The Toolkit content is organized into three categories: Culture, Politics, and Economics which are derived from the three pillars of the ASEAN Community.

**CULTURE**
- supports the ASEAN aspiration of improving the quality of life, promoting equity in sharing the benefits of growth, and fostering a shared cultural identity
- explores how the region adapts and makes itself relevant in the modern world
- stresses shared heritages and diversity among the peoples of the region, as well as changes brought about by global and popular culture

**POLITICS**
- covers political and legal systems of the Southeast Asian countries and how these affect the movements of goods and peoples within the region
- deals with regional peace and security, internal and external conflicts, human rights, and social justice

**ECONOMICS**
- focuses on economic integration and its processes not only within the region but into the global economy as well
- explores the degree to which Southeast Asia is able to integrate itself and how Southeast Asians organize economically

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The SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH) is engaged in providing effective educational solutions for Southeast Asia and beyond.

Its mission is to facilitate teaching and learning through innovative and technology-based research and training solutions in order to fully develop the potentials of the peoples in the region.

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Community.
The Weaving Identities Teacher Toolkit Towards a Southeast Asian Community is a resource designed to provide easy access to a range of learning materials and references related to the Southeast Asian Community. The Toolkit can be used to expand one’s knowledge of Southeast Asia: its culture, economy, and politics, and deepen learning about the collective traits, values, history, and culture by showing similarities and linkages that unite Southeast Asia, as well as the rich diversity across and within countries of the region.

The rich pool of toolkit resources were produced by a range of organizations including APCEIU, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN-COCI, the ASEAN Foundation, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Educating New Zealand, and SEAMEO SPAFA, among others.

**KEY CONCEPTS**

**ASEAN and Southeast Asia**
The ASEAN is successful as a geopolitical, economic, and socio-cultural organization in the region. It emphasizes economic interdependence and de-emphasizes ideological differences among its members. Timor-Leste, while not yet a member of ASEAN, is also a part of the Southeast Asian region and the most recent member of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO).

“Shared” Southeast Asian Identity
The Southeast Asian identity or “Southeast Asian-ness” is a product of interactions among the peoples in the region to achieve shared goals rather than a sum of common values, norms, customs and traditions.

Problems of Identity Building
Examining personally-held values and preconceptions leading to an understanding of a shared Southeast Asian identity is an important area that the Toolkit promotes. It introduces topical areas that advance an agenda of regional identity and highlights where Southeast Asian countries can cooperate to enhance regional integration.

The “Global” and the “Local” Southeast Asia
The shared history, languages, and other aspects of culture are given focus such that Southeast Asian-ness is presented as a sum of interactions of the peoples in the region from prehistoric to modern times.

“Ethnoscapes” Within and Without
Emerging cultural landscapes (ethnoscapes) within and outside the region is showcased through local linkages. Through these interactions, there is a flow of people, goods, information, and elements of culture, that makes the Southeast Asian community dynamic.

Future-Oriented, Forward-Looking Southeast Asia
Identity building is a dynamic process and this is underscored through the continuity of traditions in the region across time and space. Similarities and differences are viewed as opportunities in “creating” a Southeast Asian identity.

**USES**

The Toolkit contains a variety of teaching-learning materials that can be used in the classroom and/or extra-curricular areas at both primary and secondary levels. Possible entry points are:

- integration into particular learning areas
- inclusion in the school’s informal curriculum/extra-curricular activities
- Offering “Southeast Asian Community” as an elective subject area at the secondary level

The resources can be utilized as:

**Reference materials**
Economics, politics and socio-cultural topics can be take-off points for research or further studies about Southeast Asia.

**Aids in classroom instruction**
There is a wide range of teaching-learning resources such as sample lesson plans, readings and multimedia materials that can complement the lesson. Some of these materials can be integrated in History, Math, Science, Economics, etc., depending on the appropriateness of the content and activities defined.

**COMPONENTS**

- **Weaving Identities eBook**
  A digital version of the Toolkit can be viewed as an eBook using the SEAMEO INNOTECH eBook Reader—a free mobile app that can be downloaded from the iOS, Android, and Window app stores.

- **Weaving Identities Website**
  The Toolkit content is available via www.seameo-innotech.org/SEAtoolkit. Materials can be downloaded for learning activities. Teachers can share and upload their own instructional materials.

- **Weaving Identities Manual**
  The manual contains a multimedia guide, six (6) CDs of different teaching-learning materials, an interactive CD, and orientation video.

Teaching approaches and strategies to promote Southeast Asian-ness such as active/interactive learning, project-based learning, collaborative learning, case study, presentation, discussion, exploration, simulation and games can also be used to facilitate the acquisition of 21st century skills and attitudes among students.