



19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
The Pacific Sutera Hotel Kota Kinabalu

## ASEAN CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER REGISTRATION: NAVIGATING REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Presented by:

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Chair, ACPE Application Screening Committee

20 November 2024



**ASEAN**  
**MALAYSIA 2025**  
INCLUSIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Malaysia will be Chair of ASEAN in 2025
- During this one-year tenure, the Chair is responsible to show exemplary leadership in achieving significant progress towards the ASEAN Vision and Agenda.
- BEM's role during this one year
  - To continue efforts to support and drive the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA)
    - ACPE – ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers
    - ASEAN Professional Mobility



**The ASEAN Region provides the immediate platform to tap into the Global Value Chain**

**Huge economic; business potentials within the 10 ASEAN Member Countries**

*Timor-Leste is set to be a Member State of ASEAN soon*

# ASEAN

Country	Joining Date
MYANMAR	23.7.1997
LAOS	23.7.1997
VIET NAM	28.7.1995
THAILAND	8.8.1967
SINGAPORE	8.8.1967
INDONESIA	8.8.1967
CAMBODIA	30.4.1999
BRUNEI	7.1.1984
MALAYSIA	8.8.1967
PHILIPPINES	8.8.1967

- The total **GDP of ASEAN reached US\$3.6 trillion in 2022**,
- positioning it as the fifth largest economy in the world (Malaysia US\$445 billion est. 2024; IMF)
- trailing behind the United States (\$25.5 trillion), China (US\$ 17.9 trillion), Japan (US\$ 4.2 trillion), and Germany (US\$ 4.1 trillion).
- Has a combined **population of 672 million**,
- and in the decade up to 2022, its economy grew by annual growth rate of 4.2%

## NAVIGATING THE ACPE REGISTRATION PROCESS

### 1. The driver behind the ACPE Registration

- The ASEAN Leaders resolve and commitment to establish and accelerate the establishment of an **ASEAN Community**,
 

One Economic Zone under ASEAN without barriers
- The ASEAN Community is supported by **three pillars**
  - [ASEAN Political-Security Community](#), [ASEAN Economic Community](#) and [ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community](#).
  - Each pillar has its own Blueprint, and, together with the [Initiative for ASEAN Integration \(IAI\) Strategic Framework and IAI Work Plan Phase II \(2009-2015\)](#),
  - they form the [Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015](#).

- [ASEAN Professional Mobility](#) is driven by the vision of ASEAN Leaders and ASEAN Member Countries as being an integral part of the ASEAN Economic Community Pillar

# NAVIGATING THE ACPE REGISTRATION PROCESS

## 2. The Primary Instrument for ASEAN Professional Mobility – ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (the MRA)

**What:**

Important initiative in ASEAN integration on trade in services

Facilitate trade in services by **mutual recognition of authorization, licensing, or certification of professional service suppliers.**

Goal of the MRA is to **facilitate the flow of foreign professionals** taking into account relevant domestic regulations and market demand conditions.

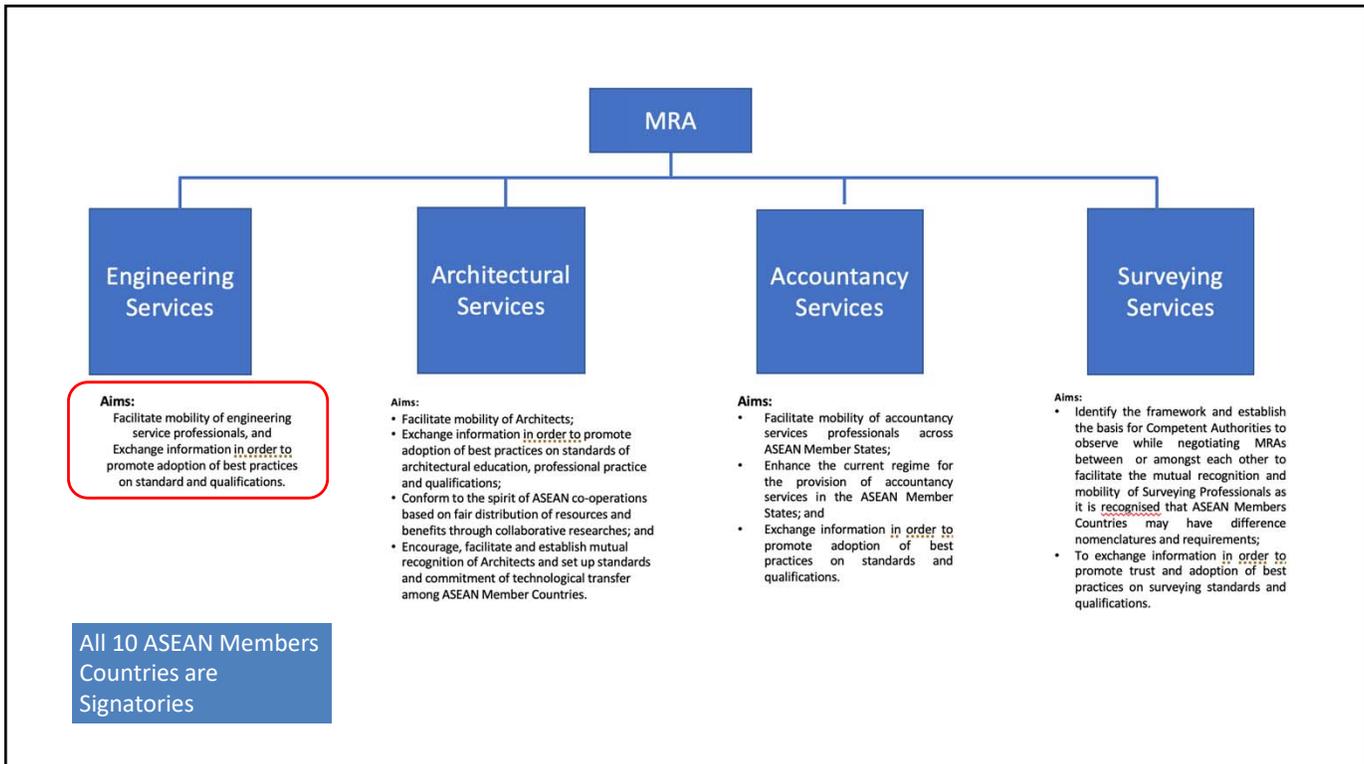
**How:**

- These MRAs enable the **professional services suppliers certified or registered by the relevant authorities in their home country to be mutually recognized by other signatory Member States**
- They are currently in various stages of implementation and follow-up initiatives, with **mechanisms being established to administer the implementation of the MRAs.**

8 MRAs have been concluded signed by ASEAN, namely::

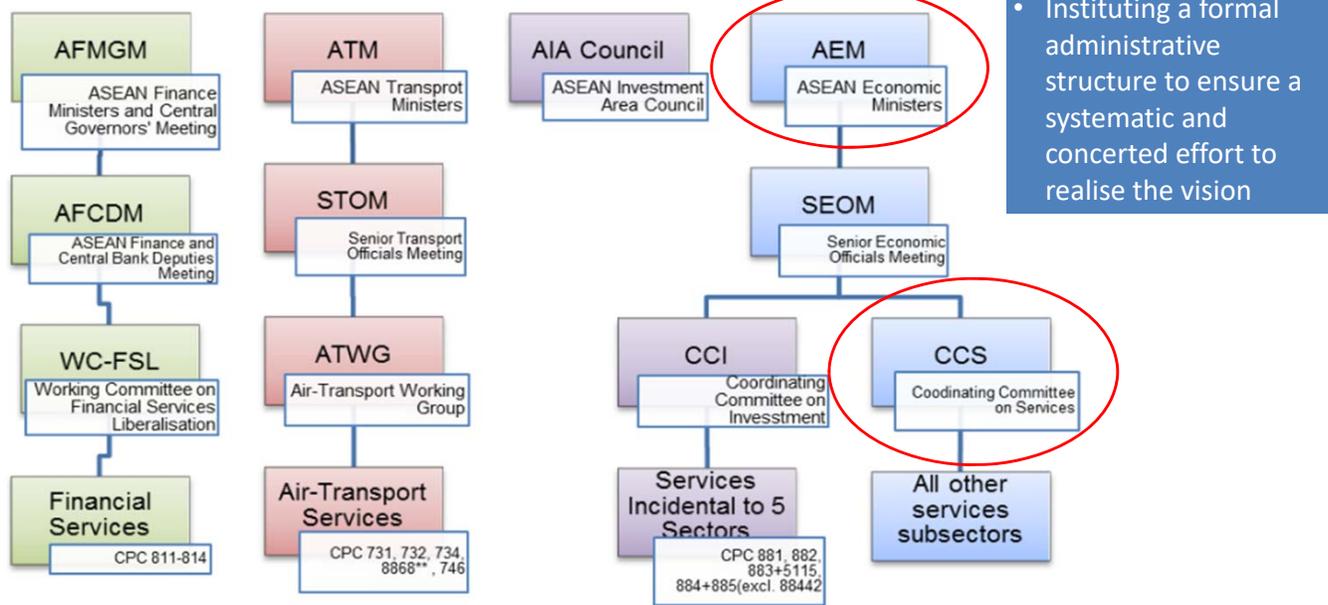
No.	MRA	Date of Signing
1.	Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Engineering Services	9 December 2005 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2.	Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Nursing Services	8 December 2006 Cebu, the Philippines
3.	Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Architectural Services	19 November 2007 Singapore
4.	Framework Arrangement for the Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications	19 November 2007 Singapore
5.	Mutual Recognition Arrangement Framework on Accountancy Services	26 February 2009 Cha-am, Thailand
6.	Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Medical Practitioners	26 February 2009 Cha-am, Thailand
7.	Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Dental Practitioners	26 February 2009 Cha-am, Thailand
8.	Mutual Recognition Arrangements on Tourism Professionals	9 November 2012

• The MRA essentially recognises that “a qualified professional recognised in a Member State is also recognised an ALL other ASEAN Member States”



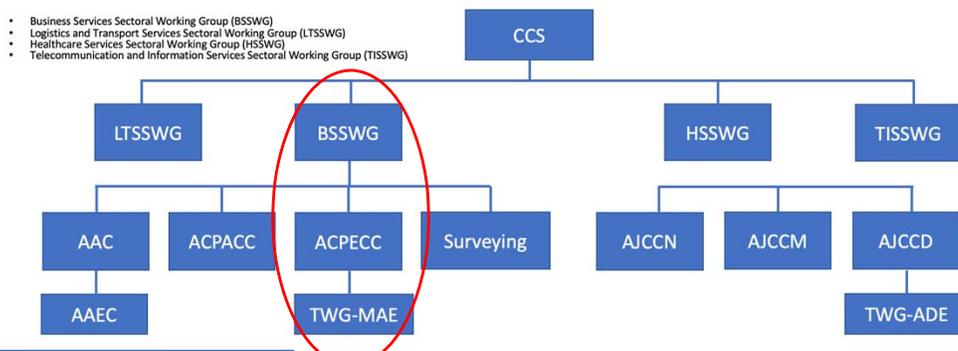
## NAVIGATING THE ACPE REGISTRATION PROCESS

### 3. The Administrative Mechanism – the ASEAN Sectorial Bodies



## NAVIGATING THE ACPE REGISTRATION PROCESS

### 3. The Administrative Mechanism – the ASEAN Sectorial Working Groups under CCS



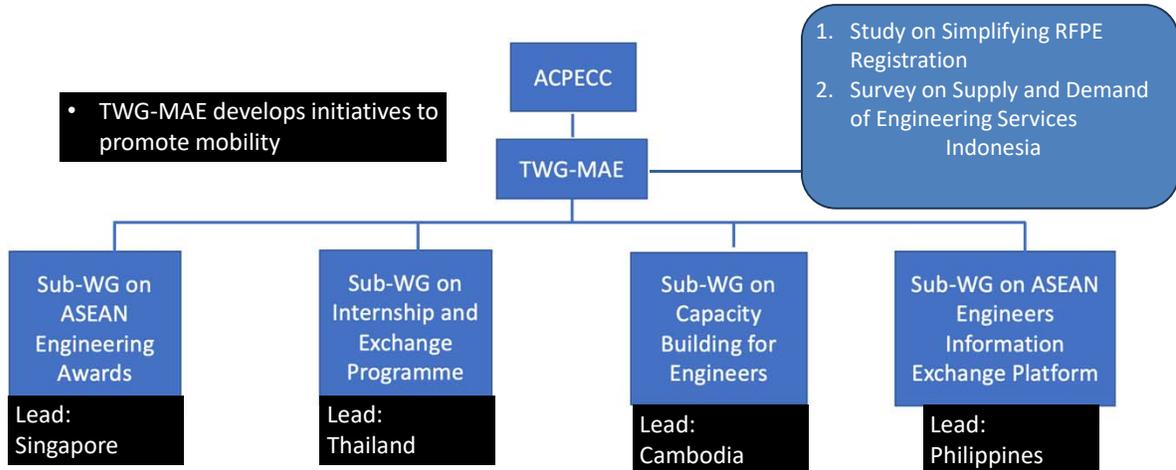
- ACPECC is responsible for implementing the MRA and facilitate mobility
- The authority to confer and withdraw the title ACPE (Registrar)
- Representation from each Monitoring Committee (MC) ASEAN Member State.
- Permanent Secretariat: INDONESIA
- Meets at **least twice a year**
- Next Meeting: **October 2024**

- AAC: ASEAN Architect Council
- AAEC: ASEAN Architect Education Committee
- ACPACC: ASEAN Chartered Professional Accountant Coordinating Committee
- ACPECC: ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineering Coordinating Committee
- AJCCN: ASEAN Joint Coordinating Committee on Nursing
- AJCCM: ASEAN Joint Coordinating Committee on Medical Practitioners
- AJCCD: ASEAN Joint Coordinating Committee on Dental Practitioners
- SURVEYING: Surveying Competent Authorities of the Framework Arrangement for the Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications

- TWG-MAE to facilitate mobility, identify barriers, develop initiatives to facilitate mobility

- BSSWG coordinates 4 MRAs
- Accountants, Architects, Engineers, Surveyors

### Technical Working Group on Mobility of ASEAN Engineers (TWG-MAE)



### National Level Committee / Authority and Functions (NMC; PRA)

ACPECC	Approves Assessment Statement	Approve ACPE	Promote Mobility	Identify Barriers
Monitoring Committee MC	Prepare and submit Assessment Statement to ACPECC	Submit ACPE Applications	Approves RFPE	
Professional Regulatory Authority PRA	Register ACPEs	Register RFPEs An ACPE can apply directly to the host country	Monitor Compliance of ACPEs and RFPE	

• BEM is the PRA for Malaysia

## NAVIGATING THE ACPE REGISTRATION PROCESS

### 4. Applying for ACPE

- Apply online through BEM; open 24/7
- Basic Qualifications under MRA
  - Recognised education (engineering degree)
  - Gained a **minimum of seven years** practical experience since graduation
  - Completed at **least two years in responsible charge of significant engineering work**
- Additional qualification for Malaysia – **must be a PE**
- All applications are vetted by the ACPE Screening Committee
- Results forwarded to the Malaysian NMC for endorsement
- NMC recommends to ACPECC
- ACPECC evaluates recommendations and approve
- ASEAN Secretariat issues certificates
- BEM registers ACPEs

#### Major issues at Application Screening Stage

- CV (experience list) not updated
- List of only job scope is not acceptable
- Need a detailed list of significant engineering project or specific activities or research works
- With description of role and responsibilities
- Over a total period of at least two years

#### Obtaining approval at ACPECC is not all plain sailing

- Queries of degree
- Questions on relevant experience

#### Categories of Engineers varies between Member States

- Although there are common categories of Engineers e.g. Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical
- There are also differences and unique categories and qualifications e.g. Engineering Physics, Engineering Surveyor

1  
2

### ACPE Statistics as at 4 June 2024

ASEAN MEMBER STATE (AMS)	TOTAL
Brunei Darussalam	36
Cambodia	120
Indonesia	1,548
Lao PDR	18
Malaysia	3,334
Myanmar	622
Philippines	1,012
Singapore	348
Thailand	245
Viet Nam	362
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,645</b>

BEM has taken several initiatives to facilitate and encourage ACPE Applications

- NO Fees
- Online application
- Open 24/7
- ACPE Screening Committee meets every month and submit to NMC
- Malaysia attends all ACPECC Meetings

## NAVIGATING THE ACPE REGISTRATION PROCESS

### 5. Post-ACPE Registration – Professional Mobility through RFPE

#### RFPE Statistics as at 4 June 2024

- ACPEs interested to work in ASEAN Member States need to apply to be registered as Registered Foreign Professional Engineers (RFPE)
- Application is through respective Member State PRA (BEM in Malaysia).
- Must be in collaboration with local entity (sponsor)
- Local Laws and Regulations apply
- For Foreign ACPE to register as RFPE in Malaysia
  - No Fees for Registration
  - Fees only when employment starts
- For Malaysian ACPE to register as RFPE in ASEAN Member States, Fees are charge (about USD 100)
- Annual renewals

		Professional Regulatory Authority (PRA)										Total	
		BN	CA	ID	LA	MY	MM	PH	SG	TH	VN		
RFPE	BN	-				1							1
	CA		-										0
	ID			-		1							1
	LA				-								0
	MY		6			-	2	0	1				9
	MM					0	-		0	0			0
	PH			1		2		-					3
	SG		1			5	1		-				7
	TH		6			1	2			-			9
	VN											-	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	

## Summary and Conclusion

- The ASEAN MRA, ACPE Registration, RFPE are all instruments and facilities empowering Professional engineer to be mobile and tap into the ASEAN Community value chain and opportunities
- A systematic and formal structure to facilitate and encourage ASEAN Engineer's mobility is already in place and implemented:
  - The ASEAN MRA already nearly 20 years - Implemented by ACPECC
  - The RFPE registration system already in place in each ASEAN Member Country
- Now 7,645 ACPEs (Malaysia 3,334)
- But RFPEs only 30; Malaysians 9 (in Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore)
- Continuous efforts to simplify applications e.g. online; regular meetings, forums; No fees; One time registration
- ACPECC TWG-MAE continue to develop initiatives to encourage mobility through its Committee and Sub-WGs.



## What to do with ACPE?

### To export services

1. There must a sense and spirit of adventure in ourself, the Board of Directors, the staff and the company
2. Positioning – Be Export Ready
  - Building Credentials – essential for company evaluation and pre-qualification, selection
    - Good Track Record
    - Good CVs
    - Registration with BEM has added value
    - Good, well written Company Profile, Brochures
    - Good Financial Standing
    - Credit Rating by Banks – for project financing, loan (“Boutique Countries”)
    - Understanding contracts and service agreements – Arbitration clause; payment terms
3. Building a Team for Overseas Assignment
  - Personnel “eager” to go; adventurous
  - Personal Security and Communications Training
  - Respect – Professional Capability, Cultural Differences and Diversity, Political and Religious Beliefs, **Food**
  - **Good Home Office Team Support** – Motivation, Technical Support, In case of emergencies (time difference Suriname – 11 hours)
  - **Managing Corruption**



EMPOWERING  ENGINEERING

### From our experience...

*Feasibility Studies and Masterplans are Strategic Information of Future Development Plans*

### To export services

4. Skills in preparing Technical and Financial Proposals and Report
  - Must be well written, impressive (Specialist Consultant)
  - Report must be “bankable” – for international project funding
  - **ENGLISH** – This is now becoming a challenge (English Department)
  - **Risk Assessment; Market Intelligence, Country background**
5. Collaborate with local consultants
  - Selecting good partners
  - Understanding local laws, rules, regulations, standards, practices
  - Data and information collection
  - Resolving problems and issues
  - Pricing; negotiation; “invisible” costs
6. Strengthening Engineering Services Exports
  - International Branding
  - Developing strategies specific for engineering services export (MATRADE; Foreign Affairs, JKR, JPS..)



**“We just cannot go and knock on doors and ask for jobs”**







- Let us show our full support to Malaysia as the Chair of ASEAN in 2025
- BEM Registered PEs and ECPs (Registered Consulting firms) can show support by
  - Significant increase in ACPEs (> 600)
  - Affirmative support to the ACPECC initiatives and BEM Strategic Plan participating in...
    - The internship and exchange program
    - ASEAN Awards; Information Exchange; Capacity Building
    - BEM Strategic Plans to be visible at international platforms and Global Value Chain (Osaka World Expo 2025)
    - Increased export of services
    - Osaka Expo 2025; April 13 – 13 October
    - KKR will take a 2-week slot for exhibitions
    - YB Menteri KKR has called on full support of all agencies under KKR including BEM



# THANK YOU

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