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# Why are We Excited about ASEAN?

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# 1. Why do we have regional cooperation?

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- I. Political rationale eg Jpn '42
- II. Economic rationale
- III. Social/ environmental





## 2. Bogyoke Aung San

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- I. United States of...
- II. Vision
- III. Political and economic





## 3. Myanmar Regional Cooperation programs

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- I. Asean(tl),1997
- II. Greater Mekong Subregion/ economic corridors(tf),1992/1998
- III. BIMSTEC (tf),1997
- IV. India-Myanmar- Thai corridor 2002
- V. Acmeqs (tf) ,2003
- VI. BCIM(tf) ,2012
- VII. RCEP (tl),2018/19





## 4. What types of reg. coop?

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- I. Trade liberalization (tl) . Focus is on reduction of tariffs  
eg ASEAN
- II. Trade facilitation (tf). Improvement of connectivity between countries through road, rail, air, river, energy, people to people eg GMS
- III. Economic Union. Free flow of goods, services, labor within union plus common currency eg EU
- IV. Global production chains eg assembly for cars in southeast Asia





## **5. Government has primary responsibility for ensuring Myanmar maximizes benefits and minimizes costs**

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- I. Make opportunities, challenges and obligations well known to private sector and ordinary people.
- II. Provide infrastructure which will enable the country to compete in global/ regional market
- III. Provide enabling environment to private sector (information, clear and consistent rules, educated workforce etc)
- IV. Vision, strategy, policies and action plan : think globally, act locally !
- V. Coordinating function between different ministries, interest groups, regions of the country.





## 6. In Summary

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- I. Many types of regional cooperation exist simultaneously/  
will increase
- II. There are both costs and benefits to regional cooperation
- III. Myanmar is already a member of many programs
- IV. We are NOT ready at all levels : individual, private,  
government
- V. Government has key responsibility for ensuring that  
Myanmar has maximum benefits and minimum costs.





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# Thank You

