



**JOINT PRESS RELEASE**  
**19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting**  
**26 -27 April 2012**  
**Bandar Seri Begawan**

**35 years of Friendship and Cooperation**

ASEAN and the EU, as long-term partners, welcome the launch of two important ASEAN-EU cooperation programmes (totalling €20 million) that will support ASEAN integration.

The two programmes are:

ARISE (ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU), which will through deepening ASEAN-EU cooperation on economic integration, further support the realisation of the ASEAN single market. ARISE includes economic policy dialogue between ASEAN and the EU.

READI (Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument), which will fund policy dialogue between the two regions, the most dynamic economic integration groupings in the world. READI will enhance mutual understanding and coordination between ASEAN and the EU. The programme will, among others, finance cooperation on disaster management, energy, science, technology and innovation, information and communication technologies. It will also foster policy dialogue on issues of global importance.

This support to regional integration comes in addition to EU development support to ASEAN Member States.

The EU is committed to continue and enhance the cooperation with ASEAN in the years ahead. Discussions have started to shape ASEAN-EU cooperation programme directions for the period 2014-2020.

27 April 2012