

Concept Note

ASEAN+3 in an Era of Global Uncertainty: Responses and Optimism

Participants may consider some of the following 'Global Uncertainty' posed by various challenges:

- Security:
 - Threats from terrorism and contemporary conflicts
 - Cyber security
- Climate Change:
 - The intensification of climate change and global warming.
 - ASEAN's experience with trans-boundary pollution
 - Adaptation and mitigation
 - Sustainable development
- Income gap
 - The widening of income gap
 - Poverty
 - Economic development

Potential areas to explore under this theme:

- The emergence of contemporary global uncertainty, particularly security concerns rising from the increasing interconnectedness of global affairs, especially the intensification of globalization in the digital age:

Example of Key Exploratory Questions:

- How should ASEAN+3 react to the emergence of the new threats to security, such as terrorism and cyber crimes.
 - Would the emergence of the unconventional security threat heighten global and regional cooperation or nationalism?
 - Should there be collective mechanisms in dealing with trans-boundary threats, modern trafficking, terrorism, and cyber crimes? Or should individual states independently deal with the threats?
 - Should the government encourage regulation (e.g. censorship) or education (e.g. open discussion) on the flow of information (e.g. Internet, cable networks, etc.)? Is there a role that institutions of higher education can play (e.g. via research, academic engagement of society, etc.)?
- Climate change as a priority of global agenda:

Example of Key Exploratory Questions:

 - Can climate change be compromised for the sake of economic development?

- How would environmentally-friendly economic policies affect ASEAN+3, especially developing countries.
- How well can ASEAN+3 adapt to the sustainable New Economy?
- Should we seek to adapt to the changing climate or seek to mitigate the changing climate?
- How should ASEAN+3 adopt the Paris Agreement in national policies?
- Should ASEAN+3 have a uniform policy dealing with cross-border environmental problems?
- How can youths (e.g. university undergraduates) play a role in influencing sustainability-related thinking / policies as well as the behaviour and actions of society?
- Global economic challenges:
 - **Example of Key Exploratory Questions:**
 - How is the initiation of regional economic blocs contributing to the global economic growth?
 - Should ASEAN+3 countries consider the transition from manufacturing-based economy to a value-based economy?
 - The impacts of the rise of sharing economy and online economic opportunities.
 - Will the increasing economic integration of ASEAN+3 countries result in disastrous outcome like the European counterpart?
 - Should countries pay more attention to regional economic integration or individual economic policy?
 - What should be the regional approach in bridging income gap among ASEAN+3 member states?
 - Should ASEAN+3 member states take a regional or individual approach to poverty? Should there be an investment bank exclusive to ASEAN+3 member states?
 - Should ASEAN+3 countries consider the free movement of labour?
 - “Youths are the drivers of consumption in the products of the New Economy”; is this a valid statement? Can youths help determine a means of gauging the benefits vs detriment brought about on individual societies / countries by the global New Economy?