

**STUDY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VISA EXEMPTION FOR ASEAN NATIONALS AND THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASEAN COMMON VISA FOR NON-ASEAN NATIONALS****PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

As more people around the world see Southeast Asia as an attractive place to visit, invest in and live, ASEAN is working on easing visa requirements for ASEAN nationals and foreign tourists, and at the same time, designing a common visa framework to boost foreign visitors. According to the ASEAN Tourism Statistic Database, ASEAN attracted more than 79 million visitors in 2011, posting a healthy 7.4 per cent growth. Intra-ASEAN travel maintained its position as the major share of tourists, making up 43 per cent of total international arrivals. In this context, ASEAN Member States continue to accelerate the easing of visa requirements for ASEAN nationals through the full implementation of the 2006 ASEAN Framework Agreement for Visa Exemption. ASEAN Leaders adopted the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity in October which identified "Easing Visa Requirements for ASEAN Nationals as a prioritised project, which also explores the possibility of implementing progressive visa relaxation for foreign tourists visiting ASEAN by 2015.

**MAIN OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES**

This prioritised project addresses basic people-to-people connectivity issues and facilitates the mobility of people and tourists.

Output 1: Visa Exemption for intra-ASEAN travel by ASEAN Nationals

The ASEAN Member States are in the process of implementing the ASEAN Framework Agreement for Visa Exemption on a bilateral basis. The visa exemption for the ASEAN nationals holding ordinary passports is agreed upon through bilateral Memorandum of Understanding as well as based on reciprocity. These efforts would facilitate intra-ASEAN tourism. The status of visa requirements for ASEAN nationals appears in Annex 1.

The ASEAN Economic Ministers, on the other hand, have mooted the idea of exploring the development of an ASEAN Business Travel Card, which is expected to cut through the red tape of business travel, and gives ASEAN nationals who are frequent business travelers expedited immigration clearance to participating ASEAN economies.

**PROJECT STATUS**

The proposed study on ASEAN Common Visa for Non-ASEAN Nationals is expected to commence in 2012.

**TARGET COMPLETION DATE**

December 2015

**IMPLEMENTING BODIES**

Output 1:  
ASEAN Directors-General Of Immigration Departments And Heads Of Consular Affairs Divisions Of The Ministries Of Foreign Affairs (DGICM), in coordination with Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM), ASEAN National Tourism Organisations (NTO), and other relevant sectoral bodies.

Output 2:  
ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in coordination with relevant sectoral bodies

**MODALITY & SOURCE OF FUNDING**

ASEAN Development Fund, External Partners, ASEAN Member States National Budgets

**Output 2: Study on ASEAN Common Visa for Non-ASEAN Nationals**

Each ASEAN Member State has its own bilateral arrangements with other non-ASEAN countries on visa exemption and on arrival visas. Based on the existing lists of visa exemptions, the proposed study will identify the stages to be taken for progressive visa relaxation for foreign tourists, and evaluate the challenges and recommendations which may include a roadmap for the establishment of a common visa which is akin to the Schengen visa scheme.

In addition, ASEAN is studying the possibility of introducing an e-visa system or facilities and exploring innovative visa arrangements that facilitate travel (e.g. sub-regional visas and an ASEAN Business Travel Card).

**BENEFICIARIES**

The development of facilitative and innovative visa arrangements and the consideration of an ASEAN Common Visa will stimulate greater business and tourism growth in the region. While the private sector's gain include relaxed regulation process and increased bussiness opportunity from tourism, the public sector will have the benefit from increased revenue through direct and indirect sources.

**CONTACT PERSON**

ASEAN Secretariat:  
Security Cooperation  
Division (SCD), ASEAN  
Political Security  
Community Department  
(APSC),  
the ASEAN Secretariat  
Email:

[SecurityCooperation  
Division@asean.org](mailto:SecurityCooperationDivision@asean.org)

## ANNEX 1: VISA REQUIREMENT FOR ASEAN NATIONALS

From	T	Brunei Darussalam	Cambodia	Indonesia	Lao	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Viet Nam
		OP	OP	OP	OP	OP	OP	OP	OP	OP	OP
Brunei Darussalam		-	y	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>4</sup>	n	y	n <sup>5</sup>	n	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>4</sup>
Cambodia		y	-	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	y	n <sup>5</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>4</sup>	n <sup>4</sup>
Indonesia		n <sup>4</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	-	Y	n <sup>6</sup>	Y	n <sup>5</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	N	n <sup>4</sup>
Lao		n <sup>4</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	-	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>4</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>
Malaysia		N	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n	-	y	n <sup>5</sup>	n	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>
Myanmar		y	y	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>4</sup>	y	-	y	y	Y	Y
Philippines		n <sup>4</sup>	n <sup>5</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n	n <sup>6</sup>	y	-	n <sup>6</sup>	N	n <sup>5</sup>
Singapore		n	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n	n	y	n <sup>5</sup>	-	N	N
Thailand		n <sup>4</sup>	n <sup>4</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	y	n <sup>5</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	-	n <sup>6</sup>
Viet Nam		n <sup>4</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	y	n <sup>5</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	n <sup>6</sup>	-
ASEC				y		n				n <sup>4</sup>	

The above schedule is updated as of 1 June 2012.

### NOTE:

N / n = not required

Y / y = yes required

OP = Ordinary Passport

n<sup>1</sup> = If invited to attend ASEAN activities held by ASEAN Secretariat or by host country institution/ organisation

n<sup>2</sup> = Have signed MOU on Visa Exemption for DP and OP holder, which will enter into force when indicates by exchange of note by both countries through diplomatic channels.

n<sup>3</sup> = Lao officials in the Secretariat are granted visa free facilities

n<sup>4</sup> = Visa is not required for a visit of 14 days

n<sup>5</sup> = Visa is not required for a visit of 21 days

n<sup>6</sup> = Visa is not required for a visit of 30 days

y<sup>1</sup> = Vietnam officials in the ASEAN Secretariat are granted visa free facilities, if invited to attend ASEAN activities in Singapore

y<sup>2</sup> = Official courtesy visas (free) issued by Myanmar Embassy or visa on arrival

y<sup>3</sup> = Thai – Myanmar border crossing agreement allows Thai and Foreign Nationals to cross the border and visit certain areas in Myanmar with Border-Pass.

y<sup>4</sup> = Visa will be issued in 3 days after application

y<sup>5</sup> = Indonesia provides forbearance facility on proceeding visit visa of 10 days or 30 days. Nationals from these countries may request visa on arrival.

y<sup>6</sup> = With Note Verbale, multiple entry visa for one year will be granted.