USAID ASEAN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION (API)
REGIONAL TRENDS ANALYSIS REPORT (FEBRUARY 2022)
USAID ASEAN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION (API) REGIONAL TRENDS ANALYSIS REPORT
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACDD</td>
<td>ASEAN Customs Declaration Document</td>
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<tr>
<td>AEC</td>
<td>ASEAN Economic Community</td>
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<td>AMS</td>
<td>ASEAN Member States</td>
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<tr>
<td>APEC</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation</td>
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<td>APT</td>
<td>ASEAN Plus Three</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
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<td>ASEAN+3</td>
<td>AMS, China, Japan, and Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASW</td>
<td>ASEAN Single Windows</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAPPENAS</td>
<td>Ministry of National Development Planning, Republic of Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLMV</td>
<td>Cambodia - Lao PDR - Myanmar - Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESG</td>
<td>Environmental, Social and Governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technology</td>
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<td>MSME</td>
<td>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises</td>
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<td>MRA(s)</td>
<td>Mutual Recognition of Agreement(s)</td>
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<td>M-ATM</td>
<td>Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers</td>
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<td>POA</td>
<td>Plan of Action of the ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership for 2021-2025</td>
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<td>SURE</td>
<td>USAID’s Scaling Up Renewable Energy program</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programmes</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>US Agency for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>United States Dollar</td>
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<td>USG</td>
<td>United States Government</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The theme of this eighth edition of the Regional Trends Analysis report is ASEAN’s work in the circular economy. Circular economy has been a priority for ASEAN since it adopted the Framework for Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in October 2021. This report is meant to help map out possible areas of cooperation where USAID/ASEAN could provide support.

2. Chapter 1 of the report explains the Framework for Circular Economy for the AEC. The Framework lists the three goals, six strategies and five priorities that will guide ASEAN in the implementation of the framework. These priorities will prove significant in the transformation of ASEAN’s economy from linear to circular.

3. The five strategic priorities are as follows: i) Standard Harmonization and Mutual Recognition; ii) Trade Openness and Trade Facilitation; iii) Innovation, Digitalization and Emerging Technologies; iv) Sustainable Finance and Innovative Investment, and v) Efficient Use of Energy and Other Resources.

4. Chapter II focuses on the challenges and potential benefits of circular economy implementation in the region. The Framework for Circular Economy for the AEC aims to provide a clear understanding of the role of the circular economy in the AEC, which also considers the relevant ongoing initiatives and coordination mechanisms. Since circular economy is a cross-sectoral and cross pillar effort, ASEAN must take an inclusive approach to policymaking by facilitating active participation from all relevant stakeholders, which is both a challenge and of potentially enormous benefit. Dialogue and cross-pillar coordination and collaboration on shared priorities in the circular economy are essential steps to implement this Framework.

5. The circular economy transition will help ASEAN Member States (AMS) address climate change, the degradation of natural resources and biodiversity, energy shortages, growing volumes of waste, and increasing air pollution, while creating more and higher-quality employment, and strengthening competitiveness of its economy and industries.

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1 The World Economic Forum defines circular economy as “an industrial system that is restorative or regenerative by intention and design. It replaces the end-of-life concept with restoration, shifts towards the use of renewable energy, eliminates the use of toxic chemicals, which impair reuse and return to the biosphere, and aims for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, systems, and business models.”
6. Chapter II also provides an analysis of where USAID could potentially support ASEAN in circular economy development. It is acknowledged that USAID has existing programs that can support the Framework for Circular Economy for the AEC. As an example, the expansion of USAID’s Scaling Up Renewable Energy (SURE)\(^2\) program could promote circular economy development through strategic engagement in the region.

7. Chapter III highlights the intersection between gender mainstreaming activities and the development of the circular economy. It should be considered that women will play a key role in promoting the sustainability of the economy, and that the empowerment of women can impact sustainable development within the region.

8. The conclusion of the report highlights outcomes of key ASEAN meetings throughout the period from November 2021 to February 2022 that are of interest to USAID.

\(^2\) USAID’s Scaling Up Renewable Energy (SURE) program helps countries meet bold international climate commitments by accelerating their transition to more widely accessible, affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy. SURE provides renewable energy planning, procurement, grid integration, and circular economy services.
CHAPTER I
ASEAN CIRCULAR ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT
ASEAN CIRCULAR ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

9. On October 18th, 2021, at the 20th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting, ASEAN adopted the Framework for Circular Economy for the AEC. This framework aims to guide ASEAN in achieving its long-term goals as an economy that is resilient, resource efficient, sustainable and inclusive in its growth. According to the framework, the ASEAN circular economy is restorative, regenerative by design, and uses materials and energy effectively to retain their value.

10. The framework has three distinct but interdependent strategic goals, namely: Resilient Economy, Resource Efficiency, and Sustainable Growth. Moreover, the framework has six guiding principles and five strategic priorities, as described below.

The Framework for Circular Economy for AEC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGIC GOALS</th>
<th>Resilient Economy</th>
<th>Resource Efficiency</th>
<th>Sustainable Growth</th>
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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Promote ASEAN integration and the development of regional value chains.
2. Consider the broader impact on the economy and society.
3. Recognize the unique circumstances of each AMS.
4. Encourage ASEAN-Wide Coordination on knowledge and technology sharing.
5. Evaluate financial and institutional feasibility and sustainability prior to implementation.
6. Function within the reality of international production linkages.

<table>
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<th>STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Standard Harmonization and Mutual Recognition</td>
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<td>Trade Openness and Trade Facilitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation, Digitalization and Emerging Technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Finance and Innovative Investment</td>
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<td>Efficient Use of Energy and Other Resources</td>
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Enablers: (1) Policy framework & institutions, (2) Enhanced awareness & competences across sectors, (3) 4IR for circular economy, and (4) Partnership and collaboration.

11. In supporting the achievement of sustainable economic growth and integration in the ASEAN region, ASEAN considers five strategic priorities for smoothly transitioning from a linear economy to a circular one. The five strategic priorities are as follows: i) Standard
Harmonization and Mutual Recognition; ii) Trade Openness and Trade Facilitation; iii) Innovation, Digitalization and Emerging Technologies; iv) Sustainable Finance and Innovative Investment, and v) Efficient Use of Energy and Other Resources. Each strategic priority has its own objectives and proposed initiatives. The details are as follows:

a. First, **standard harmonization and mutual recognition** are needed to facilitate the circularity of trade in products and services, promote greater transparency, facilitate integration between value chains, and multiply circularity in the region. The proposed initiatives for this strategic priority, among others, are (i) explore trade-related standards and regulations that would support the circular economy in the region; (ii) develop and promote the utilization of mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) for product and services standards embedding circular economy principles, per prevailing international regulations, standards, and practices, where these exist, including those of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

b. Second, **Trade Openness and Trade Facilitation** are required to keep trade barriers, including non-tariff barriers, at their minimum levels. This objective aims to allow for seamless movement of products or services and facilitate optimal resource allocation at both the national and regional levels. Under this Strategic Priority, the initiatives proposed by ASEAN are to alleviate unnecessary barriers to and promote trade, investment, and innovation in environmental goods and services to ensure the diffusion of the best available circular technologies.

c. Third, **Innovation, Digitalization and Emerging Technologies** are needed to strengthen value chain efficiency, trackability, and resilience through technological innovations that leverage digital platforms, mobile devices, big data, and analytics, blockchain, as well as artificial intelligence. The proposed initiatives under this strategic priority, among others, are (i) promote inclusive dialogue and partnerships amongst private sector, academia, research institutions, and governments, including ASEAN development partners, to collaborate on open innovations, an effective policy framework for fulfilling circular objectives, and facilitate knowledge and technological exchange and know-how; (ii) Identify and seize the opportunities of digitalization to reduce digital gaps amongst AMS.
d. Fourth, Sustainable Finance and Innovative Investment are a necessary support for sustainable initiatives in the region. This will involve the utilization of both public and private financial institutions to fund sustainable projects and promote the financing of new business models that will support the circular economy. Among others, the proposed initiatives are to (i) consider the application of innovative financial instruments for circular economy development projects such as but not limited to blended financing, green bonds, and carbon pricing in accordance with existing standards and mechanisms; (ii) consider the enactment of fiscal and tax policies such as green tagging\(^3\) for expenditures, and fiscal incentives for green investments.

e. Fifth, Efficient Use of Energy and Other Resources involves reducing the consumption of fuel energy and moving to adopt renewable energy sources. AMS might attain this through strengthened coordination and collaboration amongst its sectoral bodies, institutions, governments, the private sector, and the broader ASEAN community, in order to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency in the region.

12. The strategic priorities include trade facilitation and digitalization. These priorities are served by API’s work in strengthening the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) and improving digital data governance. Through its technical assistance to develop the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) Operations Portal in the Philippines, API supports the seamless movement of goods in the ASEAN region and alleviates unnecessary barriers and promotes intra-ASEAN trade.

13. On digital data governance, API has performed research on the gaps in implementation within the region, particularly in CLMV countries. In-depth research on the implementation status of digital data governance in ASEAN assists API in mapping digitalization opportunities among AMS. Moreover, API is currently working on developing the Technical Reference Guidelines (TRGs) for Trade Regulatory Government Agencies and the Bureau of Customs in the Philippines. The TRGs aim to support an interoperable single window platform. A reference model encapsulates the overall operational

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\(^3\) Green Tagging refers to a systematic process whereby banks identify the environmental attributes of their loans and underlying asset collateral as a tool for scaling up sustainable finance. The green tagging of bank assets allows for easier access to green bond markets, better tracking of green loan performance and provides greater transparency of climate risks and portfolio resilience. Source: https://www.climatestrategy.com/en/descargarInforme.php?cual=63
environment of the single window enabling platform that affects every operational, data extraction for risk profiling, business and informational rules, inter-agency information exchange, and the whole of government approach driven by business rules.
CHAPTER II
CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ASEAN
CHALLENGES and Potential Benefits of Circular Economy in ASEAN

14. As part of the priority economic deliverables under Brunei Darussalam’s 2021 ASEAN Chairmanship, the Framework for Circular Economy for AEC aims to provide a clear understanding and work prioritization on circular economy development in the AEC, while considering the relevant ongoing initiatives and coordination mechanisms. A Consultative Workshop on Circular Economy on June 30th, 2021, it demonstrated that the support of relevant sectoral bodies and private sector stakeholders would be crucial in the implementation of the Framework. Moreover, since circular economy is a cross sectoral and cross pillar effort, ASEAN must take an inclusive approach to policymaking by facilitating active participation from all relevant stakeholders, which is both a challenge and of potentially enormous benefit. Dialogues, cross-pillar coordination and corresponding procedures for collaboration and prioritization on the work on the circular economy are essential steps toward the implementation of the Framework.

15. The circular economy transition will help AMS mitigate climate change, the degradation of natural resources and biodiversity, energy shortages, growing volumes of waste, and increasing air pollution, while creating employment and strengthening the competitiveness of its economy and industries. It may create benefits such as reduced extraction of natural resources, lessened supply risk, reduced environmental degradation, new economic and employment opportunities, and energy efficiency through low-carbon transition. Based on a study on Indonesia’s circular economy transition led by BAPPENAS and the UNDP⁴, the circular economy is net positive for the economy, and is estimated to add USD 45 billion (over a business-as-usual scenario) to Indonesia’s GDP annually by 2030. Furthermore, the transition will create 4.4 million net jobs for Indonesia, of which 75 percent are likely to go to women, despite some degree of expected job losses in certain sectors. This is driven by the potential job displacement in male-dominant sectors such as construction sector and manufacturing sector and potential increase of job creation in the downstream sectors such as services sector and education sector.

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16. The adaptation and transition to circular economy will likely affect structural change in the economy, including trade flows, as well as create new opportunities in the services sector. It will impact the trade in materials and waste through recycling and energy recovery, trade in secondary raw materials, trade in second-hand goods, and trade in goods for refurbishment and remanufacturing. The circular economy transition also has potential implications for the import demand of primary and secondary materials in each jurisdiction and the exports of materials and waste.

17. Additionally, the transition will create increasing demand for services trade, in areas such as waste management, recycling, refurbishment and remanufacturing, reuse, and repair. As domestic policies alone may not be enough, further efforts such as the Framework will support circular economy development by revisiting trade disciplines, considering regional recyclability and reparability standards, and creating mutual recognition of schemes.

18. AMS can no longer afford to maintain their competitiveness in the current economic model that leads to the waste of raw materials and resources. APEC has estimated that plastic pollution is costing the region’s vibrant tourism, fishing, and shipping industries USD 3.1 billion a year.\(^5\) ASEAN countries are a hotspot for plastics waste and marine debris. As the region experienced growth in plastic production and consumption, the lack of adequate waste management practices has exacerbated the negative environmental impact. As an example, Indonesia produces 19.66 million tons of plastic and paper waste per year based on the estimates of the Indonesia’s Environment and Forestry Ministry.\(^6\) However, only about 46 percent of this waste is absorbed by the recycling industry, where annual intake is estimated at 7.6 million tons of materials per year.

19. The impact of circular economy transition is of potential benefit to ASEAN countries that are struggling to implement effective waste management systems and develop sufficient infrastructure to manage increasing production and consumption. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the deficiencies in waste management systems among AMS, which have struggled to manage increased medical waste. Thus, the challenges and the potential

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of circular economy transition lie not only in regulation and implementation, but also in infrastructure and involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

**USAID Potential Opportunities to Support ASEAN Priorities on Circular Economy**

20. As a cross-sectoral and cross-pillar initiative, the Framework for Circular Economy can be used by development partners such as USAID to support ASEAN’s work. ASEAN welcomes partnership and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders and the international communities to shift to the multi-stakeholder perspective. ASEAN can engage its dialogue partners through knowledge sharing and resource mobilization, which will support circular economy development within the region. In this case, USAID’s Scaling Up Renewable Energy (SURE)\(^7\) program aligns well with the focus of this Framework. An expansion of this program to the ASEAN region would be a way to promote circular economy and engage strategically in the region.

21. Currently, the USG and ASEAN have a Plan of Action (POA) to implement the ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership for 2021-2025. Several priority areas in the POA are relevant to the strategic priorities of the Framework for Circular Economy. For the Framework’s first strategic priority on **Standard Harmonization and Mutual Recognition of Circular Products and Services** and the second on **Trade Openness and Trade Facilitation in Circular Goods and Services**, the relevant action plan in the POA is to promote interaction and engagement between ASEAN and U.S. businesses through activities conducted by the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council, American Chambers of Commerce, and U.S.-ASEAN Connect to explore and utilize trade and investment opportunities, as well as to maximize the private sector’s involvement in promoting two-way trade and investment and to facilitate information exchanges on enabling environment topics such as standards. Regarding the Framework’s third strategic priority, **Enhanced Role of Innovation, Digitalization, and Emerging/Green Technologies**, the relevant action plan in the POA is to support AMS’ efforts in achieving increased intellectual property (IP) awareness. The protection of IP for environmentally sound technologies to foster innovations will promote circular economy development. Under ICT, the action plan of the POA to

\(^7\) USAID’s Scaling Up Renewable Energy (SURE) program helps countries meet bold international climate commitments by accelerating their transition to more widely accessible, affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy. SURE provides renewable energy planning, procurement, grid integration, and circular economy services.
support ASEAN’s efforts in bridging the digital divide and ICT development gaps within ASEAN is relevant with the proposed initiative of the Framework to identify and seize the opportunities of digitalization to reduce digital gaps amongst AMS.

22. For the fourth strategic priority on **Competitive Sustainable Finance and Innovative ESG Investments**, USAID INVEST\(^8\), which is currently implementing a buy-in activity of USAID/Vietnam, is a relevant vehicle to collaborate with ASEAN on technical assistance on new financial instruments for circular economy related projects such as blended financing, green, transition and sustainable bonds, carbon pricing, and catalytic capital.

23. In line with the fifth strategic priority, **Efficient Use of Energy and Other Resources**, relevant action plans for ASEAN’s circular economy in the POA include (i) Encouraging further development of energy transition technologies and investment in sustainable energy infrastructure; and to (ii) Promoting the sharing of information, knowledge, experience on technology, exchange of best practices and support regional capacity building on energy regulatory frameworks and technical standards, energy efficiency, renewable energy, natural gas and petroleum. USAID and the US embassies have also announced plans to implement a new program called the Southeast Asia Smart Power Program to encourage utility modernization, energy efficiency, advanced technologies, and regional power trade.

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\(^8\) USAID INVEST (INVEST) is a flexible buy-in mechanism currently working with 42 USAID Missions, Bureaus, and Independent Offices (MBIOs) across 65 countries to mobilize investment from the private sector. INVEST provides various types of support, including investment opportunity assessments, transaction advisory services, fund and financial instrument structuring, and technical assistance.
CHAPTER III
GENDER IN ASEAN
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
Gender in ASEAN Circular Economy

24. The intersection between gender mainstreaming activities and the development of the circular economy has been evident. The development of the circular economy could play a role in improving the living conditions of historically/socially vulnerable populations within ASEAN. The idea that women promote the sustainability of the economy and that the economy should provide for women’s empowerment means that the relationship between of gender and the circular economy is a two-way street. Below are some of the ways that gender has been implemented within the circular economy activities:

Gender, Environment, and the Circular Economy

25. In 2019, the government of Vietnam, joined by other ASEAN member states raised their voice against climate change at the 10th Sustainable Development Symposium titled “Circular Economy: The Collaboration for Action” in a joint focus with youths and young women across ASEAN region. Since 2016, the government of Vietnam has been working to reorient its efforts on resource maximization, waste separation and proper disposal within the manufacturing and consumption cycle. It has done so by coordinating with women-owned firms to ensure that companies are accountable to their environmental commitments through making sure that they have in place policies that address gender concerns. This meant addressing the gaps in policy and regulations and making sure that there is a change in consumer attitudes and behavior. Vietnamese businesses have become more aware of the impact that the circular economy has and are making great efforts to commit to practices and standards on ecological and environmental safety through free trade agreements. The Vietnamese government has further striven to promote plastic waste recycling and green consumption by engaging women-led organizations. The Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade plans to implement its National Action Program on Sustainable Production and Consumption by 2030.

Gender and Sustainable Entrepreneurship

26. Women-owned businesses and small-to-medium enterprises have been the center of many ASEAN Member States economies. Some examples related to the circular economy include the following:

27. In 2015, a group of Malaysian women created a nonprofit known as Athena to combine health education with improved menstrual hygiene and management (MGM) practices.
Athena has held workshops and trainings for adolescent women to create a more eco-friendly menstrual hygiene industry. Part of their activities also includes distributing reusable and eco-friendly menstrual pads.

28. Women in the Philippines have been creating sustainable fashion business by re-selling used clothes, as well as using eco-friendly materials to contribute more to the circular economy development of the region.

29. In Thailand, women have been promoting traditional handcraft practices by creating fashion pieces from natural materials. The promotion of traditional occupations may contribute to economic growth in small and rural communities, which can enhance employment among women.

30. In Indonesia, especially in Bali, local women have been encouraging responsible tourism in light of the region’s ban on single-use plastics. For instance, women in Bali have been promoting the production and sale of reusable utensils made from locally grown bamboo. One of the milestones achieved was in the employment of differently abled women to help with the process, which includes providing upskill training programs which enhance their livelihoods.

**Opportunities on Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in ASEAN’s Circular Economy**

31. There are a variety of opportunities for AMS to approach circular economy development through a gender-inclusive sense. Bearing in mind the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, many strides can be made for which women and other vulnerable populations might play a key role. Some of these include:

   a. Ensuring that governments in AMS introduce more policies and regulations that specifically address the needs of gender-sensitive issues, to ensure that women and vulnerable populations are being protected across all sectors.

   b. Providing more accessible education regarding the significance of the circular economy, and how it can further a more gender-sensitive approach to economic development. This also includes making sure that all people, including women and youth, across different sectors can share in the opportunities provided to them.

   c. Providing more effective messaging on the importance of recycling. There should be financial incentives to maintain sustainable practices.

   d. Ensuring that industries (including the fashion industry, for instance) have accountability standards set in place for them to maintain best practices in
production, operation, and sales. This will ensure that private sector stakeholders continue to abide by the ethical requirements of sustainable development.
CHAPTER IV
HIGHLIGHTS OF OUTCOMES OF ASEAN MEETINGS TO DATE
HIGHLIGHTS OF OUTCOMES OF ASEAN MEETINGS

Summary of ASEAN High-Level Meetings from November 16th, 2021, to February 15th, 2022

Since the previous Regional Trend Analysis Report submitted on November 16th, 2021, ASEAN has held several significant meetings. A summary of these meetings is as follows:

1. The 25th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers

The ASEAN Tourism Ministers convened their Meeting on January 19th, 2022, in Sihanoukville, Kingdom of Cambodia, Chaired by the Kingdom of Cambodia and with the Republic of Indonesia as the Vice-Chairman. One of the meeting outcomes was the announcement of a gradual reopening of ASEAN tourism during the ASEAN Tourism Forum, with praise to the Chair of the 25th M-ATM for guiding of the post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism and the ASEAN Guidelines on Hygiene and Safety for Professionals and Communities in the tourism industry. The Meeting also focused on supporting MSMEs through the promotion of equal-opportunities initiatives to strengthen employment in local communities.

The Meeting adopted the ASEAN Guidelines on Hygiene and Safety for Professionals and the Communities in the Tourism Industry. The Guidelines cover eight tourism and tourism-related sectors: accommodation, restaurants, facilities, spa and wellness, ecotourism/community-based tourism, travel and tour operation, theme parks, and convention centers. Moreover, the Meeting adopted three more documents related to the tourism sector, namely: the Second edition of the ASEAN Community-Based Tourism Standard, Guidelines on Recognition of Prior Learning for ASEAN Tourism Professionals, and the Phnom Penh Declaration on Transforming ASEAN Tourism to be submitted to the 40th ASEAN Summit for endorsement.

2. The 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers’ Meeting and Related Meetings

The ASEAN Digital Ministers convened through video conference on January 27th and 28th, 2022. The Meeting was chaired by representatives of Burma, with the Philippines as the Vice-Chair. On the digital transformation, the Meeting welcomed the launch of the Capacity Building Programs of the ASEAN Data Management Framework and ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses for Cross Border Data Flows, in collaboration with industry
partners. It also announced the ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy 2021-2025 as an update to the previous strategy.

35. Furthermore, the Meeting also welcomed the ASEAN Guidelines on 5G Ecosystem Development to ensure successful rollouts of 5G services in the ASEAN region as well as the Framework Proposal for the Mutual Recognition of Digital Signature in ASEAN, which promotes the digital transformation, e-commerce development and cross-border e-transaction in ASEAN. Besides these developments, the Meeting also adopted the Action Plan on Implementing the ASEAN-China Partnership on Digital Economy Cooperation (2021-2025).

3. The Launch of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework.

36. On January 27th, 2022, ASEAN launched the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework. The development of the Strategic Framework was led by the ASEAN Committee on Women, as well as the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, with the support of USAID. The Framework aims to support advocacy for more equitably budgeting and allocating resources through detailed planning. It should be used by ASEAN as the basis for gathering feedback, building buy-in and commitment from senior leadership, and securing resources and technical support from dialogue partners.

37. There are four goals under the Framework, namely: Goal 1, which focuses on strengthening ASEAN’s institutional commitments and human resources (HR) approaches; Goal 2 addresses individual and collective capacity in terms of attitudes and norms toward gender issues, and access to data and technical and operational skills for gender mainstreaming; Goal 3 supports strengthening Sectoral Body initiatives, with an emphasis on engagement with CSOs as a way of prioritizing women’s needs; and Goal 4 supports strengthening support to the Member States and intergovernmental processes.
REFERENCES


