



Balancing Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability:- The Case of ASEAN

By

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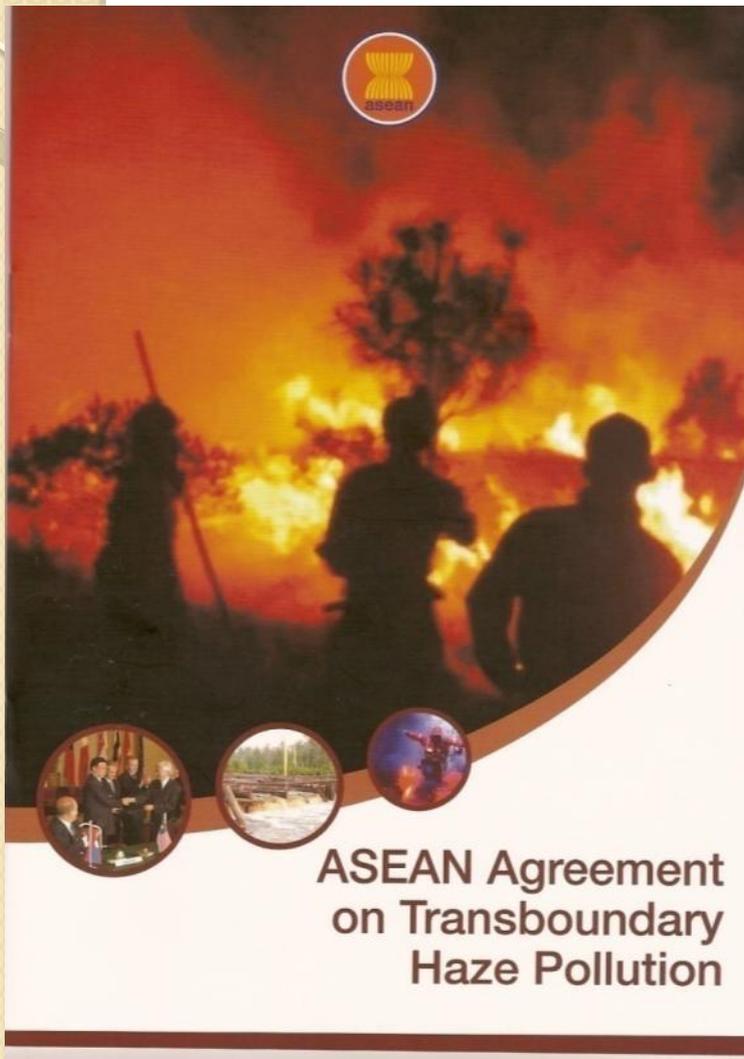
Environmental Sustainability Measures in the Draft AEC Blueprint 2025

- First time where a section on Sustainable Economic Development appears and referred to as an integral part of the region's growth strategy.
- Promotion of green development by developing an agenda that fosters the use of clean energy and related technologies and including such in national development plans.
- Sectors covered include, energy, transport, food, agriculture, forestry, mining and tourism. (*Note: No specific industrial sector as such under the AEC cooperation framework.*)
- Reference to sustainable consumption and production as well as to developing resilience against climate change, natural disasters and other shocks.
- Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility was also mentioned.

Environmental-Related Priorities in the draft ASCC 2025 Blueprint

- Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Natural Resources
- Environmentally Sustainable Cities
- Sustainable Climate
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Resiliency and adaptation towards climate change impacts and other environmentally related disasters especially among vulnerable populations.
- Increased recognition of the need to have cross-sectoral dialogue and coordination platforms to address nexus issues.
- In a related development, the establishment of the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy (AIGE) in Myanmar *“to serve as a centre of excellence on Green Economy, being responsive to regional environmental, climate and economic issues and contributing to building capacity, fostering research, catalyzing and facilitating green technologies, improving management practices and promoting national and international cooperation”*.

Transboundary Environmental Pollution



prevent, monitor, and mitigate land and forest fires to control transboundary haze pollution through concerted national efforts, regional and international cooperation through :

- ❖ monitoring and assessment
- ❖ prevention
- ❖ preparedness
- ❖ national and joint regional emergency response
- ❖ technical and scientific cooperation
- ❖ capacity building and public awareness

Adverse Impacts from Fires/Haze

- Losses to property and/or degradation of natural resources, forest, biodiversity and ecosystem including damage to agricultural production.
- Increase in emissions of greenhouse gases and other hazardous pollutants.
- Harmful effects on health including injuries and fatalities to humans and animals/plants, leading to untimely ailments and even early deaths.
- Adversely affecting various modes of transport operations due to safety concerns including accidents arising from poor visibility.
- Negative impact on tourism and business.
- Rights to clean air, good health and quality livelihoods being denied to numerous affected communities and ordinary citizens.
- Strained neighborly relations among ASEAN member countries, if not others.
- Seriously dent the image of ASEAN solidarity and effectiveness.

Root Causes of the Fire/Haze Problem

- Weak judicial systems in some countries – both enacting relevant laws prohibiting/restricting burning and with strict compliance.
- Overlapping regulations and/or jurisdiction, lack of proper coordination and cooperation across concerned agencies → gridlock and/or loopholes.
- Lack of awareness and insufficient information, resources (funds, equipment, personnel, etc.) and political will to tackle the problem.
- Strong local patronage systems/special connections → corruption, collusion and nepotism.
- Overly bureaucratic processes and/or national sovereignty concerns.
- Not enough suitable “carrots and sticks” provided and efforts in finding win-win solutions.
- Lack of multi-stakeholder approaches and framework involving all relevant parties – governments, private sector, local communities, etc.
- Inadequate consumer understanding on the cause-effects of unsustainable production systems and failing to internalize externalities.

ASEAN Haze Problem - Possible Solutions

- A proposed Transboundary Haze Free ASEAN by 2020/2025 in a post-2015 ASEAN Vision – what needs to be done to get there.
- So far, problem overseen by basically Environment ministries which represent tail-end of the problem. Front-end agencies are agriculture, forestry, interior, local administration, justice/law, etc.
- May require a re-think in the approach if we want more effective and timely solutions → need more closer cross-sectoral interface as well as making zero-burning land clearing alternatives more attractive through both “carrots” and “sticks”.
- Role of CSR, SRI, Global Compact, etc. to promote sustainability.
- Propose introducing a **protocol** to the AATHP, as provided for in the Agreement, of institutionalizing the above-mentioned measures.

Example of Citizen Action

WE BREATHE WHAT WE BUY

• HELP TO STOP THE HAZE BY JOINING THE CAMPAIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS SMOKE-FREE PLACES & SHOW COMPANIES THAT WE WANT SUSTAINABLE AND HAZY-FREE PRODUCTS.

4681 PLEDGES

TAKE THE PLEDGE

This pledge is your message to companies that you demand sustainable palm oil products. The good companies you see when you pledge together are all the better.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with a dark-themed campaign page. On the left, a woman in a plaid shirt is taking a selfie. To her left is a dark sign with white and yellow text. The sign reads 'WE BREATHE WHAT WE BUY' in large letters, followed by a bullet point: 'HELP TO STOP THE HAZE BY JOINING THE CAMPAIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL.' Below this, it says 'LET'S WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS SMOKE-FREE PLACES & SHOW COMPANIES THAT WE WANT SUSTAINABLE AND HAZY-FREE PRODUCTS.' At the bottom of the sign, there is a row of small icons representing people, with the number '4681 PLEDGES' below them. To the right of the woman is a registration form with several input fields and checkboxes. The form includes fields for 'Given Name', 'Company (if any)', 'Email', 'Phone', and 'Country'. There are two checkboxes with 'Yes' and 'No' options, and a prominent orange button labeled 'TAKE THE PLEDGE'.

Another Example of Citizen Action

The image is a screenshot of a news article from The Guardian. The article is titled "Hague climate change judgement could inspire a global civil movement" and is written by Emma Howard. The sub-headline reads: "Dutch ruling could trigger global calls for climate action, with citizens taking their governments to court to make them act on climate promises". The main image shows a group of people in a courtroom, with several individuals in the foreground embracing. To the right of the image is a sidebar for the "GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION FORUM" held on 27-28 October 2012 at the Royal Society, Cambridge. The sidebar includes a logo, the dates and location, and a link to "View our full agenda". The Guardian logo is visible in the top right corner of the page.

Climate change

Hague climate change judgement could inspire a global civil movement

Emma Howard

Dutch ruling could trigger global calls for climate action, with citizens taking their governments to court to make them act on climate promises



GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION FORUM

27-28 October 2012
Royal Society, Cambridge

View our full agenda

Siam Cement Group (SCG)

What's more important for **SCG** than having been ranked as

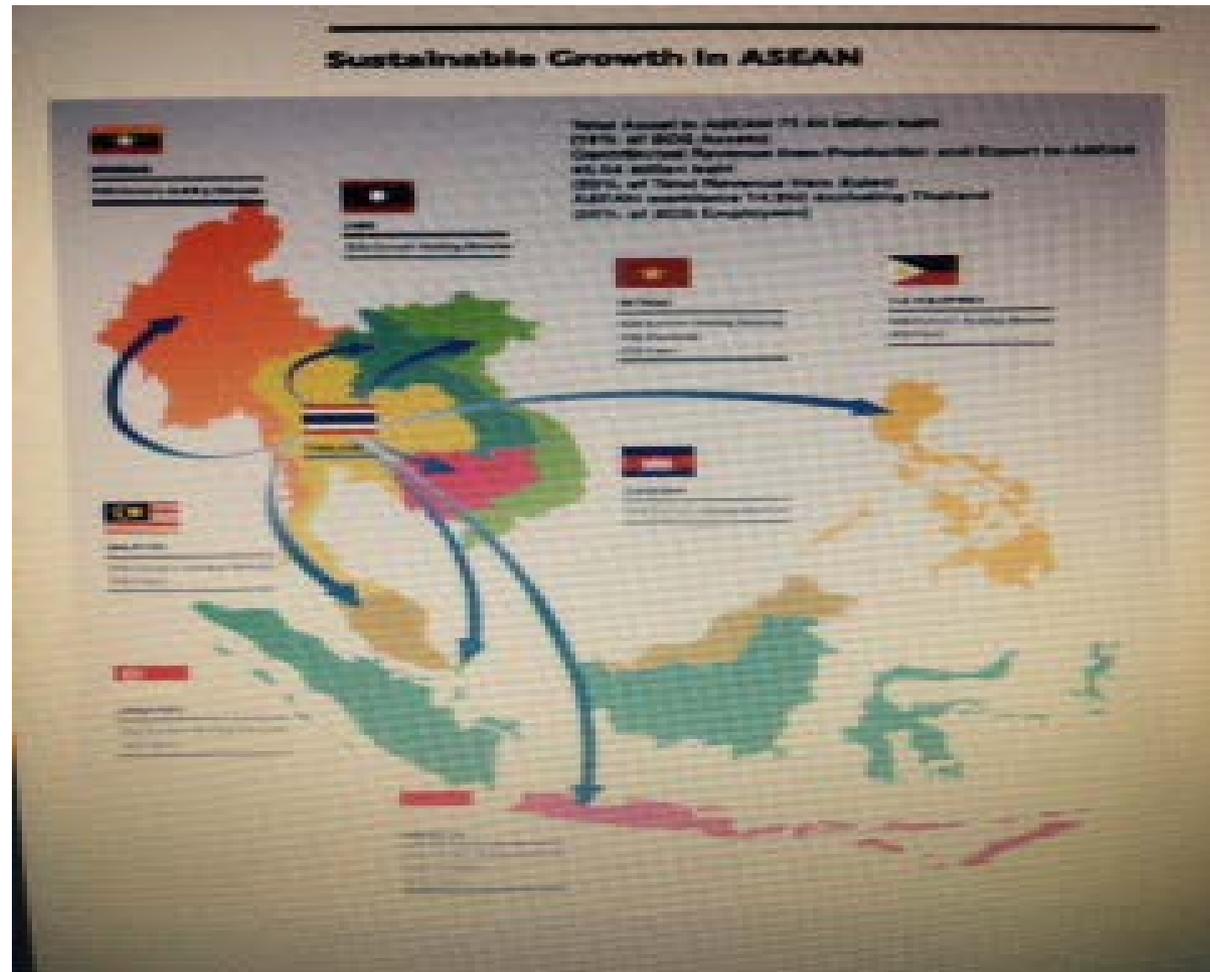
No. 1 in the world
for four
consecutive years

is to offer

**a sustainable future
for everyone in ASEAN.**



SCG's investments in ASEAN countries



Potential Windows of Opportunities

- Riding on the bandwagon of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be adopted later this week by the UN.
- Catching the rising global and regional interest on climate change impacts including related natural disasters and increasing worldwide interest on environmental sustainability issues.
- Taking advantage of the growing trend towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainability reporting among private firms.
- Forging a strategic alliance between enlightened business leaders and citizen groups working in tandem with responsive public officials.
- Political will/action from leaders and champions in societies to help spearhead in addressing sustainable development issues in a concerted, holistic and timely manner.
- Next 10-15 years window would be crucial.



Thank you for your attention

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