

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910464126403321
Titolo	ASEAN economic community scorecard : performance and perception / / edited by Sanchita Basu Das
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Singapore : , : Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, , 2013 ©2013
ISBN	981-4414-29-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 244 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	337.159
Soggetti	POLITICAL SCIENCE / Public Policy / Economic Policy Electronic books. Southeast Asia Economic integration Congresses Southeast Asia Economic conditions Congresses Southeast Asia Foreign economic relations Congresses
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"This book volume is a result of the ASEAN Roundtable 2012 on "Examining the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Scorecard" organized by the ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC) at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), along with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) on 25 May 2012 at York Hotel, Singapore"--Preface.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- Foreword / Severino, Rodolfo C. -- PREFACE / Das, Sanchita Basu -- Acknowledgements / Das, Sanchita Basu -- the CONTRIBUTORS -- 1. Assessing the Progress and Impediments towards an ASEAN Economic Community / Das, Sanchita Basu -- 2. Monitoring the ASEAN Economic Community / Rillo, Aladdin D. -- 3. Towards AEC 2015 / Kartika, Pratiwi / Atje, Raymond -- 4. An Assessment of Services Sector Liberalization in ASEAN / Nikomborirak, Deunden / Jitdumrong, Supunnavadee -- 5. The Investment Dimension of ASEAN / Bhaskaran, Manu -- 6. Free Flow of Skilled Labour in ASEAN / Yue, Chia Siow -- 7. Infrastructure Development in ASEAN / Abidin, Mahani Zainal / Rosli, Firdaos -- 8. SME Development in ASEAN / Sotharith, Chap -- 9. Effectiveness of Initiative for ASEAN Integration / Thanh, Vo Tri -- 10. Myanmar in the ASEAN Economic Community / Thuzar, Moe -- Index

During the 13th ASEAN Summit in November 2007, ASEAN Leaders endorsed the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, which laid the foundation of creating a "single market and production base" among the ten Southeast Asian economies. Soon after that, ASEAN faced great uncertainties in the light of the 2008 global financial crisis and continues to remain cautious in the face of the ongoing global economic weakness. Despite this, the region is forging ahead with its commitment to carry out economic liberalization and cooperation as stipulated in the AEC Blueprint. The official AEC scorecard, published in March 2012, stated that ASEAN had achieved 68.2 per cent of its targets for the 2008-11 period. The official AEC scorecard is expected to track the implementation of measures and the achievement of milestones committed in the AEC Strategic Schedule. However, the scorecard, in its current form, is too brief and general to be useful for the ASEAN citizens. This book attempts to fill this gap and evaluates the current status of and the progress towards the milestones of the AEC Blueprint. The overall message of the book is that even though ASEAN may miss some of its integration goals by 31 December 2015, it will certainly deliver some of the key initiatives -- tariff elimination, establishing the ASEAN Single Window, laying the foundation of the regional investment initiative, advancing tourism services, moving ahead with ASEAN connectivity and the realization of ASEAN +1 free trade agreements. AEC's goal of forming an equitable and competitive regional economy will continue to be a work in progress. AEC 2015 is going to be a historic milestone that will raise ASEAN's profile and will help the region to maintain its centrality in the international community.

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