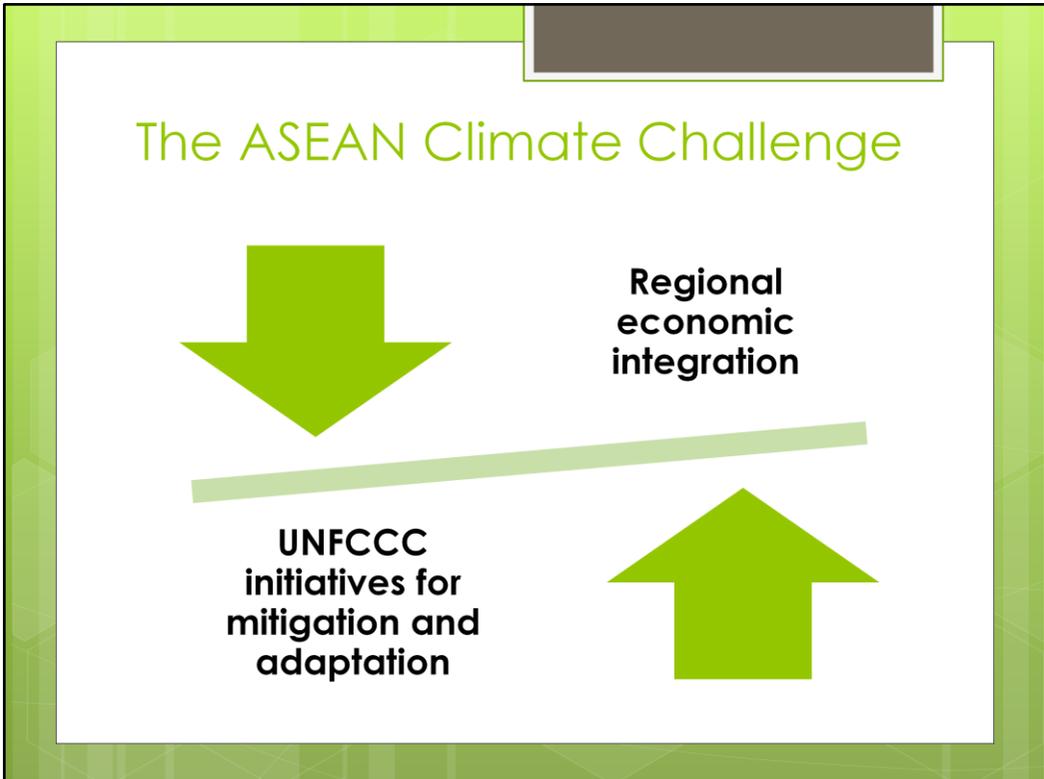


THE 2015 CLIMATE CHALLENGE

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By 2015, ASEAN strives to attain two important goals: one is the creation of a fully integrated regional market, and the other is for ASEAN and other parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to agree on a new climate deal.

There lies a challenge for ASEAN to balance economic interests with the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts. This is apparently a difficult task for the region, because how ASEAN states use their natural and human resources to speed up economic development in the region would affect the initiatives of the UNFCCC for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Essentially, these two goals, no matter how different they may seem, actually influence one another.

What's the BIG DEAL?

- On emission reduction

DOHA Outcome	Recommended by science, technical subsidiary body or previous COP decision	GAP
Kyoto Protocol extended to 8 years with emissions cut commitments of developed countries under KP aggregating to 18% below 1990 levels	Collective emissions cut by developed countries that range from 25-40%	Short even of the bottom of the range recommended by science

Upon economic integration in ASEAN, energy supply systems as well as deforestation activity threaten to expand, thereby increasing ASEAN's share of global carbon dioxide emissions. If this scenario continues, global temperatures will continue rising, leading to extreme weather and other climate-change-related events.

But "what's the big deal?" This seems to be the overall atmosphere in the climate change negotiations in Doha, Qatar.

In terms of emission reduction, the Kyoto Protocol was extended to 8 years. This will hopefully cut emissions to a total of 18 percent below the levels recorded in 1990. This is a far cry from the 25-40 percent cut recommended by experts and scientists working on climate change.

What's the BIG DEAL?

- On climate finance

DOHA Outcome	Recommended by science, technical subsidiary body or previous COP decision	GAP
No agreement to scale up or add new funding for vulnerable countries towards the previously agreed target of \$100 billion	Various estimates place the incrementing financing needs for climate mitigation and action in developing countries at more than US\$ 100 billion from public finance alone.	Oxfam estimates that US\$ 150 billion per year is needed in public finance alone from 2013, rising to at least US\$ 200 billion per year by 2020 (Half of it for adaptation and half for mitigation)

An even more appalling outcome is that no new funds to assist poor countries were agreed upon in the Doha climate change negotiations. The negotiations ended up retaining the previously agreed target of 100 billion US dollars for climate funding. Technical experts and research agencies such as Oxfam have found out that developing countries need more than this amount from public finance to be able to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts.

What's the BIG DEAL?

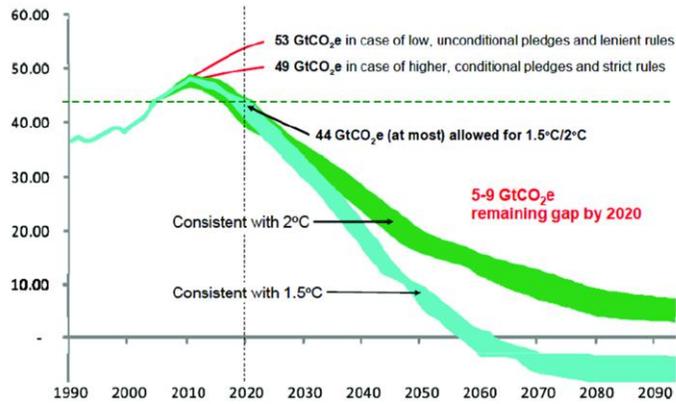
- On compensation for loss and damage due to extreme weather events

DOHA Outcome	Recommended by science, technical subsidiary body or previous COP decision	GAP
A new mechanism was created to compensate countries worst hit by climate change for loss and damage	In Qatar, countries agreed to implement a work program on loss and damage that opens the possibility of an international mechanism on the same.	Developing countries are calling for the creation of an international mechanism on loss and damage that will address relevant issues and concerns on reconstruction, rehabilitation and compensation

Meanwhile, the Doha negotiations were able to agree on a new mechanism to compensate countries worst hit by climate change. This hopefully would heed the call of developing countries for an international mechanism to address concerns on reconstruction, rehabilitation and compensation for countries worst hit by climate change-related events.

How big is the GAP?

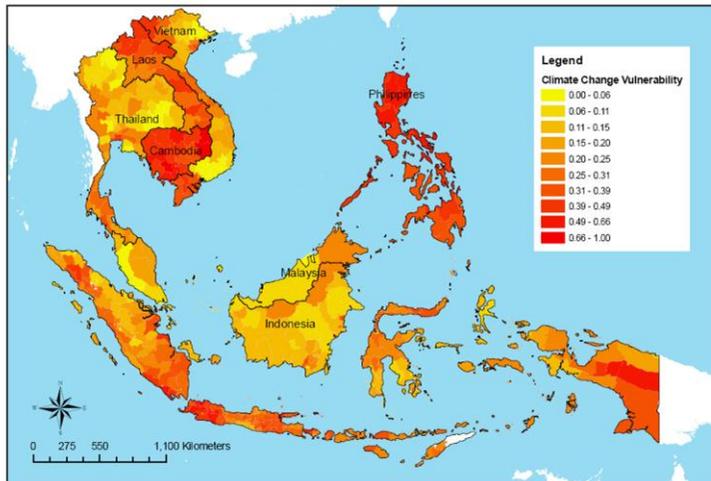
- Global emissions, in GtCO₂e



Source: Adapted from The Emissions Gap report, UNEP, 2010

How big is the gap? The Emissions Gap report of 2010 predicted that the change in the nature of climate change policies and negotiations spells a lot of difference in reducing global emissions. With consistent pledges and regulations to reduce emissions and bring down global temperatures, we are able to bridge the remaining gaps by 2020.

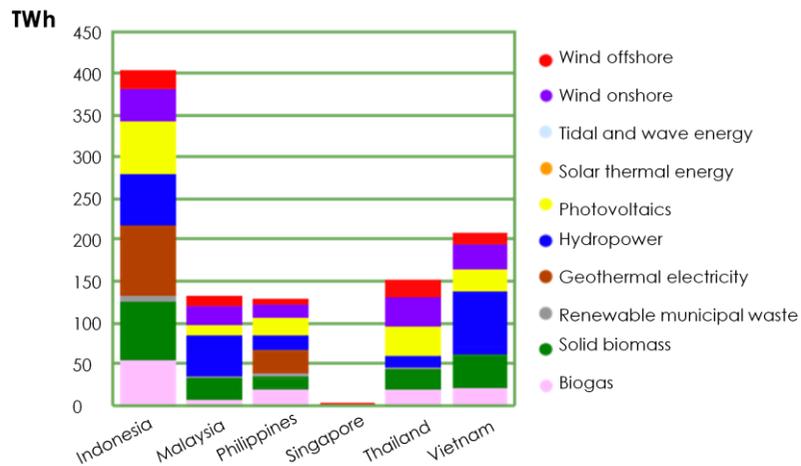
Southeast Asia is vulnerable to climate change...



Source: IDRC and EEPSEA

We all live in a region that is extremely vulnerable to climate change. In this climate change vulnerability map, we see that the Philippines, the Mekong Region, Bangkok, and parts of Sumatra and Java in Indonesia are the most vulnerable to climate change impacts. This endangers the lives and livelihood of most Southeast Asians, especially those who have limited capacity to adapt to climate change. But while we are inevitably at risk...

...but we have great potential to address the climate crisis.



Source: International Energy Agency (2010)

Southeast Asia is a region with abundant natural forests, and sources of renewable energy such as what you see in this graph. We are a diverse community of people belonging to different cultures and having different forms of creativity, adaptive skills and wisdom. Collectively, we are able to harness our strengths and resources to be able to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

We must therefore work together towards following a low-carbon development path, building a climate-resilient community, and strengthening regional cooperation against the climate crisis.

What ASEAN should do

- Ensure that economic community building is low-carbon and sustainable
 - Policy support for renewable energy
 - Policy reform to de-subsidize coal and oil



In sum, this is what ASEAN can do to ensure a low-carbon and resilient economic community.

ASEAN leaders must ensure that its economic community building is low carbon and sustainable by considering on one hand policy support for renewable energy and on the other hand policy reform to desubsidize coal and oil.

What ASEAN should do

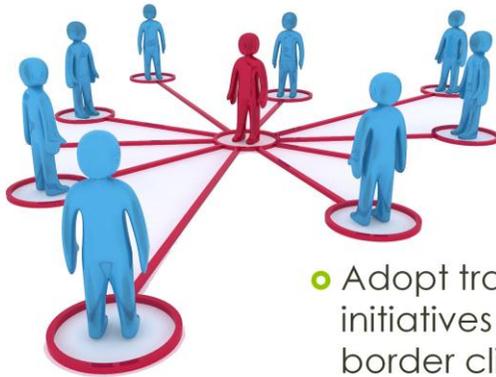
- Fast-track initiatives to build climate resilience

- Working with community groups and CSOs
- Budgetary support for community-driven climate adaptation programs



ASEAN leaders must fast track initiatives to build climate resilience among Member States by encouraging its members to allocate sufficient budgetary resources to support appropriate and community driven climate adaptation initiatives. ASEAN must also work with community groups and civil society organizations in building and sharing knowledge and learning on best climate adaptation practices.

What ASEAN should do



- Adopt trans-boundary initiatives to address cross-border climate change issues
 - Develop a tool for trans-boundary EIA system in the region

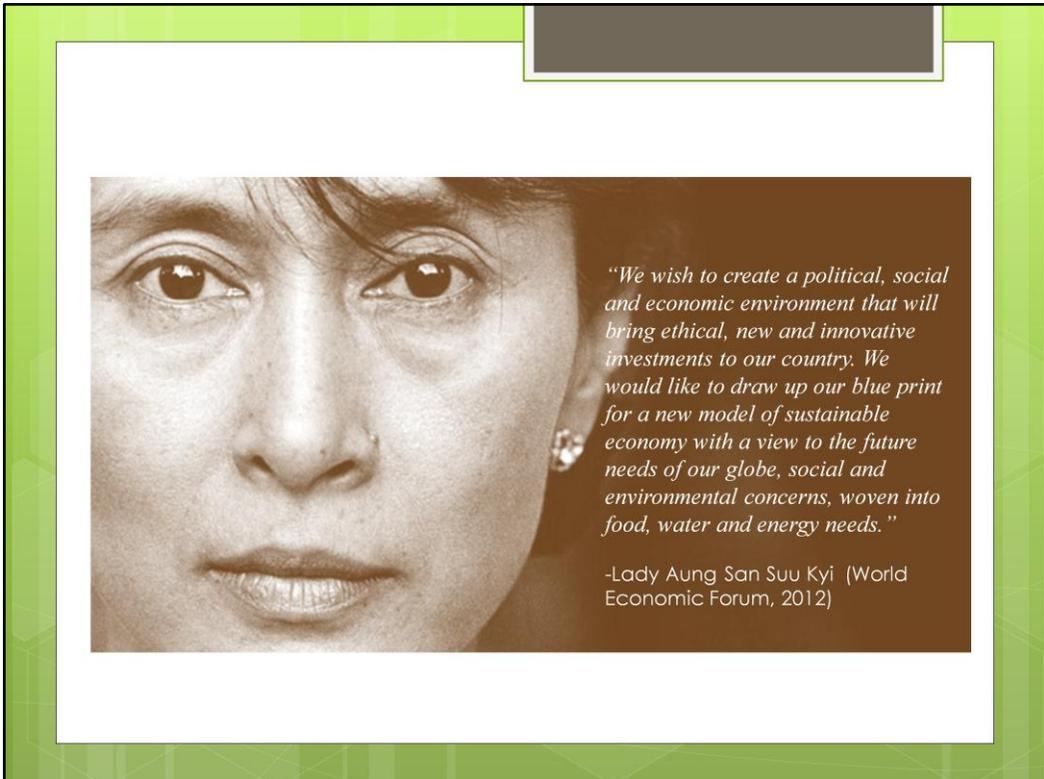
ASEAN leaders must undertake initiatives to adopt trans-boundary initiative aimed at addressing crossborder climate change issues. One of these could be the development of a tool for a trans-boundary environmental impact assessment system in the region.

What ASEAN should do



- ASEAN must collectively push for a **fair, ambitious, and legally binding global climate deal**—and nothing less than this.

And lastly, in the UNFCCC, ASEAN countries must contribute their collective voice in pushing for a fair, ambitious, and legally binding global climate deal---and nothing less than this.



I share the same sentiments expressed by our fellow Southeast Asian, Lady Aung San Suu Kyi.

It is never too late to take the low-carbon and resilient path to economic development. If we are able to work together to build a climate-resilient community and make our collective voice against climate change known across the globe, we are ready to take on the climate challenge for 2015.