

European Union Priorities and Implications for ASEAN

- Inter-EU migration:
 - Irregular immigrants have become a serious concern, particularly to the South Europe members.
- The flux of migrants towards the EU increased during the last years:
 - Because the developed countries did not apply policies, which could bring development locally in the developing countries and thus the need for migration from those countries could be diminished.

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- Recent technical and policy recommendations include, for example,
 - » Standardization of machine-readable travel documents,
 - » Cooperation between governments in arranging return movements and annual follow-up of implementation.

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Source: Patcharawalai Wongboonsin and Joannis Kinnas, 2004

■ Aging:

- The EU approval to aging aims at mobilizing the full potential of people of all ages, along win-win strategies and no exclusion.
 - » Such strategies include life long learning, working longer, retiring later than was, the practice and following health sustaining activities.
 - » With this in mind the policy responses in Europe are envisaging the question of financial viability of health care systems.

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Source: Patcharawalai Wongboonsin and Joannis Kinnas, 2004

- Full employment:
 - The EU considers it necessary to achieve activity rates for all groups in the working age population, which are as high as possible. The activity patterns of the (increasing in size) older generations and migrants have to be taken into account.
 - The employment scenarios 1997-2005 of the EU present standard employment for all ages and both genders between 1997 and 2005 presented a slight increase (59.2 to 63.2) while the female employment as % of the total remained stagnant (42%).
 - » It is remarkable that the unused labor capacity (full and part time) is most acute in the female category between 30-49 age.

European Union Priorities and Implications for ASEAN

- Regional issues are more or less similar.
- The implications for ASEAN to learn out of the EU experiences are complex.
- Part of the reasons is that there are substantial institutional differences between EU and ASEAN
- ASEAN and the EU might be different in the emphasis of the issues and their priority.
- For the EU, the current priorities are unemployment and irregular migration from outside the region.
- For ASEAN, to maximize demographic dividend via minimal gap in productivity of human resources is supposed to be a major regional concern in the years to come.

Source: Patcharawalai Wongboonsin and Joannis Kinnas, 2004

Demographic Dividend in ASEAN

- The recent trend towards improvement in ASEAN human development has resulted from the efforts at both the individual country and regional cooperation levels.
 - The latter has, to a certain extent, facilitated and complemented the former.
- Despite regional attempts, the sustainability of ASEAN cooperation in social and human development has remained questionable.

Three aspects of ASEAN regionalism: explicable to the problem.

- *Firstly*, ASEAN has continued to rely on financial and technical cooperation from its Dialogue Partners, UN specialized agencies, the World Bank and other institutions.
 - Lately, collaboration with the East Asian partners has been added in the process.
 - » It has currently covered the field of labor and will soon be extended to health, social welfare and development, and rural development and poverty eradication
 - » Such a practice is maintained despite the fact that most ASEAN cooperation programs is based on cost sharing, which is increasingly used as a modality for funding priority regional activities.

Three aspects of ASEAN regionalism: explicable to the problem

- *Secondly*, despite a great deal of bilateral cooperation between old and new ASEAN member countries, the support has been mainly of an ad-hoc nature and on a short-term basis.
 - Short-term training, observation and study tours, and short-term technical assistance
- *Thirdly*, ASEAN has not yet reached a unified sphere of regionalism. It represents a conglomerate of competing nations cooperating only in a sporadic manner in selected matters of common interests.

Characteristics of ASEAN

- Still a complex and fragmented community of utility-maximizing Southeast Asian nations at different levels of economic development with varied socio-political background and national interests.
- 1) The rigid political culture with sovereignty always enshrined;
- 2) Increased exposure of the local economy to opportunities and threats of the new economy and global change;
- 3) Inadequate institutional mechanisms and legislative as well as regulatory frameworks to guarantee the sustainability of national resilience; and
- 4) Policy and implementation shortcomings to render a balance between national and regional interests.

The Closing of Singapore's Demographic Window of Opportunity

- The closing of Singapore's demographic window of opportunity
- Singapore's population is aging rapidly.
- In early 2000s: 7% (235,000) of the population is aged 65 and above.
- By 2030: increase to 19% (796,000).
- Old age dependency ratio will increase from 1:10 to 3:10.
- Appropriate policies must be put in place before the demographic window closes.

Source: Chan, 2003