



**Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Model United Nations Conference
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Shanghai, China**





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Dear delegates,

It is my distinct honor to welcome you to the very first edition of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Model United Nations Conference in China!

MITMUNC China will be the first chapter of our conference outside of the United States and represents a new, exciting opportunity. Among many things, MITMUNC China represents the power of cooperation across nations in this ever more integrated world. We are delighted to be co-hosting this conference with ASDAN China, united by our common mission of developing tomorrow's leaders.

In late August, we will all convene in Shanghai for a weekend full of debate. As a delegate, you will be tasked with the challenge of representing your assigned delegation and presenting novel, feasible solutions to the world's most pressing issues. It will be your responsibility and privilege to engage in purposeful dialogue with your fellow delegates throughout the course of three days in which you will learn extensively. However, you will not be the only ones in this endeavor. This will be my first time in China which is also the case for the majority of the MITMUNC China committee directors. As such, we are very excited in getting to know you and experiencing Chinese culture firsthand.

A great deal of planning and work from many people has gone into this conference. Thus, I invite you to take full advantage of MITMUNC China. **Prepare yourself for your committee, think freely and creatively, and do not be afraid to speak up.** The beauty of Model United Nations lies in the peaceful coordination of unique thoughts and ideas coalescing to simulate the work of real world leaders, so your work as a delegate will certainly be important.

Use this background guide as your first step in preparation. Read it in its entirety and use it as a base to conduct individual research. Your committee director has prepared it for your benefit.

As MITMUNC China's founder, I very much look forward to giving you a warm welcome in late August! See you in Shanghai!

Sincerely,

William A. Rodríguez
Secretary-General & Founder
MITMUNC China

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear delegates,

I am Karunya Sethuraman and I will be your chair for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) committee. I am a rising sophomore at MIT, where I plan to study computer science and mechanical engineering, while exploring classes in economics and political science. I'm from Palo Alto, CA, but call Boston, MA home now as well.

My experience with MUN is varied. I know both sides of Model UN well, having competed as a delegate in multiple conferences during high school, as well as having chaired at my high school's conference. I chaired for the Historical Committee during MITMUNC IX. Some of my favorite Model UN committees have dealt with economic and social issues, and hope this committee will come to be one of your favorite ones.

At MIT, I am part of the sorority Pi Beta Phi and the musical theater group known as the *MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players*. I also research how to prevent scale formation on surfaces. Additionally, I enjoy learning new languages, traveling, reading, and quilting.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations was founded on August 8th, 1967 to promote intergovernmental collaboration in Southeast Asia and provide a framework in which member states could work together to promote economic growth in the region. Its member nations are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. ASEAN plus three includes these above as well as the People's Republic of China, Japan, and South Korea.

I am incredibly excited to meet you all and hear your thoughts in committee -- come prepared for three days of scintillating debate and to work on concrete solutions to the problems that surround us.

Sincerely,

Karunya Sethuraman

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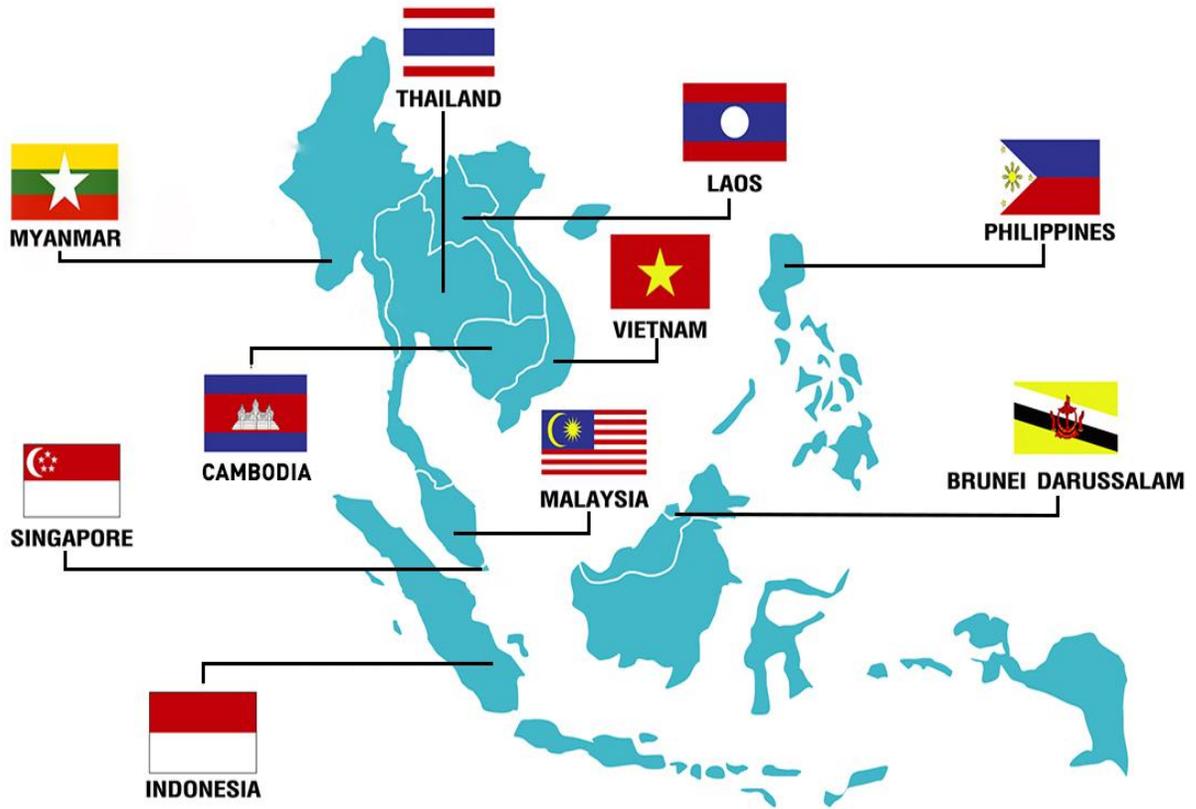


Figure 1. ASEAN Nations¹

¹"Australia-ASEAN Youth Forum." *Asia Education Foundation*. Asia Education Foundation, n.d. Web. 8 June 2017. <<http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/programmes/go-global-programs/australia-asean-youth-forum>>.

TOPIC 1: INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT IN ASEAN NATIONS



Background

The development boom in Southeast Asia promises great economic prosperity but brings with it a host of challenges related to lagging infrastructure and the costs associated with updating the existing networks to facilitate increased trade between member nations. While the total ASEAN economy composes the 7th largest economy in the world and total trade increased this past year by one trillion US dollars, with most of that staying in the region through an increase in intra-ASEAN trade, the other side of this is that new ports must be constructed for ships to dock with goods, and warehouses constructed store the goods, and vehicles to transport the goods on the ground.

Internet Network Capability

In the last year, the overall ASEAN rate of internet subscribers doubled from 11.8 to 28.6 per 100 people. Internet subscription adoption thus is an issue that should be explored upon in the bringing ASEAN member states into the ever more connected world of the internet. One metric for this analysis is the cost of obtaining reliable internet service. For example, an internet connection with one gigabyte of bandwidth, translates into 1.04 hours of work in Brunei to over 6 hours in Vietnam, according to an infographic by techinasia.com.² This rate of advancement in all sectors of society bodes well for the region, so ASEAN's purpose now is to come up with an action plan to determine how to match the expansion of regional network capabilities to their growth.

Comparatively, according to the same article, in China it takes just over 3 hours of work to get one gigabyte of data, and in India it takes over 13 hours of work to obtain one gigabyte of data. So while ASEAN member nations have room for improvement, at the current growth rate of 5.4%, it is conceivable that ASEAN member nations could catch up to China and more developed nations in this respect. However, an interesting aspect about ASEAN nations is that internet access is weakly correlated with GDP, with member nations falling into roughly three categories of percent of internet access, with the more developed nations reaching almost 60% access to internet.

In 2015, the ASEAN Economic Community was formed, to “implement economic and financial integration across member nations,” and frameworks of this sort are the type that will help ASEAN grow as a community and even out the current socioeconomic disparities between member countries (CNBC.com).

²Freischlad, Nadine. "The Cost of Mobile Data in Southeast Asia." *Tech in Asia - Connecting Asia's Startup Ecosystem*. Tech in Asia, 19 Jan. 2016. Web. 5 June 2017. <<https://www.techinasia.com/cost-mobile-data-southeast-asia-infographic>>.

The EU Model

There is a debate currently on whether the ASEAN economic community should adopt a EU model, with a monetary union in addition to a free flow of economic and human capital. There are various ways to approach this issue. On the one hand, this kind of unity would bring the region together but could also end badly – as did similar efforts in Central and South America and Africa, where adopting an EU model led to the infamous “soccer wars,” West African schemes in the form of “paper tigers,” and even stagnation and crises, as in the case of the East African Economic Community. Singapore has basically a free trade port, and other countries have comparatively many more regulations, so getting the entire ASEAN community to agree on one trade standard and one monetary standard is inconceivable. The heterogeneity of member nations also poses a problem.

Past ASEAN Action

According to the Asian Development Bank, the region needs 110 billion dollars in infrastructure spending through the year 2025, with the ASEAN 6, a subset of ASEAN consisting of Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, accounting for 84 billion of that total.³ This vast sum cannot simply come government funding, as these nations do not have the financial assets for an investment of such scale. This leads into a discussion of the pros and cons of the involvement of non-governmental organizations and large companies and their role in financing infrastructure that will benefit the region and by extension, benefit their businesses and raise their employee’s standard of living. Interestingly, countries that score higher in corruption percentiles tend to be seen as more favorable by those in private - public partnerships, which is beneficial for the country. This leads us to a discussion of how corruption in ASEAN countries must be addressed in order for the region to benefit as a whole. In all of ASEAN, only Malaysia and Singapore scored above 50 on Transparency International’s Index, with Malaysia scoring a 50 and Singapore scoring an 85 in Transparency International’s Index in 2015.⁴ Transparency international’s report *ASEAN*

Integrity Community: A Vision for transparent and accountable integration warns ASEAN of the damages such large-scale corruption can cause, one of which being hesitancy on the part of investors who are needed to make up funds for infrastructure projects when the government does not have sufficient capital.⁵

³ Chan, Willie. "3 Things To Know About The ASEAN Infrastructure Buildout." Forbes. Forbes Magazine, 08 July 2016. Web. 11 June 2017. <<https://www.forbes.com/sites/williechan/2016/07/08/3-things-to-know-about-the-asean-infrastructure-buildout/>>.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Transparency International, *ASEAN INTEGRITY COMMUNITY A VISION FOR TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE INTEGRATION*, (n.p.: Transparency International, 2015),



Topics to Consider

In our committee, we will create a plan for ASEAN going forward, addressing the myriad infrastructure and social changes that must occur for ASEAN to move in the current era and for ASEAN nations to sustain their current level of growth. Since some ASEAN countries have more infrastructure than others, and some are more developed, we can look to these nations as an example of policies and procedures we can enact throughout the region. However, at the same time we must be cognizant of the fact that not all ASEAN countries are created the same, and have different needs. Additionally, ASEAN is not a legally binding organization, and member nations are not bound to any agreed upon policies. Therefore, we should look at what can be proposed as recommendations that can be tailored to fit the context of any ASEAN nation.

While I have covered certain issues that the region faces in this guide, there are many other topics that relate to ASEAN nations as a whole and affect the region that you should feel free to research – in fact, I would recommend that you find one more topic not covered in this guide by relevant to the region and discuss it in your position paper, as that will allow for a more involved debate.

TOPIC 2: CYBER SECURITY IN ASEAN MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS



Thank you to Alice Zhu and Bowen Lu, MITMUNC 2017 ASEAN Chairs, for writing this excellent summary of the cybersecurity challenges faced by ASEAN, and for contributing to the above section.

Background

In 1976, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand signed the Bangkok Declaration, which led to the creation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Today, ASEAN member countries include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Many of these countries have developed rapidly, made possible by ASEAN's deconstruction of economic borders. Specifically, the bloc abolished import/export duties among member states, and Mutual Recognition Agreements have been signed to allow for free flow of skilled labor throughout the region. ASEAN comprises the world's seventh largest economy, with a combined GCP of more than \$2.4 trillion. Moreover,

ASEAN has negotiated trade agreements with its neighbors, including India, Australia, New Zealand, China, and South Korea, as a bloc.

However, this rapid development is not without its pitfalls. Cybersecurity within ASEAN nations has not necessarily kept pace with economic development. There are increasingly more cyber attacks being experienced in the region. Moreover, there is much disparity among ASEAN nations with respect to cybersecurity priorities and capabilities. Indeed, ASEAN was formed mainly as a regional trade organization, rather than a political or legal one. However, if ASEAN can unify and coordinate its cybersecurity efforts as well as it did its economic ones, then the future of cybersecurity in member countries can be bright.

Vulnerabilities in Cyber Security

Cybercriminal activity within ASEAN has foisted member states into the global arena in unwanted ways. In 2013, Thai and Indonesian authorities arrested foreign individuals associated with financial email scams and/or malware. Indeed, the targeting of the ASEAN bloc as a whole has highlighted the need for the Association to work together across member nations to address cybersecurity.

Cost of Vulnerability

In recent years, penetration rates for both mobile and fixed Internet broadband have skyrocketed among ASEAN member states. The bloc's population is increasingly becoming online, and the lack of sufficient cybersecurity protections has been costly. Between 2007 and 2012, for instance, Malaysia lost an estimated USD\$900 million to cybercriminals, and cyber crimes account for more than 70% of all crimes committed within the country. In Indonesia, cybercrimes have cost USD\$2.7 billion on an annual basis. The rate of malware infections and piracy have also spiked in recent years.

In addition to political instability, ASEAN stands to lose investor confidence in the ASEAN economy and heighten the risk associated with tech-related ASEAN businesses.

Priority Asymmetry

As a primarily economic bloc, ASEAN relies on individual member governments to enact effective policies and policing procedures. However, more economically developed member states have different priorities and capabilities than those of less developed nations. For the economically strong country of Singapore, cybercrime is a big threat to its bustling business and financial services sector. Thus, cybersecurity is a more critical interest for Singapore than for a poorer country like Myanmar, which is still in the process of developing electricity and IT capabilities.

The priority asymmetry has a positive side as well. Singapore has instituted a five-year cybersecurity plan, leading a number of Asian and International groups and summits on cybersecurity best practices. The knowledge and relationships accrued by Singapore also benefit ASEAN as a whole, and Singapore provides a cybersecurity model for other nations to follow.

Topics to Discuss

We will discuss potential cybersecurity initiatives that ASEAN should consider to bolster its cybersecurity capabilities. Particularly, we will address both inward-facing policies to curb attacks from within the bloc, as well as outward-facing policies to deal with attacks from foreign hacker groups. Our discussion will involve relevant past initiatives, such as the 2000 e-ASEAN Framework, which allowed for the development of IT infrastructure serving government and business, but lacked sufficient measures for maintaining cybersecurity. In response to increasing malicious activity online, ASEAN passed the Declaration on Transnational Crime in 2001, which was the first agreement to directly address cybercrime and provide ASEAN-wide policing and legal structures

among member states, but was ultimately ineffective. Finally, ASEAN called together the 2003 Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN), which mandated that ASEAN members establish their own Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs). It is up to you to bring in additional relevant research regarding ASEAN's historical dealings with cybersecurity and cyber crimes. We will also discuss the political and legal barriers surrounding the successful production of effective policies across different nations within ASEAN.

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