

Overview ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations

1. Since Australia became ASEAN's very first Dialogue Partner, the ASEAN-Australia dialogue relations has evolved to a wide range of cooperation across the three Community pillars. At the ASEAN-Australia Commemorative Summit to mark the 40th Anniversary of the partnership between ASEAN and Australia in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, the Leaders announced the elevation of the ASEAN-Australia dialogue relations to a strategic level through the "Joint ASEAN-Australia Leaders' Statement on the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations towards a Strategic Partnership for Mutual Benefit".

2. In recognition of the Strategic partnership, ASEAN and Australia Foreign Ministers at the PMC+1 on 5 August 2015 have further agreed to convene biennial Leaders' Summits, in 2016. The First ASEAN-Australia Biennial Summit was held on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, and the Leaders agreed to further strengthen the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership, including through the convening of an ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Australia in 2018.

3. The ASEAN-Australia Special Summit with the theme "Enhancing Regional Security and Prosperity", including two side events, namely the Business Summit and ASEAN-Australia Counter-Terrorism Conference, was convened on 17-18 March 2018 in Sydney, Australia. At the Special Summit, the Leaders adopted the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit: The Sydney Declaration and announced a package of initiatives across the three pillars aimed to strengthen cooperation between the two sides.

Political-Security Cooperation

4. Australia continues to engage with ASEAN in the political-security pillar through their active participation in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), the East Asia Summit (EAS), the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), and the Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC). Australia also participates in the Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Plus Australia Consultation. So far, twelve SOMTC + Australia Consultation have been held.

5. Combatting trafficking in persons is a key area of collaboration between ASEAN and Australia with the on-going implementation of the five-year Australia-Asia Programme to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) from 2013 to 2018. On counter-terrorism, the ASEAN-Australia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism was signed in July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur and the renewed Declaration was adopted by the Leaders at the First ASEAN-Australia Biennial Summit

held on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. An ASEAN-Australia MoU on Counter Terrorism was also signed during the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in March 2018.

6. In December 2005, Australia acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), which underscored the importance of the Treaty as a code of conduct governing inter-state relations in the region, as well as Australia's strong commitment to promoting regional peace and security.

Economic Cooperation

7. Australia remains an important trading partner of ASEAN. Preliminary data shows that the ASEAN-Australia total two-way trade in 2017 reached US\$ 59 billion, making it the seventh largest trading partner of ASEAN among Dialogue Partners.¹ Australia is ASEAN's sixth largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) among Dialogue Partners in 2017 with a total inflow amounting to US\$ 2.1 billion (preliminary data).² According to Australia's data, ASEAN was one of Australia's top three trading partners, with the two-way trade amounting to AU\$ 93.2 billion in 2016, representing around 15 per cent of Australia's total trade.

8. The Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) was signed by the Economic Ministers of ASEAN, Australia, and New Zealand on 27 February 2009. The Report of the First Stage of the General Review of AANZFTA (2017-2018) were presented to the AEM-CER Consultations in September 2017 and the recommendations from Stage Two of the General Review will be presented to Ministers in September 2018. The AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP) was established in 2010 and has contributed to enhancing the capacity of ASEAN Member States' institutions in implementing the AANZFTA and was extended to 31 December 2019.

9. The annual ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-Closer Economic Relations (CER) Consultations have become the highest-level forum where trade policies and ideas supportive of closer ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand partnership are being discussed and initiated. The ASEAN-CER Integration Partnership Forum (IPF) has served as a useful platform for ASEAN, Australia, and New Zealand to share experiences on various issues related to economic integration and connectivity.

10. Australia is one of the six Dialogue Partners of ASEAN that joined the negotiations on a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The 1st RCEP Summit held in Manila on 14 November 2017 to intensify efforts in 2018 to

¹ ASEAN Trade Database as of April 2018

² ASEAN FDI Database as of 25 May 2018

bring the RCEP negotiations to conclusion and the 4th RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting was held in Singapore on 3 March 2018 where Ministers provided strategic guidance on several outstanding issues.

11. The AADCP II supports the implementation of the ASEAN economic integration policies and priorities, in line with the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and is supporting the strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat's institutional capacity.

Socio-Cultural Cooperation

12. Education is a flagship area of ASEAN-Australia cooperation with over 150,000 international students enrolled in Australian schools in 2016. Australia has supported ASEAN through 1,715 Australia Awards and Endeavour Scholarships offered to citizens of ASEAN Member States, the New Colombo Plan scholarship as well as its Mobility Programme. At the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in March 2018, Australia announced new education initiatives, including the Australia Awards ASEAN scholarships and a New Colombo Plan ASEAN Fellow.

13. Australia is supporting regional cooperation on migration governance which supports activities under the ACMW Work Plan 2016-2020 through the Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (TRIANGLE in ASEAN) from 2016-2025. Australia also supported the Project on "Preventing the Exploitation of Migrant Women Workers in ASEAN Region", implemented by UN Women. On disaster management, Australia has been a key partner in providing technical assistance to ASEAN on disaster management. In the last quarter of 2017, Australia deployed a disaster coordination specialist to the AHA Centre to assist with the development of the concept for the Centre's 'One ASEAN, One Response' operationalization.

Development Cooperation

14. The ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation focuses on the economic areas and social development, was established in 1974 through the ASEAN-Australia Economic Cooperation Programme (AAECP) to be followed by the AADCP (2002-2008). The AADCP II was then extended to 2015 and further extended to December 2019. The AADCP II continues to support the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community blueprint, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and the IAI Workplan III in promoting and implementing people-oriented and people-centered projects. It also supports the ASEAN Secretariat to better perform its mandate in facilitating integration across the three Community pillars.

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