



# ASEAN Learning Series and Policy Engagement on Agricultural Cooperatives (ALSPEAC)

Inclusive Agricultural Value Chain for Coffee

Yogyakarta, 19 - 21 July 2017



ASEAN  
FOUNDATION

**“We are ASEAN. Be ASEAN, help each other, to reach our vision ASEAN Community.” – Yacinta, AFOSP Project Manager - ASEAN Foundation.**

ASEAN Learning Series and Policy Engagement on Agricultural Cooperatives (ALSPEAC), which is part of ASEAN Farmers' Organization Programme (AFOSP) of ASEAN Foundation, took place in Yogyakarta, 19-21 July 2017.



Organized by ASEAN Foundation (AF), in partnership with Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) and La Via Campesina (LVC) with the support of EU, IFAD and Swiss Development, ALSPEAC gathered farmers' organization, governments (ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Agricultural Cooperatives/ASWGAC), and private sectors from participating ASEAN countries to discuss the challenges and opportunities in coffee production, processing and marketing.

**Promoting the ASEAN standards on coffee and enhancing the optimum output of ASEAN coffee value chain, ALSPEAC encouraged participants to have business matchmaking and provided the governments with the exposure of feedback on policy support, for example on tax regulation.**

It is expected that after the ALSPEAC 2017, participants were able to reach a mutual understanding on how to start partnership, including to do direct trading along the ASEAN coffee value chain, and support one another as ASEAN community.

## Overview of ALSPEAC as part of ASEAN mandate

In order to execute one of ASEAN mandate which is to build people-to-people engagement and to foster a collaboration through ASEAN community building programme, the three-day event gathers 65 individuals from governments, private sectors, and various farmers' organizations across ASEAN. This is done to strengthen the role of Agricultural Cooperatives in addressing the challenges as well as opportunities of the ASEAN Economic Community; to improve the livelihood and to enhance participation of coffee farmers in ASEAN value chain, through the dissemination and replication of the best practices and innovations developed by Indonesia in alliance with multilevel stakeholder in the coffee value chain.



ALSPEAC offers the opportunity of learning directly in the field from the success stories of agricultural cooperatives good management in the areas of internal organization, service provision to members, networking and access to market. The participants also gained information on developing cross-countries market strategies and agreements involving public and private sector. In addition, after the program ASEAN coffee farmers will have



had access to know more about public policies, national legal frameworks/laws, programs and mechanism for the support of Agricultural Cooperatives in the frame of the ASEAN 2025: participation in Global Value Chain.

“We provide them (the participants) to meet the network between cooperative to cooperative and cooperative to the private sector,” said Shunya Jonthun – a government representative from Thailand.

The ALSPEAC is a continuation of the ASEAN Learning Route (ALRAC) that facilitates peer to peer learning in the areas of farmer empowerment and participation in the global value chain. The learning enables farmers and their organizations to make their own, independent decisions with regards to services for members on production, creating market opportunities as well as improving women participation along the value chain.

### Highlight of 3 Days Event

On the first day, the focus is an overview of agricultural activities in ASEAN such as ASEAN Learning Route on Agricultural Cooperative (ALRAC), overview of ASEAN 2025, ASEAN standard of coffee, and also information exchange on Agriculture cooperatives in ASEAN. After the two sessions of panel discussion with the invited speakers, participants were put in group to identify the coffee value chain opportunities and challenges including what are the enabling policy and external support needed.



On the second day, the field visit agenda started by overview of Indonesia coffee production and market strategy followed by group discussion activity on what to be improved in coffee production and processing. The participants were also given a chance to do free time to observe Pentingsari Village.



As for the final day, the session starts with panel discussion on coffee collective marketing and participation of cooperative at the policy level. It continued with group discussion which participants were divided into 3 specific groups: government, farmers' organization, and private sector. In the group, the participants are requested to identify the better coordination plan for the future. Before the wrap up session, there were also a coffee cupping and brewing best practice performances.





Through the brewing and cupping session, the ASEAN coffee is proven to have lots of uniqueness in taste components. Surprisingly, instead of being consumed locally, ASEAN coffee is more popular to be sold in the International market. This is an example of challenges which were addressed at this event.

“I am very pleased to meet other farmers from ASEAN countries to share and to learn about the coffee production, management, experiences, and cooperatives.” – said Bounthong Thepkaisone from Lao PDR. Khin Lay Phyu added, “after this meeting, I will go back to Myanmar to share this experience with the other coffee farmers, who are the member of coffee cooperative.”

The main goal is that the participants can optimize this regional knowledge sharing platform of coffee cooperatives under the ACEDAC flagship to engage, establish a dialogue and work with ASEAN, regional inter-government bodies, and other public/private stakeholders. It is expected that the knowledge exchange will help ASEAN coffee farmers to learn from other ASEAN countries’ success stories.

## Video Publications

The video series of ALSPEAC activities can be accessed in ASEAN Foundation YouTube channel : <http://bit.ly/2xqeFdW>



Let us go for ASEAN Coffee : ALSPEAC Spirit Part 1



Let us go for ASEAN Coffee : ALSPEAC Spirit Part 2



Let us go for ASEAN Coffee : ALSPEAC Spirit Part 3



Let us go for ASEAN Coffee : ALSPEAC Spirit Part 4



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