

# UNESCO INTERNATIONAL MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

## NOMINATION FORM

### 1.0 Title of item or collection being proposed

*Keep the title short – maximum ten words is desirable.*

**THE BIRTH OF ASEAN**  
(Archives about the Formation ASEAN, 1967 – 1976)

### 2.0 Summary (max 200 words)

*Give a **brief description** of the documentary heritage being nominated, and the argument for its **world significance**, including its alignment with UNESCO's Global Priorities Gender Equality and Africa whenever relevant.*

*Write this section last, once you have completed all the other sections. Include all the essential points you have made in the nomination, especially the key arguments you have made in the statement of significance **as to why and how the nominated documentary heritage meets the criteria for the International Register**.*

The ASEAN Formation archives are a set of documents that record the establishment of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) from the five founding countries including namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. The documents comprise the ASEAN Declaration 1967 and other related archives. These archives consist of 16 textual files, 1 photo, 1 film, 3 audio files and 12 oral history interview recordings.

The archives described the foundation for ASEAN to turn neighbors into cordial friends and trust deficit into mutual trust, not only in the region but also beyond. Furthermore, the archives also provide the evidences that the newly independent countries, the relatively smaller states compared to the competing Great Powers, also have their own agency by which they shape international politics into a more peaceful and stable landscape. The archives also portrayed the role of ASEAN in preventing conflict and achieving stability in the region where diverse political and cultural situations take place. In addition, ASEAN's diplomatic approach, instilled values, and unique characteristics provide lessons to other regions in the world.

The archives provide the basic reference for ASEAN to develop its unique value in diplomacy, which would later be known as ASEAN Way, that all important decisions are usually reached through consultation and consensus guided by the principles of

noninterference in internal affairs, equality, common interest, peaceful resolution of conflicts and solidarity.

ASEAN's culture of consultation and consensus as well as their spirit, namely, to establish a firm foundation for common action to promote cooperation, have generated geopolitical miracles which create stability and hold countries with different political, economic, and social systems together as one. This unique value and characteristics, coming from outside the traditional diplomatic traditions developed in the West, provides valuable lessons for the world. Amidst the current increasing geopolitical tension, this is a lesson and a memory that the world must not forget.

### 3.0 Nominator contact details

#### 3.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

1. National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia
2. National Archives of Malaysia
3. National Archives of Singapore
4. Thai Film Archive (Public Organization)

#### 3.2 Relationship to the nominated material


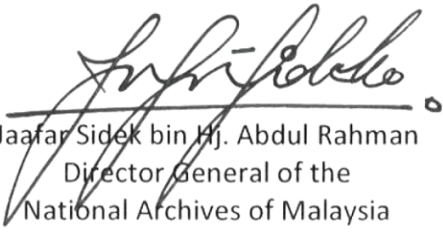


The nominators are the custodians of the nominated archival documentary heritage.

#### 3.3 Address

<b>National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia</b>	
Name	Imam Gunarto
Address	Jl. Ampera Raya No.7, Cilandak Timur, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia
Telephone	+62-217805851
Email	info@anri.go.id
<b>National Archives of Malaysia</b>	
Name	Jaafar Sidek bin Hj. Abdul Rahman
Address	Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim 50568 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Telephone	+603-62090600
Email	jaafar@arkib.gov.my
<b>National Archives of Singapore</b>	
Name	Julia Chee
Address	1 Canning Rise 179868 Singapore
Telephone	-
Email	nas@nlb.gov.sg
<b>Thai Film Archive (Public Organization)</b>	
Name	Chaida Uabumrungjit
Address	94, Moo 3, Phuttamonthon Sai 5 Road, Salaya, Phuttamonthon, Nakornpathom 73170 Thailand
Telephone	+66 2482 2013-14
Email	<a href="mailto:chalidau@gmail.com">chalidau@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:Sanchai_c@fapot.or.th">Sanchai_c@fapot.or.th</a>

## 4.0 Declaration of Authority

I certify that I have the authority to nominate the item, or items, described in this document to the Memory of the World Register.

<p>1. National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia</p>	 <p>Imam Gunarto Acting Head of the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia 28 November 2023</p>
<p>2. National Archives of Malaysia</p>	 <p>Jaafar Sidek bin Hj. Abdul Rahman Director General of the National Archives of Malaysia 28 November 2023</p>
<p>3. National Archives of Singapore</p>	 <p>Julia Chee Director of the National Archives of Singapore 28 November 2023</p>
<p>4. Thai Film Archive (Public Organization)</p>	 <p>Chalida Uabumrungjit Director of the Thai Film Archive (Public Organization) 28 November 2023</p>

## 5.0 Legal information

### 5.1 Name of owner (person or organisation)

### 5.2 Address

### 5.3 Telephone

### 5.4 Email

<b>National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia</b>	
Name	Imam Gunarto
Address	Jl. Ampera Raya No.7, Cilandak Timur, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia
Telephone	+62-217805851
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<b>National Archives of Malaysia</b>	
Name	Jaafar Sidek bin Hj. Abdul Rahman
Address	Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim 50568 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Telephone	+603-62090600
Email	jaafar@arkib.gov.my
<b>National Archives of Singapore</b>	
Name	Julia Chee
Address	1 Canning Rise 179868 Singapore
Telephone	-
Email	nas@nlb.gov.sg
<b>Thai Film Archive (Public Organization)</b>	
Name	Chaida Uabumrungjit
Address	94, Moo 3, Phuttamonthon Sai 5 Road, Salaya, Phuttamonthon, Nakornpathom 73170 Thailand
Telephone	+66 2482 2013-14
Email	<a href="mailto:chalidau@gmail.com">chalidau@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:Sanchai_c@fapot.or.th">Sanchai_c@fapot.or.th</a>

### 5.5 Name and contact details of custodian IF DIFFERENT from the owner

-

### 5.6 Legal status

*Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage.*

*Any relevant supporting documents should be scanned and submitted with the application.*

#### 1. Indonesia

- Law Number 43 Year 2009 on the Records and Archives Administration
- Government Regulation Number 28 Year 2012 on the Implementation of Law Number 43 Year 2009 on the Records and Archives Administration

#### 2. Malaysia

- National Heritage Act 2005 [Act 645]

- National Archives Act 2003 [Act 629]

3. Singapore

National Library Board Act 1995

### 5.7 Copyright status

*If the copyright status of the documentary heritage is known, it should be stated. However, the copyright status of a document or collection has no*

*bearing on its significance, and is not taken into account when determining whether it meets the criteria for inscription.*

*Images supplied with the nomination must be accompanied by the signed 'Agreement Granting Non-Exclusive Rights' form available on the UNESCO Memory of the World website.*

1. Indonesia

The copyright status of the nominated archives remains to National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

2. Malaysia

The copyright status of the nominated archives remains to National Archives of Malaysia

3. Singapore

The copyright status of the Bangkok Declaration, the photograph and speech text belong to the Government of Singapore. The copyright status of the sound recordings belongs to an external organisation, Mediacorp Pte Ltd.

The copyright status of the oral history recordings is shared, as the different coordinating agencies of the project have to grant permission for use. For the relevant records, they are ANRI (Indonesia); National Archives of Malaysia (Malaysia); National Commission for Culture and the Arts (the Philippines); Office of the National Culture Commission (Thailand), and NAS (Singapore).

4. Thailand

*Public domain but subject to inform the donor for outside film archive usage*

### 5.8 Accessibility (note any restrictions, including cultural restrictions)

*Describe how the item(s) or collection may be accessed.*

*If legal or cultural constraints limit access, describe the nature of these constraints.*

*Digitisation for access purposes is encouraged. Comment on whether this has already been done or is planned.*

*If available, include a link to the item of documentary heritage.*

1. Indonesia

the ASEAN archives is accessible in the reading room of ANRI. It has been digitized and will also be published online on <http://www.mowid.anri.go.id>. There is no restriction in accessing the archives, and they are open to the public with the mechanism arranged under the Law and Regulations on Archives and Records Administration of the Republic of Indonesia.

2. Malaysia

This collection can only be accessed by registered researchers through:  
Computerised Archival System and Services (COMPASS) - physical access at research room;  
and  
Online Finding Aid (OFA) - accessible online.

3. Singapore

Access to the materials is either through online viewing or listening via the Archives Online portal (<https://www.nas.gov.sg/archivesonline>) or onsite at the Archives Reading Room, located at 1 Canning Rise, Singapore 179868. Reproduction and usage may require approvals for some of the records.

4. Thailand

The film is open to public to view through the Film Archive's Youtube Channel

## 6.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

### 6.1 Name and identification details of the items/collection being nominated

*Give the exact title of the nomination and the institution(s) nominating it. These will appear on the inscription certificate if the nomination is successful.*

1. National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia
2. National Archives of Malaysia
3. National Archives of Singapore
4. Thai Film Archive

### 6.2 Type of document

*Examples could include Books, Codices, Digital, Drawings, Manuscripts, Maps, Music/Audio/Recordings, Papers, Photographs/Images, Postcards, Reports, Videos/Films, etc.*

The nominated documentary heritage consists of paper documents, photographs, sound recordings, videos, and newspaper clippings.

### 6.3 Catalogue or registration details

*Give the catalogue or registration details for the item or collection.*

*Provide a physical description of the item(s) if it is relevant to their world significance.*

*A nominated collection or archival fonds must be finite, with clear beginning and end dates.*

*If the catalogue or registration details are too unwieldy, provide a description of the contents with sample catalogue entries, accession or registration numbers.*

[Catalogue or registration details is attached. Annex 1](#)

*Or you can add the catalogue/registration details as an appendix or refer to an online inventory.*

#### **6.4 Visual documentation (if available and appropriate)**

*Visual documentation includes photographic images or audiovisual material where relevant.*

*Attach photos as jpg files to be submitted with the application, or supply a CD, DVD or USB key for audiovisual material.*

[Visual documentation is attached. Annex 2](#)

#### **6.5 History/provenance**

*Set out the history of the item or collection - its 'life story' or provenance - from the time when it was created to its place in your institution. This is critical to the item or collection's **authenticity**. You may not know all the details but give as comprehensive an account of the item or collection's provenance as you can.*

##### **1. National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia**

###### **a. Archives of the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia 2018**

During the reign of President Joko Widodo, based on the Regulation of the Minister of State Secretary of the Republic of Indonesia Number 8 of 1016 concerning the amendments to the Regulation of the Minister of State Secretary Number 3 of 2015 concerning the Organization and Work Procedure of the Ministry of State Secretariat, the position of the Ministry of State Secretariat is a government agency led by the Minister of State Secretary, and is under and responsible to the President. The Ministry of State Secretariat has the task of providing technical and administrative support as well as analysis of government affairs in the field of state secretariat to assist the President and Vice President in administering the State government. The Archives were transferred to ANRI on 2018.

###### **b. Ministry of State Secretariat Archives 1966-1989**

The main task of the State Secretariat is to assist the President, both as Head of State and Head of Government in carrying out the authority of the state government, which includes the state administration and government as referred to in the Presidential Decree Number 215 of 1968. His position is under and directly responsible to the President. In carrying out its duties, the State Secretariat is assisted by three secretariats, each of which is led by a secretary, namely the Cabinet Secretariat, the Presidential Secretariat, and the Military Secretariat. Furthermore, there have been several changes to the organizational structure of the State Secretariat. In 1988, the main function of the Ministry of State Secretariat was to provide administrative support to the President.

###### **c. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia is a government ministry having responsible for the foreign affairs. Information related to the Formation of ASEAN can be found in this ministry, especially Directorate General of Legal Affairs and International Treaties.

##### **2. National Archives of Malaysia**

- a. Transfer of public records based on National Archives Act 2003 [Act 629]  
In reference to National Archives Act 2003 [Act 629], Section 28 Transfer of public records to National Archives stated that all public records which are in the custody or under the control of public office shall be transferred to the custody and control of the National Archives.
  - b. Provenance of the nominated record  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia is the owner of the nominated record. In NAM's collection, it was grouped under the treaty and agreement collection based on the record type determined by NAM's standard.
3. National Archives of Singapore
- a. The copy of the Bangkok Declaration is owned by the Government of Singapore, and was transferred to the National Archives of Singapore by the Cabinet Office.
  - b. The photograph (reproduced from a negative) was likely to have been taken by a photographer from the Ministry of Culture and transferred to the National Archives of Singapore by its successor agency Ministry of Information and the Arts. The Ministry of Culture was dissolved in 1985 and the Information Division of the Ministry of Culture came under the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI) on 2 Jan 1985. The Information Division of the MCI and the Culture Affairs Division of the Ministry of Community Development, along with other associated departments and statutory boards, subsequently formed the Ministry of Information and the Arts (MITA) on 28 November 1990.
  - c. The speech was a record held by the Ministry of Culture and transferred to NAS by then Ministry of Information and the Arts (MITA).
  - d. The audio recordings were recorded by Radio and Television Singapore, and later transferred to NAS for preservation and provision of public access by Television Corporation of Singapore (now Mediacorp Pte Ltd). Radio and Television Singapore (RTS), successor of Radio Singapura in 1965, became the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) on 1 February 1980. and subsequently was privatised and reorganised into 3 divisions - Television Corporation of Singapore (TCS), Radio Corporation of Singapore and Singapore Television Twelve (STV12) on 1 October 1994.
  - e. The 12 submitted oral history recordings are part of the Senior ASEAN Statesmen project, which was approved by the 8th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Literary and ASEAN Studies in 1992. With Singapore as the coordinating country, specialist interviewers from each of the ASEAN countries of the time (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand) collected accounts from a total of 46 government officials relating to ASEAN. The recordings selected for submission deal directly with circumstances surrounding the 1967 Bangkok Declaration. They were recorded in 1994 and reside within the National Archives of Singapore. A catalogue on the collection was published in 1998.
4. Thai Film Archive (Public Organization)  
It is in the collection of Channel Newsreel collection which Film Archive acquired in 1985.



## 6.6 Bibliography

*A bibliography provides evidence that the documentary heritage has been used by scholars, and knowledge of its impact and influence is in the public domain. It is a good idea to cite the works of scholars from outside your own country, as well as local scholars, to demonstrate this influence.*

Provide a list of at least 3 published sources that have been produced using the nominated documentary heritage.

Anwar, Dewi Fortuna. 1994. Indonesia in ASEAN: Foreign Policy and Regionalism. Jakarta: Pustaka Sinar Harapan.

Booklet ASEAN. June 2013. Information Department, Ministry of Communication and Multimedia Malaysia.

Choiruzzad, Shofwan Al Banna. 2015. ASEAN di Persimpangan Sejarah: Politik Global, Demokrasi & Integrasi Ekonomi. Jakarta: Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.

Departemen Luar Negeri RI. 2007. ASEAN Selayang Pandang. Jakarta: Departemen Luar Negeri RI.

Dosch, Joern. 2007. Southeast Asian Regionalism: Promoting or Impairing Democracy?. Leeds: University of Leeds.

Indorf, Hans H. Impediments among ASEAN Member State. 1984. Jakarta: ISEAS.

Nainggolan, Poltak Partogi. 2021. ASEAN, Quo Vadis?: Perdagangan Bebas, Konflik Laut China Selatan, dan Konflik Domestik sebagai Batu Ujian. Jakarta: Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.

Narine, Shaum. 2008. Explaining ASEAN: Regionalism in Southeast Asia. Boulder: Co. Lynne Rienner.

Prance, Saipiroon. 1982. ASEAN Government's Attitudes Towards Regional Security 1975-1979. Singapore: Institute of Asian Studies.

Rueland, Juergan dan Anja Jetschke. 2007. The ASEAN Way: Cultural Origins and Change. Freiburg: University of Freiburg.

Severino, Rodolfo C. 2008. Southeast Asia in Search of an ASEAN Community. Singapore: ISEAS

Stubbs, Richard. 2007. ASEAN in an Emerging System of Global Governance: Institutional and Ideational Dimensions. Ontario: McMaster University.

Winandi, Yusuf. 1993. The Asean Political and Security Cooperation. Jakarta: CSIS

## 6.7 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three *independent* people or organisations with expert knowledge about values and provenance of the nominated material.

Name	Qualifications	Contact details (email)
1. Adrian Vickers	Expert of Indonesian History Australian National University	<a href="mailto:adrian.vickers@sidney.edu.au">adrian.vickers@sidney.edu.au</a>  <a href="mailto:dfanwar@gmail.com">dfanwar@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:dewi002@brin.go.id">dewi002@brin.go.id</a>
2. Dewi Fortuna Khaidir Anwar	Research Professor at Pusat Riset Politik-Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional (PR Politik BRIN)/ Research Center for Politics-National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	<a href="mailto:drravi@ukm.edu.my">drravi@ukm.edu.my</a>

3. Prof. Dr. D. Associate Professor at the  
Ravichandran K. International Relations &  
Dhakshinamoorthy Security Studies programme  
at National University of  
Malaysia (UKM)

*Note that the names and contact details of these referees will not be disclosed on the Memory of the World Register, nor disclosed without their permission to any third party. Ensure that there is a gender-balanced representation among the referees. Other authoritative referees should also be contacted to obtain a broad spectrum of opinion for assessment purposes.*

## 7.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

**7.1 Primary criteria - significance value to the world. Comment on one or more of the following significance criteria.**

*Not all the criteria will apply to your documentary heritage. Choose only those criteria that are relevant to your nomination.*

### 7.1.1 Historic significance

*What does the documentary heritage tell us about the history of the world, including its contribution to gender equality? Does it deal with?*

- *Political, economic, social or spiritual movements*
- *leading personalities in world history*
- *events of world-changing significance*
- *specific places of significance*
- *traditional customs*
- *relations with other countries or communities*
- *changing patterns of life and culture and challenging stereotypes*
- *a turning point in history, or a critical innovation*
- *an example of excellence in the arts, literature, science, technology, sport, or other parts of life and culture?*

#### a. Political, Economic, and Socio-Cultural Significances

The formation of ASEAN significantly changed the political and security landscape in Southeast Asia and beyond. Established amidst the height of the Cold War, ASEAN proved that countries with relatively less military capability compared to the competing Great Powers could actually open their own path in ensuring peace and stability in the region. Prior to the establishment of ASEAN, Southeast Asia was, like many other regions in the world, vulnerable to interstate conflict. There was a trust deficit, compounded with the zero-sum Cold War situation.

ASEAN was not the first regional organization in the Southeast Asia. Several other organizations were already existed like the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) in 1954, Association of Southeast Asia (ASA) in 1961, and Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia Organization (Maphilindo) in 1963. Nevertheless, none of them were sustainable as ASEAN, which stand until today.

The formation of ASEAN had produced a set of norms which help govern the behavior of states in the region, from the introduction of Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (1971) to Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (1976), which developed the culture of peace, consensus-making, and non-use of force in solving problems in the region. This process helped countries inside the region, as well those outside the region but having the interests in the region, to change trust deficit into strategic trust and to be able to work together.

ASEAN also significantly supported the peace-building process in the region, as well as preventing border conflicts between Southeast Asian neighbors. While there are still some limitations, it is generally agreed among observers that ASEAN's presence had helped the region to be relatively stable and peaceful compared to other regions during the Cold War. After the Cold War was over, ASEAN's norms and ASEAN-based institutions provides the platform for dialogue and cooperation in the wider East Asia, Asia Pacific region, and the World.

Among the main goals for the establishment of ASEAN is to "accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavors in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of South-East Asian Nations." ASEAN was continuously developing economic cooperation among Southeast Asian nations as well as simultaneously maintaining peace and stability in the region, which becomes the foundation of the region's economic development.

ASEAN's contribution to maintaining the peace and stability in the region helped Southeast Asian countries to focus on economic development, leading to high economic growth in the region, as well as progress in poverty alleviation and strengthening food security. The growth of Southeast Asian economies drives further economic integration in the region. The Bangkok Declaration also stated that the main point of ASEAN's goal is to accelerate economic growth and social progress by developing cooperation in the economic aspect.

The formation of ASEAN had also greatly impacted on the socio-cultural dimensions of people in Southeast Asia and beyond. While the region has always been a hub of trade and cultural exchange for thousands of years, the formation of ASEAN helped people in Southeast Asia to understand each other better through various people-to-people initiatives, from education cooperation to cultural exchanges. ASEAN also cultivated a sense of solidarity and identity among the people in the region. ASEAN is also becoming the platform in which Southeast Asian countries are cultivating their commitment and initiatives to improve the multidimensional well being of their diverse people, from gender equality to human rights,

The socio-cultural cooperation has also become one of the focal points of improving the integration among ASEAN countries to involve in "a caring and sharing community". ASEAN has also initiated the Socio-cultural cooperation, which covers the activities for the youth, women, employment, information, education, science and technology, environment, natural disaster management, health, poverty alleviation and many more. The formation of ASEAN has been the basis for ASEAN member countries to foster brotherhood and solidarity, especially when one of its members is struck by a disaster. The commitment of ASEAN countries to help in times of disaster is included in the Declaration of ASEAN Concord 24 February 1976. Since then, the issue of disaster management has been an important part of the goals of ASEAN Cooperation.

b. Leading Personalities in World History

The formation of ASEAN began with a meeting of five Representative Foreign Ministers from Southeast Asian countries. These five figures (in alphabetical order) are:

1) Adam Malik (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia)

Before he was appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Adam Malik was the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the Soviet Union and Poland in the Era of President Sukarno. He played a role as Chair of the Indonesian Delegation in the Indonesian-Dutch negotiations regarding West Irian. In 1964, he was Head of Delegation to the Commission on Trade and Development at the United Nations. In 1971, Adam Malik was appointed as the 26th Chairman of the UN General Assembly and he was the first Indonesian to be appointed as Chairman of the UN General Assembly. Finally, he was appointed Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia in 1978.

2) Narciso Ramos (Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines)

He was a figure who played a role in managing the first Philippine Embassy in Washington DC, United States during the Independence in 1946. This was the starting point of his influence in the world of foreign policy. From 1949 to 1952 he was the ambassador of the Philippines to Argentina. One of his achievements as a diplomat was that he formed the basic framework of the Philippine foreign service regulations and succeeded in sending Filipino delegations to Latin countries. He was also appointed as the Philippines' envoy to India and established a mission in New Delhi. After becoming Minister of Foreign Affairs, he re-established the Asia Pacific Council (Aspak).

3) Sinnathamby Rajaratnam (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore)

He was an important figure in Singapore History. When he was a journalist he actively wrote about anti-communism and colonialism for The Straits Times Daily. He was then involved in founding the People's Action Party with Toh Chin Chye, Goh Keng Swee and Lee Kuan Yew in 1954. He then succeeded in becoming a Member of Parliament in 1959. He later became Singapore's first Minister of Culture. After the formation of the Republic of Singapore, he became the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The international communities considered him as a successful leader in negotiating Singapore's membership in the UN and the Commonwealth. One of his important legacies is the National Pledge he drafted in 1966, containing the idea of multiracialism and unity of Singaporean society.

4) Thanat Khoman (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand)

He was an important figure behind the birth of ASEAN. Apart from being the host, he was the mediator of the conflict between Indonesia and Malaysia in the 1960s. After World War II, Thanat Koman had an experience in the foreign diplomacy such as at the Thai embassies in Tokyo, New Delhi and Washington DC. In 1950 he was appointed as the Chairman of the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE). He was also Thailand's deputy permanent representative to the UN for five years. In 1959 he was appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. One of his achievements was making the city of Bangkok as the host the Bangkok Forum and declaration of ASEAN. The peak of his political career was becoming Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand in 1979-1982

5) Tun Abdul Razak (Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia)

He was widely known as the Father of Malaysian Development. During his young years, he actively involved in organization like the Youth Chair of the United Malay National Organization (UMNO). He became the Chief Minister of Pahang at the age of 33 in 1955. He was also a member of the group to London who urged Malaysia to be independent from Britain in 1956. The peak of his political career was becoming Prime Minister of Malaysia in 1970.

c. Events of world-changing significance

The birth of ASEAN has become a world event that showed the change of situation in the region of Southeast Asia during the cold war era. This event also displayed the change in the global relations where the people in Southeast Asia also have a great power to stabilize the political and security situation in the region.

d. Specific places of significance

1. Southeast Asia

The aftermath of Second World War became the turning point of history in the Southeast Asia as the many countries declared independence during the decolonization process. Thereafter, the region of Southeast Asia was highly regarded as one of the most important regions in the world during the cold war. During the 1960s as both western and eastern blocs had increased their influences in several countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines.

2. Bangkok

Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, is an important site on the formation of ASEAN. It became the place where five ministers of foreign affairs conducted the meeting and signed the ASEAN Declaration. The position of Thailand as a Southeast Asian country is unique because it is the only country in Southeast Asia that was never colonized by other countries. .

The decision to select Bangkok as the meeting location was because of the active role of Thailand on the reconciliation process of the conflict between Indonesia and Malaysia in the 1960s.

e. Traditional Customs

ASEAN member countries have the same roots and traditions. The role of rice as the main food consumption for the Southeast Asian has made the paddy field and farming to become the common traditional custom in the region.

Other shared culture by all ASEAN member countries is the shadow puppet. It is a storytelling medium that generally tells heroic events, which contain life values. Puppets in ASEAN countries have different names such as Wayang kulit (Indonesia), Wayang Kelantan (Malaysia), Wooden Puppets (Singapore), Nang Sbek Thom (Cambodia), Hun Krabok (Thailand), Mua Roi Nuac (Vietnam), Marionette (Myanmar), Mahlom (Laos), Moro-Moro (Philippines), Menak (Brunei Darussalam).

The Panji story is an original Indonesian story that developed in the 12th century AD. Not only known on the islands of Java, Bali, Lombok, Sulawesi, this story has spread to foreign countries, including Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar. This story, which began as an oral narrative in East Java, has been composed by the recipient community into various other forms of art such as fine art, literary art and performing arts.

f. Relations with other countries or communities

The formation of ASEAN has created a change in the relations of Southeast Asian Countries with other countries or communities. ASEAN has strengthened the power of Southeast Asian Countries rather than when they were on their own.

ASEAN develops numerous relations and cooperation to other countries or communities, such as the cooperation with the United Nations, cooperation with the European Economic Community, cooperation with China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in ASEAN plus Three.

ASEAN also continues to develop cooperative relations to dialogue partners such as Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States.

g. Changing patterns of life and culture and challenging stereotypes

The formation of ASEAN has strengthened ASEAN's multicultural and multiethnic identity. ASEAN provides an example of how cultural and religious diversity can unite in harmony. ASEAN promotes tolerance between ethnicities, religions and nations.

h. A turning point in history, or a critical innovation

The birth of ASEAN has become a turning point of the world history. It portrayed the alteration of the unstable situation period in Southeast Asia towards into a peace and prosperous condition in the region.

i. An example of excellence in the arts, literature, science, technology, sport, or other parts of life and culture?

The formation of ASEAN is an example of excellence in almost every part of life and culture of the people in Southeast Asia. In the field of international relations, it showed the implementation of regional cooperation that created a great impact on the world civilization. The birth of ASEAN has also become an example of excellence on the field of history in the region of Southeast Asia and globally.

### 7.1.2 Form and style

*This criterion refers to the physical nature of the documentary heritage. Much documentary heritage is unremarkable in this respect, for example, manuscript or typescript paper records. However, some forms of documentary heritage display innovative qualities or high levels of artistry, and it is to these that this criterion applies.*

- *Is the documentary heritage a particularly fine exemplar of its type?*
- *Does it have outstanding qualities of beauty and artisanship or artistry?*
- *Is it a new or unusual type of carrier?*
- *Or is it an example of a type of document that has now disappeared?*

All nominated papers use the mainstream media used at the time. There are no specific details to report on form and style.

### 7.1.3 Social, community or spiritual significance

*This criterion refers to the attachment to the documentary heritage of a specific community in the present. You must show how this attachment is demonstrated, for example, a community may be strongly attached to the heritage of a beloved leader, or to the documentary evidence of a specific incident or site, or social movements, such as the promotion of women's rights, gender equality and inclusion. Or it may revere the documentary heritage associated with a spiritual leader or a saint. Provide information on how this attachment is expressed.*

The formation of ASEAN archives attached a great significance for the people in Southeast Asia until nowadays. ASEAN's solution for resolving conflicts peacefully is called The ASEAN Way. It was proven to be successful in resolving disputes such as the conflict in the region. The ASEAN Way has succeeded in developing harmony in the region. Thus, it can be a good example to the world. The principles of cooperation carried out by ASEAN can be used as a model for wider regional development.

### 7.1.4 Gender equality

*Gender equality is one of two Global Priorities of UNESCO. The proposed items or collection should include a gender analysis and if there are any specific aspects of the nomination that relate to gender equality and contribute to record the significant roles that women have played in the world's history, please describe them in detail, explaining what the nominated documentary heritage tells us about the lives of women and girls, and any impacts on women and girls and/or on gender equality.*

*If according to the gender analysis the proposed item and collection does not contribute to gender equality, the 'Do Not Harm' principle should be applied.*

While the nominated collection shows that the government officials involved in the formation of ASEAN are predominantly male, such as the 5 Representative Foreign Ministers from Southeast Asian countries mentioned in the ASEAN Declaration (1967) and the oral history recordings, this however has not precluded ASEAN from becoming more aware in the promotion of gender equality later in its institutional life. This can be seen in ASEAN's later efforts to cultivate commitment and initiative to improve the multidimensional well-being of ASEAN's diverse people, from gender equality (From Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region 1988 to ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals) to human rights (including through the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission for Human Rights).

## 7.2 Comparative criteria. Comment on one or more of the following comparative criteria:

### 7.2.1 Rarity

*Is the item or collection rare? Is it one of a kind (the only one ever created), or the last survivor of a form of documentary heritage that was once widespread? Do similar items or collections exist?*

The nominated archives are the original collections that are kept in the founding countries of ASEAN, namely, the nominators. They are the sole owner of the archives.

### 7.2.2 Integrity, completeness, condition

*Is the documentary heritage complete, or are sections or pages missing? Has part of the documentary heritage become lost, or are supplementary parts being preserved elsewhere? If so, give details.*

*What condition is it in?*

*The nominated archives are authentic, complete and reliable. They are well preserved by the respective National Archives.*

### **7.3 Statement of significance**

*Summarise the points you have made in 7.1 and 7.2 and make the case for authenticity based on the provenance of the documentary heritage. If relevant, findings from the gender analysis should be included indicating how the documentary heritage contributes to UNESCO Global Priority Gender Equality.*

*What has been the impact of this documentary heritage material on world history and culture?*

*Why is this documentary heritage important to the memory of the world? What has been its impact on life and culture beyond the boundaries of a nation state or region?*

*State why the documentary heritage is important to the memory of the world, and why its loss would impoverish the heritage of humanity.*

ASEAN Formation Archives was a documentary heritage with high world significance value. The archives represent great political, economic, and socio-cultural significances by the birth of ASEAN not only for Southeast Asia, but also to the world. The archives also concern on the leading personalities that were represented by five Ministers of Foreign Affairs from the founding countries. Meanwhile, the birth of ASEAN has become a world event that showed the change of situation in the region of Southeast Asia during the cold war era.

The decision to choose Bangkok as the city for the meeting of the establishment of ASEAN was very important with the role of Thailand in promoting peace in the region. In the terms of custom, ASEAN emphasizes the common traditional cultures that are shared among its members. The nominated archives are world documentary heritage that are becoming the source of knowledge and excellence on history and international studies.

The originality of nominated documents had also strengthened the significance of the archives. Instead, these archives are authentic, complete and reliable and well preserved by the respective National Archives.

## **8.0 Consultation with stakeholders**



### **8.1 Provide details of consultation with relevant stakeholders ensuring a gender-balanced representation about this nomination**

*Relevant stakeholders include:*

- *Owners/custodians of the documentary heritage*
- *Communities with involvement in the documentary heritage*
- *Scholars who research the documentary heritage*

1. Focus Group Discussion with Expert, 12 August 2022
2. SARBICA Virtual Special Meeting on 20 April and 13 September 2022
3. SARBICA Special Meeting in Aceh, 14 December 2022
4. 1<sup>st</sup> SARBICA Working Group Meeting, 21 March 2023
5. Meeting between ANRI and MOFA RI, 10 April 2023
6. Meeting between ANRI and ASEAN Secretariat, 11 April 2023
7. 2<sup>nd</sup> SARBICA Working Group Meeting, 17 May 2023
8. SARBICA Working Group Workshop in Jakarta, 25 to 28 July 2023
9. Focus Group Discussion with Expert, 10 October 2023
10. Expert Council Meeting of the Indonesian MOW National Committee, 13 November 2023
11. 23<sup>rd</sup> SARBICA General Conference, 20 November 2023
12. SARBICA Special Meeting, 28 November 2023

## **9.0 Risk assessment**

### **9.1 Detail the nature and scope of threats to the nominated material**

*Is the documentary heritage at risk from?*

- *Climatic conditions*
- *Poor storage*
- *Economic issues*
- *Potential political interference*

*If your documentary heritage is at risk, say so - UNESCO needs to know its true situation.*

1. National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia

The nominated archives are well preserved and in good condition.

2. National Archives of Malaysia

The nominated documentary heritage from Malaysia is well preserved, in good condition and readable.

3. National Archives of the Philippines

Every document in physical form is in a legible state, featuring only minor page tears. Digitized documents are readable and can be accessed through a reader and other devices/applications that support PDF while the books are in fair condition while for the newspaper article is yellowed and brittle.

4. National Archives of Singapore

The nominated archives are well preserved and in good or fair condition. They have been digitized for preservation and access.

5. Thai Film Archive

The nominated film from Thai Film Archive is well preserved, digitized and accessible.

## 10.0 Preservation and access management plan

**10.1 Describe, or attach as a scanned document, any existing plans. If no plans exist, provide details about proposed conservation, storage and access strategies.**

1. National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia

Indonesia has conducted several preservation treatments for the archives being nominated as the Memory of the World (MOW). They consist of safe storage areas, with adequate conditions and environment for the long-term storage of archives in various formats. The treatment program has been done in various ways, including the financial support, developing the awareness of the staffs at the National Archives, preparing the modern equipment as well as the machinery support, education and training and collaboration.

ANRI also has done several dissemination programs in order to introduce the nominated archives to public. The public needs to know the content of the archives is part of the collective memory of the nation. The dissemination process is the element that determines the fate of the nominated archives, which needs to be done at the early stage.

The challenges in preserving the archives are the storage environmental conditions such as temperature, humidity, light and pollution affecting the sustainability of the documents, thefts, illegal sales, archives destruction, brittle, obsolescence of the storage media and lack of financing. Ensuring the storage's temperature, humidity meets the standard requirements for the archives. Moreover, we also maintain the adequate tools and facilities to keep the archives in good condition. They are as follows:

- a. Temperature and humidity control equipment, including air conditioners (AC) and humidifiers;
- b. Smoke detector;
- c. Climatology micro data logger;
- d. Fire Sprinkle;
- e. Fire Extinguisher;
- f. Special shelves for storing maps and pictures;
- g. CCTV to monitor the condition of the archive's storage;
- h. Regular check-up for electricity and building maintenance

The public could access the nominated archives via the archival guide and the reading room. In the future, Indonesia will publish the results of digitizing these archives on the website to expand access to archives

## 2. National Archives of Malaysia

Malaysia is a tropical country located in tropical region. Thus, we experience monsoon seasons, which bring along heavy rainfall throughout the year. Floods and landslides are adverse effects of the monsoon seasons and also affects our archives buildings. Roof leaking is one of those problems. In order to protect our archives buildings and archive materials in our holding, we give a great emphasize to our building structure and maintenance. We do monitor our relative humidity and storage temperature. If the humidity fluctuates, it will cause deterioration and damage to the archives.

## 3. National Archives of Singapore

Preservation:

Records are kept in repositories, according to suitable temperature and relative humidity conditions catering to the different media/format of the records, to ensure long term preservation. For records determined to be in unstable condition, the relevant conservation treatments (either interventive or preventive) have been/will be applied by specialists from the Archives Conservation Lab or the Sound and Moving Images Lab.

Standard Operating Procedures for Records Handling are provided to relevant personnel working at the repositories, and relevant authorities are to be alerted should any defects be detected during periodic checks.

As part of Business Continuity Plans, a Collection Disaster Management Plan along with Disaster Preparedness Response and Training are in place to provide adequate guidelines and training for both staff and contractors/vendors in minimizing potential risks (e.g water, fire, mould, pests, high level of dusts, hazardous chemical agents etc.) and conducting salvage/recovery efforts.

Access:

After identifying records for transfer to the National Archives of Singapore, the records are examined, described, accessioned, and indexed to ensure discoverability of the meta-data, either by the public where allowed, or minimally for appointed staff, according to the conditions governing access as per agreed with depositing agencies/donors.

Members of public are able to access the catalogue of publicly available archival records via

the online web portal Archives Online (<https://www.nas.gov.sg/archivesonline>), and may view records either online or onsite at the Archives Reading Room after submitting an e-Request, subject to the conditions governing access.

#### 4. Thai Film Archive (Public Organization)

The nominated film from Thai Film Archive is well preserved, digitized and accessible.

## 11.0 Any other information that may support the nomination

### 11.1 Note below or attach scanned documents as appropriate.

*This may include statements from supporters, plans for promoting the documentary heritage if it is inscribed, or scanned news items relating to the documentary heritage.*

*How do you see this documentary heritage being used for education and research?*

Plans for promoting the documentary heritage if it inscribed:

1. Archives Publication  
Producing archives publication, which contain selected nominated archives by the nominators.
2. Archives exhibitions  
Conducting touring archives exhibitions that visually display nominated archives within the ASEAN region.
3. International Seminars  
Organizing international seminars that foster collaboration, provide guidance on the nomination process for the Memory of the World program, and enhance the global understanding of the significance of ASEAN archives.
4. Documentary Film  
Create a documentary film to increase the public awareness on the nominated archives as world documentary heritage.

[Supporting Document, Annex 3](#)

## 12.0 CHECKLIST

Summary completed (section 2);

Nomination and contact details completed (section 3);

Declaration of Authority signed and dated (section 4);

If this is a joint nomination, section 4 is appropriately modified, and all Declarations of Authority obtained;

Legal information (section 5);

Details of custodian if different from owner (section 5);

Details of legal status completed (section 5);

Details of accessibility completed (section 5);

Copyright permission for images completed (section 5);

Catalogue and registration information (section 6);

History/provenance completed (section 6);

Bibliography completed (section 6);

Independent referees identified (section 6);

Significance – primary criteria (section 7);

Significance – comparative criteria (section 7);

Statement of significance (section 7);

Details of consultation with stakeholders completed where relevant (section 8);

Assessment of risk completed (section 9);

Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed, or strategy proposed (section 10);

Any other information provided – if applicable (section 11);

Additional scanned documents, including suitable reproduction quality photographs identified to illustrate the documentary heritage (300dpi, jpg format, full-colour preferred);