

1 Asean Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)

Singapore will continue to find ways to foster a close-knit Asean Community which citizens in the region can benefit from. We will also find innovative ways to equip citizens with skills and capabilities so that Asean can remain a vibrant and dynamic place for people to live, work and play. These are integral to ASCC 2025 vision for an Asean Community that engages and benefits the people and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic.

Youth

■ Renew the Singapore-Asean Youth Fund



This fund supports ground-up initiatives by Asean youth in areas such as leadership development, community service, and entrepreneurship. Since the fund was set up in 2007, Singapore has supported many meaningful and sustainable projects which have benefitted over 22,000 Asean youth.

■ Host an Asean esports tournament



This first-of-its-kind competition will encompass a regional League of Legends tournament. It will be part of a large-scale celebration of our vibrant Asean youth during the first weekend of August at the Singapore Sports Hub, bringing together the Shine Youth Festival and GetActive! Singapore.

■ Introduce the Asean Youth Fellowship programme



This programme will be the start of a longer-term network of Asean young leaders who can take the Asean community forward as a strong and united body.

Media

■ Affirm the importance of digital literacy and cyber wellness



■ Work towards developing a more socially responsible media in Asean

■ Climate Action ■ Strengthen region's collective efforts and commitment on climate change



Singapore will host a Special Asean Ministerial Meeting on Climate Action (SAMCA) in July 2018. There are also plans to hold an expanded meeting that includes Asean+3 countries, as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 23rd and 24th Conference of the Parties Presidents from Fiji and Poland, respectively, to provide Asean member states an opportunity for wider international engagement on the region's climate change efforts. We envisage that the meetings will culminate in an outcome document that will serve as input to the UNFCCC's 2018 Talanoa Dialogue Process.

Singapore will also work with Asean member states to strengthen the region's collective efforts and commitment on climate change by leading efforts as the Chair of the Asean Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC) to implement the AWGCC Action Plan 2016-2025.

■ Work towards mid-term review of the Asean Haze-Free Roadmap



Asean Environment Ministers, at their meeting in September 2017, agreed to conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the Asean Haze-Free 2020 Roadmap adopted in 2016. In 2018, we hope to launch this review to take stock of the roadmap's progress, and to sustain momentum in ensuring demonstrable improvements towards achieving a haze-free Asean by 2020.

2 Asean Economic Community (AEC)

The economic objective for Singapore's Asean 2018 chairmanship is to deepen regional connectivity to position Asean as the region for increasingly seamless economic activity and growing opportunities, especially in the areas of innovation and the digital economy. These initiatives will open up new growth frontiers and create new opportunities for Asean member states, as well as efficient linkages between producers, traders and consumers.

There are five key areas of economic focus:

■ Promote innovation & e-commerce



We will pursue an Asean Agreement on e-Commerce that advances trade rules in e-Commerce, lowers businesses' operating barriers to entry, and builds up greater digital connectivity and develop an Asean Digital Integration Framework/Scorecard to monitor the progress of Asean's digital integration. We will also work on an Asean Innovation Network that aims to strengthen linkages between innovation ecosystems to spark new collaborations and solutions, and addresses the demand from the increasingly sophisticated and growing consumer base in the region.

■ Improve trade facilitation



We will work on improving trade facilitation measures to facilitate seamless movement of goods within Asean, through the implementation of the Asean Single Window, the Asean-wide Self-Certification regime, and the pathfinder for an Asean-wide Authorised Economic Operators Mutual Recognition Agreement. These initiatives will further enhance intra-Asean trade, reduce trade transaction costs, and facilitate the digitalisation of trade procedures within Asean.

■ Deepen services & investment integration

We will continue efforts to deepen services integration through concluding the Asean Trade in Services Agreement and reducing impediments to investment by enhancing the Asean Comprehensive Investment Agreement. We will also promote South-east Asia as a vibrant cruising destination through infrastructure development and improved on-shore activities as laid out in the Asean Declaration on Cruise Tourism. This will expand market access for our companies and boost business confidence in the region.

■ Cultivate a conducive regulatory environment



We will work to create an effective regulatory environment to support the growth of a competitive, dynamic and innovative Asean, including initiatives to promote cooperation and build capabilities in areas such as energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy, as part of Asean's goals of energy security, accessibility and sustainability.

■ Progress Asean's external relations

We will broaden and deepen Asean's economic linkages with external partners while preserving Asean centrality, so as to help our businesses continue to reap the



benefits of a connected and relevant Asean.

3 Asean Political-Security Community (APSC)

To build on what has been constructed over the years in the field of political and security cooperation, Asean's leaders agreed to establish the APSC. The APSC aims to ensure that countries in the region live at peace with one another and with the world in a just, democratic and harmonious environment.



The members pledge to rely exclusively on peaceful processes in the settlement of intra-regional differences, and regard their security as fundamentally linked to one another and bound by geographic location, common vision and objectives.

The APSC has the following components: political development, shaping and sharing of norms, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, post-conflict peace building and implementing mechanisms.

The APSC Blueprint, adopted by the Asean leaders in March 2009, envisaged Asean to be a rules-based community of shared values and norms; a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security; as well as a dynamic and outward-looking region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world.