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Position Paper

Topic 1: The Role of Infrastructure on the Development of Southeast Asia

ASEAN countries have been lacking infrastructure development and organization and it is a current issue that is in need of improvement in order for the region to have full potential on succeeding. The term "quality of life" emerged as a central focus of public policy. The persistence of such social problems as urban and regional poverty, poor race relations, inadequate health care, and insufficient housing, as well as a growing recognition of environmental degradation, motivated social scientists to search for improved methods of assessing social trends and appropriate institutional responses. (1) In 1993, the European Commission took an in-depth look at the future challenges it faced and it concluded that there had been “an insufficient use of labour resources and an excessive use of environmental resources.” High taxes on the use of labour in the corporate sector and low or zero taxation on pollution and resource use had led to the inefficient use of both labour and environmental resources as well as to undesirable economic, social, and environmental outcomes. The recommendation was to reverse the situation in a revenue-neutral way: to shift the tax burden towards the “bads”, and away from the “goods”. Reduced taxation on employment, and increased taxation on pollution, or resource use would simultaneously stimulate employment and encourage more efficient resource use as well as cleaner production and consumption activity. (2) There’s a three step project so the East Asian Region can have access to the European Union. Firstly, to expand and modernise transport infrastructure. Secondly, we must keep a strong emphasis on research and innovation as the way forward to sustainable growth, developing alternative fuels. Thirdly, to build a single European transport area by 2050 is our main goal. When we have completed this unified area, the EU's partner countries will gain from reduced and streamlined regulation, and gain from easier and improved market access to Europe's 500 million consumers.

Topic 2: Future of Food

World population is expected to increase by 2.5 billion within the next 45-50 years.(4) Agricultural production must increase by 60% to meet the demands and provide basis for economic growth and poverty reduction. Due to global warming, agriculture needs to transform itself from a resource-intensive, greenhouse-gas, emitting paradigm to a sustainable, climate smart system. (5) In 2015, various countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. (6) Another priority that the Asian regions are tying to achieve is Climate smart Agriculture (CSA). sustainability increases productivity resilience (adaptation), reduces/removes greenhouse gases (mitigation), and enhances the achievement of national food security and development goals. These practices hold significant promise in alleviating poverty, diversifying, income sources, and achieving food security. (7) Regarding the Dutch, The Netherlands used the UN Climate Summit in New York on 23 September 2014 to launch a global alliance for greater food security through climate-smart agriculture. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and Minister for Agriculture Sharon Dijksma joined forces to launch the alliance, which is now backed by 75 countries and organisations such as the World Bank. World leaders including President Obama and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also support this initiative. (8)

Topic 3: Labour Migration & Illegal Trafficking in the Asia Pacific

The Asia Pacific region hosts one of the fastest growing labour migration flows in the world. Labour migration is both voluntary and involuntary. Some causes are Female migrants typically produce domestic work, whereas male migrants typically dominate sectors of construction work. There are many economic and social-cultural drivers behind labour migration in the region. Labor migration is the lack of domestic job opportunities and the economic advantages of migrating. (9) Policies regarding labour receiving countries face problems such as lower tax revenue and a lack of funds which limit their state’s social insurance system. For example, the Russian Federation has made it mandatory that the employer will be responsible for making pension contributions for the foreign worker. Migrants that work without a permit or license tend to be stripped of such benefits. Russian Federation will also require the policy of voluntary medical insurance in order for migrant workers to obtain a working license. However, countries like Korea, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan, have adopted “guest workers” which they’re based on a rotational system that does not allow unskilled or low-skilled foreign workers direct access to a right to permanent stay in these host locations. (10)

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