The ASEAN – Pacific Alliance Framework for Cooperation

Introduction

1. Through the ASEAN – Pacific Alliance (PA) Framework for Cooperation, ASEAN and the PA aim to start the joint work, based on the outcomes of the 1st and 2nd ASEAN – PA Ministerial Meetings in New York at the sidelines of the 69th and 70th Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2014 and September 2015 respectively, during which ASEAN and PA Ministers gave strong impetus to the growing relations between ASEAN and the PA.

2. This Framework also takes into account the Co-Chairs’ Statement of the 1st Meeting between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the Ambassadors/ Representatives of PA, held on 25 May 2015, in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the discussions at the Meeting between the CPR and the Group of External Relations of the PA held on 10 May 2016 in Bangkok.

3. Through this Framework, both ASEAN and PA agree to these initial priority areas for cooperation to further develop the ties between the two sides, in order to build gradual knowledge and establish the foundations for a comprehensive ASEAN – PA Agenda.

4. ASEAN and PA hereby endeavor to cooperate in conformity with their existing obligations under international law and respective domestic laws, regulations, and policies.

Scope of Cooperation

5. Recognising the great potential of ASEAN – PA cooperation, the 2nd ASEAN – PA Ministerial Meeting agreed to adopt a practical approach to cooperation and to continue working together on concrete proposals in various areas, including trade and investment facilitation, logistics, urban infrastructure, agriculture, innovation, energy and mining, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) development, and encouraging closer people-to-people ties through initiatives in education, tourism, culture, and sports.
Adopted at the 3rd ASEAN-PA Ministerial Meeting

6. The two sides also envisage other possible areas of cooperation that may be further explored, including sustainable development, poverty reduction and the narrowing of development gaps, finance, connectivity, telecommunications, disaster management, services, climate change, and water resource management.

7. In addition, these areas of cooperation may be further expanded as mutually agreed by both sides.

Priority Areas of Cooperation

8. Both sides agree to prioritise cooperation in the following areas:

8.1 Economic Cooperation
8.2 Education and People – to – People Contacts
8.3 Science, Technology and Innovation
8.4 Sustainable Development

Implementation Modality

9. In order to lay the groundwork for concrete cooperation activities between ASEAN and PA, both sides agreed on the following modalities of implementation:

9.1 The ASEAN – PA Foreign Ministers shall meet regularly at the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York;

9.2 The CPR and Group of External Relations (GER), supported by Ambassadors of PA to ASEAN, shall engage with each other at least once a year in Jakarta, unless otherwise mutually agreed, to assess the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN – PA Framework for Cooperation, as well as to identify possible new
activities for future engagement, such as exchange of views on global and regional issues of common concern.

Funding

10. Activities conducted under this Framework shall be supported through available means of funding as agreed upon by both sides.

Conclusion

11. ASEAN and PA are committed to work towards the implementation of this Framework Document, which may be updated as appropriate, in order to advance ASEAN – PA relations in a concrete manner.

Adopted by the ASEAN and the Pacific Alliance Ministers at the 3rd ASEAN – Pacific Alliance Ministerial Meeting in New York, the United States, on the Twenty Fourth Day of September of the Year Two Thousand and Sixteen.

* * * * *
ANNEX I

List of Potential Activities to Implement the Prioritised Areas of Cooperation in the ASEAN – PA Framework for Cooperation

I. Economic Cooperation
   a) To promote the exchange of best practices on trade and investment facilitation and trade promotion (such as Global Value Chains – GVC), the integration of regional capital markets and other priority economic issues.

   b) To explore the development of business interaction between ASEAN and PA, including:

   - the possibility of ASEAN-PA business meetings to promote trade, investment, and networking in the two regions;
   - exchanging views on regional developments on issues related to economic integration, such as regional trade agreements, transport, customs, connectivity, among other subjects;
   - sharing experiences and best practices in the field of entrepreneurship and the development and financing of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs);
   - promoting the availability of relevant statistical data for a better understanding of economic and trade developments of ASEAN and PA;
   - promoting increased contact between national trade representative offices.

II. Education and People – to – People Contacts
   a) To promote ASEAN/Southeast Asian studies in PA countries and PA/Latin American studies in ASEAN Member States.
b) To organise academic seminars or workshops on topics of mutual interest.

c) To share experiences in higher education, and technical and vocational education and training.

d) To promote academic exchange of university professors and students between ASEAN-Member States and PA countries, as well as the development of cooperation agreements between Universities.

e) To promote the study of Spanish in ASEAN Member States as well as the study of ASEAN members’ languages in PA countries.

f) To promote the establishment of scholarships by universities and colleges for nationals of the PA countries in ASEAN Member States and vice versa, focused on the priority areas for cooperation mentioned in this Framework.

g) To hold sports exhibitions in ASEAN and PA countries to raise the profile of sports popular in either regions, such as Sepak Takraw and soccer.

h) To promote youth exchanges to enhance mutual understanding between the two sides.

i) To promote interaction between the ASEAN Committees in Third Countries (ACTC) in PA countries and their respective host governments to facilitate understanding. The PA countries will promote a similar interaction in the ASEAN countries.

j) To promote active cooperation in tourism.

k) To promote cooperation between diplomatic academies.
l) To promote exchange of knowledge and best practices in cultural and creative industries.

III. Science, Technology and Innovation

a) To promote cooperation in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation.

b) To exchange experiences on innovation and research and development policies.

c) To promote the exchange of scientists, researchers and university professors between ASEAN Member States and PA countries, as well as exploring the possibility of cooperation between universities and research centres.

IV. Sustainable Development

a) To exchange information, knowledge, experience and share best practices on activities towards attaining the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

* * * * *