

## Essay June 20, 2019

ASEAN had been an institution, long established, to serve as an economic tool that drove its developing country members to prosperity. Its comparative low cost of labour, ASEAN had attracted numerous foreign direct investments (FDI) over the course of its establishment.

These investments constitute an economic betterment for the whole region. Our Asian's partner, Japan had been involved with ASEANS since the very early state of the formation; Major companies from motors and machineries focused company, Toyota, to services focused companies, Anderson Mori & Tomotsune, these companies enjoyed the benefits of rich resources and seamless connectivity with other neighbouring CLMV countries. Although, agricultural and manufacturing sectors had been a primary products manufactured and traded globally, the ASEANS' trends have been gradually leaning towards more services industries and less on that of agricultural and manufacturing. Like most of the developed countries, the economy is driven primarily by the services sectors, ASEANS members can see their citizens embrace the economic prosperity from urbanisation that is the product of its trading coalition. Unsurprisingly.

Two problems arose and captured the global attention, that is its changing demographics and competency of its labours. Many of these ASEANS' countries are facing an ageing population and the productivity of its labours. Firstly, with the grey populations, the ASEANS community workforce is shrinking drastically. For countries that have manufacturing and agricultural as its backbone, this demographic changes could result in a lowering aggregate output—GDP as you know it. In which could worsen the expanding economy. Secondly, it is undeniable that the

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ASEANS' workforce is lacking education needed to flourish as productive workers. It has tragically paved an undesirable road towards low-income labourers that can only be anticipated with low-skilled-jobs like farmers, industrial workers, and clerks—etc. Despite the abundance of labourforce, to gradually grow ASEANS community to a key player in the global stage, improvement is inevitable— both infrastructure and education.

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## Essay on June 21, 2019

Cambodia, a country rich with relatively young-demographic, has plenty to offer to the global economy table. Although, being one of the top textiles exporters, Cambodia resources has shaken the world by storm, they have a long road of bettering their economy. Enriched with deliberately young workforce, opportunity to thrive is lied in front of them. Its neighbouring country, Thailand, is undergoing a transformational phrase where its working population slowly shrinking which can triggered an economic slow-down. With this, these young demographic needed much skills to thrive— individually as well as on aggregate.

Their endeavours to enhance their education will have dramatic effects on generations to come. To illustrate, the government granted a re-establishment of technology school to improve their youth's education. It shows exactly what Cambodian as a country needed. By applying technological equipments to their thriving sectors like agriculture and textile can accelerate their growing GDP exponentially. In addition, the young population will posted as a massive plus sign to their economy equation. Skilled labour and plentiful workers are two deadliest duos to rocket their economy towards greatness.

Despite a near double-digit GDP growth in recent years, it is undeniable that their political system posted a traumatic effect on their economy. Sanctioned by European Union, Cambodian cannot ignoring the obvious “calling”. In the late 1960s to the early 1990s, the incident, Khmer Rouge, swept out 25 percent of its total population; In which, stunted economic growth and their educated labours. This purely caused by political conflict— communism to be

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specific. Cambodia operated under one-party authoritarian dictatorship since 1975 onwards. Personally, for a developing country with the history of genocide, perhaps the country could be better off with democratic system. Much more capital will be allocated and supported those in need. Education, Infrastructure and transportation that is efficient to slowly enter prosperous state of economy— relying less on industrial and agricultural products and more on services. Exportation necessarily needed to be enhanced. As stated during the lecture, a country undergoes a GDP deficit— particularly a five billion U.S dollars deficit.

The CLMV agreements and its involvement in ASEANS institute have consistently improve Cambodia's portfolio more than ever. Its borders connection, logistics wise, allowed Cambodia to strive in spite of difficult time.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly believe that Cambodia has big shoes to fill. Their potential as aforementioned stated can boosted Cambodian citizens to enjoy a more important role as one of crucial ASEANS members— economy wise. Their direction is slowly shaping up to the right way. Reformation politically as well as infrastructure wise is inevitable to manufacture a great nation.

References:

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- Demographics ( half the country is under 25)

- Education (Kampong Speu Institute of Tech)
- Strengthening exchange rate