The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The ACSS Committee Secretariat is located at:

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The ACSS is a partnership between and among the national statistical systems of the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), the ASEAN Community Councils, and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The ACSS Committee as the highest regional policy-making and coordinating body on ASEAN statistics

The national statistical systems of all ASEAN Member States, with the national statistical office (NSO) as country focal point on ASEAN statistics.

The ASEAN Secretariat, through the ASEANstats, as the regional focal point of ASEAN statistics and the technical arm and secretariat of the ACSS Committee.

The ASEAN Community Councils, through its ASEAN bodies, as the primary stakeholders.

The ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics 2010 - 2015 was adopted by the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting (AHSOM) in Jakarta, Indonesia in July 2011 and endorsed by the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM) through the Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) at the 43rd AEM in Manado, Indonesia, in August 2011.

The Terms of Reference of the ACSS Committee was adopted by the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting (AHSOM) in Jakarta, Indonesia in July 2011 and endorsed by the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM) through the Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) at the 43rd AEM in Manado, Indonesia, in August 2011.

The ACSS will provide relevant, timely and comparable ASEAN statistics in support of evidence-based policy and decision making and enhance the statistical capacity of the Member States and ASEAN Secretariat.

One Vision, One Identity, One Community

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To Whom Shall the Committee Report?
- to the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Meeting through the Senior Economic Official Meeting (SEOM);
- for the pillar-specific inputs and consultations, the Committee shall consult the ASEAN bodies under the respective pillars (ASEAN political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community), and report its outcomes to the AEM through SEOM.

Role of Major Participants

ACSS Committee: a clearer mandate to...
- define ASEAN statistical priorities and promote wider use of regional statistics;
- promote improvement of statistical infrastructure;
- facilitate human resource and institutional capacity building;
- enhance institutional linkages with international statistical bodies.

National Statistical Offices: a crucial role to...
- coordinate the implementation of policies, development, and harmonisation of ASEAN statistics within the national statistical system;
- coordinate the provision of ASEAN statistics to stakeholders in ASEAN through the ASEANstats;
- function as the country focal point in matters related to regional cooperation in statistics;
- represent their national statistical system at the Committee meetings.

ASEANstats, as the technical arm and member of the Committee: a proactive role to...
- initiate the formulation and lead the implementation of policies, standards, methodologies for the harmonisation of ASEAN statistics;
- serve as the link between the ACSS Committee and the ASEAN Community Councils and with stakeholders including regional and international organisations;
- harmonise ASEAN statistics, administer database and develop statistical products and services;
- coordinate with donor community;
- support national statistical systems in the implementation of policies and standards.

ASEAN Community Councils: a pivotal role to...
- provide guidance on data needs and strategic directions for statistics development in the ASEAN Community.

Organisation
- The ACSS Committee meets once a year or more, as necessary;
- Chairmanship is on a rotating basis, following the ASEAN chairmanship.

Evolution of the ASEAN regional cooperation in statistics

Establishing the ASEAN statistical cooperation: 1997-2002
- ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting (AHSOM) established
1997 October: AHSOM was established and convened its inaugural meeting at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Statistics Unit established
2000 October: Statistics Unit was established at the ASEAN Secretariat, upon AHSOM’s recommendation, mainly to provide technical and secretarial support.

Framework of Cooperation adopted
2001: ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics along with the Plan of Action on Statistics were adopted by the AHSOM, highlighting four major thrusts:
- Support to ASEAN integration
- Harmonisation of statistics
- Promotion of international standards and best practices
- Capacity building

Laying the Foundation: 2003-2007
- ASI adopted
2003: ASEAN Statistical Indicators (ASI) Framework was adopted by the AHSOM to provide reference in developing and harmonising ASEAN statistics.

Harmonisation of Statistics and Classifications initiated
2003: ASEAN Common Industrial Classifications (ACIC) was developed - the first attempt to harmonise statistical classifications.
2005: Harmonisation of international trade in goods and services statistics.

Inclusion of Statistics in the VAP
2004: Statistics was first included in the action plan of ASEAN, the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), to provide stronger basis for development and harmonisation of ASEAN statistics.

AHSOM reporting through SEOM
2006: New AHSOM’s reporting line was endorsed at the 13th SEOM Meeting, in which AHSOM reports to the higher body through SEOM.

ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics 2010-2015
- ASI adopted
2010: ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics 2010-2015 was adopted at the 18th AEM Meeting in August 2010, endorsed by all ASEAN bodies.

Strengthening statistical cooperation: 2009-2011
- Strategic planning initiated and the Broad Framework adopted
2009: AHSOM formalised the framework of ASEAN statistics development and harmonisation in the Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics. It was also during this year when the Broad Framework was adopted and the Task Force on Strategic Planning (TFSP) was created.

- ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics (AFCS 2010-2015) adopted
2010: AHSOM Framework of Cooperation in Statistics 2010-2015 was adopted by AHSOM and acknowledged by the ASEAN Leaders at the 17th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in October 2011. This was one major output of the TFSP.

ACSS Committee and Strategic Plan established

ACSS Committee launched
2011: The ACSS Committee 1st Session and the ACSS Committee are launched in early November 2011.