



# DILGinsider

A publication of the Public Affairs and Communication Service on DILG LG Sector News

## Civil servants in ASEAN Community

**F**ilipinos used to be mere citizens of the Philippines but now they form part of the citizenry of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Community since its formal establishment on December 31, 2015.

In fact, the Philippines will hold the Chairmanship of the ASEAN 2017. The country previously took headship three times in 1987, 1999, and 2006.

The ASEAN Chairmanship rotates annually, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States.

But at times, the order can differ from this pattern. For instance, last year's Chair is Malaysia but this year, it's the Lao People's Democratic Republic. This is because Lao PDR switched chairmanship slots with Myanmar, which had requested 2014 to be its year of chairmanship.

A Member State which assumes the Chairmanship shall lead the ASEAN Summit and other related summits, the ASEAN Coordinating Council, the three ASEAN Community Councils, relevant ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies and senior officials, and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

### Embracing "ASEANship"

In a statement, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) said that the low level of awareness among Filipinos, especially among government employees, about the ASEAN Community must be addressed.

Thus, the CSC issued Memorandum Circular No. 6 series of 2016 which urges the different government agencies to celebrate ASEAN Day every 8th of August, to sing

the ASEAN Anthem, and wear ASEAN-inspired attire on the first Monday of every month.

The ASEAN Day marks the day of its creation through the ASEAN Declaration in 1967. Various activities are held to mark it at the national and regional levels.

Moreover, singing of the ASEAN Anthem is an expression of ASEAN unity. It also strengthens the sense of ASEAN identity and belonging among the peoples of the region.

The CSC further says that "with the formal establishment of the ASEAN Community, cultivating awareness of ASEAN has become more crucial in preparing the Philippines to take advantage of, and strengthen its capacity to adjust to, the expected deeper level of integration in the region."

### How will the ASEAN Community affect one's everyday life?

CSC says that "the primary goal of regional integration through the ASEAN Community is to improve the lives of ASEAN's citizens. The ASEAN Community speaks of the Member States' aspiration to establish "a truly rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred Community where our peoples continue to participate in and benefit fully from the ongoing process of ASEAN integration and community-building."

For an ASEAN citizen, the Community will offer opportunities such as a bigger, more open and rules-based market for business, more trade, and increased people-to people interaction through commerce, travel and education, among others.

-- **Nesreen C. Abdulrauf, ICRD-PACS**

### ASEAN Anthem

"The ASEAN Way"

*Raise our flag high, sky high;  
Embrace the pride in our heart;  
ASEAN we are bonded as one.*

*Look-in out to the world.  
For peace, our goal from the very start,  
And prosperity to last.*

*We dare to dream, we care to share.  
Together for ASEAN, we dare to dream.*

*We care to share for it's the way of ASEAN.*



### DILG-CO QUALITY POLICY

We, the DILG Central Office, commit to formulate sound policies and provide effective technical and administrative services to promote excellence in local governance, strengthen local government capacities, and enhance the service delivery of our Regional and Field Offices.