

**REGIONAL COMMUNITY THROUGH ASEAN INTEGRATION:
THE BORDERLESS CONNECTION**

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With the advent of global interdependence and the advancement of technology, education becomes sufficiently inconclusive.

The need to globalize trade and services, market and even education is one of the backbones of establishing ASEAN integration. Nations of the world cannot escape the interconnectedness of a single internal and external market through concrete standardized laws and protocols but rely on nations' availability of resources and existing economic policies.

The country has been a supplier of the workforce (highly-skilled professionals and blue-collar manpower) in the neighboring Asian countries and even in the world. The professionalism, technical skills, and proficiency of Filipino workers are undeniable. It coincides with the ASEAN's goal of making member countries accessible to the regional and global markets.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

ASEAN Integration also gives member nations to do more trade for goods and services. Tax on imported goods is lowered or even eliminated. If fully implemented, talking about ASEAN Economic Community could mean lower taxes and tariffs for imported goods, and in turn, could lead to a lower cost of living and greater purchasing power for the Philippines.

Also, Filipinos would have more access to better jobs if they are better equipped for these emerging roles. Thankfully, even the country's education would be enhanced because of ASEAN integration. For instance, last August 2017, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs announced at the ASEAN regional forum in Manila that they would be offering a \$10 Million Scholarship Program to support post-secondary students and mid-career professionals from Southeast Asia. The National University in Singapore offers scholarships for ASEAN countries for graduate coursework. These are only a few examples of quality international support for Filipino students.

On the other side of the page, the country has to take a closer analysis of the security concern of the member nations with regard to territorial disputes, particularly to the economic giant that is China. The mentioned country being the second-largest economy in the world and ASEAN the fifth, though maintaining substantial and beneficial relationships, some countries of Asia have existing conflicting territorial interests with China which brought security and economic concerns.

The Philippines, maintaining the status of a newly-industrialized country should cultivate a mutual and supporting relationship with Asian countries. The effects of massive Asian economic growth and development have direct implications on the country's own growth and development. In education, economy, social and political arenas, commerce and trade, change and adaptation are present.

A country's prolonged period of economic growth with a high unemployment rate and constant educational issues, if not addressed, would mean economic and educational suicides.

Change is now and a sense of urgency is needed.

Reference:

ASEAN Integration News and Updates from www.rappler.com