

Transparency International calls on ASEAN to make anti-corruption major part of economic community

Rampant corruption across Southeast Asia threatens to derail plans for greater economic integration, Transparency International warned in a new report today. ASEAN leaders must create a regional body that integrates anti-corruption principles into the framework of a proposed regional economic community or hopes for shared prosperity, upward mobility and entrepreneurship won't be fulfilled.

A regional coordinating body, or ASEAN Integrity Community as proposed by Transparency International, is needed to fast track critical anti-corruption policy measures into its existing ASEAN Economic Community framework and the ASEAN post-2020 vision. Otherwise corruption could be fuelled by increased cross-border economic activity. *Click here to access the full report, **ASEAN Integrity Community: A vision for transparent and accountable integration.***

"Southeast Asia is home to some of the richest, fastest-growing economies, as well as some of the planet's poorest people. Battling corruption is an integral part to sustainable growth and reducing income inequality," said Natalia Soebagjo, Chair of TI Indonesia.

"Regional cooperation coupled with civil society and business community involvement in the development of an ASEAN Integrity Community are essential elements to ensure an economic community has a positive impact on the daily lives of Southeast Asians," Soebagjo said.

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