

OVERVIEW

ASEAN-NORWAY SECTORAL DIALOGUE RELATIONS

1. Norway was conferred the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN at the 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) on 4 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Long before the conferment of this formal partnership, ASEAN and Norway had forged relationship through a number of cooperative activities.
2. The ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Relations was institutionalised through the convening of the First ASEAN-Norway Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AN-JSCC) Meeting on 11 December 2015 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, which signified the launch of ASEAN-Norway formal cooperation mechanism. The Meeting agreed that this partnership would be guided within the framework of the Joint Statement on ASEAN-Norway Partnership, which was adopted at the 47th AMM in August 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025: Forging Ahead Together.
3. The 2nd AN-JSCC Meeting on 21 July 2017 adopted the Priority Plan for the ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership and the Procedures for the Norway-ASEAN Regional Integration Programme (NARIP), which set out the overall framework and priorities for engagement and cooperation between ASEAN and Norway and serves as a foundation for practical cooperation to further substantiate the partnership.
4. Norway appointed its first Ambassador to ASEAN in 2009 and has now accredited its first dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN, H.E. Morten Høglund, who presented his Letter of Credence on 21 July 2017.

A. Political-Security Cooperation

5. Norway acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 1 July 2013 at the sidelines of the 46th AMM in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Norway's accession to the TAC underscored the importance of the TAC as a code of conduct governing inter-state relations in the region, as well as Norway's strong commitment to promoting regional peace and security.
6. The Informal Meeting between H.E. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR, H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN and H.E. Børge Brende, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, was held on 24 July 2016 at the side-lines of the 49th AMM in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Furthermore, in 2017, the Tripartite Meeting among the Philippines, Norway and the ASEAN Secretariat was also convened on 8 August 2017 at the side-lines of the 50th AMM in Manila.

7. Norway has supported to the activities and work plans of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) and ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission of Human Rights. Norway, together with Switzerland, also supported the convening of the ASEAN-IPR Symposium on the Plight of Women and Children in Conflict Situations on 8-9 December 2015 in Tagaytay, Philippines. In November 2016, Norway supported the ASEAN-IPR Symposium on Peace and Reconciliation Practices in Yangon, Myanmar. In October 2017, a Symposium on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) was organised in Manila, the Philippines, with the support by Norway. The Symposium focused on Exploring Convergence between IHL, Humanitarian Principles, Religious Norms and Customary Practices in ASEAN to Address Humanitarian Challenges. The outcome resulted in a set of recommendations highlighting best practices and codes of conduct.

8. The ASEAN Judiciaries Portal project, commissioned by the Council of ASEAN Chief Justice (CACJ), was supported by the Norway-ASEAN Regional Integration Programme (NARIP). This project is an important manifestation for ASEAN in profiling the judicial and legal systems of ASEAN Member States and it would be launched in July 2018.

B. Economic Cooperation

9. ASEAN and Norway have enjoyed robust trade and investment relations over the past years despite fluctuation. The total two-way trade between ASEAN and Norway decreased by 20% from US\$4.15 billion in 2016 to US\$3.31 billion 2017. ASEAN's exports to Norway decreased from US\$ 2 billion in 2016 to US US\$1 billion in 2017, and imports from Norway was relatively stable in 2016 and 2017 at US\$ 2 billion. Meanwhile, foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from Norway to ASEAN decreased from US\$32.7 million in 2016 to US\$14.9 million in 2017.¹

10. In tourism, the number of tourist arrivals from Norway to ASEAN in 2016 was 0,26 million², a slight decrease by 3.7% from 2015.

C. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

11. Norway contributed to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). There are two ASEAN-Norway projects in the area of disaster management, namely: One ASEAN, One Voice – Building a Culture of Disaster Resilience and Enhancing ASEAN's Collective Response to Disasters through Effective Communication Strategy; and Strengthening Disaster Resilience Leadership in ASEAN Member States. These projects helped enhance leadership skills and qualities of ASEAN Member States in disaster resilience and support the implementation of the AADMER.

¹ Source: ASEAN Statistics Database as of July 2018.

² *Ibid*

12. Norway provided significant humanitarian assistance to ASEAN in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis and Typhoon Haiyan in 2008 and 2013, respectively.

13. ASEAN and Norway also promote cooperation in the area of energy, climate change, biodiversity, environmental protection, maritime and marine and people-to-people exchanges, including education and culture. Both sides are exploring practical cooperation in the areas of (i) connectivity, (ii) Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), (iii) trade and private sector development, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

