

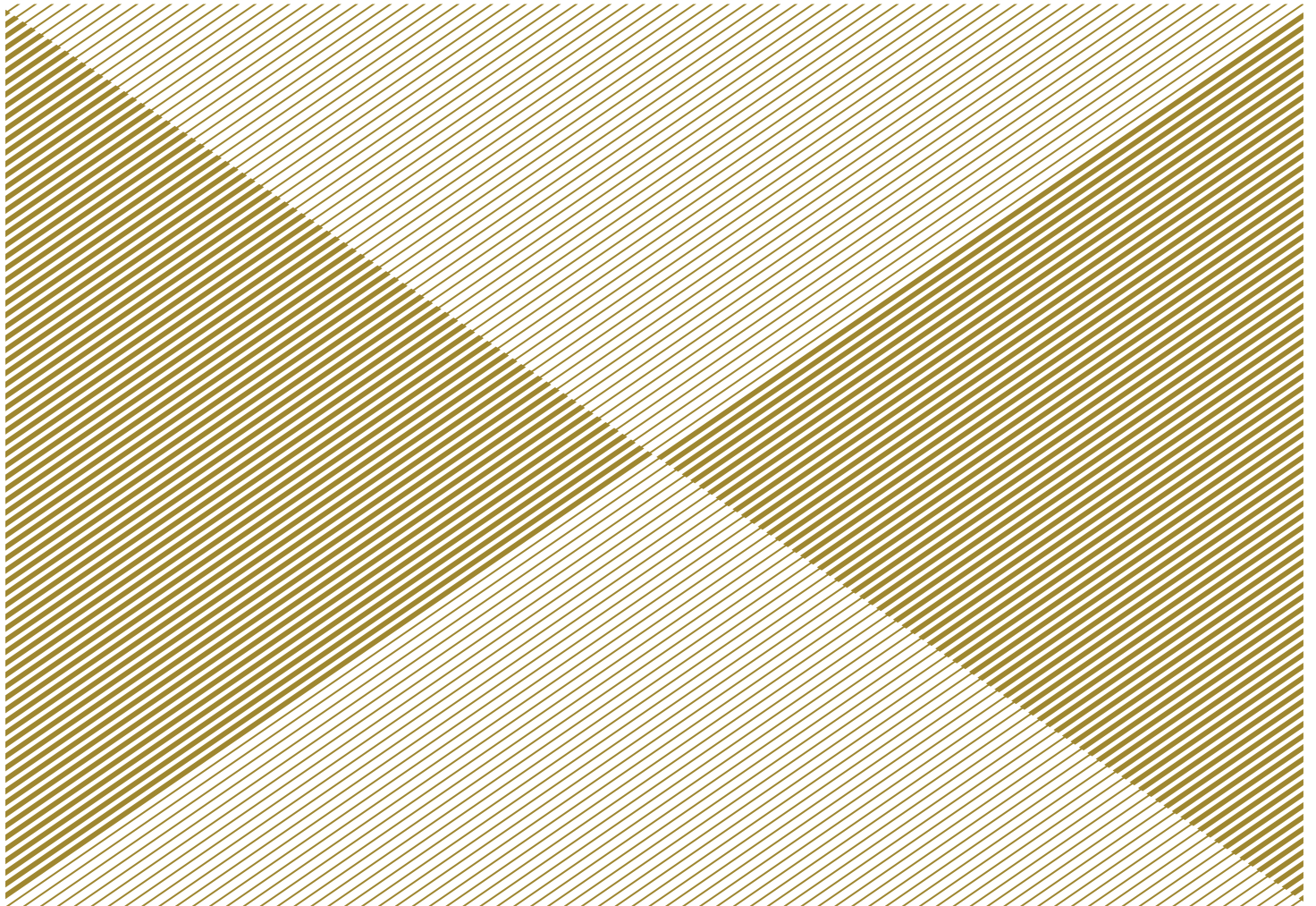
Regional Agenda

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# World Economic Forum on East Asia Meeting Overview

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 1-2 June 2016

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## Shaping the ASEAN Agenda for Inclusion and Growth

Asia is home to almost 60% of the world's people and makes up a third of the global economy, with growth rates substantially higher than the global average.

Sitting at the heart of this dynamic region are the 10 countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). With a combined population of 625 million that is not only growing but also urbanizing, industrializing and embracing technology, ASEAN is home to some of the most exciting markets in the world. The region is also shaping a new regional economic architecture as new trade deals and new infrastructure corridors emerge. Given the scale of the opportunity, it's little wonder that ASEAN is pulling in more foreign direct investment than China.

However, despite the positives, South-East Asia faces many challenges. The global economy has become less supportive, causing growth rates to slow. Geopolitics are harder to navigate as nations adjust to rising powers and shifting relationships. Regional integration efforts such as the ASEAN Economic Community remain a work in progress. The Fourth Industrial Revolution – especially technologies such as robotics, hyperconnectivity and the internet of things – is rewriting the rules for everything from retail and healthcare to government accountability and manufacturing policy.

Just as important, South-East Asia is struggling with issues of inclusion. ASEAN is growing, but large parts of the region are sharing in neither the process nor the benefits of growth. Many other challenges are equally evident, be it building much-needed infrastructure, or managing the environment and protecting tropical forests.

In 2016, the World Economic Forum on East Asia celebrates its 25th year by returning to Malaysia. Organized with a distinctly interactive character, the meeting convenes regional and global leaders to discuss the issues, to foster collaboration and to catalyse action. It represents a unique opportunity for global chief executive officers and their leadership teams to interact with regional heads of state and their key ministers, as well as representatives from academia, civil society and international organizations.

## Programme Pillars

### Driving Sustainable Growth and Social Inclusion

- What are the key levers and policies that ASEAN can pursue, both at a national and a regional level, to address rising inequality?
- The problems holding back infrastructure development in the region are well-documented, so what practical steps can business and government take to address the investment deficit?
- How can agriculture and land development continue to drive growth in ASEAN without destroying precious ecosystems?
- As incomes rise, how can governments harness technology to provide healthcare services in a sustainable way that avoids the mistakes made by more developed countries?
- Financial inclusion is important not only for households but also for small businesses struggling to achieve scale as trade barriers fall. What can be done to deepen and broaden the financial system?

### Mastering the Fourth Industrial Revolution

- How will the spread of robots and the internet of things impact regional production networks and industrialization pathways?
- How will the Fourth Industrial Revolution impact regional services industries? And what needs to be done to promote cross-border trade in digital services in South-East Asia?
- As digital connectivity deepens, what does the Fourth Industrial Revolution mean for government and governance in South-East Asia?
- How should the region assess the impact of a new industrial age and accelerating digitization on the skills needed for their workforces to thrive?

### Strengthening Regional Relationships

- As the global political order re-forms, will ASEAN become an arena for great power rivalry or a platform for regional stability?
- The ASEAN Economic Community has achieved much, but regional integration is still a work in progress. What are the priority areas and how can progress be accelerated?
- Asia is seeing a new economic architecture emerge as trade deals proliferate and new infrastructure corridors are built. What are the implications for government and business?
- How can regional supply chains be governed with greater transparency to protect against worker abuses?
- How can business and government work together to reduce the burden of regulation for both sides? To what degree can a regional approach take hold through national cooperation?

## Meeting Experience

### Generate Insight

**Opening and closing sessions** feature senior government officials and business leaders, cover broad issues on the meeting's theme and provide the conceptual framework for further discussion. The closing session highlights the outcomes of the meeting and maps out the future engagement of the main stakeholders.

**Interactive sessions** pursue topics related to the programme pillars in greater depth and are structured around a panel, bringing together expert views and contrasting perspectives. Prepared remarks by the panel are kept to a minimum in favour of intensive discussions under the guidance of a moderator. The objective of each interactive session is to formulate two to three concrete action points on the topic. Some of the interactive sessions are sector-specific and industry-focused.

**Televised sessions** raise awareness of important trends and debates by broadcasting the discussion to a global audience. They are aired by the Broadcast Partner hosting the debate. There are no speeches; rather, brief remarks set the context and integrate various points of view.

**Arena sessions** promote a dialogue among panellists by placing them in the centre of the room. The audience encircles the panel to create an intimate and stimulating atmosphere.

**One-on-One sessions** invite an inspiring individual from business, government, academia or civil society to share insights on an idea for an important transformation occurring in our lifetime.

### Drive Impact

**Interactive sessions (Solutions Series)** highlight the creative approaches taken by the Forum's communities to solve certain intractable issues. Innovative solutions within the context of a global challenge are presented during the session and their impact and scalability are discussed.

**Interactive sessions (Connect Series)** are structured as a hybrid format to allow a high level of interaction and knowledge exchange among participants. They begin with short introductory remarks by panellists to set the scene. This is followed by small brainstorming exercises around working walls, led by designated discussion leaders, to dive deeper into the topics highlighted by the panel. A feedback process brings the results of the discussions back to a common core, with the objective to identify intersections and highlight under-recognized trends that will shape the region's future.



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The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

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World Economic Forum  
91–93 route de la Capite  
CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva  
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 869 1212  
Fax: +41 (0) 22 786 2744

[contact@weforum.org](mailto:contact@weforum.org)  
[www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org)