



# **Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025: A Blueprint for a Stronger ASEAN**

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# OUTLINE

- 1. PARTNERING FOR CHANGE ENGAGING THE WORLD**
- 2. MPAC 2025 : A BLUEPRINT FOR A CONNECTED ASEAN**
- 3. THREE DIMENSIONS, 5 KEY AREAS , 15 INITIATIVES**
- 4. ASEAN MAYORS FORUM AND MPAC 2025**
- 5. HOW CAN AMF BECOME MORE CONNECTED TO THE ASEAN AGENDA: SOME INSTUTIONAL ADVICE**





# PHILIPPINE CHAIRMANSHIP THEME:

## PARTNERING FOR CHANGE; ENGAGING THE WORLD





# ASEAN – Asia's Economic Powerhouse

**A huge market:** 629 million+ people  
3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the world (behind China & India)

**GDP:**  
USD 2.55 trillion  
6<sup>th</sup> largest in the world; 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in Asia

**FDI:**  
USD 120 billion+



# MPAC 2025 : A BLUEPRINT FOR A CONNECTED ASEAN

## KEY FEATURES OF MPAC 2025

- 1 Focused and Action-Oriented
- 2 Consistent and Aligned with ASEAN Community Blueprints, Relevant Sectoral Work Plans and IAI Work Plan III
- 3 Added Value to Existing ASEAN Initiatives
- 4 Emphasis on Implementation Arrangements
- 5 Result-Oriented Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism



# Connectivity in ASEAN has 3 Dimensions: Physical, Institutional and People-to-People

Aspects which improve the regulatory environment which can enhance connectivity within member states

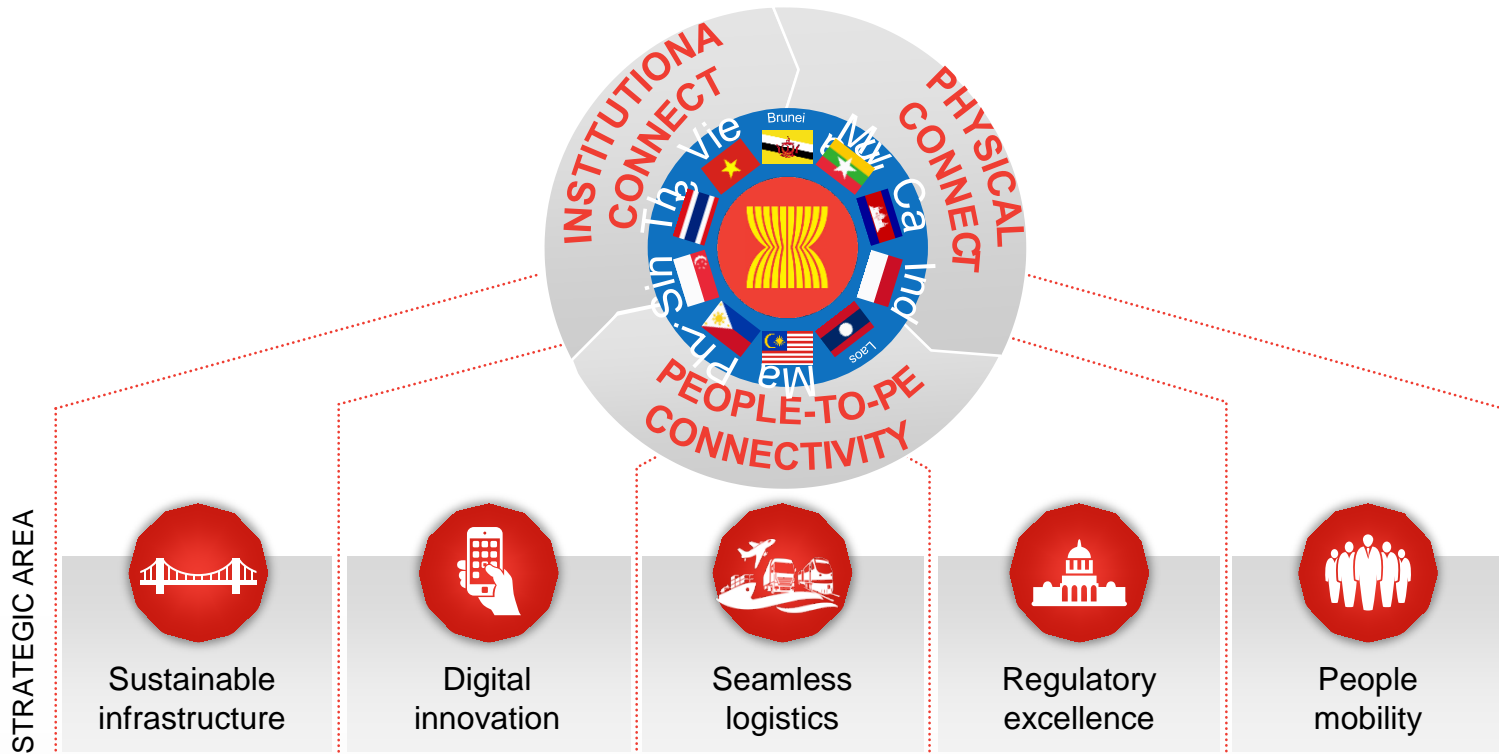
Promoting exchange of culture, tourism, education and know-how



Infrastructure that will support greater connectivity among and within member states

# Focused and Action-Oriented: The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 has 5 Strategic Areas and 15 Initiatives

**Vision:** “To achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a greater sense of Community.”



# ASEAN Connectivity 2025 will have 5 strategic areas

Vision

## ASEAN Connectivity 2025

To achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a greater sense of Community

Physical connectivity



Institutional connectivity



People-to-people connectivity



### Strategic objectives

Strategies



**Sustainable infrastructure**



**Digital innovation**



**Seamless logistics**



**Regulatory excellence**



**People mobility**

- Increase public and private infrastructure investment ASEAN
- Significantly enhance the evaluation and sharing of best practices on infrastructure productivity in ASEAN
- Increase the deployment of smart urbanisation models across ASEAN
- Establish best practice data-management frameworks across ASEAN
- Support access to financial services through digital technologies
- Increase the adoption of technology by SMEs
- Enhance the impact of open data across ASEAN
- Lower supply-chain costs in each ASEAN Member State
- Improve speed of supply chains in each ASEAN Member State
- Lower trade-distorting non-tariff measures across all ASEAN Member States
- Harmonise or mutually recognise product, conformance, and technical standards in key sectors
- Support ease of travel throughout ASEAN
- Increase intra-ASEAN mobility of university students
- Reduce the gaps between vocational skills demand and supply across ASEAN



# **Sustainable Infrastructure 3 Key Initiatives**

- 1. Establish a rolling priority pipeline list of potential ASEAN infrastructure projects and sources of funds**
- 2 . Establish an ASEAN platform to measure and improve infrastructure productivity**
- 3. Develop sustainable urbanisation strategies in ASEAN Cities**



## SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

# 1 Establish a rolling priority pipeline list of potential ASEAN infrastructure projects and sources of funds

### Overview of initiative

Establish a rolling priority pipeline list of potential ASEAN infrastructure projects, plus an analysis of different sources of funds, combined with support for capability building of government officials to address key gaps

## Summary of implementing measures

- Establish template on potential infrastructure projects
- Identify initial priority infrastructure projects and prioritise based on regional connectivity relevance
- Conduct pre-feasibility analysis, where possible, to determine potential for private sector participation
- Develop business case for selected projects with key information (e.g., project size, IRR), with capability support for AMS and publish information online with regular updates, where possible
- Analyse potential funding sources of projects for funders and financiers
- Hold ASEAN infrastructure investment forum for market testing of projects with investors

## What does success look like in 2025?

### Outcome metrics

- Increase public and private (domestic and international) infrastructure investment across the ASEAN Member States

### Output metrics

- Construct public database (with all relevant infrastructure projects in ASEAN)
- Create an ASEAN investor forum



# 2 Establish an ASEAN platform to measure and improve infrastructure productivity

### Overview of initiative

Conduct diagnostics of infrastructure productivity and identify opportunities to improve the planning, delivery, and operation of infrastructure to get more high-quality capacity, for less money

### Summary of implementing measures

- Develop a framework to assess infrastructure productivity, including selecting of projects, financing of projects, delivery of projects and efficiency of existing projects
- Analyse set of projects / assets across AMS, through a measurement or index, based on the framework
- Codify and share lessons on key areas of strength / weaknesses and how AMS have addressed key bottlenecks, through a platform
- Training programmes to improve infrastructure productivity
- Pilot projects to improve infrastructure productivity

### What does success look like in 2025?

#### Outcome metrics

- Improvement in infrastructure productivity index

#### Output metrics

- Development of framework and index on infrastructure productivity for all AMS
- Establishment of platform for sharing best practices
- Launch training programmes on infrastructure productivity
- Conduct pilots for 5 funded ASEAN infrastructure projects to improve productivity of delivery

### 3 Develop sustainable urbanisation strategies in ASEAN Cities

#### Overview of initiative

Over 90 million people will join cities in ASEAN by 2030, with the fastest growth in middleweight cities. While there are many useful international case studies addressing sustainability concerns associated with urbanisation, the most useful insights for ASEAN are likely to come from within the region itself. This initiative would **measure performance on “smart urbanisation” approaches across ASEAN cities** and create a **forum for sharing learnings**

#### Summary of implementing measures

- **Develop an ASEAN assessment of urbanisation performance**, leveraging existing frameworks for assessing urbanisation performance
- **Identify cities across ASEAN**, with input of AMS, to be included in assessment
- **Publish results**
- **Organise a forum** with ASEAN city leaders to share results and discuss best practice lessons (possibly coordinated with existing forums)
- **Develop smart transport initiative** in ASEAN cities

#### What does success look like in 2025?

##### Outcome metrics

- Improvement in city-level urbanisation performance index

##### Output metrics

- Development of ASEAN assessment of urbanisation performance
- Establishment of platform for sharing best practices
- Launch smart transport initiative in ASEAN cities

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# First Project Concept for Initiative 3

## 1. Project Title

**Study for ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization within the context of MPAC 2025**

## 2. Project Context

**With continued urbanisation, cities need to come up with strategies to sustain the provision of economic activities, housing, healthcare, education, energy services, ability to mitigate impacts of climate change, etc. Cities will require sustainable urbanisation practices.**

**There is need to exchange “know-how” on developing cities in a liveable and sustainable way in order to disseminate the knowledge of sustainable urbanisation and have it adopted by cities.**

**Sharing experiences of sustainable urbanisation will require assessment of the performance of urbanisation practices and identification of best practices. Such assessment could also reveal the weaknesses and problems in the current practices so that proper correction can be made.**



## 2 Project Context

- **Transforming Cities to be more sustainable**
- **Should not overlap with other sectoral initiatives**
- **Focus on the value-add of ASEAN Connectivity**



### 3 Outputs and Activities

- ***Clearer definition of ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization***
- ***Stocktaking***
- ***Knowledge or experience-sharing***
- ***Criteria identified and pilot cities identified***
  - ***Sample Cities taken from developed cities***
- ***Stakeholder engagement plan***
- ***Consideration of a new sectoral body***



#### 4 Management and Implementation Arrangements

- **Relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies**
  - **ASOEN**
  - **STOM**
  - **SOME**
  - **TELSOM**
  - **ACDM**
- **Establish an ASEAN Smart Cities Network**
- **ASEAN Mayors Forum**
- **World Cities Summit**
- **World Urban Forum**
- **East Asia Energy Forum**
- **ACCC/JCM/ACC**



## Digital Innovation

- 4. Enhance the MSMEs technology platform**
- 5. Support the expansion of digital financial services in ASEAN**
- 6. Establish an ASEAN open data network**
- 7. Establish an ASEAN digital data governance framework**

## DIGITAL INNOVATION

### 4 Enhance the MSME technology platform

#### Overview of initiative

Support MSMEs in going digital by **understanding barriers to adoption across AMS** and **designing programmes to address awareness, usage and scaling of businesses using digital technologies** (with the centerpiece being the enhancement of the existing ASEAN SME website)

#### Summary of implementing measures

- **Review of MSME digital landscape and conduct survey** to understand current level of digital adoption and barriers to digital adoption by MSMEs
- **Gather “best practices”** from each AMS on how they have encouraged MSMEs to go digital
- **Share lessons among MSME** agencies of AMS on barriers to actions to address
- Use learnings to **roll-out digital adoption programme** that would address awareness and usage issues of MSMEs of digital technologies across different support channels (e.g., MSME agencies, ASEAN SME portal) and **upgrade MSME portal**

#### What does success look like in 2025?

##### Outcome metrics

- Increase in percent of MSMEs in ASEAN with digital presence

##### Output metrics

- Completion of review of MSME digital barriers and lessons from AMS
- Addition of areas to ASEAN SME portal covering business expansion and tech adoption

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# Seamless Logistics Key Initiatives

**8. Strengthen ASEAN competitiveness through enhanced trade routes and logistics;**

**9. Enhance supply chain efficiency through addressing key chokepoints**



# Regulatory Excellence

**10. Harmonisation of standards, mutual recognition, and technical regulations in three prioritised product groupings;**

**11. Increase transparency and strengthen evaluation to reduce trade-distorting non-tariff measures**

# 11 Increase transparency and strengthen evaluation to reduce trade distorting non-tariff measures

### Overview of initiative

Identify the full list of non-tariff measures (NTMs) across ASEAN Member States and prioritise trade-distorting NTMs which would have the greatest benefit to trade from their removal, with tracking of AMS progress on eliminating those measures

### Summary of implementing measures

- Define scope of NTMs to evaluate, leveraging on work on ASEAN NTMs database (which will be updated), ATR/NTR and ASSIST
- Conduct a study to define appropriate quantification and benchmarking approach to priorities trade-distorting NTMs, with a view to addressing these trade-distorting NTMs.
- Establish good regulatory practice (GRP) in NTM process across product working groups, with private sector consultation, where appropriate, and adoption of the 12 principles for GRP according to ASEAN GRP Guide

### What does success look like in 2025?

#### Outcome metrics

- Number of NTMs assessed to be trade-distorting

#### Output metrics

- Development of a comprehensive list of NTMs across ASEAN Member States
- Establishment of panel to assess NTMs
- Reduction of NTMs assessed to be trade-distorting (during first assessment)



# People Mobility

- 12. Enhance ASEAN travel by making finding information easier**
- 13. Ease ASEAN travel by facilitating visa processes**
- 14. Establish new vocational training programmes and common qualifications across ASEAN**
- 15. Support higher education exchange across ASEAN**

## 12 Enhance ASEAN travel by making finding information easier

### Overview of initiative

Enhance the ASEAN tourism website to include greater information on travel options across ASEAN

### Summary of implementing measures

- Expand the existing ASEAN tourism website through **developing synergies with national tourism websites**, review of other travel websites to identify opportunities and based on best-practices to include more information on travel routes and potential itineraries, as well as tips and tools
- In addition, the ASEAN tourism website could be **translated into multiple languages** to reflect the background of the most common foreign visitors to ASEAN.
- Finally, in order to drive usage of the website, there will be an **outreach effort** to engage tourism operators and other tourism information providers.

### What does success look like in 2025?

#### Outcome metrics

- Number of people visiting ASEAN tourism website
- Number of intra-ASEAN tourists.
- Number of tourists from outside ASEAN.

#### Output metrics

- Enhance ASEAN tourism website with detailed travel itineraries

Overview  
of initiative

This initiative aims to facilitate the visa process for tourists travelling into ASEAN by developing a **one stop shop for e-visa applications**

## Summary of implementing measures

- **Review of e-visa development** in ASEAN
- In short-term, augment ASEAN tourism website to have “**one stop shop**” for **information on visa application process** and requirements for each AMS
- Over time, as e-visas developed in each AMS, **add functionality to website to allow “one stop shop” for applications** to individual AMS
- Allow **application of visa through the website** when it is developed

## What does success look like in 2025?

## Outcome metrics

- Number of people obtaining visa through ASEAN online portal.
- Number of people applying for visa through ASEAN online portal.

## Output metrics

- Establish e-visas across all ASEAN Member States
- Development of one stop shop for travel visa applications in ASEAN

# **AMF and ASEAN**

- 1. ACCREDITATION UNDER ANNEX 2 OF THE ASEAN CHARTER**
- 2. WORK WITH SECTORAL BODIES TO IMPLEMENT AMF OBJECTIVES COMPATIBLE WITH THE ASEAN VISION 2025**
- 3. CONNECT WITH ASEAN NATIONAL SECRETARIATS OF ALL MEMBER STATES**



# AMF and ASEAN

**THANK YOU! SALAMAT PO!**

**WEBSITE:**

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