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# What Does ASEAN Mean To You? An Indonesian Survey Report

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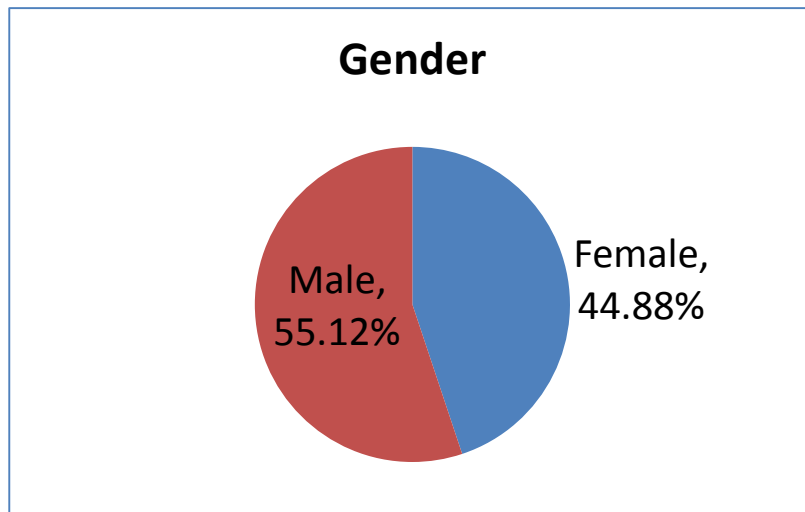
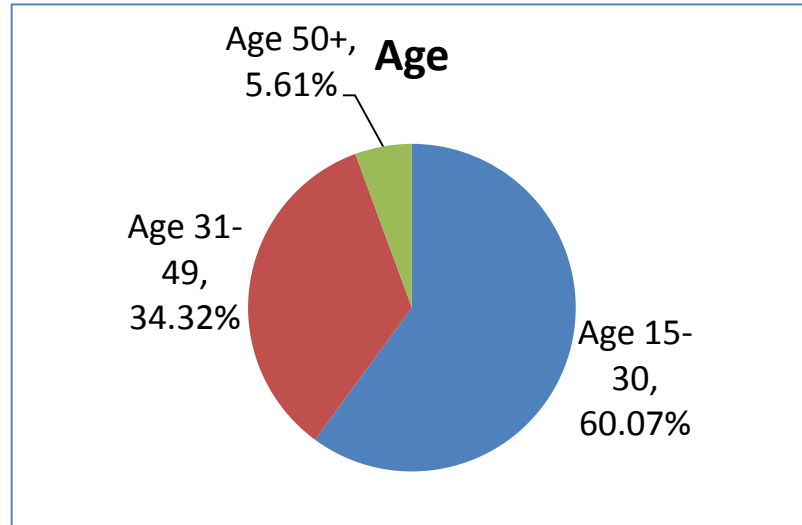
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**Presented at the 'Public Symposium on Building ASEAN Socio-Cultural  
Community & Nation Building**  
**Davao City, the Philippines, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017**



# Background

- ERIA & THC partnership
  - A survey to assess ‘aspirations, expectations, concerns, & hopes’
  - Part of a region-wide survey under the project of: ‘ASEAN@50: Retrospective & Perspectives on the Making, Substance, Significance, & Future of ASEAN’
- Methodology:
  - Simple ‘Survey Monkey’ platform –
  - A chance to win a prize
  - Timeline: September-October 2016
  - Targeting members of the public in general
  - Participation from diverse stakeholders – academia/think-tanks, business owners/representatives/employees, NGOs, trade unions, students, & government officials
  - 3 FGDs to dig deeper the substance of stakeholders’ feedbacks

# Survey participants: distribution, characteristics, and background (1)



- **Total participation: 302 respondents**

- **Distribution**

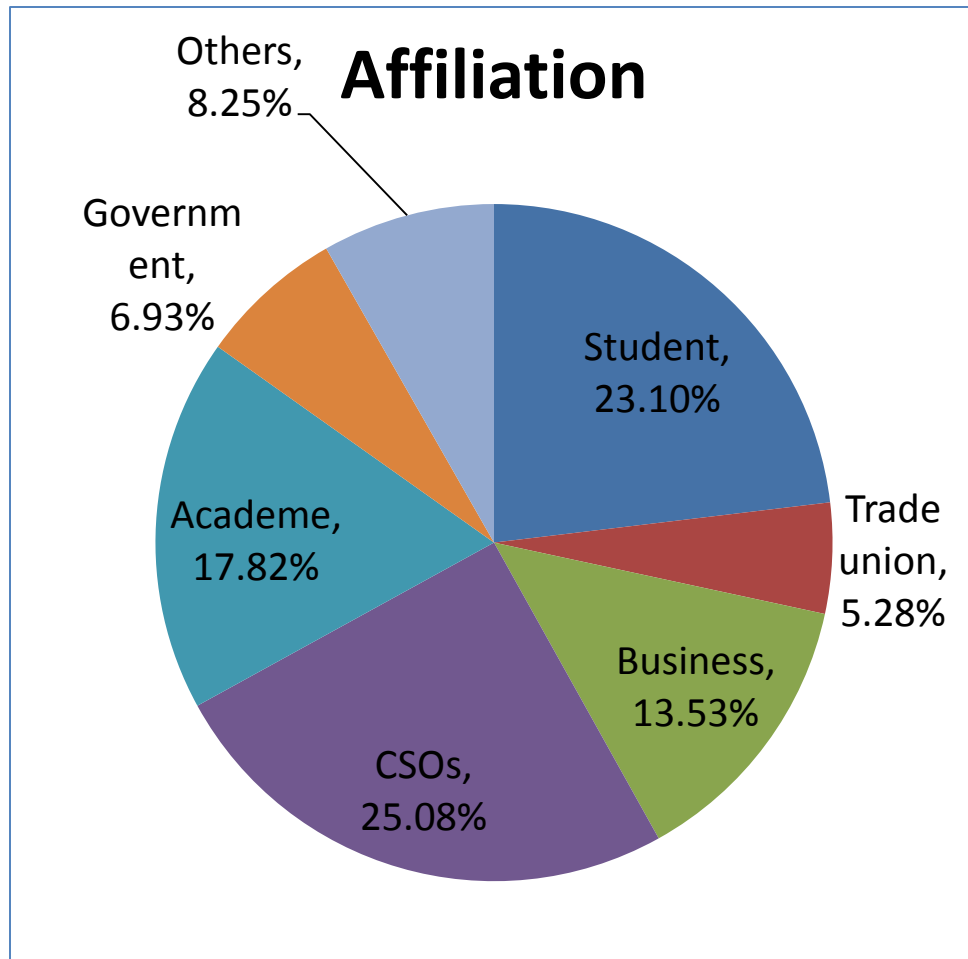
- **Age**

- **15-30 years old:** 182 respondents (60.26 %)
    - between the ages of **31-49 years old:** 103 respondents (34.1%)
    - above **50 years old:** 17 respondents (5.63%)

- **Gender**

- **Male:** 166 respondents (54.97%)
    - **Female:** 136 respondents (45.03%)

# Survey participants: distribution, characteristics, and background (2)

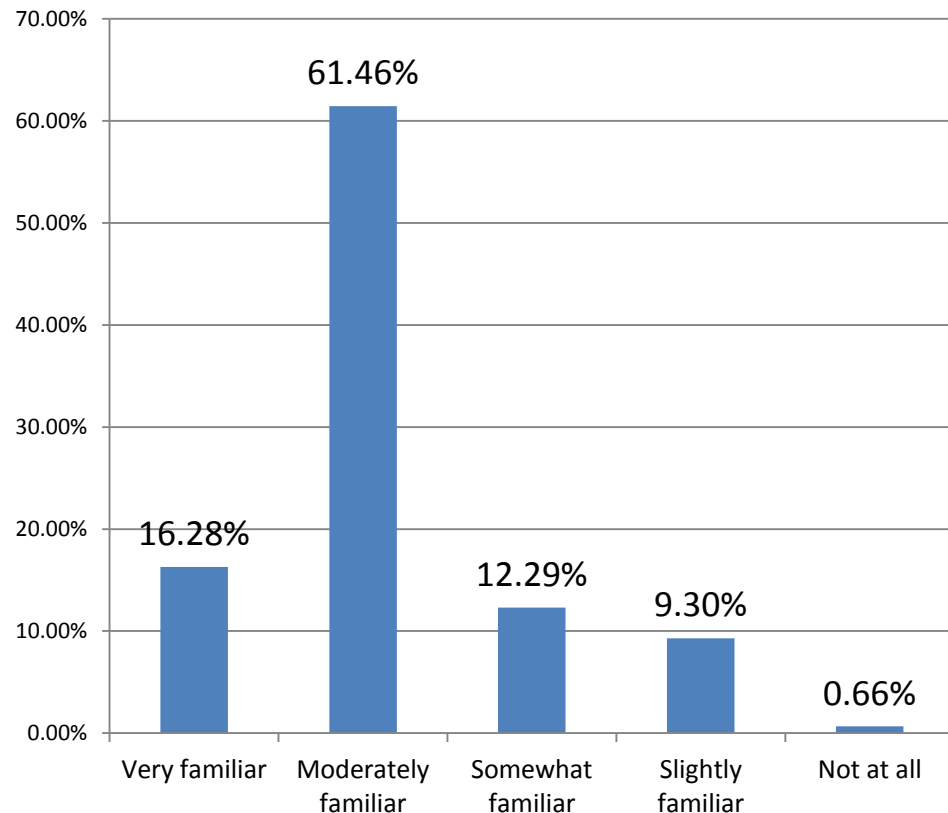


- **Characteristics and Background**

- **Occupation**

- **NGO or civil society organisations (CSOs) activists** : 76 respondents (25.08%)
  - **Academia**: 54 respondents (17.82%)
  - **Students**: 70 respondents (23.10%)
  - **Business representatives** : 41 respondents (13.53 %)
  - **Government officials**: 21 respondents (6.93 %)
  - **Labour**: 16 respondents (5.28 %)
  - **Other types of occupations** 25 respondents (8.25 %)
- A lot chose **'other'** option – 'employee of a private sector organisation' – so they are moved to 'business category'
  - Some noted their occupation as 'housewife' and one a 'midwife', - a possible indication that people with more diverse occupations are becoming at least more familiar with ASEAN?

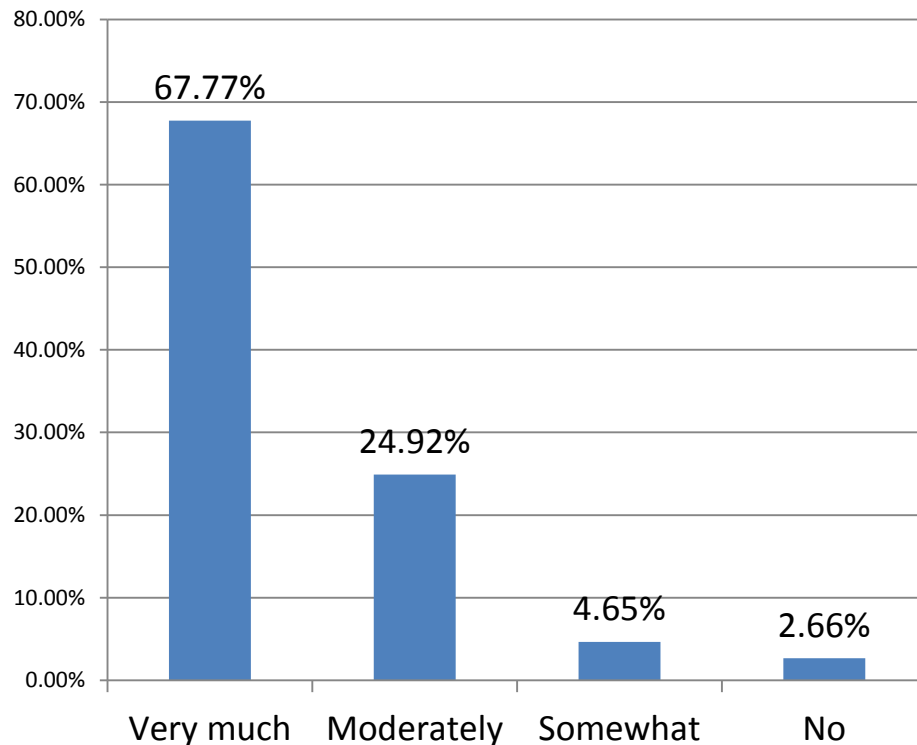
## Awareness about ASEAN



## Respondent Awareness on ASEAN

- Majority of respondents are relatively familiar with ASEAN-related issues.
- FGD result:
  - Basic info made available during school years - starting from secondary-level education onward.
  - Familiarity is limited to basic historical facts (i.e. ASEAN establishment, membership, and other basic facts).
  - Despite numerous media coverage about ASEAN, most of these were remain superficial, covering only what's on the surface without going deeper on what's really going on in the Association.
  - Familiarity of some NGO/CSO reps is very sectoral, primarily on areas that coincide with their advocacy works (i.e. human rights, etc)

## I Am An ASEAN Citizen?



## How ASEAN am I?

- 203 respondents (67.7%) felt they were ‘very much’ ASEAN citizens, 75 respondents ‘moderately’, and only 8 that ‘did not agree with the statement’
- FGD result:
  - Overwhelming agreement that there exists a sense of ‘solidarity’ amongst countries and citizens in the region.
  - Some emphasised their feeling of being better ‘accepted’ in other ASEAN societies than those outside the region.
  - Despite this, representatives from NGO/CSO and business communities were cautious – ‘belonging depend on how ASEAN could help advance their interests.
  - ‘ASEAN citizenship’? - some from the business community felt that direct/tangible positive impact of ASEAN cooperation has been largely absent.



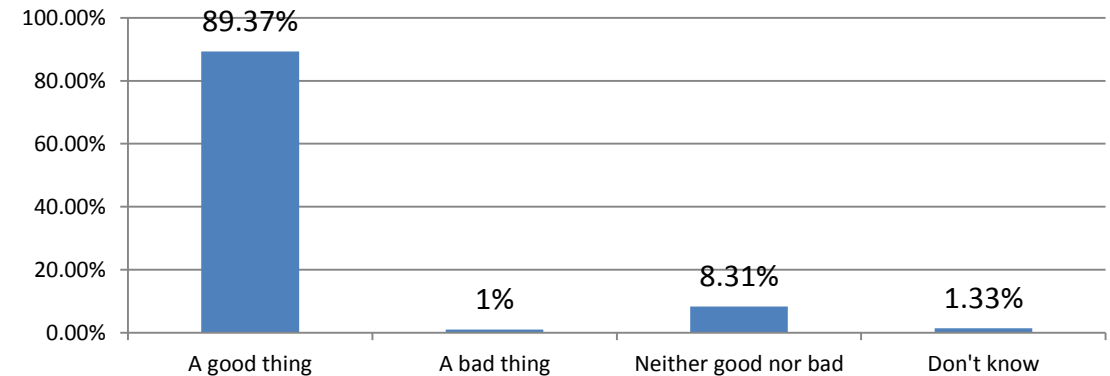
## Question on *Aspirations, concerns and hopes about ASEAN?*

- Simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer options, followed by open-ended feedback
- 240, or 81.08%, opted for ‘yes’
- 5 main areas of concerns/aspirations/hopes:
  - *Emerging regional issues* (e.g. South China Sea, terrorism, human rights violation, consolidation of democracy in the region, widening income gap, narrowing development gaps amongst ASEAN Member States (AMS) and within each AMS, corruption, sustainable economic growth, and so on)
  - *AEC-specific concern* – ‘free flow of labour’ – linked to the argument that RI lacks capable human resources to compete
  - The necessity for *ASEAN to undertake major reform*, especially with regard to its major principles (e.g. non-interference, etc.) often summed up as the ‘ASEAN Way’
  - The *deepening of ASEAN integration* (including making many of its agreements more ‘binding’), with many making reference to the experience of the EU
  - *ASEAN unity and centrality*, and ASEAN’s standing in the global community
  - In-depth *socialisation about ASEAN* and its activities

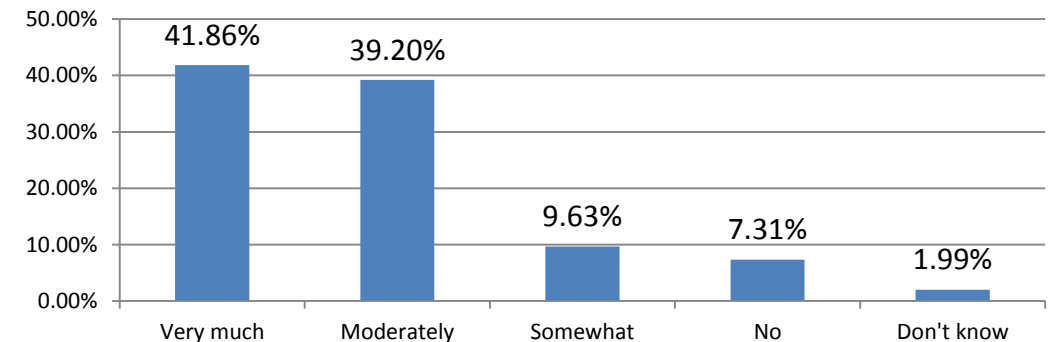
# Questions on *Indonesia Membership in ASEAN?*

- RI's membership in ASEAN is **'a good thing'** – vast opportunities from the membership
- RI's 250 million pop. –biggest beneficiaries of ASEAN cooperation
- If RI were to leave ASEAN – many expressed their concerns
- 'It is not that ASEAN doesn't bring any benefit. In contrary, it is Indonesia that should step up our game in order to get something out of ASEAN. Indonesia membership in ASEAN is a leverage that hasn't been utilized effectively' – common view amongst business reps.
- Some dissenting voices at the FGD – membership is **'neither good nor bad'** – 'RI would be able to stand alone since that Indonesia has no dependency towards ASEAN. Therefore, if Indonesia is no longer a member of ASEAN, we will have nothing to lose'.

**Indonesia's membership in ASEAN?**



**Has Indonesia benefited from being a member of ASEAN?**

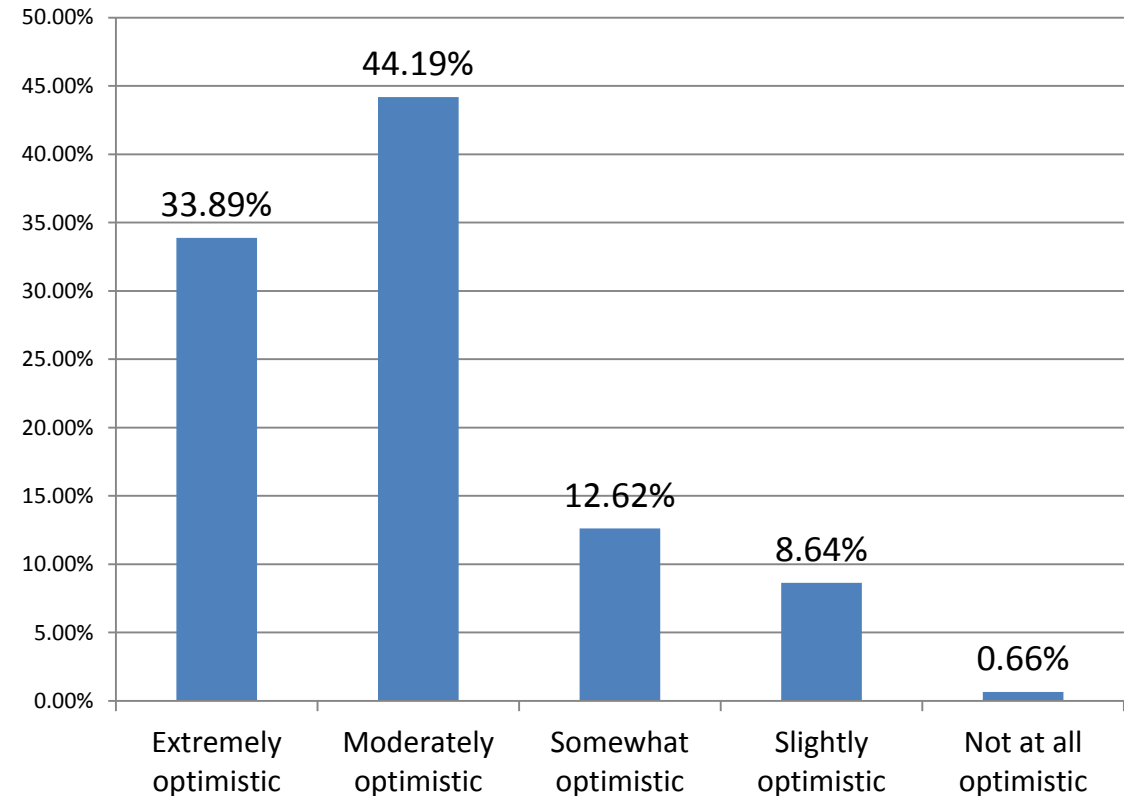




# Questions on *ASEAN's Future?*

- 102 were 'extremely optimistic' & 133 were 'moderately optimistic'
- FGD results:
  - One key potential is ASEAN's role as an economic bloc
  - Pessimist group was concerned about existing issues that will hamper future regional cooperation, such as:
    - human rights
    - humanitarian crises
    - non-binding nature of ASEAN cooperation
    - economic disparity
    - youth preparedness in the future of AEC

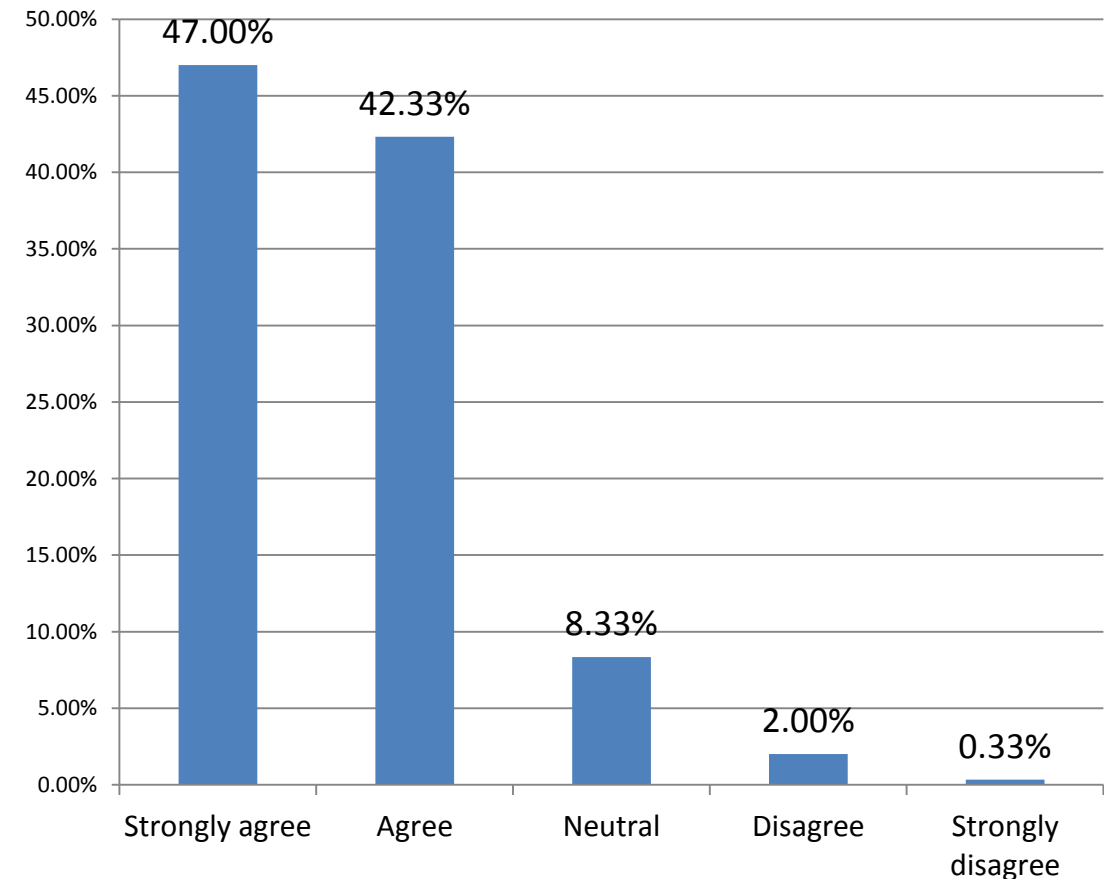
## How optimistic are you about the future of ASEAN?



# Questions on *Media's Coverage on ASEAN?*

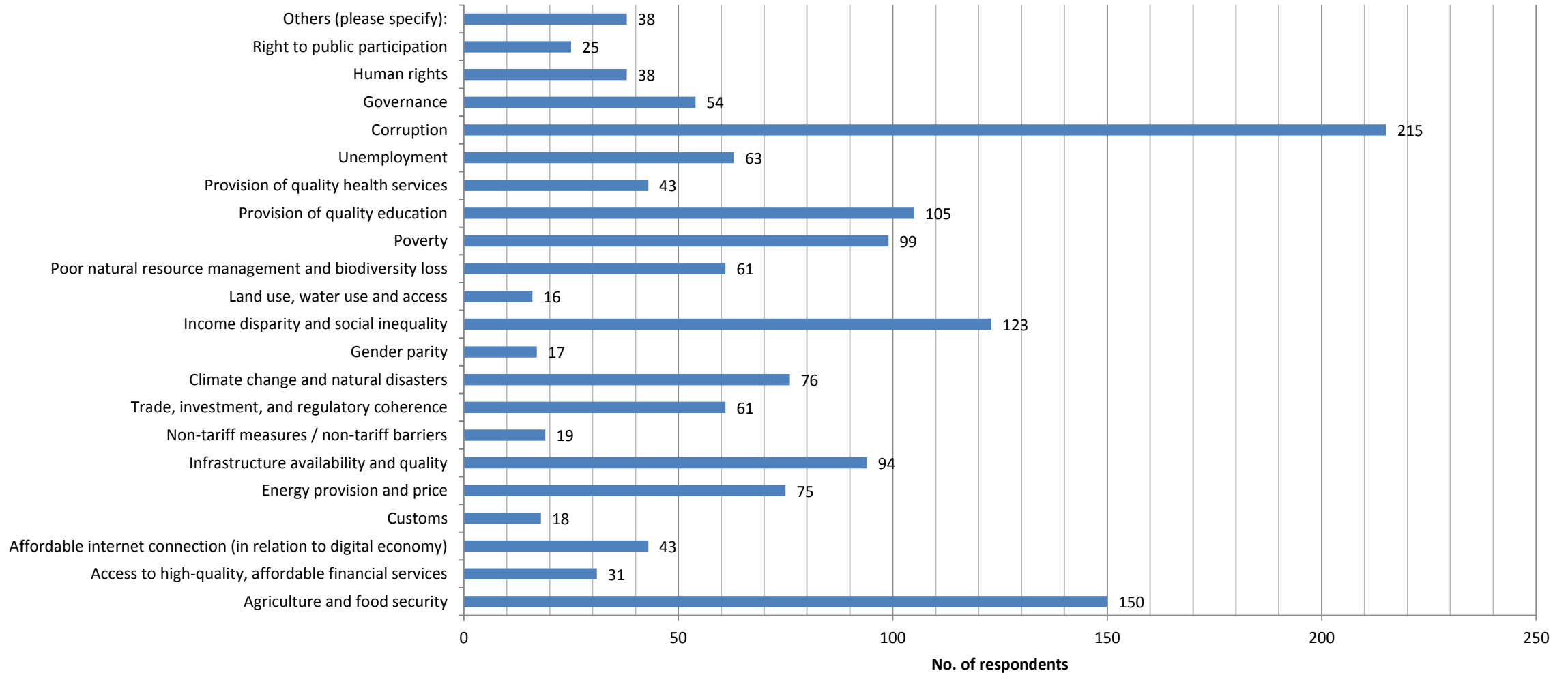
- ‘The media do not cover enough about ASEAN progress, achievements, and challenges?’
- 136 ‘agreed’; 107 ‘strongly agreed’, 33 ‘neutral’, & only 1 ‘strongly disagreed’
- FGD result:
  - National media is too focused on domestic issues
  - Media only interested in ‘sensational’ or negative news
  - ASEAN is not ‘controversial’, and thus ‘not sexy’
  - Coverage on the Association mostly covers SCS, border conflicts, etc.
  - Respondents didn’t feel media give enough of ASEAN’s progress, achievements, and challenges!

**The media do not have enough coverage about ASEAN?**



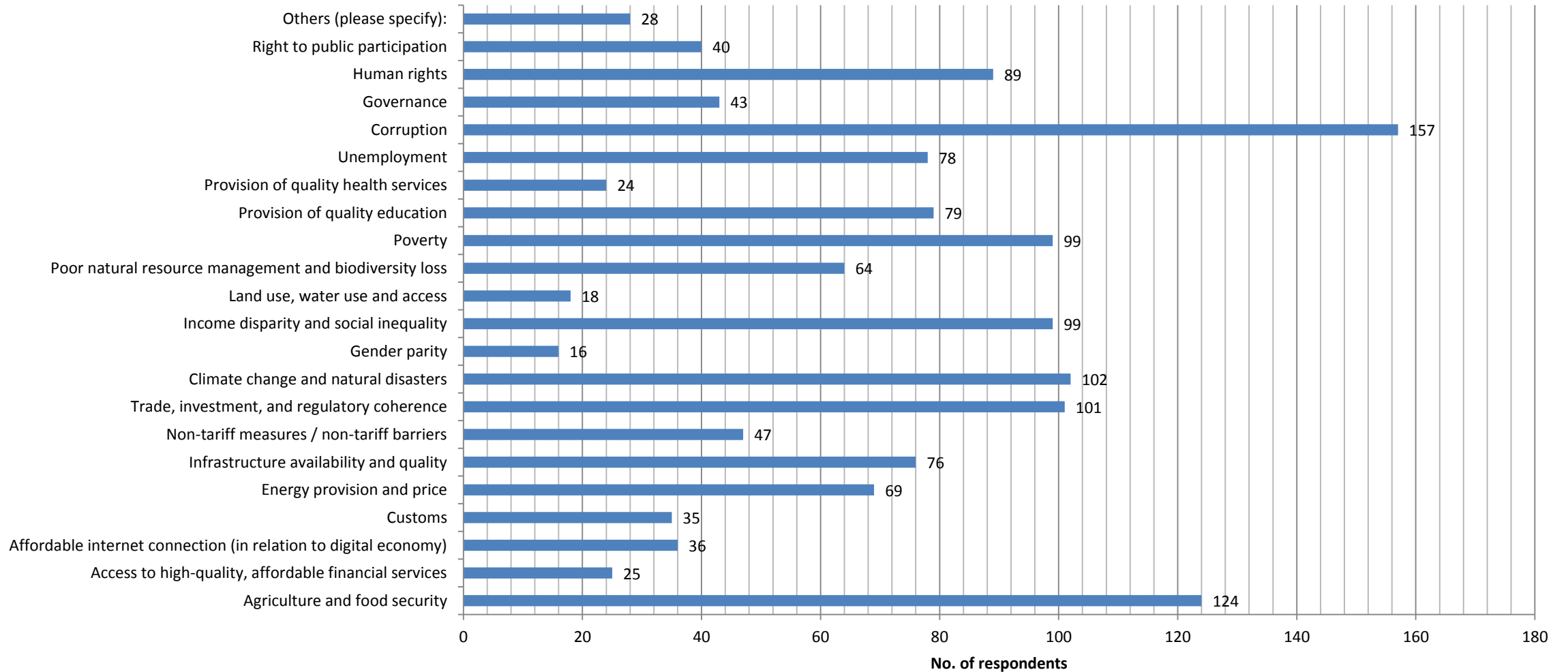
# Questions on *Top 5 problems facing Indonesia at present until 2025*

Figure 6. Top five pressing problems facing Indonesia at present until 2025?



# Questions on *Top 5 problems facing ASEAN Community at present until 2025*

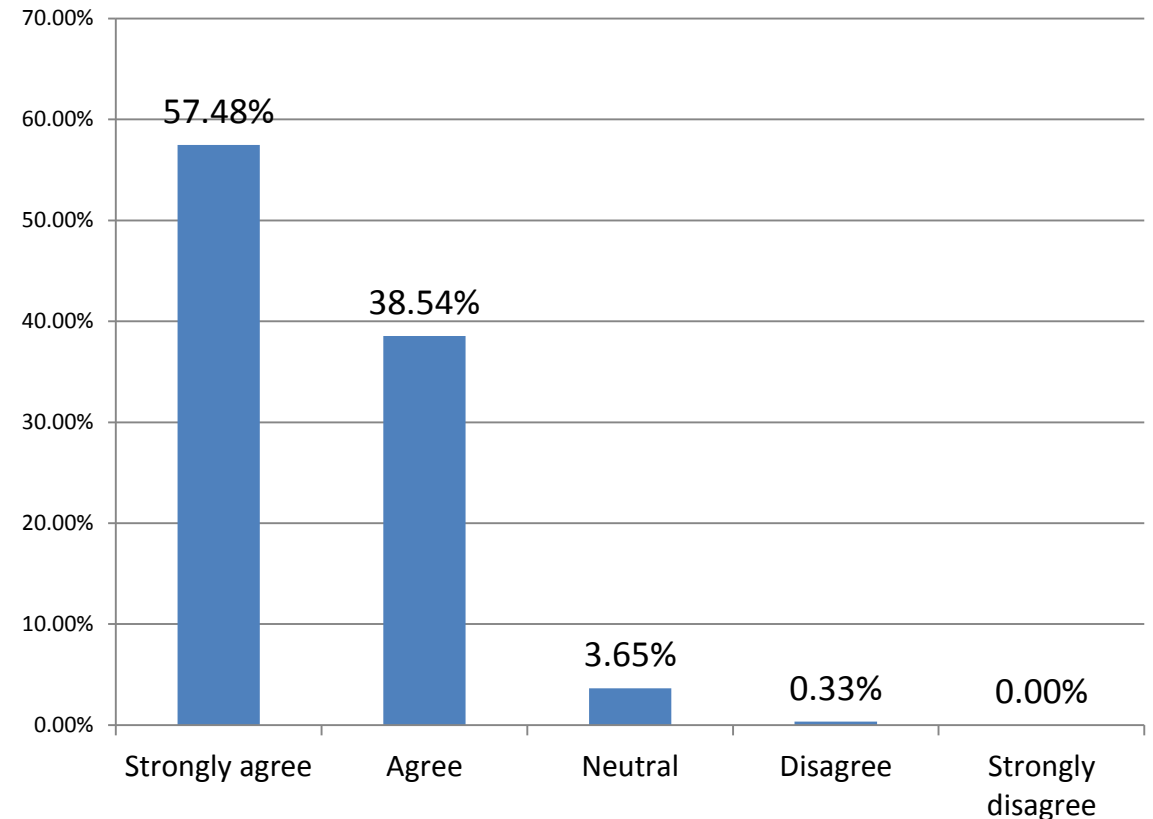
**Figure 7. Top five pressing problems facing ASEAN Community at present until 2025?**



# Question on The Role of the ASEAN Secretariat?

- 173 respondents ‘strongly agreed’, 116 ‘agreed’, & 11 ‘neutral’
- FGD result:
  - Extremely important for the ASEAN Secretariat to have a **control/monitoring function** in order to ensure that ASEAN policies were being implemented.
  - Strengthen ASEC = more financial contribution from AMS? – ‘No problem, as long as there were **real gains**’.
- Many participants stated that the ASEAN Secretariat should instead look to working closer and involving **civil society** more. Participants suggested that the role of civil society should be maximized so that ASEAN policies truly reflected the aspirations of the public.

**The upgrading of implementing and monitoring capability of ASEAN Secretariat?**



- Another survey ... ‘Non-State Actors Engagement with ASEAN: Current State of Play & Way Forward’
- [http://www.eria.org/ASEAN\\_at\\_50\\_4B.3\\_Chandra-Almutaqqi-Ibrahim.pdf](http://www.eria.org/ASEAN_at_50_4B.3_Chandra-Almutaqqi-Ibrahim.pdf)
- Assessing the effectiveness of ASEAN’s engagement with NSAs
  - Focus on those that have pursued engagement with ASEAN
  - ASEAN-led engagement mechanisms
  - NSAs-led engagement mechanisms
- 100 NSAs in ASEAN took part
- Results:
  - Despite people-centred objective, ASEAN policies remain very state-centric
  - ASEAN-led engagements are seen as a response to increase call for ASEAN to be more open & democratic, but engagements are still:
    - Organised in ad-hoc manner
    - Lacking clear follow-ups
    - One way communication mechanism/tool for ASEAN to socialise its policies
  - The need to institutionalise engagement



*The Habibie Center*

*Thank you!*

*Salamat!*