

THE ABILITIES OF ENGLISH AND ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY; THE CHALLENGES FOR ISLAMIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract

The ASEAN Economic Community is a term that we often hear lately. This term often appears in various types of media both print and electronic. The term is certainly very synonymous with the term that was first born as the European Economic Community (EEC). This journal explores how the ability of English students specifically in Islamic higher education will be a challenge in facing the Asean Economic Community. The method used is a qualitative method by interviewing representatives of 5 students and 1 English lecturer in 5 private Islamic colleges on Lombok island. Based on the results of interview on December 2018, they are: a. English has not become a priority in the development of universities, b. Student ability is still weak in English, c. MEA is not considered a big challenge in economic development.

Abstrak

Masyarakat Ekonomi ASEAN merupakan sebuah istilah yang sering kita dengar akhir-akhir ini. Istilah ini seringkali muncul diberbagai macam media baik cetak maupun elektronik. Istilah ini tentu sangat identik dengan istilah yang telah terlebih dahulu lahir dengan sebutan Masyarakat Ekonomi Eropa (MEE). Jurnal ini mengupas bagaiman a kemampuan bahasa Inggris mahasiswa yang hususnya pada perguruan tinggi islam yang mana akan menjadi tantangan dalam menghadapi masyarakat Ekonomi Asean. Metode yang dipakai adalah metode kualitatif dengan wawancara perwakilan 5 mahasiswa dan 1 dosen Bahasa Inggris di 5 perguruan islam swasta di pulau lombok. Berdasarkan hasil wawancara pada bulan Desember 2018, bahwa: a. Bahasa Inggris belum menjadi prioritas dalam pengembangan perguruan tinggi, b. Kemampuan mahasiswa masih lemah dalam bahasa inggris, c. MEA tidak dianggap sebagai tantangan besar dalam pengembangan ekonomi.

Key words: English, Economic, ASEAN

Introduction

The ASEAN Economic Community (MEA) or in English known as the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is an economic integration of ASEAN in the face of free trade between ASEAN countries. All ASEAN member countries have agreed to this agreement. The MEA is designed to realize the ASEAN Vision 2020. And agreements between the Asean countries began to be agreed to begin at the end of 2015 or enter the beginning of 2016. This was agreed by the ASEAN leaders to increase and attract foreign investors, so that the MEA countries are at least able to match India and China. With the existence of economic integration within the ASEAN region, there will also be opportunities for foreign investment so that employment will increase but competitiveness between individuals will be increasingly stringent. The competitiveness of these increasingly strict individuals, which we must think about preparation and solutions so that we cannot look at one eye.

As noted above, we are in the MEA era or the era of free trade so that the struggle and interaction between economic actors in the world of work in Asean countries increasingly has greater opportunities and challenges, including Indonesia. Indonesia itself will become the biggest target market destination as the center of economic turnaround. In connection with this, we must prepare provisions for ourselves, one of which is the fundamental ability to communicate, namely the ability to speak English. Why is English? Because English is used in the transactional world between global trade. Since we are in the MEA era, governments or non-government institutions should be able to speak English well as a communication tool. Politicians and business people naturally master English as a network extension between countries in the world.

Regarding the English language that has been written above, we can say that several schools around the world have incorporated English into the curriculum at the education level, starting from the elementary and tertiary

levels. These popular languages are also taught to students in the world who are increasingly using English as a second language such as India, Kenya, Nigeria, Singapore and various countries. In Indonesia alone, the position of English is not a second language but as a foreign language. However, based on the 1994 curriculum English has been taught in elementary schools. At the junior and senior high school level, English becomes a compulsory subject in the National Examination (UAN). Meanwhile, tertiary education is used as the General Basic Education (MKDU). English language mastery skills have four aspects, namely listening (listening), reading (reading), speaking (speaking) and writing (writing). The four basic abilities should be owned in a person as a communication tool between individuals so that it can be one of the provisions to face the MEA.

Regarding the policy of implementing English, it can also be seen that the Indonesian Republic Education Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning National Education System Article 33 paragraph 3 explains that foreign languages can be used as the language of instruction for certain educational units to support the foreign language ability of students. The foreign language referred to here which is more dominant is English.

In the curriculum of the English language college it is still an obligatory course for only 2 semester credits which would certainly be difficult to make English into capital in the face of the Asean Economic Community. Based on the problems above the formulation of the problems to be developed are

1. What is the opinion of students in the issue of ASEAN Economic Community (MEA)
2. What is the ability of students in English to face the ASEAN Economic Community (MEA)
3. What are the challenges faced in facing the ASEAN Economic Community (MEA)

Concept and Chronology of the Asian Economic Community (MEA)

In fact, Indonesia is one of the countries in the ASEAN Economic Community (MEA) or the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) which will start from the end of 2015. MEA is a free market realization in Southeast Asia which was previously mentioned in the Framework Agreement on Enhancing ASEAN Economic Cooperation in 1992. At the 5th meeting of the Heads of ASEAN (ASEAN Summit) in Singapore in 1992 the Heads of State announced the formation of a region free trade in ASEAN (AFTA) within a period of 15 years. Then in its development accelerated to 2003, and the last accelerated to become 2002. (www.tarif.depkeu.go.id)

The formation of the MEA began with the agreement of the leaders of ASEAN at the Summit in December 1997 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This agreement aims to increase ASEAN's competitiveness and compete with China and India to attract foreign investment. Foreign capital is needed to increase employment and the welfare of ASEAN citizens. At that time, ASEAN launched an initiative to form the integration of the ASEAN region or the ASEAN community through ASEAN Vision 2020 during the ASEAN Second Informal Summit. This initiative was then realized in the form of a long-term roadmap called Hanoi Plan of Action which was agreed in 1998.

At the next summit Indonesia was one of the initiators of the formation of the MEA, namely in the Declaration of the ASEAN Concord II in Bali on 7 October 2003 where ASEAN officials declared that the formation of the MEA in 2015 (nationalgeographic.co.id). The establishment of this ASEAN Community is part of ASEAN's efforts to further strengthen ASEAN integration. In addition, ASEAN is also an evolutionary effort to adjust the perspective so that it can be more open in discussing domestic issues that affect the region without

abandoning the main principles of ASEAN, namely: Mutual Respect, not interfering in domestic affairs (Non-Interference) , consensus, dialogue and consultation. The ASEAN Community consists of three pillars which include cooperation in the economic field, namely: ASEAN Security Community (ASEAN Security Community / ASC), ASEAN Economic Community (ASEAN Economic Community / AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community / ASCC).

The purpose of the establishment of the MEA is to increase economic stability in the ASEAN region, and is expected to be able to overcome economic problems among ASEAN countries. For almost two decades, ASEAN consisted of only five countries - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand - whose founding in 1967. Other Southeast Asian countries joined in different times namely Brunei Darussalam (1984), Vietnam (1995), Laos and Myanmar (1997), and Cambodia (1999).

A country's economic growth is a very important thing to achieve because each country wants a better process of economic change and this will be an indicator of the success of a country's economic development. The acceleration, starting from internal reform of economic conditions in a country even to international cooperation in all fields to be able to make a positive contribution to the acceleration of economic growth. There are several influencing factors, namely human resource factors, natural resource factors, science and technology factors, cultural factors and capital power factors. Then, if you look at how Indonesia manages these five factors, some factors still cannot be maximized for this reason, Indonesia and nine other countries form the ASEAN Community 2015 or the ASEAN Community 2015 with good goals for these countries, therefore with the formation of ASEAN countries it will be able to transform this country into quality countries and is highly competitive and can follow the era of increasingly advanced and sophisticated globalization.

Indonesia must be able to change to a more competent country, therefore, ASEAN must work together to overcome three main things. First, accelerate infrastructure development and connectivity in ASEAN countries, between ASEAN countries, between ASEAN and partner countries, through accelerating the implementation of the Masterplan on ASEAN connectivity. The second step is to increase investment, industry and manufacturing cooperation more closely among ASEAN countries. Third, increasing intra-ASEAN trade, which is currently still quite low at 24.2 percent. In the next five years, President Jokowi expects intra-ASEAN to reach at least 35 percent to 40 percent. Hopefully with all this development, President Jokowi can continue to improve the country's progress, by processing the wealth stored in our Indonesian water, to become a prosperous country and can reduce starving this is also very much unemployment, by creating employment in the industrial sector, development that can be utilized by the people as a source of money, such as improving markets, ensuring good export-inport trade with other countries.

The Hope of the Indonesian Nation Against MEA

An overview of the main characteristics of the MEA is a single market and production base; high competitive economy; region with equitable economic development; and the region integrated into the global economy. The impact of the creation of AEC is the creation of a free market in the fields of capital, goods and services, and labor. The consequences of the MEA agreement are the impact of free flow of goods for ASEAN countries, the impact of free flow of services, the impact of free investment flows, the impact of skilled labor flows, and the impact of free capital flows.

From the character and impact of the MEA mentioned above there are actually opportunities from the momentum of the MEA that can be achieved by Indonesia. With the existence of the MEA, it is hoped that the Indonesian economy will improve. One of them is the marketing of goods and services from

Indonesia can expand the reach to other ASEAN countries. The market share in Indonesia is 250 million people. In MEA, ASEAN's market share of 625 million people can be targeted by Indonesia. So, Indonesia has a wider opportunity to enter a wider market. Exports and imports can also be done at a lower cost. Workers from other countries in ASEAN can be free to work in Indonesia. On the contrary, Indonesian workers (TKI) can also be free to work in other countries in ASEAN.

In terms of trade liberalization, Indonesian products practically do not face problems because almost 80 percent of Indonesia's trade is free obstacles. Even a populist economy (MSME) has the opportunity to penetrate ASEAN markets. The government has made efforts to accelerate equitable development as part of strengthening the people's economy. Between 2011 and 2013, Indonesian investment was directed towards areas outside Java by providing tax holiday stimuli. Thus, the center of economic growth in the future is not only concentrated in Java but also outside Java. Another effort undertaken by the government is to form clusters to foster MSMEs to have competitiveness. Not only challenges that will be faced but also opportunities. The sectors that will be Indonesia's leading in the 2015 MEA are Natural Resources (SDA), Information Technology, and Creative Economy. These three sectors are Indonesia's strongest sectors when compared to other ASEAN countries. In addition, the impact of the entry of Foreign Workers (TKA) into Indonesia must be ensured to be able to speak good and correct Indonesian

For Indonesia itself, the MEA will be a good opportunity because trade barriers will tend to decrease and even become non-existent. This will have an impact on increasing exports. On the investment side, this condition can create a climate that supports the entry of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) which can stimulate economic growth through technological development, job creation, human resource development and easier access to world markets. Even so, these

conditions can lead to exploitation risk. Indonesia still has a less binding regulatory level so that it can lead to large-scale exploitation of natural resource availability by foreign companies that enter Indonesia as a country with abundant natural resources compared to other countries. It is also possible that exploitation by foreign companies can damage ecosystems in Indonesia, while investment regulations in Indonesia are not strong enough to maintain natural conditions including the availability of natural resources contained.

From the aspect of employment, there is a huge opportunity for job seekers because there can be many jobs available with various needs for diverse skills. In addition, access to going abroad in order to find work is easier and can even be without certain obstacles. MEA is also a good opportunity for entrepreneurs to find the best workers according to the desired criteria. In this case it can create employment risks for Indonesia. In terms of education and productivity, Indonesia is still unable to compete with workers from Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand as well as industrial foundations which make Indonesia ranked fourth in ASEAN (Republika Online, 2013).

With the presence of this MEA event, Indonesia has the opportunity to take advantage of domestic economies of scale as a basis for gaining profits. However, Indonesia still has many challenges and risks Coins that will appear if the MEA has been implemented. Therefore, risk professionals are expected to be more sensitive to fluctuations will occur in order to anticipate the risks that arise correctly. In addition, neat collaboration between state authorities and business actors is needed, both physical and social infrastructure (law and policy) need to be addressed, and the need to increase the ability and competitiveness of workers and companies in Indonesia. Don't let Indonesia only become a spectator in its own country in 2015.

The positive impact with the existence of the MEA will certainly spur investment growth both from outside and within the country so that it will open

up new jobs. In addition, Indonesians will be able to find jobs in other ASEAN countries with rules that are relatively easier with the existence of this MEA because of the current national economic delay and based on Central Statistics Agency (BPS) data, the number of unemployed as of February 2014 compared to February 2013 only 50,000 people reduced. Even if you see the number of cuts in the last three years, as of February 2013 unemployment has decreased by 440,000 people, temporarily

Another positive impact is that Indonesian investors can expand their investment space without any space restrictions between ASEAN member countries. Similarly, we can attract investment from ASEAN investors. The entrepreneurs will be increasingly creative because of the intense competition and professionals will increasingly increase the level of skill, competency and professionalism they have.

Challenges or Constraints to MEAs in Indonesia

in addition to the opportunities that are seen in plain sight, there are also obstacles facing the MEA that we must pay attention to. The obstacles include: first, the quality of education for workers is still low, where up to February 2014 the number of workers with junior high school education or below was recorded at 76.4 million people or around 64 percent of the total 118 million workers in Indonesia. Second, the availability and quality of infrastructure is still lacking, which influences the smooth flow of goods and services. According to the 2014 Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), the quality of our infrastructure is still lagging behind Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Thailand. Thirdly, the industrial sector is fragile due to the dependence on imports of raw and semi-finished materials. Fourth, limited energy supply. Fifth, Indonesia's weakness is facing an invasion of imports, and now Chinese imported products have flooded Indonesia. If these obstacles are not overcome, it is feared that the MEA will become a threat to Indonesia. Sixth, the rate of increase in exports and imports.

The challenges faced by Indonesia entering ASEAN economic integration are not only internal in the country but more competition with fellow ASEAN countries and other countries outside ASEAN such as China and India. Towards the Similarity of Products, the similarity of the types of superior export products (agriculture, fisheries, rubber products, wood-based products, and electronics) is one of the causes of intra-ASEAN trade share with only 20-25 percent of ASEAN's total trade. Indonesia needs to implement a strategy to increase added value for its export products so that it has its own characteristics with products from ASEAN countries.

Homogeneity of commodities that are traded, for example for agricultural commodities, rubber, wood products, textiles, and electronic goods (Santoso, 2008). In this case competition risk will arise with the large number of imported goods that will flow in large quantities to Indonesia which will threaten the local industry in competing with far more qualified foreign products. This will ultimately increase the trade balance deficit for the State of Indonesia itself.

The negative impact of the MEA, namely the existence of a free market for goods and services will result in foreign workers easily entering and working in Indonesia resulting in increasingly fierce labor competition in the field of employment. When MEA took effect, in the field of employment there were 8 (eight) professions that had been agreed to open, namely engineers, architects, nurses, survey workers, tourism personnel, medical practitioners, dentists, and accountants (Media Indonesia, Thursday, March 27 2014) . This will be a new test for the world employment problem in Indonesia because every country must have prepared itself in the field of employment in the face of the MEA. How about Indonesia? In the framework of national resilience by still seeing

Government Policy in Facing MEA

Towards the MEA which is already in sight, the Indonesian government is expected to be able to prepare strategic steps in the labor sector, infrastructure sector and industrial sector. In the face of the MEA, the Government of Indonesia prepares policy responses relating to National Industry Development, Infrastructure Development, Logistics Development, Investment Development, and Trade Development (www.fiskal.depkeu.go.id). In addition to this, ideally each Ministry and Institution seeks to anticipate the MEA with strategic steps.

To deal with competition and free trade on an Asean scale, policies on various sectors made by the government should not only be national (Centralistic) but must also be decentralized (Autonomous), because if the policies made by the government to deal with MEA are only centralized, then of course there will be inequality and imbalance which in the end makes the region more left behind and unable to compete which will eventually become a national obstacle.

So far there has been a tendency for the government to make policies that are elitist and very bureaucratic, so that the government often does not provide opportunities for local governments to make policies that are appropriate and in line with their regional interests. So with that the Government must provide the widest possible opportunity for the region to make policies based on the needs of the region and change the paradigm of policies that are more directed towards entrepreneurship by prioritizing national and regional interests in order to create accelerated national development and regional development. And in order to face MEA competition, it is not only the private sector (actors business) that is required must be ready but also the government in the form of a pro-business policy.

As in other countries you have thought entrepreneurial entrepreneurship), how can the government run and function like a results-oriented entrepreneurship organization. So with the momentum of the MEA, the

time has come for the Indonesian government to change the old mindset that tends to be bureaucratic with a more tactical, effective and efficient entrepreneurial mindset. For example, the less productive subsidized fuel oil (BBM) of Rp. 300 trillion (US \$ 30 billion) is directed towards more productive financing such as infrastructure investment.

In the education sector, the Government must be able to develop an educational curriculum that is in accordance with the MEA. Education as a quality human resource (HR) printer is the answer to human resource needs. Therefore increasing school quality standards is a necessity so that graduates are ready to face competition.

Socialization activities in the community must also be improved, for example by Public Service Advertisements about the MEA that try to increase the readiness of the community to deal with it. Minister of Education and Culture Anies Baswedan said, increasing education quality standards is one of them by strengthening educational actors, namely principals, teachers, and parents. According to him, the leadership of school principals is the key to the growth of a good education ecosystem. Teachers also need to be trained with the right method, which is to change the teacher's mindset.

In the industrial sector, the government must increase the industry from upstream to downstream in carrying out several approaches and strategies. Minister of Industry Saleh Husin also explained the strategy of the Ministry of Industry to face MEA namely offensive and defensive strategies. The offensive strategy in question includes preparing superior products. From the Ministry of Industry's mapping, the superior products in question are agro industries such as cocoa, rubber, palm oil, textiles and textile products, leather footwear, furniture, food and minimums, fertilizers and petrochemicals, automotive, machinery and equipment, and metal, iron and steel. The defensive strategy is carried out

through the preparation of the Indonesian National Standards for manufactured products. (www.kemenperin.go.id)

When Rachmat Gobel became Minister of Trade he had steps to be taken to face the ASEAN Economic Community (MEA) 2019. One of them was to launch the Nawa Cita Ministry of Commerce, by setting export targets three times over in the next five years. This method can be done by building 5,000 markets, the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and increased use of domestic products. The export target in 2015 was targeted at US \$ 192.5 billion. Furthermore, the government also prepared an import substitution strategy to increase exports, and provide added value to domestic products. At present 65 percent of Indonesia's product exports still rely on raw commodities. The government is trying to reverse this export structure, from primary commodities to manufacturing, with a composition of 35 percent of commodities and 65 percent of manufacturing. Therefore, the manufacturing industry is expected to grow and focus on increasing production capacity, to increase exports until 2019.

The government also approaches industries that have the potential to contribute to increased exports, such as the automotive industry. It is known, the automotive industry plans to export 50 thousand motorbikes to the Philippines. The Ministry of Commerce also encourages the furniture sector to further boost its exports. In addition, the fisheries sector also provides optimism towards increasing Indonesia's exports. Not only that, the government will also strengthen SME products by fostering through packaging, halal certification, brand registration, and increasing the competitiveness of domestic products. Then, they also facilitate SMEs in international scale exhibitions. Through the facility, the Ministry of Trade hopes that the products and brands built by SMEs in Indonesia can be known globally.

There are a number of things that need to be considered or noted for the world of employment before it is time for our country to really enter the MEA.

First, in terms of legislation in the field of employment. Although the sources of labor law in Indonesia have legal provisions that are spread in various laws and regulations, Law Number 13 of 2003 concerning Manpower is a basic regulation that contains comprehensive and comprehensive arrangements in the field of labor. This is the guideline for playing the world of labor in Indonesia when entering the MEA.

Secondly, in terms of Human Resources (HR) of Indonesian workers. The HR competition between ASEAN countries is something that will definitely happen when the MEA gate opens. If Indonesian workers are not ready to face this open competition, the MEA will become a scourge for Indonesian workers because they will be unable to compete with workers from the country other ASEAN countries.

Third, from law enforcement, especially labor inspectors. Labor inspection should be carried out in accordance with the provisions in Article 134 of Act Number 13 of 2003 concerning Labor which states that "In realizing the implementation of the rights and obligations of workers / employers and employers, the government must carry out supervision and enforcement of labor legislation". In the face of the MEA, the position of labor inspectors is very important in industrial relations to be more conducive and as a protector for workers in facing this global competition.

The strategic steps that must be taken by the government to win the MEA include: Increasing public trust in national products in the domestic market. Improve the ability of workers according to international standards, Improve the quality of goods made in Indonesia. Every item that is exported must be able to pass under strict supervision.

Islamic Higher Education in the MEA Era and discussion

Based on the results of interviews with 5 students and lecturers at private Islamic colleges namely STIS Darul Falah, STISDA Bermi, IAI Nurul Hakim, STID Islahudin, and IAI Qamarul Huda. a. English has not become a priority in the development of universities, b. Student ability is still weak in English, c. MEA is not considered a big challenge in economic development.

Asean communities gathered more than ten years ago and agreed to form a single market in the Southeast Asian region by the end of 2015. With this MEA it allows one country to sell goods and services easily to other countries in Southeast Asia. This is done so asean competitiveness increases and can compete with other countries such as China and India and others. This will certainly affect Indonesia and Bali, because the Asean Economic Community not only opens up trade flows of goods or services, but also professional labor markets, such as doctors, lawyers, accountants, designers and others. The Special Staff of the Minister of Manpower and Transmigration, Dita Indah Sari, explained that the MEA requires the abolition of rules that previously hindered the recruitment of foreign workers. "Restrictions, especially in the professional labor sector, are encouraged to be abolished," he said. "So that in essence, the MEA will open up more opportunities for foreign workers to fill various positions and professions in closed Indonesia or at least foreign workers."

Special Staff of the Minister of Manpower and Transmigration, Dita Indah Sari, also stated that she did not want to be "cheated" and claimed to have prepared a strategy in dealing with the free labor market. "Okay, the position is opened, the sector is expanded, but the conditions are tightened. So it's open not as long as it's open, it's not free," he said. "We do not want local workers who are actually qualified and capable, but because there are foreign workers

being displaced. A number of conditions are determined including the obligation to speak Indonesian and certification of related professional institutions in the country.

Recent research from the World Labor Organization or the ILO says that the opening of the labor market has huge benefits. Besides being able to create millions of new jobs, this scheme can also improve the welfare of 600 million people living in Southeast Asia. The ILO detailed that the demand for professional labor will increase by 41% or around 14 million. While the demand for middle-class labor will increase by 22% or 38 million, while low-level labor will increase by 24% or 12 million. But this report predicts that many companies will find employees less skilled or even mistaken for work placements due to lack of training and professional education. (BBC Indonesia, August 27, 2014). (cited, 11/02/15)

The Asean Economic Community (MEA) or ASEAN ECONOMIC COMUNITY (AEC) is a major agreement made by the leaders of countries in ASEAN to form a single market in the economy in the ASEAN region. This agreement allows ASEAN members to sell goods and services and distribute and receive workers from fellow ASEAN members easily. This certainly makes the trade and labor competition even tighter. Many people support this agreement. However, many are also pessimistic about Indonesia's preparation in dealing with MEA, especially the preparation of college graduates.

It is undeniable that the Indonesian nation has not at all been well prepared to face the MEA era. In fact, many of the graduates of Indonesian universities do not yet know what MEA is. Now every country within the scope of ASEAN is intensively promoting the MEA. Many issues have emerged that now citizens in ASEAN countries are starting to learn Indonesian. They know that the opportunity to work in Indonesia is very easy and extensive, so there are many ASEAN citizens who are interested in working in Indonesia. This is certainly what

makes competition for labor in the ASEAN region will be increasingly fierce, especially for college graduates.

University and MEA graduates

Graduation The college graduates are a potential and quality workforce group. Supposedly, this group will easily compete with other groups because of the abundance of knowledge and experience they have achieved while studying in college. But they also may not laugh when they start competing to find work. As explained above, that with the enactment of the MEA, college graduates will not only compete with domestic job seekers, but also from abroad, especially from ASEAN. This makes college graduates have to have more preparation to deal with the MEA.

Preparation niversity Graduates Facing MEA

Following are the preparations that college graduates must have to face the MEA.

1. Preparation of Ability to Speak English

Language preparation is an absolute thing that must be done by college graduates. Although many ASEAN countries are closely allied, the languages used are different from each other. Moreover, there is no common language that can be a communication medium between ASEAN residents. The only language that can be used to be a language of communication is English. Therefore, graduates need to learn and improve their English language skills.

2. Preparation for Using and Understanding Technology

The development of technology is something that must be anticipated and understood by college graduates in competing and facing the MEA. Many universities have curriculums based on practical technology, one of which is the

use of accounting software. This technology is widely used by multinational companies. Of course this should be a concern for students or prospective college graduates if they want to win a job competition in the MEA era.

3. Preparation for Understanding the International Work Ethic

The implementation of the MEA allows various people from various cultures to work in one place. Of course understanding of the work ethic that applies internationally needs college graduates to compete here. Work ethics such as discipline, punctuality, professionalism and others are the attitudes that need to be instilled and owned so that they can easily get a job and survive in the job.

The above are some of the preparations of many other preparations that must be made by college graduates in the face of the MEA. So that their learning process does not stop when they graduate from college.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the discussion, it can be concluded:

1. English has not become a priority in the development of universities,
2. The ability of students is still weak in English,
3. The MEA is not considered a major challenge in economic development.
4. Universities have not been maximized in preparing graduates to face MEA.

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