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# ASEAN a Major Success of Asian Nation and it's Impact on the Economic Development of Asia

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**ABSTRACT:** The Association of South East Asia Nations(ASEAN) was formed in 1967 with the purpose to enhance political , economic and socio-cultural security among the nations of the South East Asia and to resolve and settle dispute among this countries which happened because of decolonisation .It has been 52 years of ASEAN and now its stand at 10 members and they have many countries as dialogue partners . The Member states together have announced many Declaration and signed many treaties , In The ASEAN summit , the meeting is cheered by the foreign ministers of these countries and discussion are held on different subjects such as agricultural , economy , energy , law , trade , forest and many others . The member –states have the right to keep their views . Today ASEAN is based on three main pillars : as a political and security community to promote peace , as an economic community with strong domestic market and as a social community including a common identity along with that ASEAN faces a number of social and environmental challenges countries like Vietnam and Philippines are particularly vulnerable to climate change , co-production and the recent south china sea issue and disturbance in the Pacific and Indian Ocean

**KEYWORDS:** ASEAN , South East Asia , ASEAN summit , Foreign Ministers , South China Sea , Pacific and Indian Ocean

## I. INTRODUCTION

ASEAN plays a very important role in the development of East Asia and has a prominent hold. The Association of South East Asian Nations(ASEAN) was formed by the government of five countries which includes Indonesia , Malaysia , Singapore , Philippines and Thailand on the occasion of Bangkok Declaration which was signed by the Foreign Ministers of these countries on 8<sup>th</sup> August , 1967 . With the passing years many countries joined the ASEAN group like Brunei Darussalam joined in the year 1984 , Vietnam joined in 1995 , Laos and Myanmar joined together in the year 1997 and Cambodia was the last country to join in 1999. Which sums up to ten members . ASEAN comprises of 10 members . The dialogue partners of ASEAN are Australia , Japan , Canada , European Union , New Zealand and United States Four more countries have joined the ASEAN system which incorporates Republic of Korea, China , India and Russia all these countries are sovereign . in terms of dialogue partner apart from United Nations Development Programme who joined in 1997 . The ASEAN was formed to improve economic , social and cultural development in the region along with stimulate regional peace and stability by enduring respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among different countries in the region and working in according to the principles of United Nation Charter . Under the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asian signed in 1976 the members countries have adopted certain fundamental principles as per the treaty which are as follows Reciprocal respect for the independence , sovereignty , territorial integrity , equality and national unity of all nations .



Every state shall have the right to have its national existence free from external interference mutiny and force.

Non-Interference in the internal matters of a country .

Dispute should be settled in a peaceful manner .

Rejection of the use of force or threat

Effective cooperation among themselves .

The ASEAN also has several specialized bodies and arrangements promoting inter-governmental cooperation through various platforms like ASEAN Agricultural Planning Centre , ASEAN –EC Management Centre , ASEAN centre for energy , ASEAN Earthquake Information , ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre , ASEAN Timber Technology centre , ASEAN Tourism Information Centre and ASEAN University Network . ASEAN is also affiliated with 58 NGOs.

The ASEAN Regional Forum(ARF) is an integral multilateral forum for political and security cooperation and consultations . The ARF has started to explore activities where there is an overlapping between preventive diplomacy and confidence building measures .ASEAN members have agreed to settle dispute through friendly negotiations as mentioned in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation of 1976 . It is not mandatory for the member states to use treaty stipulations for the peaceful settlement of disputes . If a state resorts to the use of force , there is no system of collective security is foreseen. ASEAN holds in relation to different sectors such as agriculture , forestry , trade , energy , environment , finance , investment , labour , law , regional hazard and youth .

## II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the exploration of this topic , the method used is secondary data collected from various journals , news channels , short articles , interaction with International relation students .

### Objective of the Research Paper

The main areas of exploration in this paper incorporates

- 1.ASEAN , why was it formed
2. Success and Achievement of ASEAN over the years.
3. A study on the different Declaration and Treaty signed by ASEAN.
4. The Challenges in the development and growth of ASEAN.

## III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Over the years many development has taken and achieved success also in the field of political and economy Zone of Peace , Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) in 1971 the initiate five members met in Kuala Lumpur and signed this recognise and respect for South East Asia as a zone of peace , freedom and neutrality and recognises the right of every state whether small or large to have their national existence free from outside external forces . ASEAN Security Community (ASC) was formed with the aim to ensure that al the countries in the region live at peace with one another and with the world in a harmonious environment , which also includes political development , shaping and sharing of norms, conflict prevention , post-conflict peace building , conflict preventive resolution and implementing mechanism . Ion 24 February , 1976 Declaration of ASEAN concord , Bali , it was formed to expand political cooperation and principles of regional stability with treaty of amity ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea , Manalia 22<sup>nd</sup> July , 1992 , it adopted to create an atmosphere of peace and stability in the South China Sea , all member states agreed to create a positive climate for resolution of all disputes . ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in 1994 , it was formed for the recognition of security interdependence in the Asia-Pacific region . It was adopted to promote confidence –building , development of preventive diplomacy and elaboration of approaches conflict . It consist of 10 members and this forum also discuss manners related to security in the region , South China Sea , Transnational Crimes , Counter-terrorism , Korean Peninsula non-proliferation and many others . Treaty on the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon -Free Zone (SEANWZ)- ASEAN's determination to contribute towards nuclear disarmament and the promotion of international peace , it also aimed at protecting the region from environment pollution . Today it is negotiation with five nuclear-weapon states . ASEAN vision 2020 , 15 December , 1997 at Kuala Lumpur , a shared vision of ASEAN working for an outward look , living in peace , stability , peace and prosperity , connecting together in partnership in magnetic development and in a community caring society . Declaration of ASEAN Concord II , 7 October 2003, Bali which led to the formation of ASEAN Community comprising of three column ASEAN security community , ASEAN Economic Community , ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community . ASEAN Free Trade Area(AFTA) was launched in 1992 which aims at eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers among the member state and promote greater economic efficiency , productivity and competitiveness , a series of economic agreement was formed to reach ASEAN vision 2020 by ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 along with it ASEAN Framework Agreement on services(AFAS) and ASEAN



Investment Area(AIA) to establish ASEAN as a single market and production base by using new mechanism and utilizing the existing ones are some of the development and success of ASEAN and with years passing more and more treaties were signed to promote trade growth , regional cooperation in the region.

### Findings

ASEAN has achieved key development in the political security , economic and socio cultural sector in the past five decades with ASEAN in 2015 established the ASEAN Community which comprises of political and security community , socio-cultural community and economic community which was a sustainable steps towards regional integration ,ASEAN also expanded the Treaty of Amity and cooperation in South East Asia to fundamental to inter-state relation that has involved 27 states in and outside south East Asia . China and ASEAN has also reached a framework for the code of conduct in the South China Sea in 2017 . ASEAN has also acquired two agreement to counter transnational crimes , The ASEAN accord on Counter Terrorism in 2007 and the ASEAN accord against Trafficking in Persons in 2015 .ASEAN has also formed the Defense Ministers Meeting(ADMM) which works for the plans for external partners as starting point of intra-ASEAN Defense cooperation and military cooperation between ASEAN and its external partners . ASEAN has numerous areas of potential cooperation which would include maritime security , disaster response counter terrorism , cyber security , peace keeping operation , humanitarian assistance , military medicine . ASEAN's political and security success contributes to economic development . The ASEAN Economic community has created a single and open market with many economic opportunities since 2015 for business actors it has reduced the cost , assisted free flow of goods and have amplified investment . SEAN is working to integrate the association with world economy and has developed free trade agreement with many countries like China , India , Japan , South Korea and New Zealand . ASEAN is currently working with these external partners on a mega trade pact called Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership .



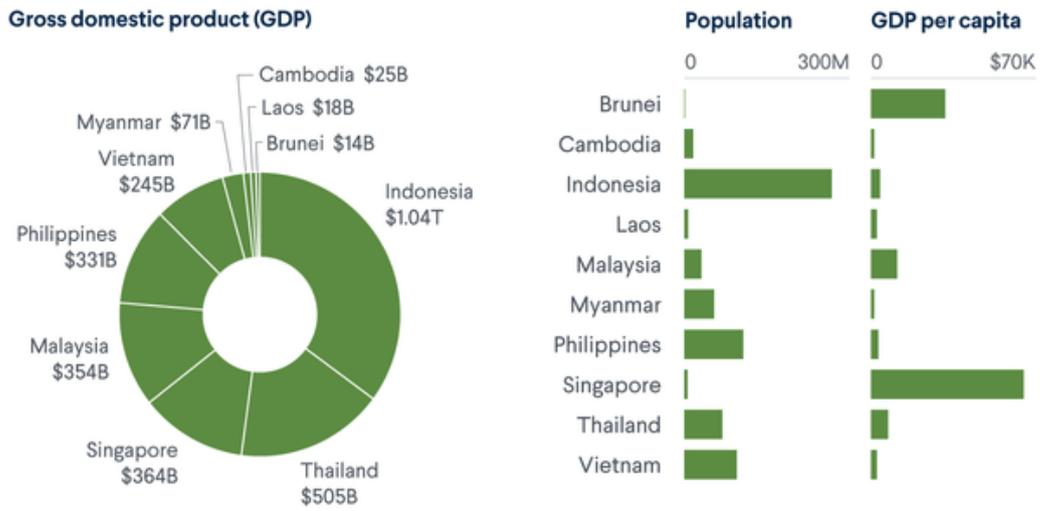
The ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 provides a pilot for member states to achieve regional integration through an integrated and coherent regional economy , a competitive and energetic ASEAN , magnify connectivity and sectoral collaboration , a resilient , comprehensive , people-oriented ASEAN and a global ASEAN .

ASEAN has a huge population consist of 642 million people as of 2017 in accordance to the report released in 2018 in the month of October . The groups GDP product growth escalated from 4.8% in 2016 to 5.3% in 2017 . Total trade increased from US \$ 2.238 Trillion in 2016 to US \$ 2.574 Trillion in 2017 ,South East Asia is a favourable region for investors from all parts of the world which helps them to receive a massive amount of foreign direct investment .ASEAN aimedon building socio-cultural relationships among member-states through ASEAN socio-cultural community which contributes to social progress by reducing the proportion of people living on less than US 1.25 dollar per day , one in every two people and to one in every 8 people a reducing within 2 years and reducing infant and maternal morality in the region . In ASEAN the life expectancy has risen from 55.6 years in 1969 to 70.9 years for the year 2016 . The ASEAN socio-cultural community also tries to build ASEAN's identity and character making it people-centered . Other project like the ASEAN Co-ordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster



Response and Management (AHA Center) to develop Regional Disaster risk management and climate change adoption potential .

**ASEAN's Diversity**



Note: 2018 data  
Source: World Bank.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

Development is taking new heights on new geopolitical significance , the U.S has created the US International Development Finance Cooperation which is intended to promote private sector infrastructure investment in the developing world with Asia being one of the primary target which will have \$ 60 Billion assisting funds . The Japanese Prime Minister Abe hosted the leader of Laos , Cambodia , Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand declaring a new infrastructure initiative with focus on South Asia . European Union has also declared a new connecting Europe and Asia framework for enlarging development in finance . This will provide alternative source of finance for the countries that are engaged in the China’s Belt and Road initiative . There have been many schemes for major regional development in the Lower Mekong sub region , this was led by the Asian Development Bank , we see a recent trend to improve bilateral cooperation through development cooperation as donor government from European Union , United States , India , Japan , South Korea ,Australia and China . This provides an opportunity for the South Asian countries to reduce their major infrastructure gaps and fulfil their development needs . There are some risk associated with these growing development in ASEAN for instance the Malaysia’s decision to cancel \$ 23 billion for the Belt and Road initiative project which has created serious concern for the ASEAN countries . several countries will be in debt burden as a result of projects being planned . The collapse of the dam in Champasak Province , Laos indicates the potential environment risks associated with the infrastructure development . Due to the inrush of new initiatives by major powers outside the region is transforming ASEAN countries into development assistance donors themselves . Half of ASEAN member-states governments are new donors incorporating Singapore , Indonesia , Malaysia , Brunei and Thailand , still small development s taking place for development cooperation and funding assistance in intra-ASEAN development . Thailand restored the Ayeyawady-Chao phraya –Mekong Economic collaboration with the promotion of a new master plan and the declaration of new assistance for infrastructure and connectivity . It is a move by the government of Thailand , Myanmar , Laos and Cambodia and Vietnam to progress directly and shape the region by creating locally led forum for developmental cooperation. With Thailand taking over the chair there is great potential for development cooperation since 2019 , Thailand is the most noteworthy donor and one of the oldest ASEAN developmental funding member and plays a paramount role in the sustainable development of the region . Thailand has also announced the opening of ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue . ASEAN has been working with many development agencies like UNDP and UNESCAP to analyze ASEAN development related goals and UN Sustainable development goals . However there are many challenges which ASEAN is facing today both from Internal and External forces .

### Challenges

The emerging power struggle in the Indo-Pacific region and the control over South China sea between competing powers US and China and the present magnetic in the pacific and Indian Ocean . China has expanded its sphere of impact in the South Asia and Africa region , The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue formed by the four countries US , Japan , India and Australia to counter the geo-political shift in the Indo-Pacific region . China is also stimulating the Belt and Road initiative as a huge infrastructure push across the Pacific and the Indian Ocean . The project seeks links between Asia , Africa and Europe . Us and the allied are also providing infrastructure funds and capacity building as an replacement to china. They have also guaranteed Freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and Indo-Pacific region



South China Sea provides maximum trade benefits to maximum number of countries , China control over the South China sea has created massive problem for ASEAN countries and have affected the trade import and export Business .Brunei , Malaysia , Philippines , Taiwan and Vietnam are countries who are the a major dispute with China over the South China Sea .

On the other hand Indonesia wants to maintain peace and stability in the Indian and Pacific region and bring prosperity and establish ASEAN regional integration , with this it has kept a proposal in front of the ASEAN member states and establish talks on Indo-Pacific region and promote peace and stability , economic cooperation and maritime cooperate to reduce the tension of great rivalry from the region.

On the other hand India is increasing its cooperation with the ASEAN countries to work towards its ACT East policy for increases its maritime cooperation and trade relation with ASEAN . To Counter China's Control over the South China Sea , India is emerging as a major player in the Indo-Pacific region.

### IV. CONCLUSION

ASEAN has also always been a primary target for investment and development project . ASEAN is one of the prominent regional association in the South East Asia for economic , political , cultural and socio-cultural development .Regional peace and stability is achieved through resilience by cooperating in all sectors based on the elements of self-confidence , mutual respect , cooperation , self-reliance and solidarity which shall be the foundation for the development of a strong and integrated South East Asia .ASEAN is primarily a government to government forum which has made participation with non state actors difficult. ASEAN is highly siloed which makes it difficult to work cross different sector to maintain development cooperation , with too much external forces interference in the region and China taking control over the South China Sea we see in a rise in dispute in the ASEAN region which has overall hampered the regional peace and stability , The Asia foundation has planned to open a series of discussion platform and launch new events .



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