ETHNIC MINORITIES
A potential source for economic development

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Introduction

“One day, I will be working, contributing to societies and economies of the world as any other global citizen.”
Finding 1: ASEAN Ethnic Minorities are populous and diverse

Estimated minority population in ASEAN (by 2011): > 150M people

Average % minority per ASEAN country (by 2011): 19.63%

Total number of ASEAN minority groups (by 2015): > 1,000 groups

Source: UN Data, CIA (US)

Figure 1. Global Diversity in Ethnicity 2002

Source: Harvard Institute of Economic Research

Figure 2. Global Trends in Discrimination Against Minorities 1950 - 2005

Source: Center for International Development & Conflict Management
Finding 2: Minority Labor Forces Are Still Under-utilized
(Case Study in Malaysia)

Figure 5. Comparison of Minority and Non-Minority Labor Force in Malaysia 2007-2017

Significant increase in non-minority labor force (23.6% CAGR)  >>  Minority labor force stagnated (-0.19% CAGR)

Lack of labor incentive, inequality in employment prospects

Figure 6. Comparison of Minority and Non-Minority Unemployment Rates in Malaysia 2007-2017

Non-minority unemployment rate (low and stable)  >>  Minority unemployment rate (highly volatile)

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia
Education for minorities are still not up to national standards

Finding 2: Inadequate Education to Upskill Minorities
(Case Study in Vietnam)

Number of Vietnamese Students in Minority Areas 2017

2,598,778

Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam

Figure 7. Proportions of Students and Teachers in Minority Areas in Vietnam 2017

Total number of minorities currently studying and willing to study is remarkably high

16.30%  =>  10.00%

Students are in minority areas

Teachers are in minority areas

→ Teaching quality compromised due to high student-teacher ratio

Education for minorities are still not up to national standards
Finding 2: Inadequate Education to Upskill Minorities
(Case Study in Vietnam)

Remote communities (including minorities) can display great economic improvement given appropriate support.

- 2007: 7 sites totaling 14,049 ha
- 2017: 39 zones totaling 54.939 ha land
- SEZs succeeded in:
  - Attracting investment into local areas
  - Creating 68,000 jobs for locals

![Figure 8. Number and Size (ha) of Special Economic Zones in Cambodia 1998-2018](source: Open Development Cambodia)

### 2009-2014 (MOST PROSPEROUS PERIOD OF SEZs)

- National household spending: +36.63%
- Rural/remote areas' household spending: +44.02%
- Phnom Penh's household spending: +3.20%

Source: Open Development Cambodia
Recommendation: Possibilities Of Education

- **QUICK ADAPTATION**
  - Diversity policies & promotion

- **LINGUISTIC ABILITY**
  - Improve infrastructure, marketing

- **WORKFORCE UPSKILL**
  - Stimulate local industries

**EDUCATION**
(provided by ASEAN & Governments)

- **REDUCED ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION**
- **LOCAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**
- **BETTER EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS**
Recommendation: Facilitating Education with Technology

INTERNET – ENABLED EDUCATION FOR MINORITIES

- Large school buildings
- Traditional white board lectures
- Necessity of high-quality local teachers
- Long-distance travel in remote regions
- Lack of interaction with other communities
- Excessive funding & aid needed

- Access to Global Knowledge
- Sustainable Online Teaching
- Easier Data Collection
- Connecting Peoples
ASEAN Ethnic Minority Empowerment Initiative 2030:
“Towards an inclusive and powerful ASEAN economy”

**Phase 1 (Preparation)**
- Seek cooperation from Deps. of Education & Economic Development
- Attract funding from other organizations
- Cooperate with local Peoples’ Committees

**Phase 2 (Education)**
- Improve Internet Access in minority areas
- Create Computer Access Points
- Design online courses & outsource teachers
- Subsidize minorities’ school costs
- Host online job preparation workshops
- Improve local transportation, infrastructure

**Phase 3 (Infrastructure & Support)**
- Boost local cultural tourism with marketing support
- Create incentives for local businesses to expand
- Create Special Economic Zones for employment

- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025
- 2026
- 2027
- 2028
- 2029
- 2030
References


Warr, P & Menon, J 2015, Cambodia’s Special Economic Zones, Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines
Appendices

WHO ARE ETHNIC MINORITIES?

1. Numerically inferior (assumed to be <5% population)
2. Non-dominant economically, socially or culturally
3. Common and unique culture, language, religion or race
4. Sense of solidarity towards preserving these aspects.

Source: UN (2010)

THE VISION

To create a sustainable roadmap for the empowerment of ethnic minorities in ASEAN, in conjunction with:

- UN Sustainable Development Goals: No.4, No. 8
- ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025
- ASEAN Sociocultural Community Blueprint 2025

By 2030, ethnic minorities in ASEAN will be on par with the majority economically, with equal opportunity and participation.

Source: CIA (US)
Appendices

ASEAN & Governments

Education

Quick adaptation

Linguistic Ability

Workforce Upskill

Promote Minority Presence

Improve infrastructure, marketing

Stimulate local industry

Governmental & Private Support

Reduced Ethnic Discrimination

Local Tourism Development

Employment Prospects

Relevant initiatives in the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint (AECB) and Sociocultural Blueprint (ASCC) 2025:

Section B.2 - ASCC: Promote equitable access to education and enhance human capital

Section E.1 - ASCC: Encourage adaptiveness and people-to-people interaction

Section C.1 - AECB: Incorporate in MPAC, cooperation to improve transport

Section D.2 - AECB: Strengthen the role of private sectors (in helping address ethnic issues)

Section B.1 - ASCC: Reduce barriers and eliminate all forms of discrimination

Section C.6 - AECB: Create sustainable and inclusive tourism development

Section D.4 - AECB: Narrow the development gap not only between countries, but between peoples