Table 1.0: Country Comparisons

Country	Capital	Land Area (sq. km)	Population (2013, million persons)	Population Density (2013)	GDP (2013, USD billion)	Per capita GDP (2011, USD)	Gini (est. 2009)	Major Religion
Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan	5,270	0.4	76	16.1	40,250	-	Islam
Cambodia	Phnom Penh	176, 520	15.1	86	15.3	1,013	0.444	Buddhism
Indonesia	Jakarta	1,811,570	249.9	138	868.3	3,475	0.368	Islam
Laos	Vientiane	230,800	6.8	29	11.1	1,632		
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	328,550	29.7	90	312.4	10.519	0.462	Islam
Myanmar (Burma)	Naypyidaw	653,260	53.3	82	59.4*	1,114	-	Buddhism
The Philippines	Manila	298,170	98.4	330	272	2,764	0.458	Christianity
Singapore	Singapore	718	5.4	7,521	297.9	55,167	0.473	Buddhism, Christianity, Islam
Thailand	Bangkok	510,890	67	131	387.3	5,781	0.536	Buddhism
Vietnam	Hanoi	310,070	89.7	289	171.4	1,911	0.376	-
TOTAL	-	4,325,800	615.7	142	2,411.2	3,916	-	-

Sources: World Bank, UN, and CIA World Factbook.

* 2012

Figure 1.2: For every 100 persons in ASEAN

Union or the United States.

Among the member-countries, Indonesia has the largest population of 250 million. In fact, Brunei has the smallest population of 400,000.

For every 100 persons in ASEAN, 41 are Indonesians, 16 are Filipinos, 14 are Vietnamese, 11 are Thais, 9 are Myanmar, 5 are Malaysians, 2 are Cambodians, 1 from Laos and 1 from Singapore (figure 1.2).

[Brunei has a very small population compared to the total ASEAN population. In fact, for every 100 persons in ASEAN, Bruneians only account for 0.06 persons. For this reason, Bruneians would not be represented in the average 100 persons in ASEAN such as in the figure.]

There are great disparities in population distribution across the region. In Laos, mountainous forests and extensive rice terraces cover the land as far as the eye can see, with only an average of 29 people living in a single square kilometer. Brunei is also another example of a country with small population density. In contrast, most cities in the Southeast Asian member-countries are high-density living spaces. For instance, tall residential and office buildings crowd Singapore's landscape. This is not surprising, as the city-state is home to approximately 7,521 persons for every square kilometer. Singapore has the highest population density across the ASEAN at national level.

However, information at the national level is not always an accurate way in looking at a country. At the sub-national level, some places are more crowded than others are. It is estimated that Metro Manila's population density is 18,723 persons per square kilometer—more than double than that of Singapore.

Aside from population density, there is also a huge disparity in economic production. Indonesia has the largest economy with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 868 billion. In contrast to this, Laos has the smallest with a GDP of USD 8 billion.

There is also huge disparity in per capita GDP. Per capita GDP is the average economic production of one person in a country. Singapore has the highest per capita GDP of USD 55,000. In contrast to this, Cambodia has the lowest of around USD 1,000.

The economic gap is not only prominent across countries, but within countries as well.