

Building ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community & Nation-building

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Questions to Examine

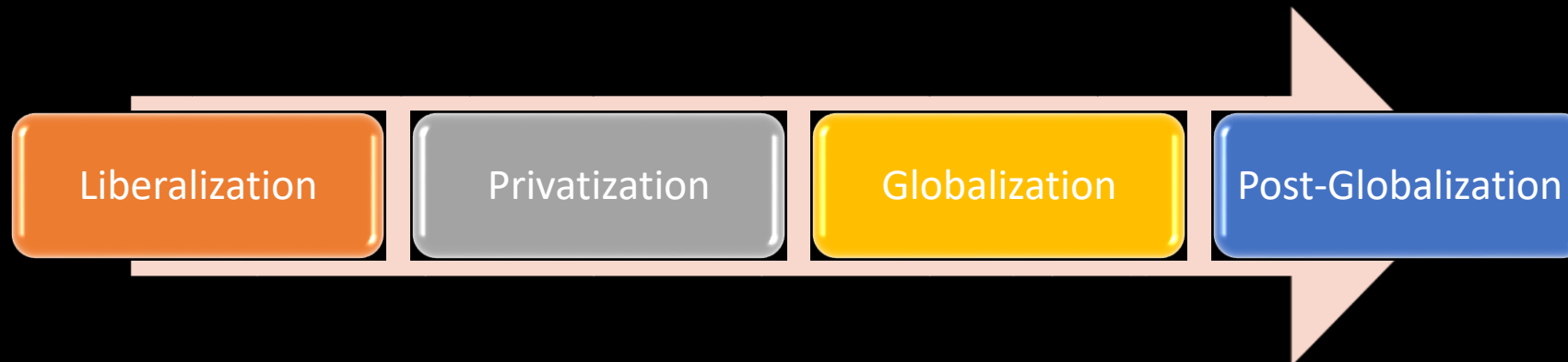
- **Setting the Context: ASCC evolution, timeline and impact**
 - How did socio-cultural cooperation evolve and what is it today?
 - How relevant is the Social-Cultural Community to ASEAN?
- **Observations on ASCC's Future**
 - Can the ASCC play a part in nation-building?
 - How can socio-cultural cooperation support ASEAN Centrality and in ASEAN's contribution to the global community of nations?

What is a Socio-cultural Community?

- Adaptive, re-engineered, and reinvented pillar
- Soft power: development or sectoral cooperation, technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), South-South Cooperation (SSC)
- Eclipsed by political–security and economic cooperation during first 2 decades of ASEAN
- Rooted in functionalism, neo-functionalism, and influenced by globalization
- One of the least researched and understood of the ASEAN Community pillars - ranks as the least known and recognised in public perception surveys

The Third Pillar: Shaped by External Forces

- *First 2 decades: **Functionalism** (Mitrany, 1975), a forerunner of globalisation theory and strategies, influenced thinking with focus on **regional cooperation in limited but common areas** such as health, education, and a selected number of transboundary concerns*
- *By the 1990s, **neo-functionalism** (Haas, 1961; Sandholtz and Stone, 1997) gained currency promoting a theory of **regional integration based on the European experience***
- *Brundtland Report (“Our Common Future”; World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987) highlighted **multilateralism and interdependence and a sustainable development path** to support economic growth, environmental protection, and social equality*
- ***Millennium Declaration, the MDGs and the Sustainable Development Goals: a universal agenda, integrated approach to address challenges of our time, and clustering six essential elements: Dignity, Prosperity, Justice, Partnership, Planet, People***



The Third Pillar: The Operational Framework

- *Functional Cooperation* formalized and defined in Manila Declaration (1987): Promote increased awareness, wider participation, and development of human resources
- *Enhanced functional cooperation* signified in Singapore Declaration (1992): Encompassed regional identity, environmental protection, women participation, recognition of the role of non-governmental organisations, problems of drug abuse and drug trafficking, and the spread of HIV/AIDS
- *ASEAN Vision 2020* (Kuala Lumpur, 1997): Introduced notion of a society of caring communities
- *Vientiane Action Programme* (Vientiane, 2004) rebrands and expands definition of functional cooperation to be spearheaded by the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community
- *ASEAN Community-Building Road Map* (2009–2015) supported by three Community Blueprints and buttressed by Cebu Declaration (2007) and the Cha-Am Declaration (2009). Coterminous with MDGs
- *Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nation (Bali Concord III, 2011)*: A quantum leap beyond neo-functionalism opening up a unique role in community building, and recognition of the intrinsic value of the regional mechanism

The Critical Importance of the Socio-Cultural Community for the Future of ASEAN

Abhisit Vejjajiva

- Attention and focus on economic goals, building on ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA), dominance of economic concerns, desire to remain competitive and relevant with the giant economies of China and India
- Expectations are misplaced the ASEAN Economic pillar alone would provide the main driving force towards 'a true and single community in the region'.
- Aspiring to a greater notion of social integration will help transform domestic political agenda and that building on the achievement of the ASCC should be a key force

From “Sports-Shirt” Diplomacy to a Model Rules-based Organization

Fidel V. Ramos

- ASEAN needs further ‘internal reforms and deeper national integration’
- ASCC is at once the easiest and the most difficult for the ASEAN Leaders to organise, transcend elite arrangements, and engage the interests of ordinary ASEAN people
- ASEAN peoples must see ASEAN as a pervading, beneficial influence on their daily lives and regard the ASEAN vision as their own where economic growth helps ‘reduce the poverty of their families and of their communities and brings better public health, housing, basic education services and jobs as well as higher incomes for everyone
- Building “Community” must focus on encouraging, assisting, and, if need be, pressuring the ASEAN members to promote good governance, strengthen the rule of law, build an inclusive economy, and defend human rights and representative democracy.’

ASEAN Community Vision 2025: Challenges and Responses

- Multi-dimensional concerns and cross-sectoral issues that involve complex relationships to manage and comprehend
- Overlapping, contrasting, and intersecting national and regional interests. Issues such as climate change, food security, energy security, and disaster management are multidimensional and multisectoral
- Traditional, non-traditional entities and emerging claimholders and stakeholders
- A notable shift in the ASCC narrative and position in community building, which appears to adopt a Whole-of-Community, Whole-of-Society approach.

ASEAN Community Vision 2025



Political-Security

Rules-Based, People-Oriented, People-Centred Community

Political-Security

Peaceful, Secure and Stable Region

Political-Security

ASEAN Centrality in a Dynamic and Outward-Looking Region

Political-Security

Strengthened ASEAN Institutional Capacity and Presence

Economic

A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy

Economic

A Competitive, Innovative and Dynamic ASEAN

Economic

Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation

Economic

A Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented and People-Centred ASEAN

Economic

A Global ASEAN

Socio-Cultural

Engages and Benefits the People

Socio-Cultural

Inclusive

Socio-Cultural

Sustainable

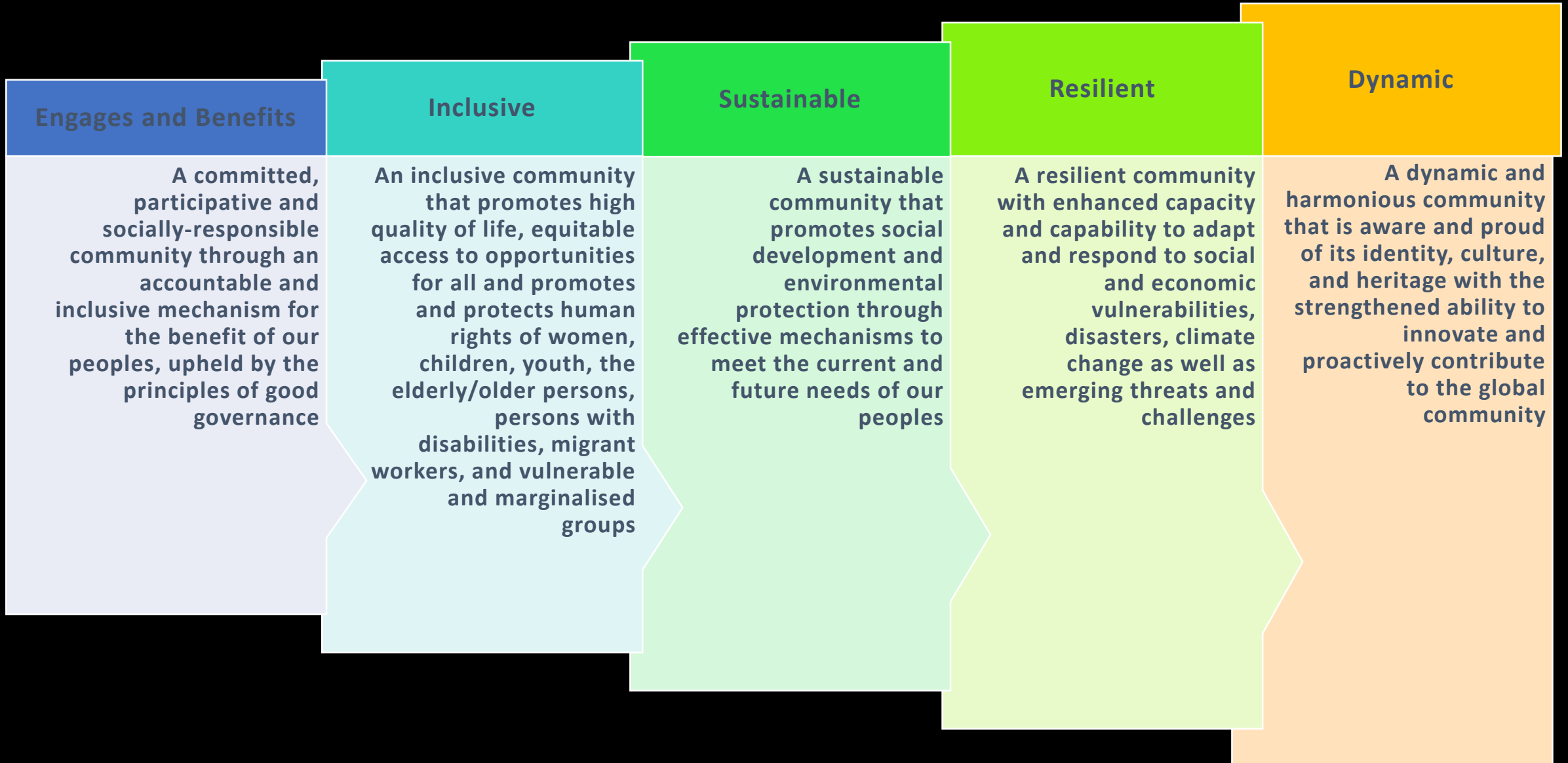
Socio-Cultural

Resilient

Socio-Cultural

Dynamic

ASCC Blueprint 2025



Themes and Key Challenges for Next 10 Years

- Social media and networking in social integration
- Responsive ASCC institutions
- Capacity development of non-state actors
- Innovative education, health and agriculture services
- Sustainable and resilient future for ASEAN
- Demographics of social protection and its impact on integration
- ASEAN Identity in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025
- Coordination of cross-cutting and cross-sectoral issues

A Menu of High Expectations: In Pursuit of a Perfect ASCC

Architectural & Systemic Fundamentals:

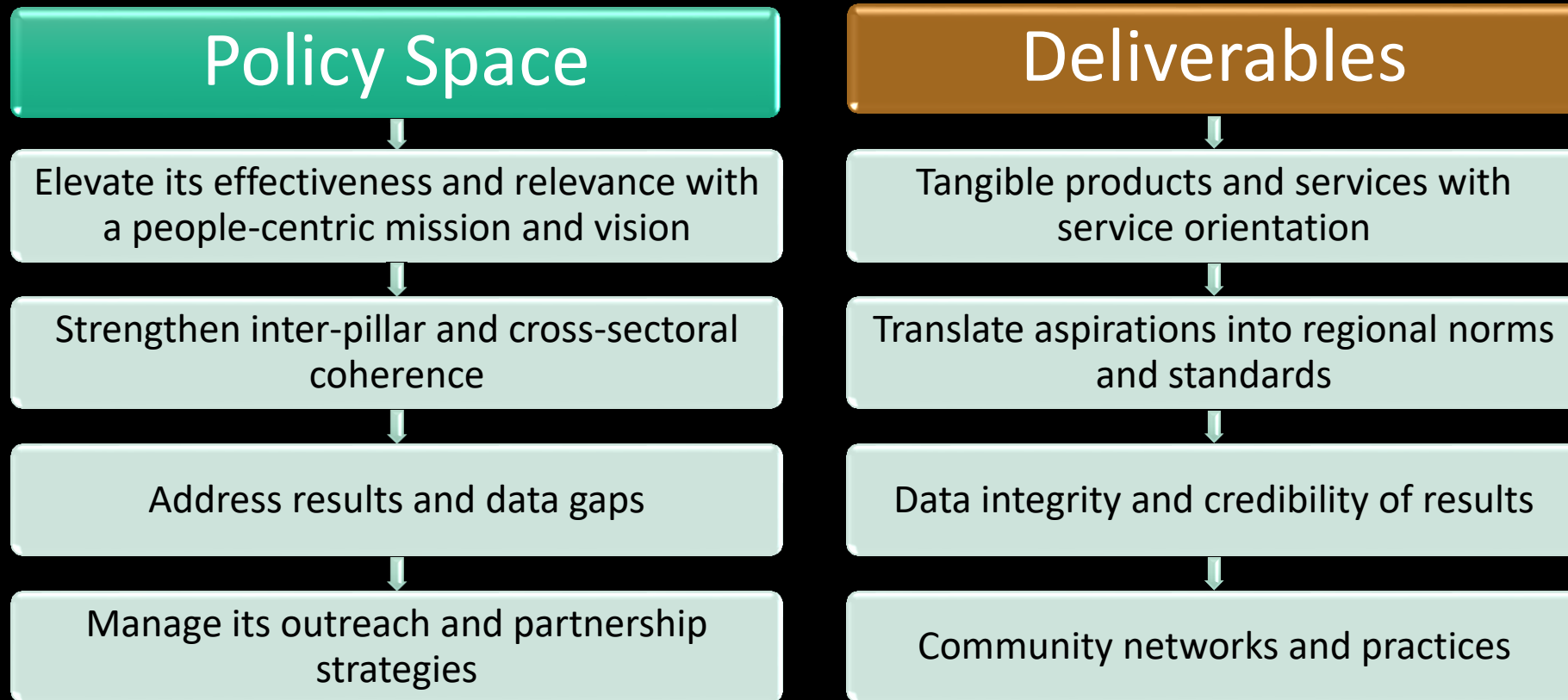
- Cross-cutting Issues
- Governance through Inclusive Partnerships
- Reaching out to the Global Community: SDGs and 'Leaving No One Behind' Pathways
- Active role of ASCC Community Council and clarity of ASEAN Secretariat's support services
- Address the Policy Coherence–Results Gap

Conclusion

(1/2)

How can the ASCC play a part in nation-building?

A people-focused ASEAN Community Vision 2025 provides ASCC with a platform through which to shape policy space and determine deliverables.



STAY TUNED!

Conclusion

(2/2)

How can socio-cultural cooperation support ASEAN Centrality and in ASEAN's contribution to the global community of nations?

ASCC will require a new wave of socio-culturalization to channel regional norms and practices



A POST-GLOBALIZATION SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY IS STILL UNDER DEVELOPMENT!



Thank You



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