

Book Reviews

Thompson, E., Thianthai, C., & Thuzar, M. (2016). *Do Young People Know ASEAN?* Singapore: ISEAS –Yusof Ishak Institute.

As ASEAN countries are tying up towards closer relationships along the road map of the integration plan, many questions arise about the awareness and comprehension of what is about to happen among its citizens. And as part of the efforts to answer to these questions, a survey of 4,623 undergraduate students from 22 universities in the 10 ASEAN member states was initiated. The survey was completed in 2014 and was a follow-up to one completed in 2007. The project was supported by the ASEAN Foundation and the ASEAN Studies Centre of the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute. This book reports at length the results and analyses of the survey.

For ASEAN Study scholars and those who have kept a close look to the development of the region, this book is a spotlight shining on the mind of its young generation—the group of people who in every way will be affected by what happens to this region. The questions of the survey were subsumed into five topics: (1) attitudes towards ASEAN; (2) knowledge about the region and the Association; (3) orientation towards the region; (4) sources of information; and (5) aspirations for integration and action. The results intriguingly reflect the young ASEANers thoughts about the region where they reside: how much do they know about what is coming? how do they see it coming? how do they like it? what do they think about their neighbors? and many more. The multi-dimensional nature of the respondents' demographic background— such as nationality, religion, maritime-mainland, developmental stage, etc., render many angles for analysis and portray many pictures, both present and future, of young people in each country and the whole region.

For young citizens of ASEAN, the region is seen to associate with regionalism, cooperation among the members, and development. Surprisingly, economic cooperation (which was the main theme of promotional activities) was not very much implicated by the respondents. Laos remains the least known country, with not much to talk about; Singapore is a dream work destination; Thailand a dream travel destination and known for transgender culture; Myanmar represents politics and Aung San Suu Kyi; Cambodia: poverty and Angkor Wat; Brunei: oil and the sultanate; Indonesia: islands, being a large country and Bali; Malaysia: 'Truly Asia'; the Philippines: natural disasters and islands; and Vietnam: war, politics, and economic growth.

Along the eight chapters, this book provokes many thoughts as well as poses many questions. If generational differences showed a significant effect on the Brexit results, this book matters in every aspect of ASEAN's future.

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