



# STATUS OF WOMEN IN ASEAN

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# BACKGROUND

In the last 50 years , ASEAN displayed an IMPRESSIVE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE and has emerged as the 6th largest economic power in the world and the 3rd largest in Asia

In the midst of economic growth however, deepening poverty and persistent inequalities and disparities

Marginalization of vulnerable sectors and gender gaps in all sectors persist

# Ranking of Most Populous ASEAN Member States

(Figures as of 2015)

<b>Indonesia</b>		<b>257,563,815</b>
<b>Philippines</b>		<b>100,699,395</b>
<b>Vietnam</b>		<b>91,713,300</b>
<b>Thailand</b>		<b>67,959,359</b>
<b>Myanmar</b>		<b>53,897,154</b>
<b>Malaysia</b>		<b>30,331,007</b>
<b>Cambodia</b>		<b>15,328,136</b>
<b>Laos</b>		<b>6,802,023</b>
<b>Singapore</b>		<b>5,535,002</b>
<b>Brunei</b>		<b>423,188</b>

Sources: World Bank, CIA World Fact Book

# ECONOMIC CONTEXT: ASEAN INTEGRATION IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

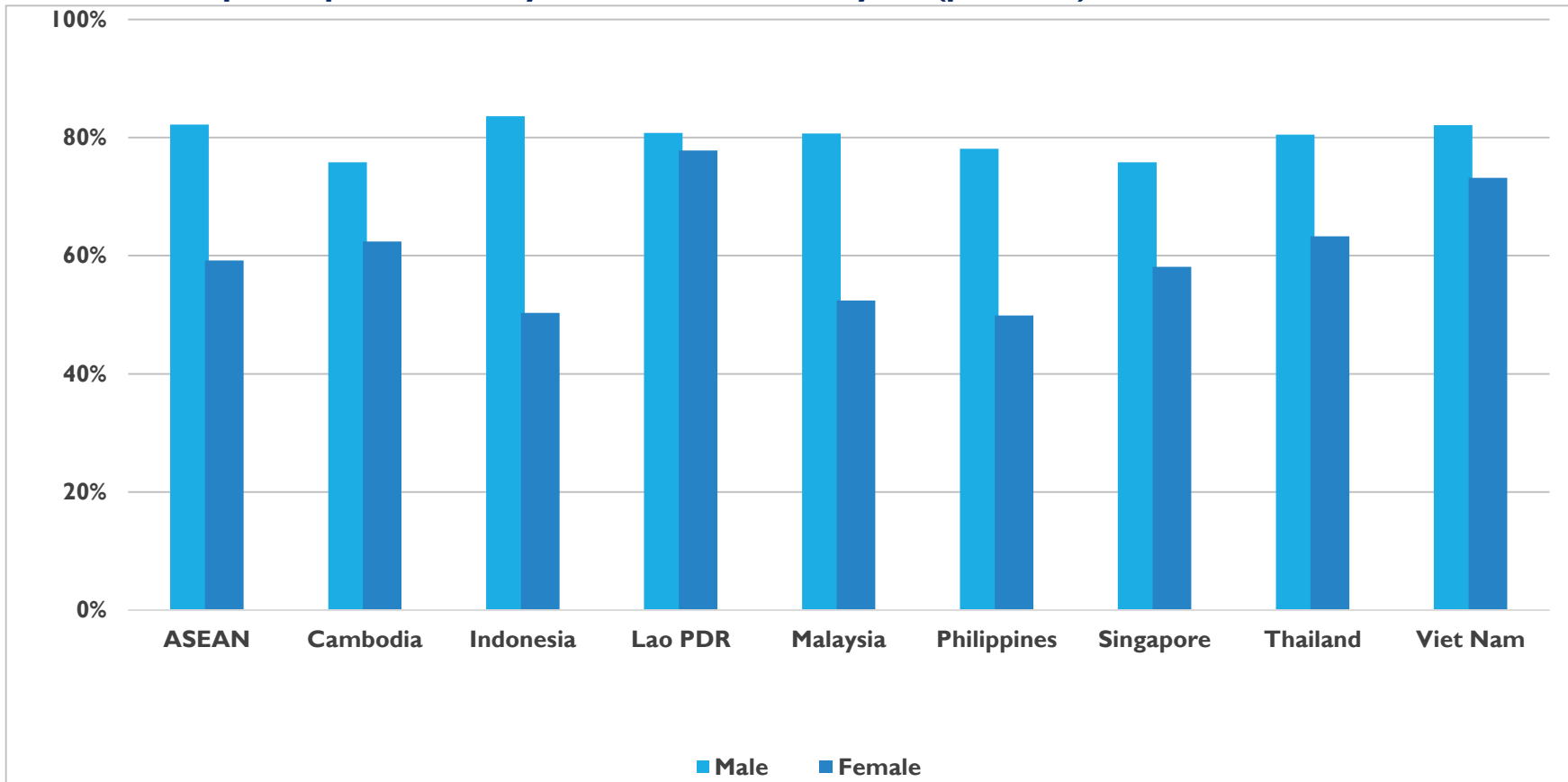
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- **US\$2.4 trillion GDP in 2013; 300 million labour force**
- **Relative resilience to global economic crisis**
  - Between 2007-13, ASEAN economies grew faster than global average
- **Changing trade and FDI flows**
  - Rising FDI inflows relative to rest of the world
- **Rapidly growing middle class**
  - From 1991-2013, 83 million workers joined the middle class; number expected to reach 144 million by 2017
- **But rising inequality is a major concern**

# GENDER AND LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

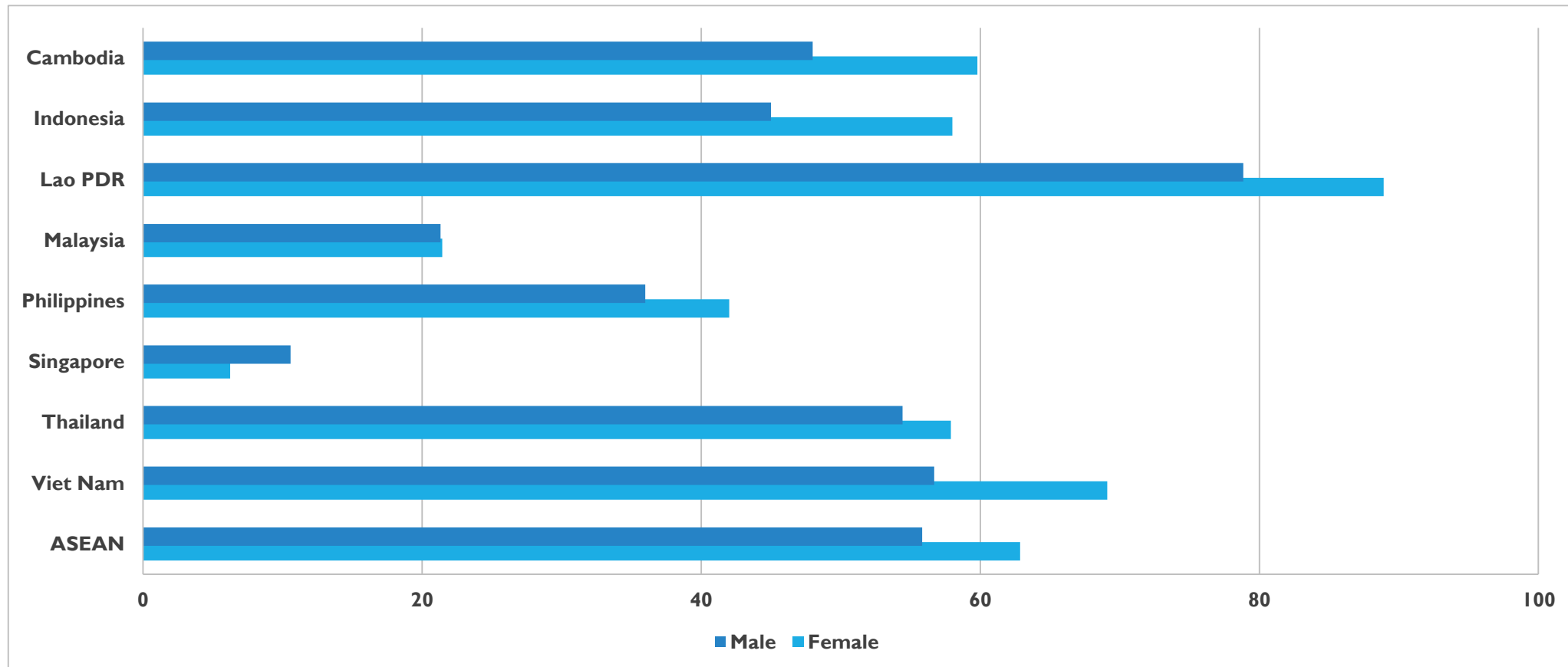
- Women face barriers to entering the labour force
- Male-female gap of 23 p.p. in labour force participation

Labour force participation rate by sex, latest available year (per cent)



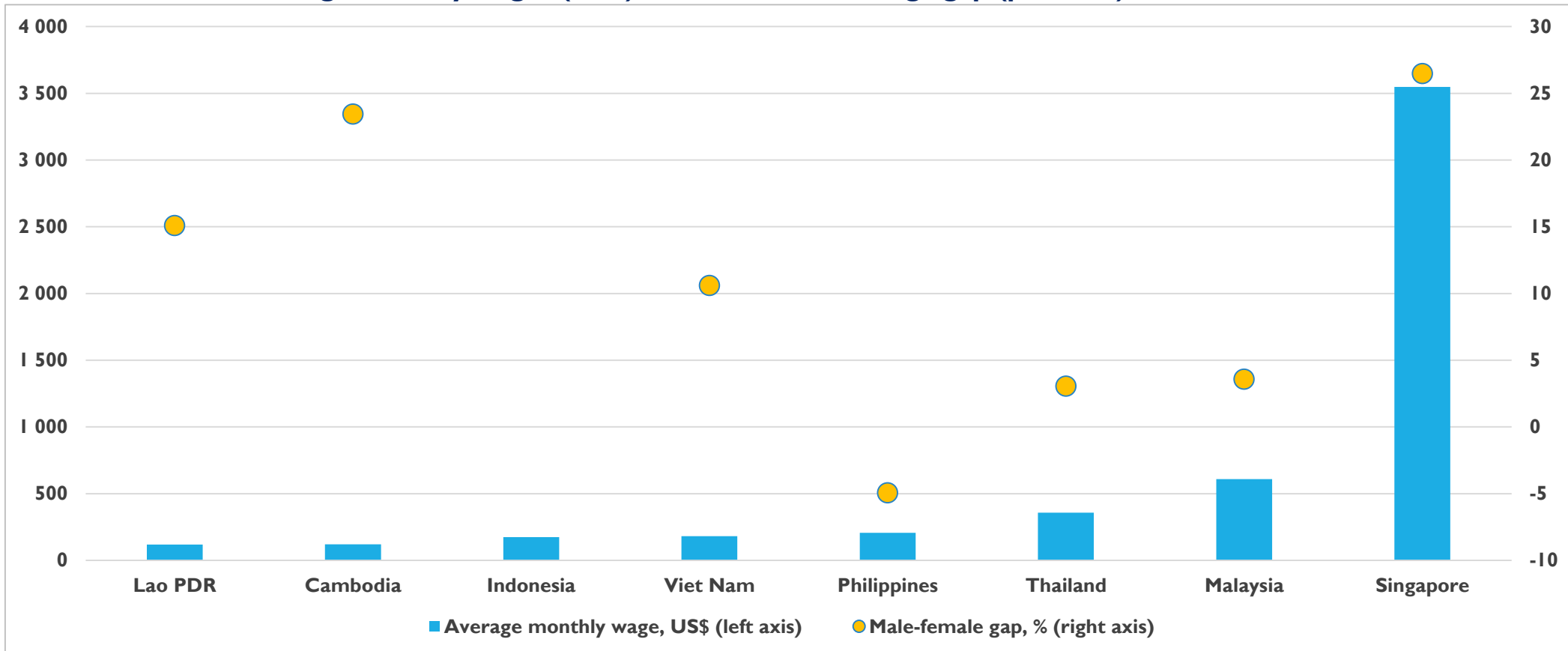
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- **Women at a disadvantage in securing decent jobs**
  - **Higher vulnerable employment for women (63%) than men (56%)**

**Vulnerable employment rate by sex, latest available year (per cent)**



- Significant gender wage gap in most economies
- As high as 23-27% in Cambodia and Singapore

Average monthly wages (US\$) and male-female wage gap (per cent)



# GENDER AND MIGRATION IN ASEAN

- Intra-ASEAN migration increased from 1.5m to 6.5m (1990-2013)
- Mostly medium and low skilled workers
- Concentrated in construction, agriculture and domestic work

**7 high-skill occupations under AEC, various years (000s and % of total employment)**

	Employment in the seven occupations (thousand)			Share of seven occupations in total employment (%)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Cambodia (2012)	70.1	45.5	24.7	1.0	1.2	0.7
Lao PDR (2010)	37.8	21.2	16.6	1.3	1.4	1.1
Viet Nam (2012)	735.7	345.2	390.5	1.4	1.3	1.6
Indonesia (2010)	355.3	203.9	151.5	0.3	0.3	0.4
Philippines (2011)	454.5	209.5	245	1.2	0.9	1.7
Thailand (2010)	295	124.6	170.4	0.8	0.6	1.0



# INTRA ASEAN WOMEN'S LABOR MIGRATION

Country	Estimated Number	Destination
Cambodia	8,800 (35.6% of total registered in 2014)	Thailand domestic work, agriculture, domestic work
Indonesia	243,600 women (56.7% of total registered in 2014) 4,100 women	Malaysia-domestic work
Lao PDR	4,100 women (49.4% of total in 2014)	Thailand for Domestic work; Agriculture; Construction
Myanmar	12,600 women (19.4% of total in 2014)	Thailand – domestic work, agriculture, manufacturing
Philippines	398,975 women (54.6% of total in 2011)30	Singapore, Malaysia , Brunei for domestic work
Malaysia		Singapore-domestic work
Vietnam	26,800 women (33.4% of total in 2012)	Malaysia- Manufacturing

# WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The 10 AMS political systems , political cultures and structures are diverse . All governments are male dominated and women across the region have difficulty breaking the old boys club that still persist in ASEAN politics .

Singapore, Lao PDR , Viet Nam Philippines have achieved 30 percent women in parliament with Lao showing the biggest leap in the last decade;

Brunei , a monarchy does not have a parliament.

Only Indonesia has some provision for temporary special measures encouraging political party to include women candidates in their political slates;

Philippines , Indonesia , Thailand had women presidents , Myanmar has a head Counsellor (Aung San Suu Kyi) as titular head of state .

Political climate of misogyny, repression and persecution in some ASEAN governments has negatively affected women politicians;

# POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Women CSOs play an important role as fiscalizing agents in their countries providing critical inputs and perspectives that have sometimes resulted in tense relationship with their governments.

The existence of networks like ASEAN Women's Caucus , ASEAN Civil Society groups, Migrant Forum etc are significant, (2009:11) in democratizing ASEAN societies;

Women NGOs are a force to reckon with in politics, as well as, in development matters. They provide critical inputs in the shaping of their country's political agenda; render services and expertise in areas such as health, community development, and gender sensitive development planning, budgeting and project.

Though NGOs have engaged ASEAN for many decades, some countries in ASEAN do not provide democratic space for NGOs to participate meaningfully in the official business of ASEAN.

# GENDER PEACE AND SECURITY

ASEAN Societies are experiencing ethnic religious, political, violent extremist conflicts.

These conflicts affect Women and Children negatively including massive dislocation and displacement; rape, physical and sexual violence and post traumatic stress disorder.

ACWC has recently introduced a Gender, Peace, and Security Declaration to encourage ASEAN countries to adopt UNSC Resolution 1325

# HEALTH :MATERNAL MORTALITY

*According to national estimates, maternal mortality ratios have fallen significantly in Lao PDR,*

*Cambodia and Viet Nam. However, changes in Indonesia and the Philippines are a cause of concern, as maternal mortality ratios have increased.*

A majority of women give birth in the presence of skilled health staff, except in Lao PDR; and the share has increased everywhere, including the Philippines and Indonesia. However, the latter two countries also display large inequalities in access to health services across provinces and regions (UNICEF Indonesia, 2012).

Although women are less likely than before to have children under the age of 20, adolescent pregnancies, which are a significant risk factor for child and maternal health, remain high especially in the Philippines

# MATERNAL MORTALITY

Myanmar, Indonesia, Cambodia, and the Philippines have as much as 110 to 200 women who die during pregnancy or childbirth. Myanmar had the highest observed maternal mortality rate in the ASEAN region, with 200 deaths per 1000 live births in 2014.

In Myanmar, the maternal mortality rate has significantly been reduced in the past 15 years from 580 in 1990 to 200 in 2013.

# TRENDS IN EDUCATION IN ASEAN

Across the region, net enrolment rates in primary education have been slowly improving, but not fast enough to ensure that the target of universal completion of a primary school education across all ASEAN Member States is achieved by 2015;

Youth literacy rates have improved remarkably across the region, and in 2010 almost all (98.5%) young people aged 15 to 24 years of age were literate – the countries lagging to some extent in 2010 were Cambodia and Lao PDR;

There is a distinct improvement in gender parity in primary education, but boys continue to have more access to primary education than girls –;

There is considerably better **gender parity in secondary education, with girls and boys in 2010 having almost equal opportunity to attend a secondary school** – interestingly, in Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines, girls were even more likely than boys in 2010 to attend a secondary school;

Across the region, women are becoming much more likely than men to participate in tertiary education – in 2010, there were 120 women for every 100 men attending tertiary education institutions especially in the Philippines ; the only exceptions being Lao PDR and Cambodia.





# ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Violence against women is still a major issue in ASEAN with domestic violence, rape, prostitution, trafficking for sexual exploitation still pervasive all across the region;
- Most ASEAN governments have developed National Action Plans against VAW providing for services for women and girls who have experienced violence, provided by government and/or civil society actors, include shelters, hotlines, One Stop Crisis Centers, and dedicated women's and children's desks in police stations that are available in several countries.
- A Regional Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children have recently been launched to solidify the efforts of the 10 AMS against VAW;

Country	Year Legislation was adopted	Title of Legislation	Marital Rape Provisions
Brunei Darusaalam			No
Cambodia	2005	Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims	No
Indonesia	2007	Law No. 23/2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence	Yes
Lao	2014	Law on the prevention of Violence Against Women and Children	
Malaysia	1994	Domestic Violence Act	No
Myanmar			No
Philippines	2004/2010	RA 9262 Violence Against Women and their Children; Magna Carta of Women	Yes
Singapore	1961; amended in 2009	Women's Charter and the Penal Code	Partial
Thailand	2007	Protection of Domestic Violence Victims Act B.E. 2550	Yes
Vietnam	2007	Prevention of and Control over Domestic Violence	Yes

# CONCLUSION

The status of women in ASEAN have improved in the last 50 years;

They have been significant players in the dramatic economic growth of ASEAN as workers in free trade zones, in the manufacturing and the domestic service at home and abroad as migrant workers. Moreover they have continued to perform unpaid and undervalued reproductive work keeping families and communities together;. They have begun to enter boardrooms as CEOs and economic managers

Higher levels of education have also enabled women to enter politics and help shape the agenda of their governments;

But gender issues particularly discrimination, disparities in wages and violence against women in all its forms in all dimension of women's lives have kept women from fulfilling their full potential;

Change needs to come at the institutional, structural and more importantly from people's mindsets to enable women to participate equally in development.