



ASEAN at the Centre

An ASEAN for All

Spotlight on

- ASEAN Youth Camp
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- ASEAN Heritage Parks

Global Partnerships

ASEAN Youth Camp

When dancer Anucha Sumaman, 24, set foot in Brunei Darussalam for the 2006 ASEAN Youth Camp (AYC) in January 2006, his total of ASEAN countries visited rose to an impressive seven. But he was an exception. Many of his fellow camp-mates had only averaged two. For some, like writer Ha Ngoc Anh, 23, and sculptor Su Su Hlaing, 19, the AYC marked their first visit to another ASEAN country.

Since 2000, the AYC has given young persons a chance to build friendships and have first hand experiences in another ASEAN country. A project of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information, the AYC aims to build a stronger regional identity among ASEAN's youth, focusing on the arts to raise awareness of Southeast Asia's history and heritage.

So for twelve days in January, fifty young persons came together to learn, discuss and dabble in artistic collaborations. The theme of the 2006 AYC, "ADHESION: Water and the Arts", was chosen to reflect the role of the sea and waterways in shaping the civilisations and cultures in ASEAN. Learning and bonding continued over visits to places like Kampung Air. Post-camp, most participants wanted ASEAN to provide more opportunities for young people to interact and get to know more about ASEAN and one another. As visual artist Willy Himawan, 23, put it, "there are many talented young people who could not join the camp but have great ideas to help ASEAN fulfill its aims."

With 60 percent of ASEAN's population under the age of thirty, young people will play a critical role in ASEAN's community-building efforts. Their enthusiasm to engage and network at the AYC is an encouraging sign. ASEAN's challenge is to make this enthusiasm contagious.



Youthful Observations on ASEAN

"ASEAN countries cooperate well."
Sharlene Teo, 18, writer

"ASEAN has a really complicated structure!"
Faisha N Indrakesuma, 16, photographer



Multi-Cultural Performers



Visit to Kampung Air



Artistic talent at work

ASEAN Day 2005

In a concerted effort to raise awareness of ASEAN across the region, simultaneous celebrations were held at all ten ASEAN capitals to mark the occasion of ASEAN's 38th Anniversary. Drawing from the theme "ASEAN Community Building for the ASEAN People", Member Countries organised a variety of events in the days leading up to August 2005, involving their citizens in the celebrations. As such, a wide cross section of the ASEAN community was able to participate in the festivities which included roundtable discussions, school debates, art and essay contests, exhibitions, family day gatherings, sports events and food fairs.



Family Day organised by the Jakarta ASEAN Contact Group



Flag Raising Ceremony, Malaysia



Essay Competition, Thailand



Student Symposium, Singapore



Food Festival, Myanmar



Cultural Performance, Cambodia



ASEAN Kite Exhibition, Philippines



"Viet Nam in ASEAN" Workshop, Viet Nam



Sports Day, Lao PDR



Roundtable Discussion, Indonesia



School Debate, Brunei Darussalam

The ASEAN Charter

As it approaches its fortieth year, ASEAN is looking ahead to a new stage of evolution, one that would give its Member Countries - both state and citizens - a bigger stake in ASEAN's development and success.

With the landmark 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Leaders have made a commitment to bring about a historic transformation of ASEAN from being a loosely organised political grouping to a more rules-based international organisation with a legal personality under international law, and from having a state-centric focus to a more people-centred orientation.

"The ASEAN Charter is the most significant development in all of ASEAN's thirty-eight years."
Tun Musa Hitam
Chairman of the EPG on the ASEAN Charter

An Eminent Persons Group (referred to as the EPG) on the ASEAN Charter was formed in December 2005 to give recommendations on how to engender this transformation.

Six months into its term, the EPG has held three meetings and plans to have at least three more. It has tasked itself with generating bold and visionary ideas on both the direction and structure of ASEAN. To help focus and tune its recommendations, the EPG has picked the brains of the ASEAN leadership, ASEAN Ministers, ASEAN Secretaries-General past and present, think-tanks and civil society organisations.

The EPG will submit its report and recommendations to the 12th ASEAN Summit in December 2006. The actual drafting of the Charter is expected to be done by a High-Level Task Force in 2007.



Tun Musa Hitam, Chairman of the EPG, briefs the press



Members of civil society present their views to the EPG on the ASEAN Charter



Eminent Persons Group on the ASEAN Charter

From left: • **Dr. Aun Porn Moniroth**, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme National Economic Council of Cambodia, CAMBODIA • **Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam**, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, VIET NAM • **Prof. S. Jayakumar**, Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Law, SINGAPORE • **Mr. Ali Alatas**, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, INDONESIA • **Tun Musa Hitam** (Chairman of the EPG), Former Deputy Prime Minister, MALAYSIA • **Mr. Fidel V. Ramos**, Former President, PHILIPPINES • **Mr. Khamphan Simmalavong**, Former Deputy Minister of Commerce, LAO PDR • **Mr. Kasemsamosorn Kasemsri**, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, THAILAND • **Dr. Than Nyun**, Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, MYANMAR • **Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Visit ASEAN Pass

In January 2006, ASEAN launched the Visit ASEAN Pass (or *vap!*) to encourage more international travellers to tour the region by allowing them visit two or more ASEAN Member Countries at a special low airfare rate. A corresponding *vap!* web portal (www.visitasean.travel) allows one-stop online bookings of airline tickets, hotels and tours. Currently



Halong Bay, Viet Nam

operational between tourism service providers in ASEAN and travel agents worldwide, the portal is expected to be opened to the public in late 2006.

The *vap!* is an initiative to develop ASEAN as a single tourism destination and sustain the upward trend of international tourist arrivals which surpassed fifty-one million in 2005, a year-on-year increase of 5 percent. Tourism is one of the region's most important and dynamic industries and has provided employment and business opportunities for a significant portion of the community in each ASEAN Member Country. It reaches both the large and the small to medium-sized enterprises. It also provides opportunities for people in outlying areas to generate income and wealth.



A taste of culture in Rizal Park, Philippines

The *vap!* also serves to promote more intra-ASEAN travel so that the people of ASEAN too have an economical means to enjoy Southeast Asia's renowned island resorts, historical sites (including two "wonders of the world"), natural landscapes, modern cities and diverse cultural and arts scene. Looking ahead, ASEAN will place added emphasis on the growing sector of youth travellers with plans to launch specially targeted *vap!* packages for young people.



The diversity of ASEAN

ASEAN Heritage Parks

While Southeast Asia comprises only three percent of the global land surface, it is home to twenty percent of all known species. There are approximately 27,000 species that are endemic to the ASEAN region.

Since 2003, ASEAN has sought to protect this rich natural heritage and preserve a complete spectrum of representative ecosystems in the region by designating park areas of high conservation importance as ASEAN Heritage Parks. The ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme facilitates greater collaboration among the ten ASEAN Member Countries in activities like joint research, information sharing, park management capacity building and the secondment of technical experts.

In promoting eco-tourism in the twenty-seven designated parks, the Programme also aims to raise the ASEAN public's awareness and interest in ASEAN's rich biodiversity, and facilitate appreciation and enjoyment of these natural parks for generations to come. The ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme received a boost in September 2005 with the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB). The ACB is the operational arm of all ASEAN initiatives on biodiversity and will now shepherd the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme, ensuring that personnel and funding is in place for effective implementation of the Programme's initiatives.



Iglit-Baco National Park, Philippines



Learning about the region's biodiversity at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Singapore



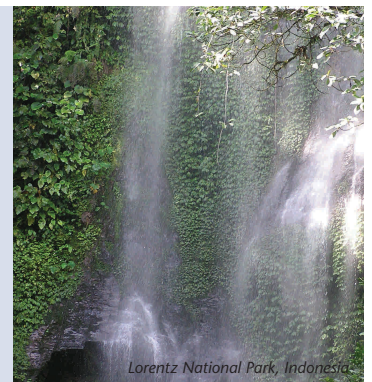
The Philippine eagle



Khakaborazi National Park, Myanmar

ASEAN Heritage Parks

Brunei Darussalam Tasek Merimbun • **Cambodia** Virachey National Park, Preah Monivong National Park (Bokor) • **Indonesia** Leuser National Park, Kerinci Seblat National Park, Lorentz National Park • **Lao PDR** Nam Ha National Biodiversity Conservation Area • **Malaysia** Kinabalu National Park, Mulu National Park, Taman Negara National Park • **Myanmar** Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park, Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary, Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Khakaborazi National Park, Lampi Marine National Park • **Philippines** Mt. Apo National Park, Iglit-Baco National Park • **Singapore** Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve • **Thailand** Khao Yai National Park, Kor Tarutao National Park, Ao Phangnga - Mu Koh Surin - Mu Koh Similan Marine National Park, Kaengkrachan Forest Complex • **Viet Nam** Hoang Lien Sa Pa National Park, Ba Be National Park, Kon Ka Kinh National Park, Chu Mom Ray National Park



Lorentz National Park, Indonesia