

Talking ASEAN on Youth Perspective
16 December 2014

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Embracing ASEAN Community: Youth Perspective

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1. Introduction
2. Awareness/Knowledge of ASEAN
3. Fears & Worries of ASEAN Community
4. ASEAN Community – Why Bother?
5. Young People – Where Do We Fit?
6. Final Thoughts

- “Embracing the ASEAN Community”
 - Implies gladly, willingly, openly accepting the ASEAN Community
 - **NOT** the same as being told to take it whether we like it or not
 - Past criticisms of ASEAN = elite-driven process, operated in top-down manner.

- How can we embrace something willingly, gladly and/or openly if we know nothing about it?
- ASEAN Community = an arranged marriage with a stranger?



- Arguably, the level of awareness and knowledge of ASEAN is both **LOW** and **POOR** among the general public
- “The Taxi Test”



- “Awareness of and Attitudes towards ASEAN”
 - ‘Students across the region demonstrate a high level of knowledge about the Association, generally positive attitudes toward it, and go so far as to consider themselves ‘citizens’ of ASEAN’ (ASEAN Foundation, 2007, p.24).



- Areas of concern
 - The statement, “If ASEAN did not exist, it would make **no difference to my life**” found agreement with an average of 51.6% of the respondents (ASEAN Foundation, 2007, p.53).
 - shockingly **low level of identification** with the ASEAN flag from the Philippines (38.6%) and Thailand (38.5%).
 - Respondents from ASEAN-6 see ASEAN as **‘old news’** or even **‘boring history’** (ASEAN Foundation, 2007, p.24).

- More recent statements on ASEAN
 - “ASEAN has **no meaning** for the majority of the 600 million citizens living in the region...They have **no real feeling** of being a member of an ASEAN community” - Chuensuksawadi (2011, January 18)
 - “much of the people in the region **don’t know much about each other’s countries**” - editor of VTV Vietnam, Trang (as cited in Seneviratne, 2010, November 19).
 - “Yes I live in Malaysia, and yes Malaysia is part of ASEAN. But **I don’t feel ASEAN**” - A journalist for Malaysiakini, Razak (as cited in Seneviratne, 2010, November 19).

- How about for young people living in border areas?
 - Border towns are where the ASEAN Community will arguably have the biggest impact on the lives of people
 - Examples:
 - Entikong,-Tebedu (Indonesia-Malaysia border)
 - Wang Kelian-Wang Prachan (Malaysia-Thailand)
 - Maesot-Myawaddy (Thailand-Myanmar).



- Substantive Knowledge of ASEAN?



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Halaman 1 dari 2

Batam - Masyarakat Ekonomi Asean (MEA) 2015 hanya tinggal selemparan batu saja. Saat itulah negara-negara di Asia Tenggara seolah tak bersekat karena memiliki pasar tunggal yang membuka arus perdagangan jasa, barang dan tenaga kerja.

DISKUSI REVEAL



THE GOVERNMENT PUBLIC

Monday, 15 December 2014

ASEAN CORNER

More Thai Students Interested in Learning ASEAN Languages (16/04/2014)

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With the advent of the integrated ASEAN Community in 2015, Thai students have become more interested in learning ASEAN languages. Although English is to be used as the working language of ASEAN, the languages of various countries are making the members of the ASEAN Community closer together.

Associate Professor Dr. Montira Rato, a lecturer at the Faculty of Arts of Chulalongkorn University (AEC) as a major factor making Thai students pay greater attention to ASEAN languages.

She said that more students at Chulalongkorn University take the Vietnamese language as an elective subject of Arts chose to study Vietnamese, but now students from other faculties, such as the Faculty of Engineering, have enrolled in the Vietnamese language course.

Dr. Montira, who is also Deputy Director of the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, said that the sentence structure is similar to that of the Thai language. Learners should seek opportunities to communicate each word its correct pronunciation.

The Office of the Basic Education Commission earlier reported that among the ASEAN languages, Bahasa Melayu

- **Principle Fear:**
Indonesia Not Ready
- “Manpower Minister Hanif Dhakiri stated Indonesia was not ready to face the ASEAN Economic Community 2014”

Menteri Hanif minta pasar bebas Asean 2015 ditunda

[merdeka.com](#) Reporter : *Angga Yudha Pratomo* | Senin, 1 Desember 2014 21:18



Menaker Hanif Dhakiri. ©2014 merdeka.com/dwi narwoko

Berita Terkait

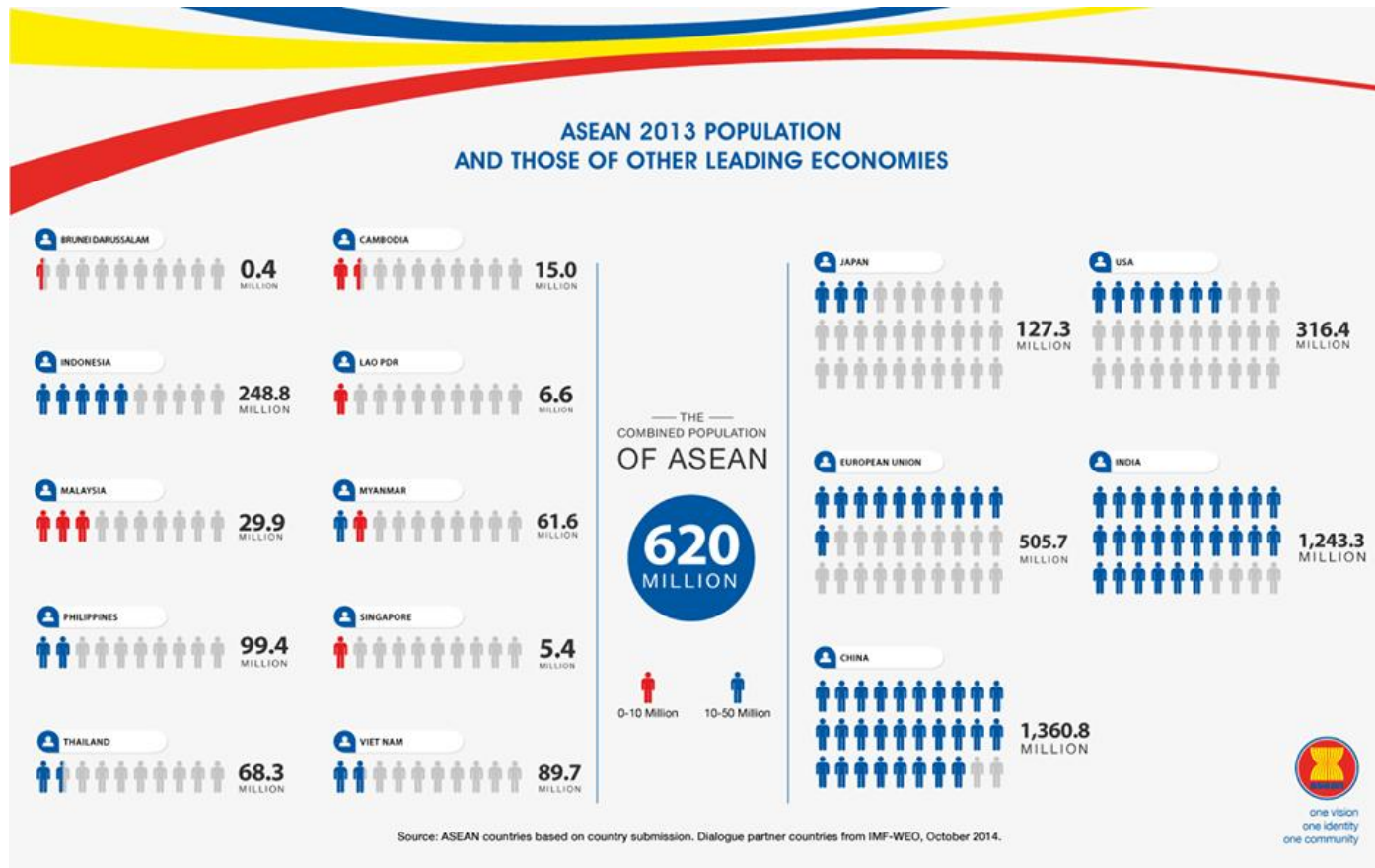


Merdeka.com - Menteri Ketenagakerjaan Hanif Dhakiri mengatakan Indonesia tidak siap menghadapi Masyarakat Ekonomi Asean (MEA)

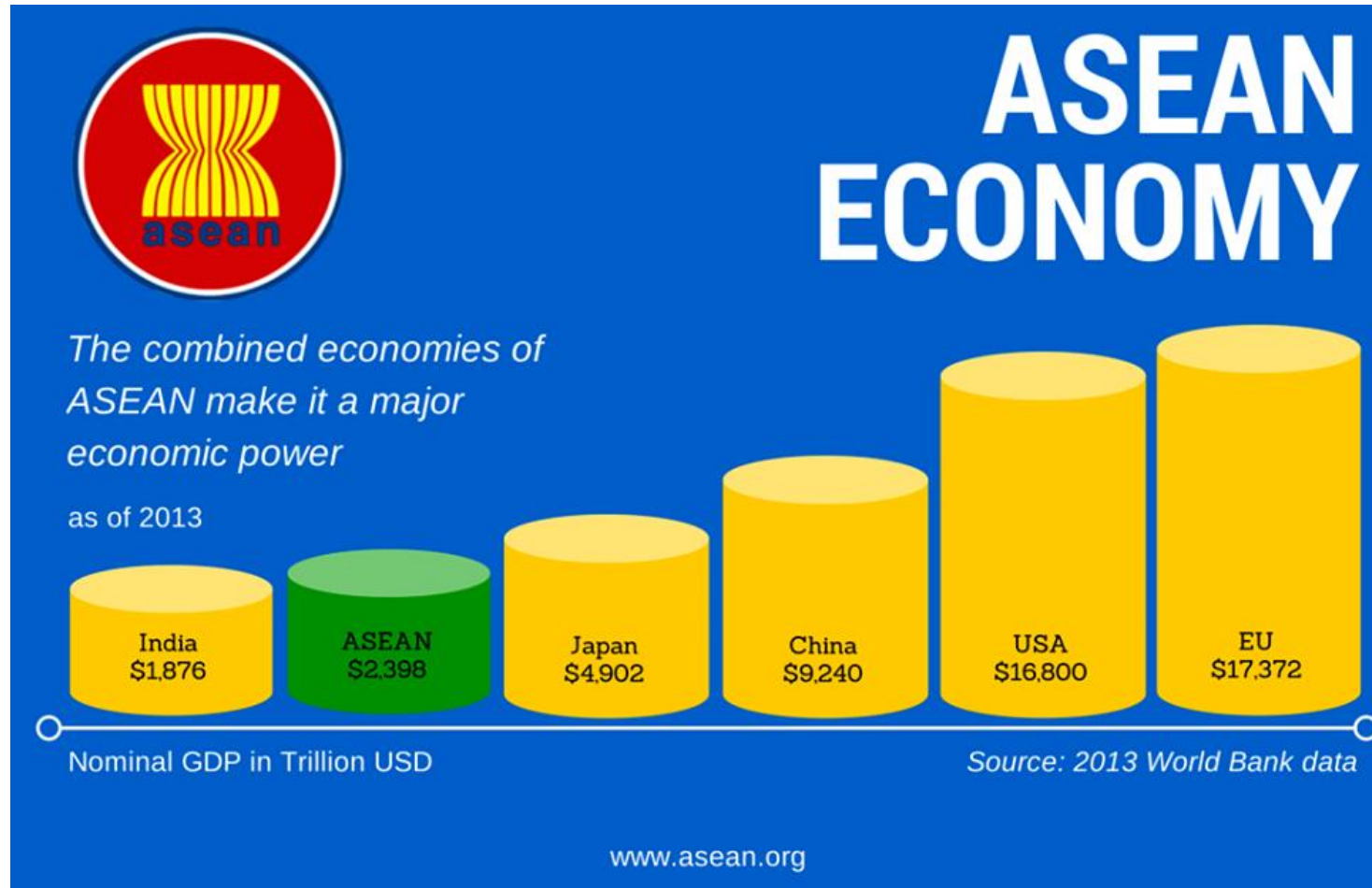
- **Principle Worry: Indonesia will simply be a market**
- President Joko Widodo, ASEAN Summit, Nov '14
 - “Indonesia will not allow itself to become merely a market...”
 - Indonesia, like any sovereign country, should ensure its national interests are not harmed...
 - We must uphold the principles of reciprocity... and fair competition.”

- **Fears and Worries of Young People? JOBS**
- Can we compete with Malaysians, Thais or Singaporeans once the ASEAN Community takes shape?
- Indonesian workforce is dominated by low-skill and low-education
 - **52%** of our workforce are primary school graduates or below
 - **67%** of our workforce are junior high school graduates.
 - In stark contrast, in places like Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines **80%** of their workforce are senior high school or university graduates. [Source: Mohammad Faisal, Core Indonesia, 2014]
- . Impact on domestic unemployment?

ASEAN Community – Why Bother?



(Continued)



- **If the ten countries of Southeast Asia combine forces politically, economically and socio-culturally there is so much potential.**
- “At the core of ASEAN's response to the increasing number of regional challenges must be its efforts to build a strong ASEAN Community premised on a **closely integrated, dynamic and vibrant regional economy**, **deeper political and security cooperation** and **stronger socio-cultural linkages**” [Cebu Declaration on the Acceleration of the Establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015]

- **ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Plan of Action**
 - Education
 - Human development
 - Poverty reduction
 - Environmental and natural resources
 - Civil society
 - Health
 - Social Welfare
 - Vulnerable Groups
 - Etc.

Young People – Where do we fit?

- “According to the ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2005, young people aged between 15-29 years old constitute 60% of the population in ASEAN. This is a number too high to dismiss especially when the future of ASEAN lies in their hands. They will be the **movers, shakers and drivers** in helping to create a unified and therefore stronger ASEAN in the years to come.”

- Young people will have an important role to play in the ASEAN Community not only as **subjects** but also as **actors**.
- Subjects: we are the ones that will live through this ASEAN Community.
- Actors: we are the ones that will be the leaders of tomorrow, the key decision makers in our sectors, and the ones that will shape the next direction the ASEAN region will take.

- 65% of the population in ASEAN is under the age of 35 years.
- Reap the demographic dividend AND avoid the youth bulge.



- ASEAN - **Learn more. Know more. Talk more.**
- Young People must do more to address the lack of awareness and poor knowledge about ASEAN.
- We cannot rely solely on the government to prepare us for the ASEAN Community and blame them for their failings
- **“Knowledge is power”** - if we want to take ownership of the ASEAN Community, to make it serve us rather than the other way around, than we need to first start by being knowledgeable on it.