1</b>

Sources ASEAN Macro-economic Database, ASEAN Merchandise Trade Statistics Database, ASEAN Foreign Direct Investment Statistics Database (compiled/computed from data submission, publications and/or websites of ASEAN Member States' national statistics offices, central banks and relevant government agencies, and from international sources)

## Symbols used

- not available as of publication time  
n.a. not applicable/not available/not compiled  
Data in *italics* are the latest updated/revised figures from previous posting.

## Notes

- 1/ The exchange rate used in ASEAN statistical databases is derived from the IMF WEO Database October 2014 which is Kyats 965=US\$1.
- 2/ Brunei Darussalam is 2012 figure and Lao PDR is 2010 figure
- 3/ Unless otherwise indicated, figures include equity, reinvested earnings and inter-company loans.
- 4/ FDI 2013 figures are preliminary as of 15 December 2014
- 5/ Trade Data 2013 are as of 4 December 2014