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Q4 why is asean consider a successful organization, & what challenges it faces in maintaining its unity & achieving its goals?
ASEAN

start with the summary of the answer as introduction.

"None we can do so little; together we can do so much"
(Helen Keller)

The Association of Southeast Asian nation is a regional intergovernmental organization, founded on August 8, 1967, comprising of ten member states;

✓
Cambodia

Brunei

Indonesia

Laos

Malaysia

Myanmar

✓
Philippines

Singapore

Thailand

Vietnam.

Its primary goals include

accelerating economic growth,
promoting social progress,
fostering cultural developments
& ensuring peace & stability in
Southeast Asia through mutual
respect & cooperation.

Why it is successful

Asean is considered successful organization because it has transformed a historically conflict-prone region into one of durable peace, economic prosperity, and geopolitical influence, often described as an unexpected success story, despite its diverse political systems, cultures and economies.

Asean has created various institutions, communities, frameworks & mechanisms that promote integration, dialogue & collective actions among its diverse member states. These structures address key areas like, trade, security, economy & social development enabling

Asean to navigate challenges & foster prosperity.

~~Below~~ Following are key institutions which contribute uniquely to the organization's achievements.

leave a line space between headings for neatness.

1 ASEAN Charter as a legal foundation for regional integration

The Asean Charter is a rulebook that officially establishes by ASEAN, setting goals for peace, growth & fair decision making. It ensures member respect each other & solve dispute through talks, strengthening unity & stability. This legal backbone helps Asean adapt to challenges while staying cohesive.

2 ASEAN Summit as Apex decision making forum:

The Asean Summit brings leaders together twice yearly to decide on major issues like economy or security, ensuring equal input through rotating hosts. It drives big changes & global partnership.

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Strengthening ASEAN's influence. This high level forum keeps the region united & forward moving.
The Kuala Lumpur Summit pushed for ASEAN as a top economy by 2045, focusing on digital growth.

3 ASEAN Political-Security Community for regional stability

The APSC promotes peace by fostering dialogue on threats like conflicts or terrorism and setting anti aggression rules. It prevents wars & builds trust, ensuring regional stability. This keeps ASEAN as a peaceful hub despite tensions.

4 ASEAN Economic Community for integrated Market and Growth:

The AEC create a single market by easing trade, investment and worker movement, cutting barriers like tariffs. It

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boosts business, jobs and growth, making
ASEAN a global economic power
house. This integration drives
prosperity and competitiveness.
Recently ASEAN launched its
AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2036,
emphasizing green economy for
sustainable growth.

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.

5 ASEAN Socio-cultural Community for human development and identity:

The ASCC improves lives through
education, health and cultural
programs, building a shared
ASEAN identity. It supports
equality & disaster aid, fostering
resilience and unity. This strengthens
social bonds across diverse nations.

6 ASEAN Regional Forum for Security dialogue with partners:

The ARF is a platform for
ASEAN & 17 partners to discuss
security issues like terrorism

or maritime disputes, building trust. It prevents conflicts through open talks, enhancing ASEAN's role in regional stability. This broad dialogue reduces tensions. Recently, it addressed South-China Sea tensions and global scams, promoting peace in surveys.

7 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation for peaceful relations:

The TAC is a promise for respect, non-interference and peaceful solutions signed by over 50 countries.

It builds global trust & prevents conflicts, boosting ASEAN's diplomatic power. This pact ensures a stable region.

TAC welcomed Algeria as a new member, expanding ASEAN's peace network.

8 ASEAN intergovernmental Commission on human rights for human rights promotion & Protection:

AICHR is Asean's human right body, created to promote & protect human right like freedoms, equality & safety through dialogue & cooperation. This supports Asean's goal of inclusive people-centered growth.

As it ~~first~~ 41st meeting in May 2025, AICHR advanced a declaration on a safe & clean & healthy, sustainable environment promoting rights based environmental policies.

9 ASEAN Secretarial Supports unity & progress

Asean Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia is like the control centre of Asean, helping its ten member countries to stay organized & work together. It plans important events like the Asean Summit, where leaders discuss major issues.

In 2024, It helped roll out a regional plan to boost digital trade. It also links Asean with countries

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like Japan for partnership in short.
it keeps Asean's teamwork
running smoothly by putting the asean
charter rules into action

Asean charter

Sectorial

Making Rules
OR Constitution

→ implement
these Rules

ASEAN Challenges

Although ASEAN is a successful organization but somehow it is grappling with several challenges that test its unity & effectiveness.

Following are the main challenges that ~~Asean~~ is facing.

- Major challenges
- Political & Security Challenge
 - Geopolitical & External Pressure
 - Economic problems
 - Environmental & Climate Problem
 - Internal & Organizational Issue.

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political & Security challenge

South-China
Sea dispute

Myanmar's
civil unrest.

The South-China Sea remains a flashpoint for Asean, where China & Asean members like the Philippines & Vietnam creates tensions & risks conflicts. These countries argue with China over who owns the part of South China Sea & this causes fights & ship clashes which dividing Asean's unity & weakening its influence. Some countries avoid confronting China due to trade ties, while others push for action stalling agreements like the Code of Conduct.

In 2002 ship clashes near Second Thomas Shoal exposed Asean's inability to agree on a response, making it look weak & unable to ensure regional peace.

Myanmar conflict or Myanmar

Civil war since 2021 Coup Challenges
also by undermining its goal of
regional stability. Also the military
Junta refuses to implement Asean's
five point ~~consensus~~ that leads
to humanitarian disasters & refugee
flows into neighboring countries, like
Thailand.

Geopolitical & External pressures

US-China
Rivalry

impacts of
US tariffs.

US-China rivalry is one of the
big challenge for Asean to tackle
it, as Asean is increasingly squeezed
by the intensifying competition b/w
US & China, which forces countries
to navigate neutrality amid trade
wars & security alliances. ^{some} Countries
like Cambodia favor China while
Philippines align with US.
In 2025, a survey showing that

over 50% prefer china made it hard for Asean to stay balanced, risking its role as an independent regional leader

US imposed Tariffs on Asean's exports like vietnam's electronics, challenges Asean by threatening economic growth & jobs. These taxes make it harder for Asean to maintain its strong trade reputation, forcing it to find new markets.

Economic Problems

Uneven growth
& trade issues

Rising prices
& supply problems

Trade disruptions & uneven development,
Like Singapore's advance economy versus Cambodia's weaker one, Challenge Asean. Singapore is a rich country, its currency has value it has advance economy, on the other side Cambodia, a poor country

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will create a gap between Asean's member and making it difficult for Asean to keep ~~its~~ goal of unified market in 2025. ~~As~~ ~~triff~~ increased, fear of Job losses, especially in weaker economies, making it harder for Asean to push plans like in digital economy framework. These gaps & trade disruptions slows Asean's progress towards shared prosperity & economic integration.

Inflation & Supply Chain issues

Challenge Asean's growth trajectory, with food & energy prices spiking in vulnerable economies.

In 2025, Red Sea shipping delays, raising food & fuel costs in Indonesia ~~challenges~~ Asean by hurting people's livelihood & economic stability. High prices & unemployment make it harder for Asean to keep members' economies stronger.

Environmental & Climate Problems

Climate change & disasters

Frequent disasters like 2025 floods in Vietnam & Thailand Challenge ASEAN by damaging economies & displacing people, straining resources. Rising sea level threaten coastal cities, but ASEAN struggles to fund & coordinate climate plans across diverse members. This weakens its ability to protect the region & meet global climate goals together.

Institutional & Internal Challenges

internal divisions & consensus Issues:

ASEAN's consensus based decision making & non interference policy often result in inaction on critical issues, weakening its responsiveness.

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In 2025, when Asean member talks about Myanmar issue, some countries like Malaysia wanted action but some countries not like Thailand didn't want to take action. Then splits make it tough for Asean to act fast or stay united.

this is a lengthy answer and will affect your time management.

so, shorten it a bit.