



Climate Change and SDGs in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus in ASEAN

By

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30 March 2017

ASEAN Timeline on Climate Change

- Cooperation begun in earnest following the ASEAN Summit in Singapore in 2007.
- Established the ASEAN Climate Change Initiative (ACCI) and the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change in 2009.
- ASEAN Leaders adopted the Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change in April 2010.
- ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change adopted by ASEAN Environment Ministers in Sept. 2012.
- ASEAN Leaders have issued periodic statements pertaining to climate change since 2007 especially in connection with the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP), the most recent in 2016.
- ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAPJRCC) contains a program of action covering the following areas:-
 1. Adaptation
 2. Mitigation
 3. Finance & Investment
 4. Technology Transfer
 5. Capacity Building



Environmental-Related Priorities in the ASCC 2025 Blueprint

- Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Natural Resources including addressing transboundary haze pollution problems and sustainable management of land and water resources
- Environmentally Sustainable Cities including clean/green/safe public space for air, land and water
- Sustainable Climate – reduction of GHG emissions, building partnerships, institutional capacity and response mechanisms
- Sustainable Consumption and Production – adoption of Environmentally Sound Technologies , promotion of Environmental Education, sound waste management and resource efficiency, integration of SCP into policy and CSR
- Resiliency and adaptation towards climate change impacts and other environmentally related disasters especially among vulnerable populations including WEF availability during crises
- Increased recognition of the need to have cross-sectoral dialogue and coordination platforms to address nexus issues.

Environmental Sustainability Measures in the Draft AEC Blueprint 2025

- Energy – Renewable Energy target of reaching 23% of total energy mix by 2025 and reducing energy intensity of at least 20% by 2020 and 30% by 2025 based on 2005 level. Develop and adopt RE roadmap by 2020
- Transport – controlling carbon emission in land, air and ship transport sectors, and development of green freight/logistics.
- Agriculture/forestry –Implement Climate Smart Agriculture practice, adopt guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade .
- Tourism - Increase responsiveness to environmental protection and climate change by implementing appropriate guidelines including setting of standards as well as certification schemes for green hotels and public toilets among other tourism amenities and services.
- Minerals – Promote environmentally and socially responsible mineral development

Water-Energy-Food Nexus References in the ASEAN 2025

- Only place in the ASEAN 2025 Blueprint where there is reference to mentioning Water, Energy and Food side by side is in section D under the ASCC blueprint :-
- **D.5 Enhanced and Optimised Financing Systems, Food, Water, Energy Availability, and other Social Safety Nets in Times of Crises by making Resources more Available, Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable**

Human Rights and Environment/Climate Change

- ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) had held two workshops in 2014 and 2015 revolving around the human rights dimension of environment and climate change related issues.
- AICHR is also planning to organize another forum addressing the human rights to clean water and sanitation facilities later this year.

Some ASEAN Dialogue Partner activities related to Environment/Climate Change

- An ASEAN-UN action Plan on Environment and Climate Change 2016-2020 is being finalized for implementation shortly.
- ASEAN and EU have held periodic dialogues on climate change in recent years. EU has also been substantially supporting ASEAN in the proper management of peatlands with the aim of reducing fires and transboundary haze as well as carbon emissions from such occurrences.
- Germany had been an active supporter of ASEAN in biodiversity conservation and climate change, climate smart agriculture, energy efficiency and pollution abatement in transport systems and small cities in the region.
- India is undertaking a project on climate change adaptation and modeling capacity building exercises on climate change projections and assessments of impacts involving institutions from both ASEAN and Indian sides.

SDGs in ASEAN/Southeast Asia

- It has been agreed that Thailand would be the coordinator on behalf of ASEAN for coordinating the alignment and synergy between the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as reflected in the SDGs and ASEAN's priorities as contained in the ASEAN 2025 Blueprint.
- A Symposium on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development "Leave No One Behind" was convened in Sept. 2016 in Jakarta , hosted by the Mission of the People's Republic of China to ASEAN in cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat and UNDP.
- The Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development was launched in Dec. 2016 at the Sunway University in Malaysia "as a catalytic move to mobilise comprehensive collaboration, particularly amongst Southeast Asian nations, to move towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals".

Some Key ASEAN Environmental Activities

- ASEAN State of the Environment Reports – periodic assessment of state and trends and policy directions. Begun in 1997 and the latest fifth edition is under preparation and due by mid-2017.
- ASEAN Environment Year – a triennial event which started in 1995 and with the latest one in 2015 intended to showcase ASEAN's environmental achievements, and strengthening partnerships among AMS as well as various stakeholders, in addressing environmental challenges in the region.
- The following sectoral areas have their specific action plans:-
 - Environmental Education
 - Water Resources Management
 - Transboundary Haze (Roadmap)
- The latest overall ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment (ASPEN) is currently under formulation and expected to be completed by mid-2017.
- ASEAN Transboundary Haze Pollution Agreement of 2002 and the associated institutional mechanisms to address the problem.
- ASEAN Heritage Parks (38 as of 2016) and ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, the latter of which produces the ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook, first one in 2010 and the latest forthcoming soon.

Positioning the
ASEAN
Community
in an Emerging Asia:
Thai Perspectives

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Possible Recommendations for ASEAN Development Goals (ADGs)

As indicated in the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision of 12 Nov. 2014, ASEAN is supposed to, among others, 'promote development of clear and measurable "ASEAN Development Goals" to serve as ASEAN benchmark for key socio-economic issues'. It would therefore be desirable to make a few recommendations along these lines:-

- (a) ASEAN should adhere to its intended aim to declare itself free from any transboundary smoke haze arising from the burning of agricultural and forest lands within the territorial jurisdiction of all its Member States by 2020. In order to achieve this ambitious goal within the designated timeframe, ASEAN has to urgently put in place the much needed cross-sectoral mechanisms for addressing this multidimensional issue. In this regard, Thailand's lead in preparing the ASEAN haze-free roadmap should therefore be fully supported by all the concerned parties.
- (b) ASEAN should reduce infant, under-five-year-old child and maternal mortality rates to a level which would result in total region-wide figures of not more than an estimated 200,000 deaths per year by 2020 and 100,000 by 2025.

Possible Recommendations for ADGs (Cont'd)

- (c) Consistent with the proposed United Nations goal to end poverty and hunger worldwide by 2030, ASEAN should strive to reduce poverty and hunger levels in the region to no more than ten per cent of its population by 2020 and five per cent by 2025.
- (d) ASEAN should ensure equitable access to adequate drinking water and sanitation facilities for all ASEAN people by no later than 2025, in line with global development goals.
- (e) In conformance with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ASEAN should have in place by 2020 sustainable consumption and production systems and moderate patterns of lifestyle for the continued well-being of its citizens as well as long term prosperity of the Member States.
- (f) ASEAN should endeavor to foster a mutually beneficial and constructive dialogue process among all concerned parties on achieving sustainable development of the Mekong River by balancing the various competing needs and in a confidence building atmosphere, by 2020, consistent with the SDGs.
- (g) ASEAN should strive to reach by 2020 a tenth and by 2025 a quarter of the entire population of the region with a correct public understanding of its purpose, what it does and plans to achieve.

Possible Recommendations for ASEAN Development Goals (ADGs)

- (h) ASEAN would adopt by 2017, the 50th anniversary of its establishment, an “ASEAN Identity and Sense of Community Index” to measure the citizens’ degree of awareness, belonging and participation in ASEAN activities and possibly also a “Caring and Sharing Index” to gauge the degree of good neighborliness, amity and cooperation displayed among the ASEAN peoples.
- (i) ASEAN should reduce total Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) activities in the region by twenty per cent within 2020 and forty per cent by 2025.
- (j) All ASEAN Member States should endeavor to have Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for its citizens by 2020.
- (k) ASEAN should put in place the required legislation and proper operational measures for the empowerment and protection of migrant workers in the region no later than 2020.
- (l) ASEAN should fully operationalize mechanisms for the free flow of skilled workers, as agreed among the Member States by 2020.

Possible Recommendations for ASEAN Development Goals (ADGs)

- (m) As global warming and climate change is becoming an emerging threat to communities in Southeast Asia, ASEAN would need to put in place by 2020, when the new global climate agreement comes into effect, adequate response mechanisms including the mitigation, adaptation, financing, technology and capacity building schemes, among its Member States and in collaboration with external parties.
- (n) Closely linked to the above is the need to ensure that ASEAN is well prepared for responding to the increasing natural disaster challenges facing the countries in the region by establishing well-tested resilience systems and fostering effective cooperation and coordination mechanisms among the relevant sectors within the government agencies, academic/research circles, the private sector, the local communities as well as international organizations, also by 2020.
- (o) By 2020, ASEAN should have the gap analyses for measuring disparities on gender, income and wellbeing as well as other key socio-economic indicators and offer policy recommendations to address the discovered shortcomings.



Thank you for your attention

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