

**Malaysia Hosts 14th ASCC Council, 19th ASCC SOCA  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- Kuala Lumpur will play host for the three-day 14th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council, beginning Oct 5.

In a statement today, the tourism and culture ministry said the meeting would kick-off with the 19th Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC (SOCA) for two days.

This will be followed by the ministerial level meeting of the ASCC Council on Oct 7.

"In the meeting, all the ASCC ministers will deliberate and exchange views on issues that are related to the emerging socio-cultural trends, current challenges, as well as the way to move forward prior to the realisation of the ASEAN Community by the end of 2015", it said.

The ASCC pillar coordinates 19 sectoral bodies which oversee the key areas of human development, social welfare and protection, social justice and rights, environmental sustainability, building an ASEAN identity and narrowing the development gap.

The 14th ASCC Council Meeting will be chaired by the deputy minister, Datuk Mas Ermieyati Samsudin and is expected to endorse the ASCC Blueprint 2025.

According to the statement, the blueprint is a 10-year roadmap for community building from 2016 to 2025 that engages and benefits the peoples of ASEAN and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic.

"This blueprint, along with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the other two pillars, political security and economic blueprints will then be adopted by the ASEAN Leaders during the 27th ASEAN Summit on Nov 22, 2015.

"It shall be known as 'ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together', a document that charts the course of the ASEAN Community in the next decade," it said.

Meanwhile, the 19th SOCA meeting will be chaired by the ministry's secretary-general, Tan Sri Dr Ong Hong Peng, who is also SOCA leader.

"SOCA leaders from all 10 ASEAN Member States, including ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh, are also expected to attend the meeting," said the statement.

SOCA is a regular preparatory working committee of senior officials to deliberate on proposed priority areas before determining ASCC s deliverables for every year.

Among deliverables to be adopted include the ASEAN Festival for Cultural Expressions, empowering older persons, social welfare and development, climate change, priorities on civil service matters, youth and sports.

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