



MEMORANDUM

TO : **The Assistant Secretary**
Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects
and FMB Director, In Concurrent Capacity

The Directors
EMB, MGB, LMB, ERDB, BMB
Policy and Planning Service

FROM : **The Undersecretary**
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

SUBJECT : **9th EDITION OF THE ASEAN MAGAZINE**

DATE : 06 March 2021

May we refer a copy of the letter dated 16 February 2021 signed by Assistant Secretary Junever M. Mahilum-West, Office of ASEAN Affairs-Department of Foreign Affairs, forwarding an e-copy of the 9th issue of *The ASEAN Magazine* titled "Towards a Safer, Stronger Future for All" which focuses on ASEAN's achievements in 2020 and priorities for 2021. This includes balancing regional decisions for COVID-19 recovery, preparing students and workers for the digital age, advancing gender equality, addressing environmental concerns and disasters, deference cooperation, and building a robust cultural sector, among others.

The issue includes an interview with H.E. Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin, Chair of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council 2021, discussing efforts to accelerate ASEAN's recovery from the pandemic, and an article by ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity Executive Director Mundita S. Lim who wrote about lessons learned in 2020 in treating nature better.

The issue may be downloaded through the following ASEAN Secretariat website and social media pages below as part of the Philippine's effort to raise awareness about ASEAN:

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For your information and reference.


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES



Office of the Secretary <osec@denr.gov.ph>

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1 message

Office ASEAN <asean@dfa.gov.ph>

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To: osecmig@gmail.com, "DOJ" Legal Chief State GEORGE O. ORTHA II <goortha@doj.gov.ph>, DOJ legalstaff <DOJLegalStaff@doj.gov.ph>, frettiganchoon@gmail.com, jhong_gerardo@yahoo.com, oasaiamails <oasaiamails@dnd-ph.org>, almanac29@yahoo.com, Director Marita Yoro <myoro@dnd-ph.org>, Faysaleyyah Abdullah <fabdullah@dnd-ph.org>, FAYSAH ABDULLAH <fpa.abdullah@gmail.com>, patriciajison@dnd-ph.org, Chrishel Suerte <csuerte@dnd-ph.org>, rbacordo@dnd-ph.org, bashia.grafilo@dnd-ph.org, unoclarissecortez@gmail.com, emano@dilg.gov.ph, jaloresco@dilg.gov.ph, "USEC Bernardo Florece Jr." <bcflorece@dilg.gov.ph>, somtc.dilg@gmail.com, "MR. MANUEL B. FELIX" <mbfelix@dilg.gov.ph>, dilg.oaspo@gmail.com, DILG PS-MED <srd_psdilg@yahoo.com>, jcleysa@dilg.gov.ph, rufinoslopezjr@gmail.com, ma.sab-it@nsc.gov.ph, cer.garcio@gmail.com, clarisse garcio <cergarcio@yahoo.com>, opapp.jd@gmail.com, OPAPP OSEC <opapp.osec@gmail.com>, jojoandot@yahoo.com, vanessapallarco@gmail.com, rollyba@yahoo.com, acelpapa@gmail.com, dph050858@yahoo.com, "Pamela Ann S. 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Doriano" <JhomarDoriano@dti.gov.ph>, "Hananiela M. Domingo" <HananielaDomingo@dti.gov.ph>, "amtb Atty. Allan B. Gepty" <AllanGepty@dti.gov.ph>, "Usec. Ceferino S. Rodolfo" <CeferinoRodolfo@dti.gov.ph>, "Stephanie Marie Emilia J. Hermoso" <StephanieMarieEmiliaHermoso@dti.gov.ph>, NEDA Office of the Secretary <OSEC@neda.gov.ph>, "Rosemarie G. Edillon" <RGEdillon@neda.gov.ph>, "Ferdinand A. Pecson" <fapepson@ppp.gov.ph>, "Eleazar E. Ricote" <eericote@ppp.gov.ph>, "Ariel E. Delos Angeles" <aedelosangeles@ppp.gov.ph>, amtb marilou mendoza <mpmendoza@mail.tariffcommission.gov.ph>, amtb marilou mendoza <TC.Assist@mail.tariffcommission.gov.ph>, elalbano@tariffcommission.gov.ph, mmsaluta@tariffcommission.gov.ph, IFPO Policy <ifg_ifpo@dof.gov.ph>, mdjoven@dof.gov.ph, dnapano@dof.gov.ph, secfin@dof.gov.ph, mcrisostomo@dof.gov.ph, "Ma. Teresa Habitan" <mhabitan@dof.gov.ph>, Beltran Gil <gbeltran@dof.gov.ph>, Aaron James Ang <afang@dof.gov.ph>, AMTB-DOF Neil Cabiles <ncabiles@dof.gov.ph>, AMTB-DOF Glyne Aquino <raquno@dof.gov.ph>, Mark Allen Biscara <mbiscara@dof.gov.ph>, bspmail@bsp.gov.ph, Dulce Maria Valdivieso <dvaldivieso@bsp.gov.ph>, "Windel Z. Samaniego" <wsamaniego@bsp.gov.ph>, Leo Lorenz D Balboa <BalboaLD@bsp.gov.ph>, "Edna C. Villa" <evilla@bsp.gov.ph>, sec.alfonsocusi@gmail.com, "Patrick T. Aquino" <patrick.aquino@doe.gov.ph>, "Jesus Cristino P. Posadas" <jesus.posadas@doe.gov.ph>, Jesus Tamang <jtamang@yahoo.com>, DOE EPPB <appb.od@doe.gov.ph>, Office of the Assistant Secretary for International Cooperation <oasec_ic@dost.gov.ph>, "PH - Dr. Leah Buendia" <leah.buendia@dost.gov.ph>, AMTB-DOST Zymar Bandola <zpbandola@dost.gov.ph>, AMTB-DOST Marco Bautista <marbautista@dost.gov.ph>, ftdelapena@dost.gov.ph, Director's Office BFAR <bfar.director@gmail.com>, osec@dotr.gov.ph, Office of the Head Executive Assistant DOTr <hea@dotr.gov.ph>, ochietuazon <ochietuazon@yahoo.com>, International Cooperation Desk <icd@dotr.gov.ph>, lovelyemendiola18@yahoo.com, officeofthechairman@minda.gov.ph, Eamarie Gilayo <eamariegilayo@gmail.com>, Eamarie Gilayo <eamarie.gilayo@minda.gov.ph>, AMTB-MINDA Jonathan Miral <jon.miral@minda.gov.ph>, romeo.montenegro@minda.gov.ph, osec@dswd.gov.ph, Policy and External Affairs Division PDPB <ead@dswd.gov.ph>, Noel M Macalalad <nmmacalalad@dswd.gov.ph>, Hannah Giray <hagiray@dswd.gov.ph>, "AMTB-DSWD Ma. Carmella Dongga-as" <mchdongga-as@dswd.gov.ph>, JOSELINE NIWANE <jpnriwane@dswd.gov.ph>, Catherine Grace Lagunday <cgmlagunday@dswd.gov.ph>, Presidential Communications Office <osec.pco@gmail.com>, abner.caga@pia.gov.ph, Rhea Kristine Cy <rhea.cy@pia.gov.ph>, leeloo_12@yahoo.com, Lorraine badoy@pco.gov.ph, PTV People's Television Network <ptv4scir2020@gmail.com>, Elenita Directo <elenitadirecto@yahoo.com>, Office of the Executive Director <oed@ncca.gov.ph>, NCCA <ncca_iao@yahoo.com>, Annie Luis <anneluis@gmail.com>, sheila salvio <presidentccp@yahoo.com.ph>, Lillian Barco <lbarco@yahoo.com>, Ena Angelica Luga <ico@deped.gov.ph>, "Jesus L.R. Mateo" <jesus.mateo@deped.gov.ph>, Margarita Consolacion Ballesteros <margarita.ballesteros@deped.gov.ph>, Carmen Thea Samoro <carmen.samoro@deped.gov.ph>, Office of the Chairperson CHED <chairperson@ched.gov.ph>, CHED IAS <ias@ched.gov.ph>, ISIDRO LAPENA <odg@tesda.gov.ph>, TESDA-ODDG Policies and Planning <oddgpp@tesda.gov.ph>, AMTB-TESDA Gemma Lorena Reyes <glareyes@tesda.gov.ph>, TESDA Project Development Division <po.pdd@tesda.gov.ph>, Office Cda <ocda.ocd@gmail.com>, "DENR - Hon. Ramon J.P. Paje (osec@denr.gov.ph)" <osec@denr.gov.ph>, AMTB-DENR Marilyn Arzaga <marilyn_arzaga@yahoo.com>, fduque@doh.gov.ph, Health Policy and Systems Development Team <officeofusecmcv@gmail.com>, Joel Buenaventura <Jhbuenaventura@doh.gov.ph>, Anjo Benedict Fabellon <arfabellon@doh.gov.ph>, rbernal.bihec@gmail.com, AMTB-DOH Maria Cristy Yuson <mcyuson2.bihec@gmail.com>, Jefferson Pauli <jbpaulli@doh.gov.ph>, apet2265@yahoo.com, apet.dayanghirang@nnc.gov.ph, Jasmine Tandingan <jas.tandingan@nnc.gov.ph>, NNC <nutrition.aseanph2017@nnc.gov.ph>, osec@dole.gov.ph, Alice Visperas <alice.visperas@yahoo.com>, ASPAC ILAB <ilab.aspac@yahoo.com>, dole.ilab@ymail.com, NOEL FELONGCO <nopc.osec2018@gmail.com>, Jennifer Torio <jennifer.torio@napc.gov.ph>, Macropolicy Unit <macropolicy.unit@gmail.com>, Cwchildren Philgovernment <cwc@cwc.gov.ph>, CONNIE SALCEDO <mcssalcedo@cwc.gov.ph>, board@pcw.gov.ph, chairperson@pcw.gov.ph, pdad.chief@pcw.gov.ph, PDAD Chief <aebaleda@pcw.gov.ph>, PCW International Affairs <international.affairs@pcw.gov.ph>, PDPMED- International Affairs <assarevalo@pcw.gov.ph>, Office of the Chairperson and CEO NYC <occeo@nyc.gov.ph>, AMTB-NYC Paul Anthony Pangilinan <pangilinan@nyc.gov.ph>, alexadayanghirang@nyc.gov.ph, Policy Division <policydivision@yahoo.com>, jramirezsalmo@gmail.com, arianecoronel2015@gmail.com, junemelchor.nyc@gmail.com, Cristabeth Madrigal <bethmadrigal@nyc.gov.ph>, rhol@nyc.gov.ph, osh.helo@nyc.gov.ph, Reed Cole <reed_cole@yahoo.com>, Poe Chairperson <poechairperson@nyc.gov.ph>

Cc: CARLYN MONASTRIAL <carlyn.monastrial@dfa.gov.ph>, Glaiza Quarteros <glaiza.quarteros@dfa.gov.ph>, ASEAN DIV4 <asean.div4@dfa.gov.ph>

Dear Sir/Ma'am

The Department is pleased to transmit the attached letter dated 16 February 2021 on the above subject.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.


Thank you and best regards.


ASEAN-PHILIPPINES NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Department of Foreign Affairs
2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, 1300 Philippines
Telephone No. (+632) 8834-3164
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2 attachments

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The ASEAN



one vision
one identity
one community

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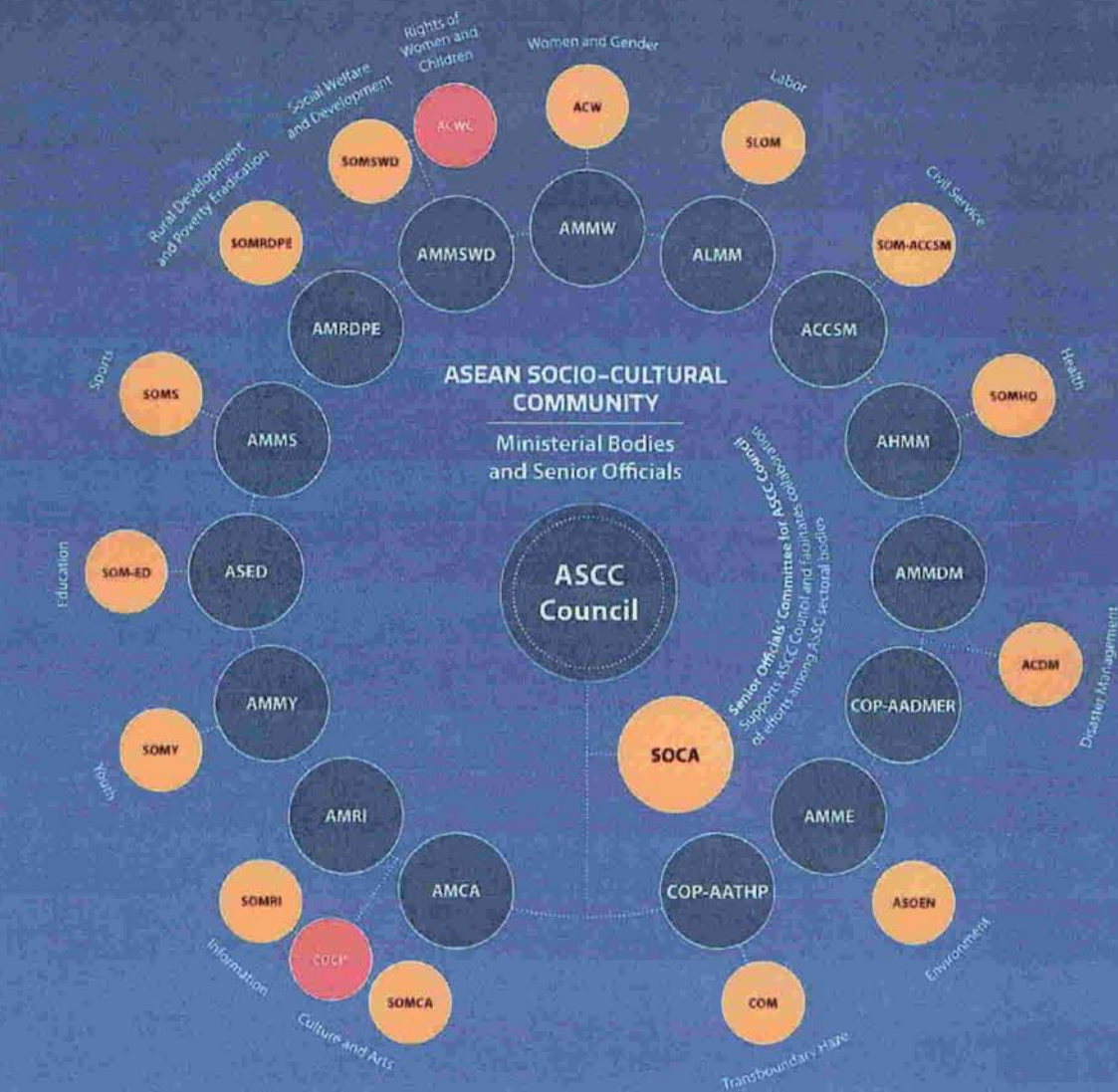


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THE INSIDE VIEW
Brunei Darussalam Leads
ASEAN in 2021

CONVERSATIONS
Reflections:
Life in a Pandemic

SNAPSHOTS
ASEAN Women
in Science



● Ministerial Bodies
 ● Sectoral Bodies
 * takes guidance from and reports to both AMCA and AMRI

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| <p>AMRI-ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information</p> <p>AMCA-ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts</p> <p>AMMY-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth</p> <p>ASED-ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting</p> <p>AMMS-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports</p> <p>AMRDPE-ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication</p> <p>AMMSWD-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development</p> <p>AMMW-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women</p> <p>ALMM-ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting</p> <p>ACCSM-The Heads of Civil Service Meeting for ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters</p> <p>AHMM-ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting</p> | <p>AMMDM-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management</p> <p>COP-AADMER-Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response</p> <p>AMME-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment</p> <p>COP to AATHP-Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution</p> <p>SOMCA-Senior Officials Meeting on Culture and Arts</p> <p>COCI-The ASEAN Committee for Culture and Information</p> <p>SOMRI-Senior Officials Meeting Responsible for Information</p> <p>SOMY-Senior Officials Meeting on Youth</p> <p>SOMED-Senior Officials Meeting on Education</p> <p>SOMS-Senior Officials Meeting on Sports</p> | <p>SOMRDPE-Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication</p> <p>SOMSWD-Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development</p> <p>ACWC-ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children</p> <p>ACW-ASEAN Committee on Women</p> <p>SLOM-Senior Labour Officials Meeting</p> <p>SOM-ACCSM-Senior Officials Meeting on ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters</p> <p>SOMHD-Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development</p> <p>ACDM-ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management</p> <p>ASOEN-ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment</p> <p>COM to AATHP-Committee under the Conference of Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution</p> |
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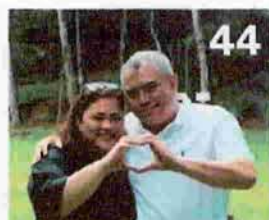
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EDITORIAL ADDRESS

The ASEAN Secretariat
 ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department
 Jalan Sisingamangaraja 70A
 Jakarta 12110, Indonesia
 Tel: 62-21-7262991
 E-mail: ASCCAD@asean.org

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one vision
 one identity
 one community

A Note from the Editorial Team

Without exception, we all led disrupted lives in 2020. Many of our plans—big or small—were thrown out the window. The pandemic's impact may have caused a job loss, a forced retirement, a skipped year at school, a postponed wedding, or a canceled overseas holiday.

For the many who lost loved ones to COVID-19, the impact is more unendurable. Globally, over two million people have died from this dreadful disease. While the numbers in the ASEAN region are still relatively low, there is concern that more infectious virus variants will cause new waves of transmission. A glimmer of hope is on the horizon. Countries are now starting to roll out approved vaccines and inoculate their most vulnerable populations, less than a year after the virus reached all corners of the globe—an unprecedented and herculean feat.

The questions most of us ask now: What is the plan?

When can we get the vaccines and resume our interrupted lives? The answers are quite clear. Scientists and doctors caution that the vaccine is not a magic potion that will end the pandemic soon. The process of procuring and distributing safe and efficient vaccines is complex and challenging. So, for now, health protocols, preventive measures, and altered lifestyles will remain.

ASEAN's priority this year is to ensure people in the region receive urgent relief from the pandemic's devastating impact on lives and livelihood. As ASEAN's Chair for 2021, Brunei Darussalam announced the year's theme of "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper." Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Chair of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)

Council and Brunei Darussalam Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, talks to *The ASEAN* about ASCC's priorities for this year.

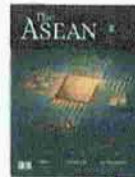
These priorities and more are included in ASCC's plans for each sector. This issue details the sectoral plans for health, labour civil service, education, youth, sports, disaster and humanitarian assistance, culture, information, and the environment. Highlighted, too, are the accomplishments of the past year. While there were several postponed meetings, the ASCC's work on its programmes and initiatives has been relentless and productive. Several sectors are currently finalising work plans for the next five years; inevitably, lessons learned from this pandemic will need to be considered in the planning.

Even as the pandemic consumed our lives in 2020, the climate crisis looms large. The year 2020 is set to be one of the hottest years on record. It is a stark reminder that the earth is ailing too. Due to the pandemic, the United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP 26 meeting was postponed from November 2020 to November this year. This meeting is critical in driving discussions on what countries have done to fulfill their pledges to stop global warming and what more can be done for planetary health. Two of the articles in this issue also tackle ASEAN's initiatives to address climate change and its impacts.

How ASEAN nations respond to the current crises, which have wreaked havoc to the economy and people's lives, will set the course of development for years to come. As the pandemic and climate crisis rage on, it is incumbent on all of us to lay plans for the future that will safeguard our precarious existence on a planet that needs healing too. ■



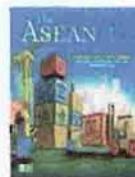
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