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

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

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

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

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

Lack of labor incentive, inequality in employment prospects
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

- Students: 16.30% Minority, 83.70% Remaining Total
- Teachers: 10.00% Minority, 90.00% Remaining Total

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

Source: Open Development Cambodia

![Graph showing number and size of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Cambodia from 1998 to 2018.](image)

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%
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

Access to Global Knowledge

Sustainable Online Teaching

Easier Data Collection

Connecting Peoples

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
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
- Host online job preparation workshops
- Improve local transportation, infrastructure

Phase 3 (Infrastructure & Support)
- Subsidize minorities' school costs
- Create Computer Access Points
- Create Special Economic Zones for employment
- Boost local cultural tourism with marketing support
- Create incentives for local businesses to expand

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
  - Promote Minority Presence
- Linguistic Ability
  - Improve infrastructure, marketing
- Workforce Upskill
  - 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