



# AEC, English Language and Student Mobility in Cross Border Education

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# This study

- Focuses on student mobility
- Looks beyond the AEC
- Discusses how ASEAN should move toward a truly borderless economic community
  - Opportunities
  - Obstacles

# ASEAN Mission

- ONE VISION
- ONE IDENTITY
- ONE COMMUNITY

# ASEAN PLAN

By 2015 ASEAN will have a single market and production base with free flow of goods, services, capital and skilled labor.

# Bangkok Declaration 1967

The aims and purposes of the Association shall be:

(No.4)

To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres.

# ASEAN & ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- English was chosen as the official lingua franca of Asean in 2009.
- English is the language of choice in interactions between speakers of different first languages.
- its adaptation has proved particularly challenging for countries with no history of English language usage.
- Thailand has launched its own English language programmes aiming to teach conversational skills to some 14 million students.

# English Proficiency Index



# Where is ASEAN in English Proficiency?

Rank Country Score Level

9	Malaysia	55.54	High Proficiency
34	Indonesia	44.78	Very Low Proficiency
39	Vietnam	44.32	Very Low Proficiency
42	Thailand	39.41	Very Low Proficiency

# Features of ASEAN'S English

English is used as a medium by people who speak a local variety of English and those whose proficiency in English remains relatively low.

- English is now used as the medium of instruction for maths and science subjects in schools.
- AESEAN's English as a functional term rather than a linguistic one.
- Varieties of English.

# Roles of English in AEC

ASEAN stands at a crossroads.

- Not good enough? (How much good is enough?, Enough for what?)
- Why is English proficiency strongly tied with employment?
- What is the true value of English in AEC?
- What level of proficiency in English is needed?
- Is it the high level of English proficiency that strengthens AEC' s competitiveness?
- What are the linguistic needs in local employment sectors?

## Roles of English in AEC

- How do varieties of English affect the communication?
- Are there any shared or distinctive linguistic features in the varieties?
- Does the ASEAN English affect the standard of English language?

# What should we do?

- eliminating remaining barriers to the student mobility
- Looking for a sustainable approach to improving language policy and education in Thailand towards 2015.
- Producing an in-depth understanding of linguistic resources
- Recognizing linguistic needs in local employment sectors
- Producing more research collaborations between local and international researchers from relevant fields and industrial partners