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Implementing Mutual Recognition of Surveying
Qualification in ASEAN

TEO CheeHai
(Association of Authorized Land Surveyors Malaysia)
chteo@geosurvey.com.my

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Implementing Mutual Recognition of Surveying
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Abstract

The International Federation of Surveyors Publication No. 27 (Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualification) (2002) states that mutual recognition is an arrangement that allows a qualified surveyor who seeks mobility to another country to acquire the same recognition as that held by surveyors who have qualified in that country, without having to re-qualify.

There is increasing realization within the ASEAN services negotiation forum that mutual recognition is necessary to ensure the mobility of professionals and thus a precursor to the free flow of professional services as envisaged by its Leaders.

Abstract (cont)

The 41st Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services in March 2005 agreed that surveying services as defined by FIG can be referred to in future discussions on the coverage of surveying services. The Meeting also agreed that Malaysia is to prepare the first draft of MRA in land surveying.

This presentation will continue the discussion on a practical approach for mutual recognition of surveying qualification advocated by FIG. The presentation would also discuss essential components of the proposed Framework Agreement for the Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualification that is being drafted and negotiated under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services.

This is being amongst the various efforts towards the implementation of mutual recognition as envisaged by FIG. The presentation will also attempt to outline the challenges encountered in implementing mutual recognition of surveying qualification within a regional services negotiation forum.

Content of Presentation

Preamble
FIG Publication 27 (Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualification) (2002)

Introduction
The Association of South East Asian Nations

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The Proposed ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualification

Concluding Remarks

PREAMBLE

Mutual recognition is a process which allows the qualifications gained in one country (the home country) to be recognised in another country (the host country).

The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) recognises –

- the importance of free movement of surveyors in a global marketplace;
- that mutual recognition of professional qualifications provides a means whereby professional qualifications held by individual surveyors can be recognised by other professional organisations or competent authority as comparable to those acquired by their own national surveyors; and

PREAMBLE (cont)

- the need to work with external organisations (such as the WTO) in order to achieve mutual recognition in both principle and practice of professional qualifications for surveyors.


[FIG Publication No. 27]

Since 2000, the Surveyors in Malaysia has been working with –

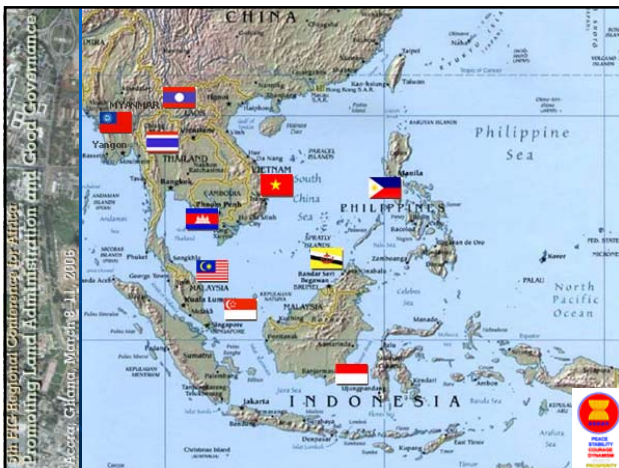
- Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia;
- ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services

to implement mutual recognition within ASEAN for Surveying Qualifications

INTRODUCTION




The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)



The Association of Southeast Asian Nations or **ASEAN** was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok by the five original Member Countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam joined on 8 January 1984, Vietnam on 28 July 1995, Laos and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999.

The Association represents the collective will of the nations to bind themselves together in friendship and cooperation and, through joint efforts and sacrifices, secure for their peoples and for posterity the blessings of peace, freedom, and prosperity. [The ASEAN Declaration, Bangkok, 8 August 1967]





Implementing Mutual Recognition in ASEAN

THE VISION

In 1997, the ASEAN leaders adopted the **ASEAN Vision 2020**, which called for ASEAN Partnership in Dynamic Development aimed at forging **closer economic integration** within the region.

The vision statement also resolved to create a stable, prosperous and highly competitive **ASEAN Economic Region**, in which there is a **free flow of goods, services, investments, capital**, and equitable economic development and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities.




THE LEADERSHIP

In 2003, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) to reaffirm ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian nations, bonded together in partnership, in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies:

and

agreed to establish an ASEAN Community that would be supported by the three pillars of "political and security cooperation", "economic cooperation", and "socio-cultural cooperation."



LEADERSHIP (cont)

The **ASEAN Economic Community** will enhance ASEAN competitiveness, improve ASEAN's investment environment and narrow the development gap amongst ASEAN members.

AEC would be characterized by a single market and production base, with **free flow of goods, services, investment and labor, and freer flow of capital.**


The realization of a fully integrated economic community requires implementation of both liberalization and cooperation measures. There is a need to enhance cooperation and integration activities, among others **recognition of educational qualifications.**



THE MOTIVATOR

The ASEAN region has a population of about 500 million, a total area of 4.5 million square kilometers, a combined gross domestic product exceeding US\$800 billion.

In 2004, ASEAN's total trade exceeded US\$ 1 trillion. ASEAN total exports increased by 20.69% from US\$ 456.71 billion in 2003 to US\$ 551.19 billion in 2004. ASEAN total imports likewise increased by 26.77% from US\$ 388.79 billion in 2003 to US\$ 492.86 billion in 2004.


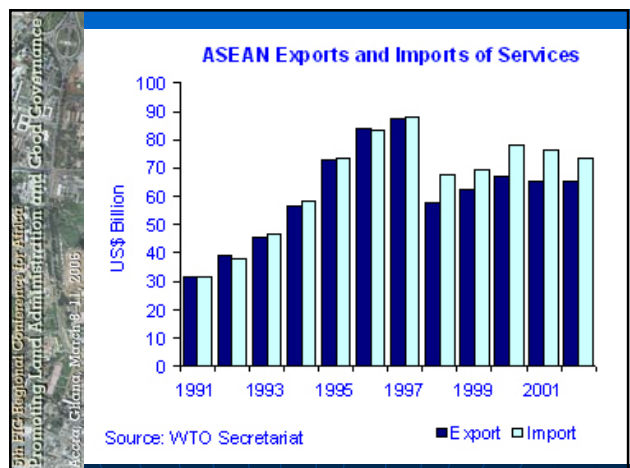
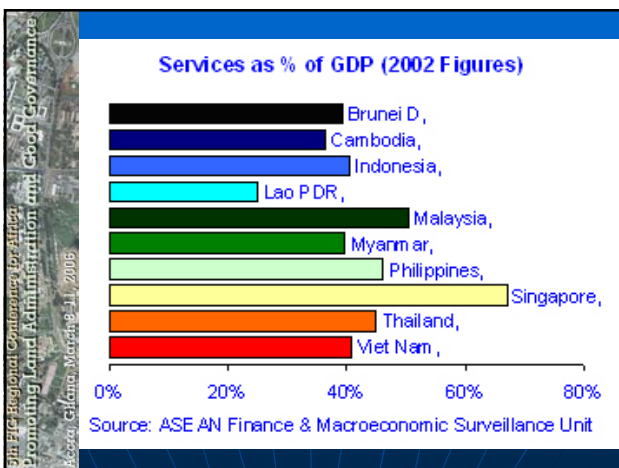


ASEAN is an Important Market of Trade in Services

Services is a sizeable and continuously expanding component of GDP in ASEAN countries. A typical ASEAN country would generate about 40-50% of its GDP from services.

The share of ASEAN exports and imports of commercial services in the world market grew from 3.9% and 3.8% in 1991 to a peak of 6.6 % and 6.8% in 1997, respectively. In 2002 these figures were at 4.2% and 4.8%, respectively.


ASEAN exports of commercial services reached a peak of US\$ 87.2 billion in 1997, and was at US\$ 65.3 billion in 2002. ASEAN import of commercial services reached a peak of US\$ 88.0 billion in 1997, and was at US\$ 73.5 billion in 2002.

The Progress

The ASEAN Secretariat reported that *Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA's)* is the most recent development in ASEAN cooperation in trade in services. MRA's enables the qualifications of professional services suppliers to be mutually recognized by signatory member countries, hence facilitating easier flow of professional services providers in ASEAN region.

A number of areas are currently being negotiated including Architecture, Accountancy, Surveying, Healthcare and Tourism. The Engineering MRA was concluded in 2005 and the Nursing MRA finalised in February 2006.



Implementing Mutual Recognition in ASEAN



Vision


Political Leadership

Economic Motivation

The success also requires

Representation and Inputs from Professionals

The Proposed ASEAN Framework Agreement For The Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications

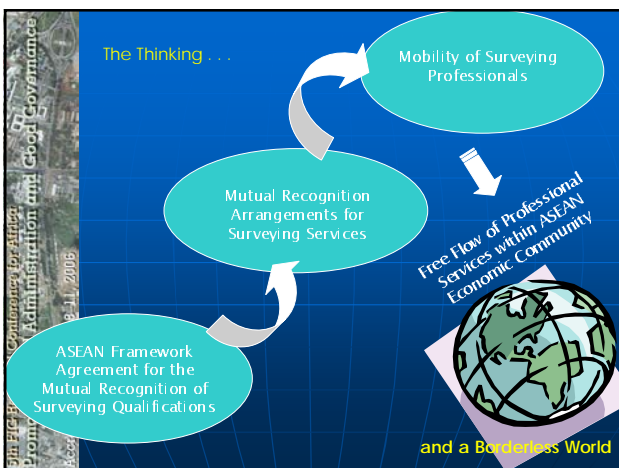


Framework Agreement

A Framework Agreement is a broad statement of mutual respect and shared objectives that identifies aims, objectives and topics and establishes procedural arrangements and if necessary, timetable, for further negotiations.

It basically set the terms and conditions which are pre-positioned for areas of work not yet carried out.

Framework Agreements sets the stage for future substantive and progressive liberalization and build trust by agreeing on a statement of mutual recognition and respect which is very important in development a more comprehensive agreement.



The Proposed ASEAN Framework Agreement For The Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications

The 41st Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services in March 2005 agreed that surveying services as defined by FIG can be referred to in future discussions on the coverage of surveying services. The Meeting also agreed that Malaysia is to prepare the first draft of MRA in surveying.

The Proposed ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications was tabled by Malaysia at the 42nd Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services in June 2005.

It has undergone four rounds of readings and negotiations since and the only amendments to date are basically editorial. The Agreement is awaiting adoption and is expected to be approved this year.

The Proposed ASEAN Framework Agreement For The Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications

Some key provisions are –

Definition

Surveying Services refers to one or more of the activities, which may occur, either on, above or below the surface of the land or the sea and may be carried out in association with other professionals as defined by the International Federation of Surveyors.

Education

An applicant who seeks recognition (in the host country) must have met the educational requirements in effect in the home country and such applicant's educational credentials may be assessed and accepted as having satisfied the educational requirements of the Host Country.

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Some Key Provisions ...

The Proposed ASEAN Framework Agreement For The Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications

Examinations

(a) There may be a need to require the applicants to pass an examination or examinations designed to assure that the applicants have satisfactory knowledge of relevant local and national legislation, standards, and practices in the host country

(b) The applicants who have been granted recognition by national competent authority or body by the applicant's home country may not be required to complete the entire qualifying examination (if any) in order to qualify for recognition in the host country.

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Some Key Provisions ...

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Experience

(a) The completion of a minimum period of post graduating surveying experience is a requirement for recognition. The amount and nature of experience required must be equivalent to the experience requirement of the host country granting the recognition.

(b) If the experience acquired by an applicant in the home country does not meet the requirements of the host country, the applicant may be permitted to complete prescribed experience in the host country before becoming eligible.

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Some Key Provisions ...

The Proposed ASEAN Framework Agreement For The Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications

Recognition Process

(a) ASEAN Member Countries to ensure that any measure it adopts or maintains relating to the recognition, registration or licensing of professional surveyors from another ASEAN Member Country is competency-based.

(b) ASEAN Member Countries agree that the registration and/or licensing of surveying services professionals within its jurisdiction shall be subject to her domestic laws, rules, regulations, provisions, standards and requirements.

Discipline and Ethics

The ethical behavior of surveying professionals and the practice of professional surveying in each ASEAN Member Countries shall be governed by her existing laws, regulations, rules and by laws relevant to govern and regulate discipline and ethical behavior of surveying professionals in that jurisdiction.

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Some Key Provisions ...

The Proposed ASEAN Framework Agreement For The Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications

International Federation of Surveyors Standards and Guidelines

The ASEAN Member Countries acknowledge and agree that the basis of recognition requirements shall be in accordance with the spirit of the standards and guidelines set out by International Federation of Surveyors.

The professional competencies and qualifications threshold for the practice of surveying in all ASEAN Member Countries shall be established, maintained and upheld by reference to these standards.

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Some Key Provisions ...

The Proposed ASEAN Framework Agreement For The Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications

Mutual Recognition

The Framework Agreement establishes the basis and procedural arrangements for competent authorities or bodies within ASEAN Member Countries to observe while negotiating Mutual Recognition Agreements between each other, and to facilitate the mutual recognition and mobility of surveying services professionals.

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Some Key Provisions ...

The Proposed ASEAN Framework Agreement For The Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications

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Confidence Building

ASEAN Member Countries and its competent authority shall endeavour to:

- ✓ Promote acceptable international standards, criteria and best practices to facilitate the effective and efficient delivery of surveying services;
- ✓ Identify and encourage the implementation of best practice for the preparation and assessment of surveyors intending to practise at the professional level

Some Key Provisions ...

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In conclusion –

- The success in crafting and negotiating a Surveying MRA requires **Representation and Inputs from Surveying Professionals**;
- There is the need to work towards a distinct **CPC Code for Surveyors** based on the universal definition of surveying as adopted by FIG; and
- Since the basis of recognition requirements shall be in accordance with the spirit of the standards and guidelines set out by International Federation of Surveyors, FIG should **develop its standards and guidelines** accordingly

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Thank You

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