



## MEMORANDUM

**FOR :** **The Directors**  
Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Forest Management Bureau  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau  
Climate Change Service  
Legal Affairs Service

**FROM :** **The OIC Director**  
Policy and Planning Service

**SUBJECT :** **OUTCOMES OF THE 28TH MEETING OF THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION-COMMITTEE FOR THE ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (PCRC-CAEC)**

**DATE :** **10 SEP 2024**

This refers to the outcomes of the 28th Meeting of the Philippine Council for Regional Cooperation-Committee for the ASEAN Economic Community (PCRC-CAEC) conducted on 06 September 2024, via hybrid mode.

In this regard, we are pleased to inform you of the highlights of the said meeting concerning the Department, to wit:

<b>Topic/Agenda</b>	<b>Highlights</b>
ASEAN Blue Economy Framework Agreement	<p>On the updates regarding the nomination of focal point and official for the Blue Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Department of Foreign Affairs informed that the bill on Blue economy has been approved in the Senate and House of Representatives. The determination if the versions in lower and upper house are consistent is still needed. If the versions are found to be consistent, it will be signed into law.</li><li>• The DFA informed that they have not informed the agency and officials for Blue Economy matters because there is no law yet. There is the need to review the consistency of the bills passed in the Senate and House of Representatives. Likewise, the DFA has not yet convened officially that DENR is the focal point for the ASEAN Blue Economy.</li></ul>

MEMO NO. 2024 - 815

Following the outcomes of the discussion, below are the the follow-up actions for all CAEC Agencies:

No.	Follow-up Actions	Deadline
1	To provide further inputs on the talking points as requested by the DFA for the President for the ASEAN Summit	13 September 2024
2	To submit nomination of participants for the online UBIN consultation in the Philippines scheduled on 23 September 2024	11 September 2024
3	To confirm acceptance of agencies purview under Document 13A with Green highlighted text and requested agencies to provide comment or inputs on the pending measures in the draft AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030	20 September 2024
4	To review and provide comment/input on the Non-paper on the institutional mechanism on cross-pillar initiatives and preliminary Quick Win activities	20 September 2024
5	To review and provide comments and inputs on the Document 16 of the Inception Report and related documents of the ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA) by the International Trade Centre (ITC)	20 September 2024
6	To review and provide comments and inputs on Document 21 and 22 before its endorsement on the 56th AEM, if any	13 September 2024
7	To review in Timor Leste self-assessment on Document 24	27 September 2024
8	To provide list of stakeholders for the CAEC writeshop on the possible themes in preparation for the Philippine 2026 Chairship	13 September 2024

In this regard, we would like to request your comments on the aforementioned follow-up actions, particularly on Items 3, 6, and 7. The documents for the relevant items may be accessed through this link: <https://bit.ly/3XaTtVS>. Kindly note of the deadline for the respective items. We would appreciate receiving an advance copy of your comments before the set deadline, send to [policy@denr.gov.ph](mailto:policy@denr.gov.ph) and [psddivision@gmail.com](mailto:psddivision@gmail.com).

For your information and consideration, please.

  
**CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL, EnP**

cc: DENR Trade Focal Points

**28th Meeting of the Philippine Council for Regional Cooperation-Committee for  
the ASEAN Economic Community (PCRC-CAEC)**

**AFTER ACTIVITY REPORT**

<b>DATE AND TIME</b>	06 September 2024, 1 PM
<b>VENUE</b>	hybrid mode
<b>OBJECTIVE/S</b>	<p>The Meeting will discuss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lao PDR's ASEAN 2024 Chairmanship, focusing on their Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs)</li> <li>2. ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Developments</li> <li>3. ASEAN External Economic Relations</li> <li>4. Preparations for the 56 th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Meeting and Related Meetings</li> <li>5. Timor-Leste's Application for ASEAN Membership</li> <li>6. Progress of the ASEAN DEFA Negotiations</li> <li>7. 2024 AEC Notional Calendar</li> <li>8. Blue Economy</li> <li>9. Preparations for the Philippine Chairship of ASEAN in 2026.</li> </ol>
<b>Representatives</b>	<p>Government Agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DTI-Board of Investments (BOI)</li> <li>● DTI-Bureau of International Trade Relations (BITR)</li> <li>● DTI-Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (BSMED)</li> <li>● Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)</li> <li>● Department of Finance (DOF)</li> <li>● National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)</li> <li>● Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)</li> <li>● Bureau of Customs (BOC)</li> <li>● Tariff Commissions (TC)</li> <li>● Department of Transportation (DOTr)</li> <li>● Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)</li> <li>● Department of Agriculture (DA)</li> <li>● Department of Energy (DOE)</li> <li>● Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)</li> <li>● ASEAN BAC</li> </ul>
<b>HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS</b>	

The meeting was chaired by DTI Undersecretary Allan Gepty and Ms. Cheska Enriques of the DTI-BITR.

#### Highlights of and follow-up actions from the 27th Meeting of the PCRC-CAEC

- Request for agencies to copy DTI-BITR for their submissions/inputs on Post-2025 initiatives
- Provide position on the pending item for strategic Measure A.1.6 on the AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030 Cycle
- Provide confirmation/position A.8 on the AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030
- Provide confirmation/position B.17 on the AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030
- Provide updated on the nomination of focal point and official for the Blue Economy
  - **DFA Jeffrey Salik informed that the bill on Blue economy has been approved in the Senate and House. To determine if the versions in lower and upper house are consistent. If consistent, to be signed into law. DFA to provide updates. Pending official nomination on blue economy**
  - **communication between DFA and DENR. DENR is representing the Philippines. DFA has not convened officially that DENR is the focal point.**
- Provide feedback on the Scoping Paper for the possible future review/upgrade of the AKFTA

1. Lao PDR's ASEAN 2024 Chairmanship, focusing on their Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs)

#### Strategic Thrust 1: Integrating and Connecting Economies

1. Adopt the ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Supply Chain Connectivity (BITR)
2. Complete the Review on the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Intellectual Property Cooperation with a View to Upgrade the Agreement (IPOPIL)
3. Achieve Substantial conclusion of Upgraded ASEAN-China FTA 3.0 (BITR)
4. Achieve Entry-into-Forces of the 2nd Protocol on the Agreement Establishing the AANZFTA (BITR)

#### Strategic Thrust 2: Forging an Inclusive and Sustainable Future

5. Endorse the reframed strategies for narrowing development gaps and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the ASEAN region (BITR)
6. Adopt the strategy/Guideline for Crop Burning Reduction to support the implementation of the ASEAN Carbon Neutrality Strategy (BPI)
7. ASEAN Action Plan on Sustainable Agriculture (BAR)

8. Achieve substantive progress in finalizing the successor agreement on the ASEAN Power Grid and multilateral power trade in the region (DOE)

9. ASEAN Ecotourism standards (DOT)

10. Addressing Financing Gaps Among MSMEs (BSP)

**Strategic Thrust 3: Transforming for the Digital Future**

11. Complete the study on the New Generation of ASEAN Single Window (DOF)

12. Adopt the Roadmap on Digital Trade Standards in ASEAN (BPS)

13. ASEAN Online Education Platform for Industry 4.0 (DOST)

14. Adoption of an Implementation Roadmap to Establish Regionally Comparable and Recognised Unique Business Identification Numbers (UBIN) in ASEAN (BSMED)

**2. ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Developments**

● **2024 AEC Annual Priorities**

1. Transposition of Tariff Reductions Schedule - CCA agreed to set timeline of one year to discuss the long-term solution

2. Signing of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework Agreement

3. Assessment of the Utilization of ATIGA

4. Develop the ASEAN Information Portal on Merger Cases-Carry-over 2023 AP

5. Commencement of Operation of the RCEP Support Unit (RSU)

6. Entry-into-Force of the Second Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the AANZFTA

● **ASEAN Economic Agreements and Instruments that require action from the Philippines**

1. Protocol to Amend the ASEAN Agreement on the Movement of Natural Persons - **COCs of Agencies**

2. Second Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the AANZFTA -

3. Protocol to Implement the Twelfth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework of Services

4. ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement

5. ASEAN Agreement on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Cooperation

6. Protocol to Amend the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tourism Professional

7. ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tupe Approval for Automotive Products

8. ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA)

9. Protocol 3

10. Protocol to Implement the 10th package of commitments under the ASEAN FASA

11. Protocol to implement the 10th

- ASEAN Enhanced Dispute Settlement Mechanism (EDSM)

- Outcomes for the SEOM 3/55 Meeting:

The proposed Option A may be inconsistent with Article 20 of the EDSM Protocol, as it provides that the expenses of Appellate Body (AB) should be borne by the DSM Fund. There is also a risk of conflict of interest if the individual AMS arranges for the retainer fee for the AB Member that it nominated. A monthly retainer fee may not be necessary to attract high-caliber candidates. As a reference, the WTO Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) does not have a retainer fee in its fee structure.

- Mechanism for Public Private Partnership between ASEAN and ASEAN BAC

- ASEC Recommendation: Ensure a vibrant monitoring and evaluation mechanism; Enhance and expand engagements with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies

- Development of the Post-2025 Vision

- NOTE: Doc 13a comments deadline on September 13 - Green and red highlights

- Verification and Analysis of Commitments under the ATISA by the International Trade Centre (ITC)

3. ASEAN External Economic Relations

Document 20

4. Preparations for the 56 th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Meeting and Related Meetings

For AEM Notation	31	For AMEM Endorsement	1
For AEM Endorsement	8	For AEC Council Notation	2
For AEM Adoption	4	For AEC Council Adoption	2
For AEM Announcement	2	For Leaders' Adoption	2
For AEM Signing	1	For Leaders' Notation	6

5. Timor-Leste's Application for ASEAN Membership

**Agencies to review the self assessment made by Timor Leste deadline on Sept 27**

**6. Progress of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) Negotiations**

- Updates on the Ongoing Negotiation
  - The DEFA NC agreed to clean 50% of the text by the end of 2024. The Meeting agreed to focus on the 12 Articles being targeted to clean since the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN DEFA

**7. 2024 AEC Notional Calendar**

Meeting	Level	Date	Venue
56th AEM Meeting and Related Meetings	Ministers	15-22 September 2024	Vientiane, Lao PDR
24th AEC Council Meeting	Ministers	06-07 October 2024	Vientiane, Lao PDR
44th ASEAN Summit	Leaders	October 2024	Vientiane, Lao PDR
SEOM Retreat 2025	SEOM	December 2024	Sabah, Malaysia

**8. Blue Economy**

- DFA informed that they have not informed the agency and officials for Blue Economy matters because there is no law yet. There is the need to review the consistency of the bills passed in the senate and HoR. The

**9. Preparations for the Philippine Chairship of ASEAN in 2026.**

**Way Forward**

Technical CAEC Meeting	02 December 2024
CAEC Meeting	09 December 2024

Following the outcomes of the discussion, the follow-up actions, for all CAEC Agencies, from the Meeting are as follows:

	To provide further inputs on the talking points as requested by the DFA for the President for the ASEAN Summit	13 September 2024
	To submit nomination of participants for the online UBIN consultation in the Philippines scheduled on 23 September 2024	11 September 2024
	To confirm acceptance of agencies purview under Document 13A with Green highlighted text and requested agencies to provide comment or inputs on the pending measures in the draft AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030	20 September 2024
	To review and provide comment/input on the Non-paper on the institutional mechanism on cross-pillar initiatives and preliminary Quick Win activities	20 September 2024
	To review and provide comments and inputs on the Document 16 of the Inception Report and related documents of the ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA) by the International Trade Centre (ITC)	20 September 2024
	To review and provide comments and inputs on Document 21 and 22 before its endorsement on the 56th AEM	13 September 2024
	To review in Timor Leste self-assessment on Document 24	27 September 2024
	To provide list of stakeholders for the CAEC writeshop on the possible themes in preparation for the Philippine 2026 Chairship	13 September 2024
<b>Attachment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Activity Photo</li> <li>● Workplan preparations for the Philippine Chairship of ASEAN in 2026</li> </ul>	



**PREPARED BY:**



**FOR. HAZEL JASMINE D. CHUA**  
Economist II  
Policy Studies Division

**APPROVED BY:**



**FOR. LLARINA S. MOJICA**  
Chief  
Policy Studies Division

📍 DENR Hazel Chua

📍 DTI-Usec. Allan Gepty

📍 jeffrey Salik...



Meeting

**Workplan Preparations for the Philippine Chairship of ASEAN in 2026**

<b>Timeline*</b>	<b>Deliverable / Activity</b>
<b>2024</b>	
30 October	Technical CAEC for Brainstorming on possible themes for the Philippine Chairship, Strategic Thrusts and Priority Economic Deliverables for the AEC Pillar, and Commemorative Activities
11-15 November	Focus Group Discussions / Roundtable Discussions with key stakeholders on possible priorities and activities for the Philippine ASEAN Chairship
02 December	Technical CAEC Meeting to finalize the report to CAEC on the possible themes for the Philippine Chairship, including possible Strategic Thrusts and Priority Economic Deliverables for the AEC Pillar, and Commemorative Activities
16 December	CAEC Meeting to finalize the CAEC proposals for the possible themes for the Philippine Chairship, Strategic Thrusts and Priority Economic Deliverables for the AEC Pillar, and Commemorative Activities
<b>2025</b>	
January	AMTB Workshop to develop themes and thematic priorities for the Philippine Chairship <i>*includes consultation session with the ASEAN Secretariat on possible Philippine Economic Deliverables for 2026</i>
10 February	CAEC Information Session on Philippine ASEAN Chairship
14 March	Technical CAEC to shortlist the possible Strategic Thrusts and Priority Economic Deliverables for the AEC Pillar, and Commemorative Activities
24 March	Write-shop to develop the shortlisted Strategic Thrusts and Priority Economic Deliverables for the AEC Pillar, and Commemorative Activities
14 April	CAEC Meeting to exchange views on the shortlisted Strategic Thrusts and Priority Economic Deliverables for the AEC Pillar, and Commemorative Activities
30 May	Write-shop to further develop the shortlisted Strategic Thrusts and Priority Economic Deliverables for the AEC Pillar, and Commemorative Activities
09 June	Focus Group Discussion / Roundtable Discussion with key stakeholders on CAEC shortlisted priorities and activities for the Philippine ASEAN Chairship
01 July	CAEC Meeting to endorse the Strategic Thrusts and Priority Economic Deliverables for the AEC Pillar, and Commemorative Activities
14 July	Write-shop with the ASEAN Secretariat to further develop the endorsed Strategic Thrusts and Priority Economic Deliverables, including concept notes, for the AEC Pillar, and Commemorative Activities
11 August	CAEC Meeting to endorse the concept notes of the Philippine Economic Priority Deliverables
August	Presentation to the HLTF-EI of Philippine initial ideas for the priorities for its ASEAN Chairship
30 September	Technical CAEC Meeting with the ASEAN Secretariat to improve the concept notes, as needed

<b>Timeline*</b>	<b>Deliverable / Activity</b>
September	CAEC Report to the AMTB on AEC Strategic Thrusts, Priority Economic Deliverables, and Commemorative Events for the Philippines ASEAN Chairship
27 October	CAEC Information Session on Philippine ASEAN Chairship
October	Bid-out development of video for Philippines Economic Priority Deliverables
November	Circulate Finalized Concept Notes on Philippines' Priority Economic Deliverables to SEOM
December	Present Philippine Chairship Theme, AEC Strategic Thrusts, Priority Economic Deliverables, and Commemorative Events to the SEOM Retreat, including launch of video presentation

*\*Dates may be adjusted as needed*