

## **The ASEAN Community and Its Crucial Role in Socio-Economic and Maritime Security Dynamics**

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**Abstract:** The importance of ASEAN adheres to the fact that it has strategic and socio-economic dimension attached to it. In the recent times, the global security prospects brought up new areas to limelight. ASEAN is an emerging community and in the coming years, its importance is going to increase because of the locational factors and the strategic stronghold it has got. The potential areas of resource collaboration and social formulation make ASEAN community one of the interesting area to focus upon. It is also an emerging economic hub, with the increase and investment of FDI and FII in the region; the global order too has expectation from ASEAN. In the areas of infrastructure too ASEAN has taken new initiative as it is the key issue for development and connectivity. The ASEAN members have diverse ethnic groups and linguistic concerns yet they declare themselves as one community. Here lies the greatness of a community which is important from the broad scenario of the humanitarian and the integral approach it pertains to. In the coming years ASEAN will play the key role in socio-economy and maritime concerns for the prosperous world order.

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The economy of the ASEAN countries mainly depends upon maritime activities, tourism, and also the services sector. In the certain realm like Vietnam and Thailand the agriculture is prevailing. The primary sector and the tertiary sector is a mix of these South-East Asian Countries. Here, only the role of sustainable agriculture becomes important. The ASEAN Countries have distinctive cultural traits, which need to be preserved because of the intangible heritage it concerns to. These issues are very much important to sustain the economy, which is linked to agriculture and the emerging sectors. Multi-dimensional approach and also a balanced approach is important to look forward.

Technology too plays a crucial role in the present day world order. Technology for the development purpose and connectivity issue remains the crucial dimension in the present day context. The climate studies and the human sustenance in ASEAN and the greater global realm remain attached to technological attributes. A collaborative approach is one of the best and desired one and ASEAN Countries has been playing the same role in integrating the same. The Australian Government blueprint on the role of ASEAN is an important document in the technological dimension. Economic scenario of all the ASEAN member countries is to be studied and analysed from the development perspective and also to sustain a sustainable development scenario.

The role of culture in determining the public ethics and social cohesion is important from different perspectives. If we go back to our roots, we find how the religious dimension evolved over the period of time and it is also the result of cultural growth. ASEAN Community has diverse culture and the same is a very unique one in the global realm. But integrating all the cultures for the path of development and brotherhood transcends the singularity aspect. It brings into forefront the broadmindedness of ASEAN Community and formulating a clear picture that Unity is essential for growth.

Security issue is the key area where research projects should have the unique criteria to maintain the stability of the region. The Geographical location of the coastal and hinterland of the ASEAN Community brings up several security dimension. The Entrepots like Singapore and Malacca too have their own concern. Global trade needs to be maintained but at the same time, the security concerns have always remained important from many angles. The collaborative approach once again remains important as ASEAN has the potential to take the leadership role ahead. "The emerging major economies Like India too could be helpful in this regard".

Linkage with South Asia is another future dimension whereby ASEAN Countries has scope to strengthen their ties specially with the emerging economies like India. The Indian Ocean and its influence is noticeable in the new world order. The islands are the important location which can also act like Security arenas. The development of this area is the key factor for the future of Asia. The joint efforts to determine the strategic and economic determinants would broaden in future. The ASEAN community could play a vital role in this maritime and dynamic aspect. The Entrepots like Singapore, Malacca again reveals the important dimension of

trade and connectivity. When we have such determining location it needs to be formulated in a very crucial manner. One respect to nearby areas and key location and the future prospects need to be taken into consideration. The policies of the economic players become crucial in this regard. Vital policies and maritime security broaden up the issue. The law of the seas i.e. UNCLOS hold a lot of potential in this regard. The resource rich area like the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Pockets has always been on limelight. The Oil rich areas and the maritime hubs remain the key factor for the development issues. In this scenario, research activities and the surveillance mechanism can be the determinant factor for maintaining stability in the region.

The ASEAN Countries are also a tourism hub for the world at large. The cultural diversity and the beautiful topography attracts a lot of people all over the world to this destination. The investment and the other opportunities have also been growing in the recent times. The ASEAN Community is also in search of employment opportunities for its population. "Hence there can be no greater opportunity than moulding its resource orientation and then going through the skill sets to maintain the stability of the region".

Agricultural issues are important for the South East Asian Countries. There can be no other study of priority if agriculture issues are not addressed in a proper way. The primary issues are important for the betterment of the people of the region. This particular issue has a lot of potential and optimism for the region. There can be a peaceful society and stable economy of the greater level when the agricultural issues are integrated. It is also remarkable that the plantation agriculture is dominant in certain parts of the region. The coffee and rubber plantation workers have their own set of culture and economic sustenance way. The development of their lot is also important in the greater world. As plantation economy is a potential sector, therefore, an integral way would be the best way.

The Human Development Index of the ASEAN Countries has been satisfactory. Singapore and Brunei has high HDI and most of the Countries have got medium range HDI. With the quality in human schooling and life expectancy these countries have shown to the world that co-operation among the people and skill sets could turn orient the development process. Therefore, the human development issue has been majorly discussed among the scholars across the world. In this context, we can also mention about the standard issue has been majorly discussed among the scholars across the world. Moreover, we can also mention about the standard of living which can also be raised with the raise of per capita income.

The free trade agreement in the recent years has brought up new dimension to the sectors of the economy. The ASEAN and the partner countries have collaborated in different trade agreements. The inflow of Dollar, Euro, Yen too has grown significantly. There are the different trade dimensions and opening up of the Economy where we can see the different trade dimension like FDI and FII. The major economies of the world are also collaborating with the ASEAN economies due to the growth of the economy and the potential. Infrastructure too has seen a boost up in the recent times. And, therefore, we can see that connectivity in the recent times also saw a major growth. The multi-dimensional approach is the crux to development and ASEAN countries have realised the same in the recent years.

The culture of ASEAN countries has been the interesting area of study for the scholars. The Society and the dimension involved in it has to be linked towards a developmental and progressive path. ASEAN countries have multilinguistic and multi-religious culture. Their unification brought up a new arena of togetherness in front of the world community. Hence, the social upliftment and also the spiritual dimension became the concern of the ASEAN community. This is human development in the true sense.

In countries which have basic income generation from primary and secondary activities it becomes imperative to think about the employment opportunities. It can be mentioned that skill development and social schemes could be beneficial in this regard. Primary activities in a sustainable manner and progressive manner could herald peace in the region. Moreover, peace is certainly essential for economic and social development. Human development should be given priority in this regard. The regional disparity should be minimised in order to make a lively ASEAN. And such ASEAN is needed for peaceful co-existence. Employment issue is no doubt an enabling issue in the present day context.

Thoughtful and balanced decisions play an important role in the present day context. The human rights issue, strategic consideration and food security play a vital role in the present policies. ASEAN community has been trying for the same and is also moving towards the coveted direction. It is the mass vision, the connectivity issue and the security of the area that would remain vital in the coming years. The human rights issue remains the key towards the developmental path. The channelling and the skilful orientation of population dynamics could bear fruitful result in the ASEAN community. The International issues too come to limelight in this context. When we see the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Programme of ASEAN we notice that trade volume and the key concerns like dialogues in the scenario. The leadership role determines the course of trade and stability of the realm. Hence taking into consideration the dimension of trade and security the ASEAN community has the potential to mould the future of the region and integrating the international order. The connection with the Nations like Japan and other Countries is crucial for human development arena. The bilateral and multilateral association can mould technology and services in a desired

direction and also in a humane way. In all this issues, humanitarian aid too deserves mention because human dynamics and society is linked to several things.

Public policy has been given priority by the ASEAN community. In the globalised scenario public policies need to be formulated in a sustainable and balanced manner so that people- centric approach gets a fruitful result. The agriculture and infrastructure, water and housing, healthcare are the crucial sectors where the ASEAN community need to invest now and also in future. The South East Asian and the South Asian realm has healthcare concerns which if carefully formulated could yield fruitful result. In this scenario we can see that tropical and sub- tropical environment plays an important part in determining the lives of the human beings living in that region. The daily lives and the household chores is also crucial in determining the economic sectors. When the priority is only services then this kind of enabling environment is not possible. But an enabling environment could bear the responsibility in a real sense leading towards a prosperous future then we should think about the creation of the same. Human beings are actually the product of the environment so the minimum necessity and the better opportunities hold the key to the future. The actual development scenario takes into account all the section of the people and there is the need to see such formulation in present day context.

The issue of economic integration becomes very important in the context of the ASEAN. ASEAN has concerns regarding the trade blocks and the regional economic dimension. The broad economic upholding of ASEAN has taken into consideration many crucial distribution aspects. The manufacturing sector of the ASEAN countries can also be important in this regard. Services has seen a boost in the recent decades and here we can see technology playing the key role. But manufacturing dimension hold a lot of potential and this has other crucial linkages too. The primary sector no doubt is there for sustenance. The countries like Vietnam and Thailand have been relying heavily on the primary sector. The economy of a country and the neighbouring areas if linked prosperously then the development is seen in all the areas. This is the real need of the hour and ASEAN has been trying to formulate such a policy. The skill and working mindset of the people if enabled in a sustainable manner, it can lead towards a skilled environment. Economics and humane dynamics should actually move together. The vital aspects of society should never be ignored if the development is to be secured. Therefore, we can say that human development is to be secured. Therefore, we can say that human development is also essential for economic integration scenario. In all the realms of international relation, the progressive society could herald new and bright opportunities.

The cooperative environment that has been created by the ASEAN community is again an excellent demonstration in front of the world community. Peace is what is required in the present day scenario and ASEAN has been securing the same thought with bilateral, multilateral, partnership and comprehensive mechanism. Our ASEAN vision is a unique one prosperity is coveted through the leaders and co- operation of the people at large. These are the greater ideologies which could enhance the regional cooperation in future too. Meanwhile we can also talk about the green economy theme which is based on scientific formulation and sustainable future ahead. The energy security is one of the most crucial aspects of development in the modern day scenario. International and regional co- operative environment has been moulding a better future. The thought if actually unified and embraced at greater level it would bring out very good outcome. Energy Security is also the talk among the great leaders, countries and institutions at broader level. Once again the economic integration aspect comes into the forefront. The distribution and other aspects also formulate a lot of issues. The renewable too holds a lot of potential in this regard. Our global prosperity and the ASEAN vision merges here and definitely the leadership plays a greater role.

The maritime security and the maritime concerns are also important from various perspectives. The ASEAN countries are located in such a crucial location that their security issue holds the key to peace and development of the area. The shorelines need protection and UNCLOS at various level have been playing their part in resolving different issues relating to it. The areas like coastlines and the islands are at times really security concerned and that is why surveillance security. The new era of development and connectivity needs manpower, skill and also technological inputs for peace and security in the region. Resource distribution is another key area where ASEAN Countries need to formulate the new policies so that there is proper development of all the countries in the realm. One community is really the crux of the greater ASEAN thought. No doubt the ASEAN Countries are prosperously blessed with natural abundance and manpower. The diverse culture is also another unique dimension and that is why cultural study and integration has always played the key role in the ASEAN region. This is the uniqueness of the ASEAN region and it has tried its best to preserve the same for the development of all.

ASEAN is a new hope in the study of cultural relation. The unity and the development orientation are the crux towards peace. The world community has seen the same in the ASEAN realm since the inception. Multi ethnicity, multi diversity and yet unified objective is the wonder thing that happened in the recent years. This may be called the tradition integration theory and so we can bring out new perspective of cultural studies from

the same. The human development aspect should be analysed and be given priority in the coming years and here lies the role of ASEAN.

## II. CONCLUSION

ASEAN community has played a dynamic role in integrating the trade, social and cultural aspects in the recent times. The connectivity and infrastructure issue remains the crucial issue in determining the path of development in the region. The free trade agreement with different countries and bilateral/multilateral talks hold the key towards a prosperous ASEAN. The international community is also getting integrated with the same idea. The primary sector and manufacturing sector is setting up arenas of development for the future. Security issues is another important aspect of the recent times, the maritime security in this region is crucial from many perspectives. Finally, the conflict resolution should be the thought in order to progress. Respect, Retrospect and Rebuild is supposedly the key theme for the future and Sustainable rhetoric would add a new dimension to greater ASEAN Community.

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