

ASEAN & DEEP-SEA MINING

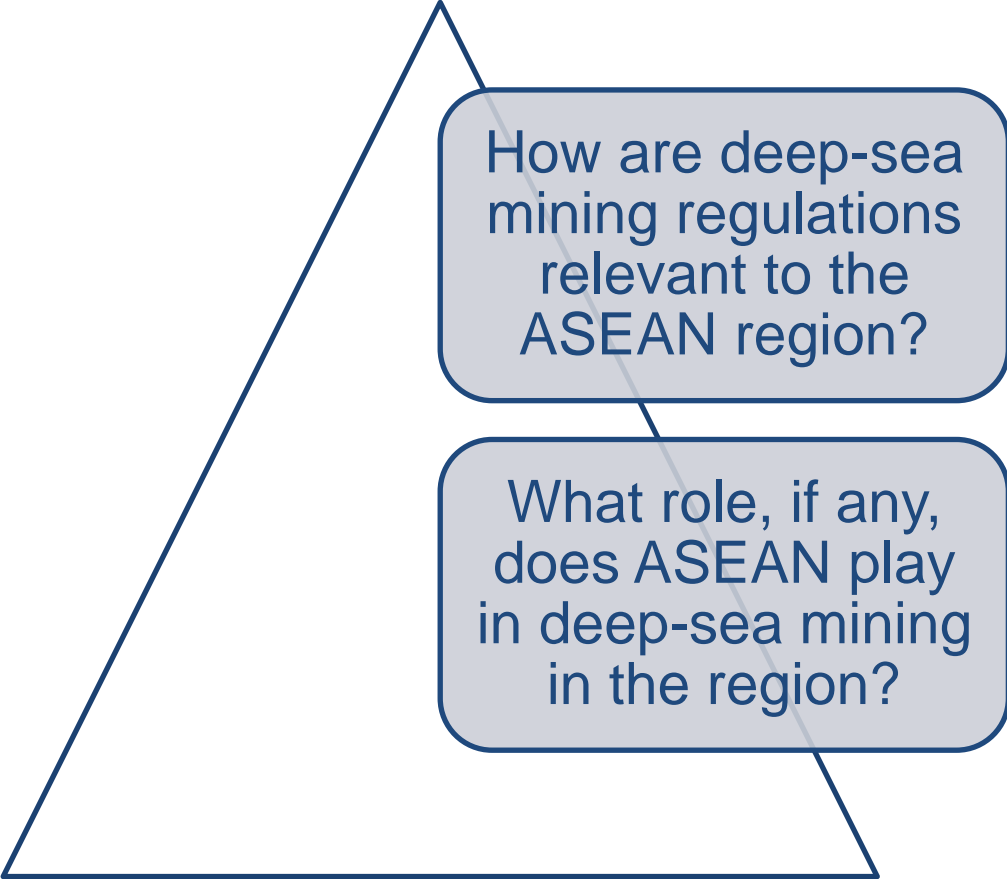
**13th Ocean Dialogue: Exploring New Frontiers of the High and Deep Sea
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OUTLINE



How are deep-sea mining regulations relevant to the ASEAN region?

What role, if any, does ASEAN play in deep-sea mining in the region?

Large Marine Ecosystems of Asia

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| #34: Bay of Bengal | #38: Indonesian Sea | #50: Sea of Japan / East Sea |
| #35: Gulf of Thailand | #47: East China Sea | #51: Oyashio Current |
| #36: South China Sea | #48: Yellow Sea | #52: Sea of Okhotsk |
| #37: Sulu-Celebes Sea | #49: Kuroshio Current | #53: West Bering Sea |



How are deep-sea mining regulations relevant to the ASEAN region?

Are there any ABNJ in the Seas of Southeast Asia?

- 2016 South China Sea Arbitration Award
- China's views

ECS submissions in the South China Sea

- Joint submission by Malaysia and Vietnam in 2009
- Submission by Vietnam in 2009
- Submission by Malaysia in 2019
- Submission by Vietnam in 2024
- China, the Philippines and Brunei have not made any submissions, but each has indicated its intention to do so

Any mineral resources deposits in the Seas of Southeast Asia?



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Chinese submersible discovers polymetallic nodules in South China Sea

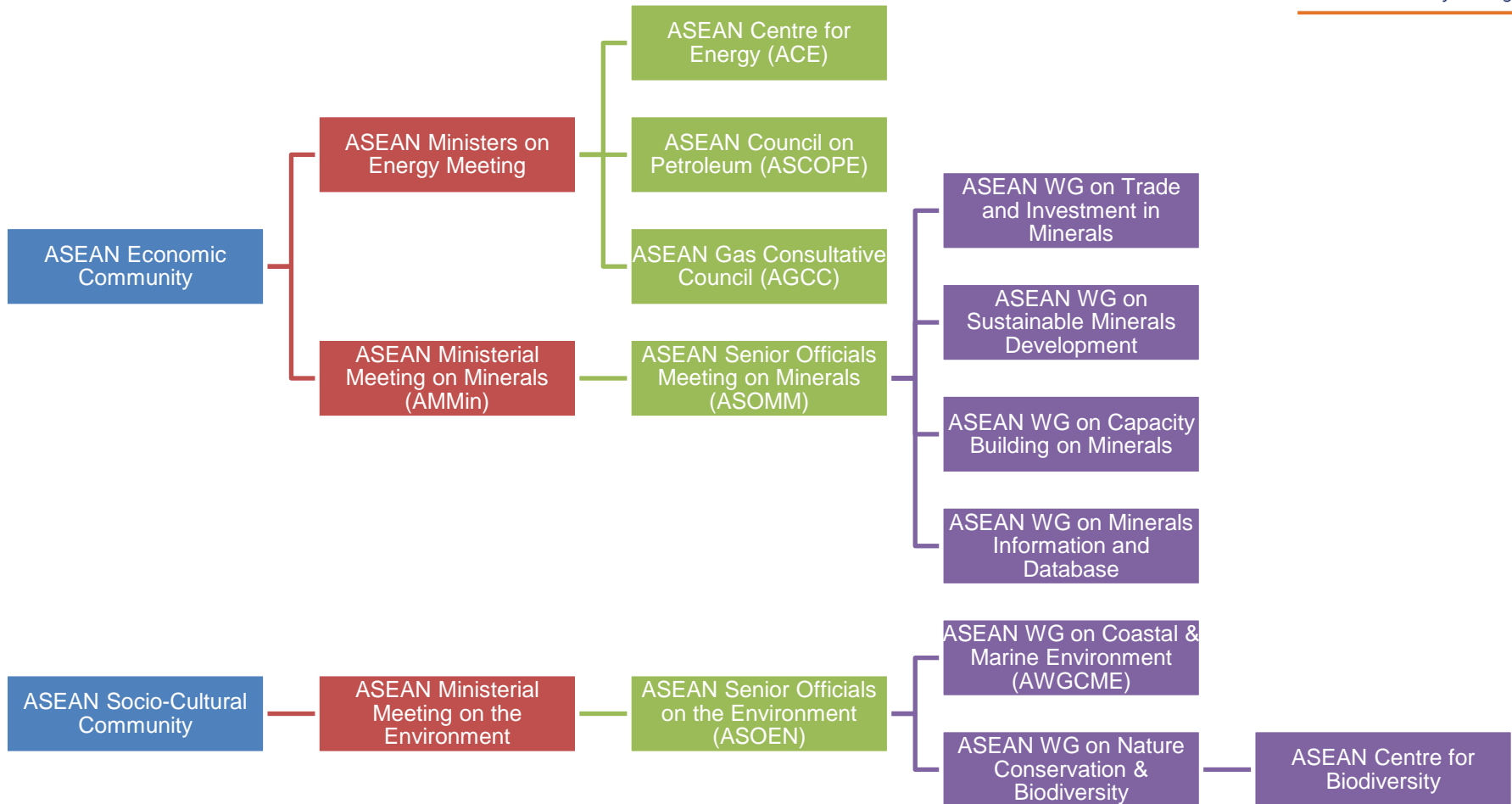
Updated: May 6, 2017 4:35 PM Xinhua



What role, if any, does ASEAN play in deep-sea mining in the region?

- **Various regional cooperation frameworks exist within ASEAN and with external partners**
 - None of these comprehensively regulate seabed mining within or beyond national jurisdiction
 - Some mention seabed mining
- **ASEAN has not extensively addressed seabed mining**
 - ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) & ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASSC) may have mandates to address it
 - ASEAN's current environmental focus on mining is limited to terrestrial mining, with little attention to seabed mining

RELEVANT ASEAN BODIES



AEC Blueprint 2025

- Recognises the need to enhance trade and investment and strengthen cooperation and capacity for sustainable **mineral** development in the region

ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan for 2016-2025

- ‘further enhance ASEAN **mineral** sector dynamism with revitalised strategies and new initiatives towards boosting trade and investments, closer cooperation and strengthening capacity in sustainable **mineral** development for a more prosperous and integrated ASEAN.’
- ‘to enhance sustainable **mineral** development, all AMS need to consider the environmental impacts of **mining** to people, biodiversity, forests and **water**’ including ensuring that ‘**all mining** activities in the ASEAN region are conducted sustainably, both during and after mining’
- No definition of ‘mining,’ but nothing to indicate that seabed mining is excluded or included

4th ASEAN State of the Environment Report

- ‘shipping and sea-based activities, including [...] **mining in coastal areas**’ are threats to the marine environment

PARTICIPATION OF ASEAN STATES IN THE ISA & DEEP-SEA MINING



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Hasjim Djalal (Indonesia) was the first president of the **ISA Assembly** (1996)

Indonesia has had a seat in **Group C of the ISA Council** as a major net land-based exporter of minerals

Indonesia and Singapore have had seats in **Group E of the ISA Council** based on equitable geographical distribution

Some current members of the **ISA Legal and Technical Commission** (LTC) were nominated by ASEAN member states (Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines)

The ISA has issued exploration licenses for mineral resources in areas like the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, where **Ocean Minerals Singapore**, backed by Singapore, is the only Southeast Asian company exploring polymetallic nodules.

CONCLUSION

Diverse interests among Southeast Asian states make consensus on seabed mining policies challenging, as ASEAN requires agreement from all members.

Southeast Asia's regional frameworks favor **flexible, non-binding** guidelines, so any seabed mining regulations will likely vary in implementation across states.

Sovereignty disputes in Southeast Asia complicate regional seabed mining policy.

ASEAN could lead on regional seabed mining policy, given its **centrality** and focus on sustainable resources.

Regional frameworks should prepare for future seabed mining within national jurisdictions and consider impacts from mining in ABNJ.

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THANK YOU

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