An ASEAN Community 2015? Prospects and Implications for Asia and the United States

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1. Southeast Asia in a glimpse
2. Southeast Asia as ASEAN
3. Domestic Politics and Regionalism
4. Community, Centrality and Neutrality
5. Implications for Asia and the United States
1. Southeast Asia in a glimpse

1.1
- 600 million people (ASEAN Sec figure); GDP: $1.7trn
- 11 countries (ASEAN + East Timor)
- All post-colonial, except Siam/Thailand
- Multi-ethnic; multi-religious; multi-lingual
- All influenced by overseas Chinese
- Recipients of FDI; export economies
1. Southeast Asia in a glimpse (cont.)

1.2 Diverse and disparate regimes

- Absolute monarchy: Brunei
- Constitutional monarchy: Cambodia, Malaysia (federal), Thailand
- Socialist: Laos and Vietnam
- Military/electoral authoritarian: Burma/Myanmar
- Republic: Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, (East Timor)
1. Southeast Asia in a glimpse (cont.)

1.3 Vibrant economic development
- tamed tigers?; formerly ASEAN Four; Asian Values?
- 1997-98 economic crisis; recovery and new trajectory; regional economic dynamism

1.4 Political change and continuity: A mixed bag of democratization and autocracy
- Indonesia/Malaysia/Philippines/Thailand/Singapore/Cambodia
- Brunei/Laos/Vietnam/Burma-Myanmar

1.5 Internal conflicts and insurgencies in Philippines and Thailand
2. Southeast Asia as ASEAN

2.1 Southeast Asia and the outside world
2.2 Evolution and development:
   - Malphilindo; ASA; SEATO; ASEAN
   - Why ASEAN?: Konfrontasi; major powers/national development; ethnic and power balance
2.3 ASEAN as longest regional vehicle after 44 years; Cold War during 1967-87; economic exuberance in 1987-97; APEC (1989); AFTA (1992); ARF (1994)
2.4 No War in ASEAN; just border tensions and skirmishes
2. Southeast Asia as ASEAN (cont.)

2.5 Expansion: Brunei (1984); Vietnam (1995); Laos and Burma/Myanmar (1997); Cambodia (1999)

2.6 1997-98 crisis response (Chiang Mai Initiative) under ASEAN Plus Three (APT)

2.7 GWOT (2001-08); Separatist insurgencies

2.8 ASEAN Charter (December 2008); legal entity; 3 pillars in ASEAN Political and Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community; ASEAN Community by 2015
2. Southeast Asia as ASEAN (cont.)

2.9 ASEAN Charter and Community:
- Europe Union-style v. ASEAN-style
- ASEAN charter as codification of norms
- Contradictions (e.g. non-interference with democratizing principles)
- ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICOHR); People-centered ASEAN?
3. Domestic politics and regionalism

- Burma/Myanmar as ASEAN chair in 2014?
- Indonesia’s ascendancy; Vietnam’s domestic determinants; Cambodia’s authoritarianism; Singapore’s liberalisation; Malaysia’s growing polarization; Philippines’ underperformance; Thailand’s domestic holding patterns
3. Domestic politics and regionalism (cont.)

- Democracy and regionalism
- Authoritarianism and regionalism
- Regional leadership dynamics
- Challenges and consequences of regional democratisation with economic development
4. Community, Centrality and Neutrality

- ASEAN at 44
- Community for centrality?
- Centrality for neutrality in great powers management
- Centrality from strategic weakness (not strength)
- East Asia Summit; ASEAN Plus Three; ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meetings Plus (vis-à-vis ARF); Japan’s East Asian Community; Australia’s Asia-Pacific Community
- South China Sea as contested arena
4. Community, Centrality and Neutrality (cont.)

- ASEAN centrality determines regional architecture?
- US-China relations
- China-ASEAN friction and co-optation
- Japan and South Korea in Southeast Asia
- ASEAN and the major powers
- An elusive regional order
5. Implications for Asia and the United States

- East Asia pivots around ASEAN by default
- Major powers in 21st century (i.e. China, US, India, Russia, Japan, Australia, South Korea)
- What kind of ASEAN Community by 2015?
- US domestic weakness and partisanship
  The Obama Administration reengagement with Asia
- US leadership in a multipolar world