

## **Concept Note**

### **ASEAN+3 in an Era of Global Uncertainty: Responses and Optimism**

Participants may consider some of the following 'Global Uncertainty' posed by various challenges:

- Security:
  - Threats from terrorism and contemporary conflicts
  - Cyber security
- Climate Change:
  - The intensification of climate change and global warming.
  - ASEAN's experience with trans-boundary pollution
  - Adaptation and mitigation
  - Sustainable development
- Income gap
  - The widening of income gap
  - Poverty
  - Economic development

Potential areas to explore under this theme:

- The emergence of contemporary global uncertainty, particularly security concerns rising from the increasing interconnectedness of global affairs, especially the intensification of globalization in the digital age:

#### **Example of Key Exploratory Questions:**

- How should ASEAN+3 react to the emergence of the new threats to security, such as terrorism and cyber crimes.
  - Would the emergence of the unconventional security threat heighten global and regional cooperation or nationalism?
  - Should there be collective mechanisms in dealing with trans-boundary threats, modern trafficking, terrorism, and cyber crimes? Or should individual states independently deal with the threats?
  - Should the government encourage regulation (e.g. censorship) or education (e.g. open discussion) on the flow of information (e.g. Internet, cable networks, etc.)? Is there a role that institutions of higher education can play (e.g. via research, academic engagement of society, etc.)?
- Climate change as a priority of global agenda:

#### **Example of Key Exploratory Questions:**

- Can climate change be compromised for the sake of economic development?

- How would environmentally-friendly economic policies affect ASEAN+3, especially developing countries.
- How well can ASEAN+3 adapt to the sustainable New Economy?
- Should we seek to adapt to the changing climate or seek to mitigate the changing climate?
- How should ASEAN+3 adopt the Paris Agreement in national policies?
- Should ASEAN+3 have a uniform policy dealing with cross-border environmental problems?
- How can youths (e.g. university undergraduates) play a role in influencing sustainability-related thinking / policies as well as the behaviour and actions of society?
- Global economic challenges:
  - **Example of Key Exploratory Questions:**
    - How is the initiation of regional economic blocs contributing to the global economic growth?
    - Should ASEAN+3 countries consider the transition from manufacturing-based economy to a value-based economy?
    - The impacts of the rise of sharing economy and online economic opportunities.
    - Will the increasing economic integration of ASEAN+3 countries result in disastrous outcome like the European counterpart?
    - Should countries pay more attention to regional economic integration or individual economic policy?
    - What should be the regional approach in bridging income gap among ASEAN+3 member states?
    - Should ASEAN+3 member states take a regional or individual approach to poverty? Should there be an investment bank exclusive to ASEAN+3 member states?
    - Should ASEAN+3 countries consider the free movement of labour?
    - “Youths are the drivers of consumption in the products of the New Economy”; is this a valid statement? Can youths help determine a means of gauging the benefits vs detriment brought about on individual societies / countries by the global New Economy?