



ASEAN CONNECTIVITY – KEY FACTS

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONNECTIVITY

People-to-People connectivity works to bring the people of ASEAN together by promoting deeper intra-ASEAN social and cultural understanding and increasing greater intra-ASEAN mobility.

Progress with Key People-to-People Connectivity Projects

ASEAN Virtual Learning Resource Centers (AVLRC)

AVLRC aims to foster greater information and knowledge sharing about ASEAN and its member countries by using IT technology to make it easier to access and share information about the people, culture, history, places of interest, and economies of each ASEAN Member State.

Increasing Educational Opportunities

Increasing education, understanding and people-to-people contact is being fostered through a number of projects.

- The ASEAN University Network consists of 26 leading universities across the region. It provides exchange and placement opportunities for both staff and students to study and learn.
- The ASEAN International Mobility for Students program is also expanding student mobility and now includes Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, the Philippines and Vietnam, allowing ASEAN member state students to move and study across these ASEAN countries. By 2015, the program aims to expand across all of ASEAN's 10 member states. The program now has 48 participating higher education institutions across the region.
- The ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook is helping to educate primary and secondary school students about ASEAN and what it involves, so they have a greater understanding of the region and its peoples.

Visa Exemptions and Tourism

To make it easier for the citizens of ASEAN member states to move around the ASEAN region, visa exemption are being put in place. This has already streamlined and made the visa process a lot faster across many ASEAN states. Eventually people across ASEAN will be able to visit other ASEAN countries for up to 2 weeks without the need for a visa or prior processing. Projects such as this have already contributed to greater people-to-people connections and tourism across the region.

- Between 2000 and 2012, tourist arrivals into ASEAN countries more than doubled from 39.14 million to 89.23 million people.
- Intra-ASEAN tourists increased from 15.92 million in 2000 to 39.85 million people in 2012. This number is still rising.

People Mobility

The movement of skilled labor from one ASEAN country to another is being enhanced by a number of Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) across several areas. They make it easier for skilled workers to move around and work across the region. Current Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) include: Engineering, Architecture, Nursing, Tourism, Medical Practitioners, Dental Practitioners, Accountancy, and Land Surveying. The first five have already been implemented while the latter two are currently being facilitated through framework agreements. In addition, ASEAN ICT Skills Standards are also being developed.