

Regional Advisory No. 27, s. 2021
March 9, 2021



REQUEST TO ACCOMPLISH THE SURVEY ON PROJECT

The Office of the Undersecretary for Planning, Human Resources and Organizational Development is requesting to accomplish the online survey on **Project: fostering Greater Understanding, Tolerance, and a Sense of Regional agenda among the Peoples of ASEAN.**

In this regard, the Office is seeking your assistance in answering the online survey and the link is accessible at <https://bit.ly/2MOGEQL>.

For more information, please see the attached communication from the Office of the Undersecretary.

PPR/clg
03/09/2021



DCC No. DepEdRO13-F-REC-008/R3/2-18-2020



Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OFFICE

Office of the Director

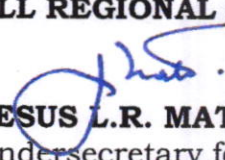
MEMORANDUM

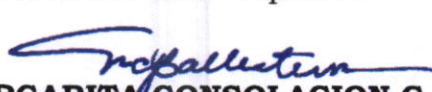
FOR : **DIOSDADO M. SAN ANTONIO**
Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction

TONISITO M. C. UMALI, Esq.
Undersecretary for Legislative Affairs

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Director IV, Planning Service

ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS

THRU :  **JESUS L.R. MATEO**
Undersecretary for Planning, Human Resources and Organizational Development

FROM :  **MARGARITA CONSOLACION C. BALLESTEROS**
Director IV

SUBJECT : **Request to Accomplish the Survey on Project: Fostering Greater Understanding, Tolerance, and a Sense of Regional Agenda among the Peoples of ASEAN**

DATE : 28 February 2021

This is with reference to the communication from the ASEAN Secretariat regarding the request to accomplish the online survey on Project: Fostering Greater Understanding, Tolerance, and a Sense of Regional Agenda among the Peoples of ASEAN.

The Regional Policy Framework will serve as an overarching document to promote greater coherence and narrative in guiding ASCC's efforts to foster greater understanding, tolerance, and a sense of regional agendas among the peoples of ASEAN. The survey aims to:

- Identify specific contributions or support that respective sectoral bodies can render to foster greater understanding, tolerance and a sense of regional agendas among the peoples of ASEAN;
- Understand the current roles of the sectoral bodies, their ongoing challenges as well as lessons learned, particularly in executing cross-

sectoral and cross-pillar initiatives, with the view to determine and enhance strategic areas for collaborations to promote efforts in fostering greater understanding.

To capture richer responses, the ASEAN Secretariat clarifies that:

- In addition to views on regional policy and project initiatives to foster greater understanding, tolerance and a regional sense of agendas, the organization also welcomes views on best practices at the national level that could potentially be elevated to regional implementation;
- Attached herewith the List of Policies and Project Initiatives to supplement the Concept Paper and to provide an explanation on the 13 policy initiatives as well as 65 project initiatives mentioned in Para 2. Please note, however, that this matrix captured an earlier stock-taking exercise of policies and initiatives relevant to FGU and was prepared during the project proposal formulation. As such, this may have not captured other newer policies/initiatives in the past one or two years.

In this regard, we would like to seek your assistance in answering the survey. The link is accessible at: <https://bit.ly/2MOGEQL>.

For further coordination on the matter, your staff may contact the International Cooperation Office through email at ico@deped.gov.ph.

Thank you very much.

ICO-A-DM-329

Attachments:

Concept Paper

Annex 3



CONCEPT PAPER

Fostering Greater Understanding, Tolerance and a Sense of Regional Agendas among the Peoples of ASEAN

Background

1. During the 32nd ASEAN Summit in Singapore in April 2018, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam broached the importance of fostering greater understanding, tolerance and a sense of regional agendas among the peoples of ASEAN in light of global and regional uncertainties. His Majesty highlighted that education and sports, greater information accessibility, and initiatives to showcase the benefits of living harmoniously are some examples to foster greater regional understanding and tolerance. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) is tasked to make recommendations to advance His Majesty's proposal. In this regard, this concept paper serves to outline possible modalities to support the initiative.
2. ASEAN has many initiatives in place to foster greater understanding, tolerance and a sense of regional agendas among the peoples of ASEAN. To date, there are 13 policy initiatives in the form of guidelines, declarations and statements, as well as 65 project initiatives that can be considered as ASCC's efforts to foster greater understanding, tolerance and a sense of regional agendas among the peoples of ASEAN. However, these policy and project initiatives could benefit from greater cross sectoral collaboration and coordination to deliver greater impact. In addition, it is also worthwhile to acknowledge the roles and supports of ASEAN strategic partners and relevant NGOs/ CSOs in the region which have implemented similar initiatives.

Strategic & Operational Components

Developing a Regional Policy Framework to Promote Greater Understanding, Tolerance & a sense of Regional Agendas

3. In view of the past and ongoing policy and project initiatives that can be considered as part of ASCC's efforts to promote greater understanding, tolerance and a sense of regional agendas among the peoples of ASEAN, it is timely to consider developing a framework to review on the achievements, and to chart the strategic and policy directions going forward. In this regard, it will be useful for ASCC to consider developing a Regional Policy Framework to outline the:

- (i) **Vision and guiding principles** – a set of value statements and principles that articulate the intent and purpose;
- (ii) **Strategic outcomes** – a set of key areas of focus from a cross-cutting, cross-sectoral perspective;
- (iii) **Strategic initiatives** – a set of actionable policy initiatives to realise the strategic outcomes.

4. The proposed Regional Policy Framework will serve as an overarching document that lends greater coherence and narrative in guiding ASCC's efforts to promote greater understanding, tolerance and to imbue a sense of regional agendas among the peoples of ASEAN.

5. To support the development of the proposed Regional Policy Framework, 4 operational components as outlined below are proposed for implementation. As such, the project will need to involve all AMS and Japan in order to come up with a joint policy agreed upon and applicable in all AMS.

Operational component 1: Engagement of Consultant to Conduct a Regional Study

At the start of the project, a regional study will be carried out by a consultant to assess existing ASEAN policy and initiatives while identifying gaps and scoping the parameters/areas that can contribute toward fostering greater understanding, tolerance and a sense of regional agendas among the peoples of ASEAN. To enrich the content of the regional study, an online survey involving the SOCA and ASCC Sectoral Bodies will be conducted as well as interviews of the staff and officers of the ASCC Department of the ASEAN Secretariat.

Operational component 2: Two Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings

Two PSC meetings will be convened to refine the areas of focus/parameters to promote greater understanding and tolerance, with a view towards producing the Regional Policy Framework at the end of the project. The PSC meetings will involve relevant key ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and the Mission of Japan to ASEAN in addition to the consultant.

Operational component 3: High-Level Cultural Forum on Promoting a Creative Community of Peace, Tolerance and Greater Understanding

The proposed Forum aims to highlight the role of culture in shaping and fostering peacebuilding process through the creative mediums of arts and other tools such as media, education, sports, among others, to amplify the preventive aspects towards fostering greater understanding.

Specifically, the High Level Cultural Forum seeks to:

- (i) promote exchanges of experiences, knowledge, and innovations among cultural experts in making use of creativity in their endeavours to promote the peace narrative;
- (ii) bring to bear the experiences of ASEAN's exchange programmes to foster peace or build sustainable broader peacebuilding activities;
- (iii) develop key recommendations on how to sustainably nurture a culture of peace through culture-related activities and policies.

Operational component 4: A Regional Workshop to produce the Regional Policy Framework

The aim of the regional workshop is to involve the relevant ASCC Sectoral Bodies, and also selected Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to provide feedback so as to finalise the Regional Policy Framework.

6. The attendance of representatives from ASEAN Member States, particularly with regards to the implementation of operational components 2 to 4, are crucial to ensure that the Framework is formulated through collective brainstorming and agreement by all AMS representatives. The attendance of policy and decision makers as well as other high-level participants in the High-Level

Cultural Forum and the Regional Workshop will ensure that the idea behind developing this Framework are agreed by all AMS, and later to be mainstreamed in policies and development agendas at the national level. The involvement of relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies with a background in culture, media, education, and others, particularly in the drafting of the Regional Policy Framework, further ascertain that the Framework has taken into account cross-cutting approaches relevant to promoting peace and greater understanding

7. The final Framework will be put forward for SOCA's deliberations and ASCC Council's endorsement in 2021. The proposed Policy Framework may be considered for the adoption by the Leaders during the ASEAN Summit in autumn 2021 as part of the Brunei Darussalam's Chairmanship deliverables.

Timeline of Project

The project is scheduled to run from July 2020 until December 2021.

Contacts

Culture and Information Division (CID) of the ASEAN Secretariat, in collaboration with the AVISIONADAY Consultant led by Dr. Sophiana Chua.

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