

UNIT 5 – PRACTICE 1 - READING

ASEAN

A

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, commonly referred to as ASEAN, is a geopolitical and economic organization of 10 countries in Southeast Asia. It was established in Bangkok, Thailand by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Since then, membership has expanded to include Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.

B

ASEAN has a population of about 600 million which makes up about 9% of the world's population. It has an area of 4.46 million square kilometers, accounting for 3% of the total land area of the earth, and its territorial waters cover an area about three times larger than its land mass does.

C

The region's principal aims include the acceleration of economic growth, social progress, and cultural development among its members, as well as the promotion of regional peace. With these targets, 'One Vision, One Identity, One Community' is chosen as the bloc's motto.

D

In terms of economy, if ASEAN were a single country, it would already be the eighth largest economy in the world, with a combined GDP of \$2.4 trillion in 2013. The Governments of ASEAN countries have paid special attention to trade. With regard to external trade, ASEAN as a whole represents the EU's third largest trading partner outside Europe (after the US and China) with more than €246 billion of trade in goods and services in 2014. It has been estimated that a free trade area will be established in the ASEAN region by 2020. The ASEAN leaders have also adopted the ASEAN Vision 2020, which aims at forging closer economic integration within the region. The Hanoi Plan of Action, adopted in 1998, serves as the first in a series of planned actions leading up to the realization of the ASEAN Vision.

E

In addition, ASEAN is a region of diverse cultures. Therefore, ASEAN cooperation not only covers economic growth but also in a variety of areas, including education, culture and sports activities. Student exchange programs within the regional countries are encouraged. Regional sport competitions, such as the Southeast Asian Games, the ASEAN Para Games, the ASEAN Schools Games and the ASEAN Football Championship are held with the aim of strengthening friendship among ASEAN members.

Task 1. Write A, B, C, D or E next to the statement which contains the information from the paragraph.

1. ASEAN's sea area is about three times larger than its land area. _____
2. In addition to economy, ASEAN countries cooperate in a variety of aspects. _____
3. ASEAN organization consists of 10 countries in Southeast Asia. _____
4. Maintaining regional peace is one of the bloc's principal aims. _____
5. A free trade area is estimated to be formed within ASEAN by 2020. _____

Task 2. Decide whether the following statements are True, False or Not Given.

	True	False	Not given
6. ASEAN was founded in Bangkok, Thailand by Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.			
7. ASEAN covers an area of over four million square kilometers.			
8. The bloc's motto is: 'One Vision, One Diversity, One Community.'			
9. ASEAN is the EU's third largest trading partner outside Europe.			
10. ASEAN Schools Games is a sporting event held every year by an ASEAN state member.			