HIA
: an essential social mechanism for health and well-being of ASEAN

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The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) established in 1967 with a Declaration aiming at cooperation in the economic, social, cultural, technical, educational and others. States in ASEAN are facing challenges in ensuring sustainable development in the dynamic context of regional integration and economic growth. This poster proposes ways to establish a common health impact assessment (HIA) in ASEAN as an essential social mechanism for health and well-being of its citizens.

Method:
A documentary review and group discussions among key ASEAN members were undertaken to envision the essential of HIA in ASEAN. (Figure 1)

Figure 1
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Table 1
Institutional Arrangements of HIA in ASEAN Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Law or Regulation</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Management Law</td>
<td>1998*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Environmental Management Act No. 4</td>
<td>1982*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>Lao LDR Constitution</td>
<td>1991*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Environmental Quality Act</td>
<td>1994*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Environmental Policy Presidential Decree No 1151</td>
<td>1994*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Environmental (Public Health) Act</td>
<td>1992*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Enhancement and Conservation of the National Environmental</td>
<td>2007**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Law</td>
<td>1994*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: 1. Brunel Darussalam does not have specific laws requiring mandatory environmental impact assessments (EMAs) for projects. However, environmental considerations are currently incorporated into developmental decision-making through land use planning and zoning requirements. The Government also adopts the World Bank Guidelines on EMAs. 2. Myanmar: The drafting of EIA Law is in process.

Box 1 ASCC Blueprint sub-section B.4 Action V

Box 1. Access to Healthcare and Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles, Action 2: Enhance awareness on the impact of regional/global trade policies and economic integration on health and development. Possible strategies to mitigate their negative impacts through regional workshops and seminars, advocacy, sharing of studies and technical documents. *Source: Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2008-2015, ASEAN Secretariat, April 2008: P79*

Discussions:
In order to achieve the purposes of sustainable development and the well-being of ASEAN peoples, as set out in Article 1 of the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN needs to identify HIA as an appropriate and effective mechanism to enhance awareness of the impact of public policy and economic integration on health. HIA will also help develop strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of development as mentioned in ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint sub-section B.4 Action V (Box 1)

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5 http://www.who.int/healthinfo/healthwatch/ accessed date 15/09/2010
6 http://www.who.int/healthinfo/healthwatch/ accessed date 15/09/2010
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8 http://www.who.int/healthinfo/healthwatch/ accessed date 15/09/2010