

Overview of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations

Introduction

1. New Zealand became ASEAN's Dialogue Partner in 1975, and along with Australia and Japan, was amongst the first Dialogue Partners to hold Summits with ASEAN in 1977. The partnership between ASEAN and New Zealand reached a significant milestone with the adoption of the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership for 2015 and the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration at the PMC +1 Session with New Zealand on 22 July 2010 in Ha Noi. Another milestone was reached with the elevation of the partnership to a strategic level during the 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit held on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur and noted the new Plan of Action for 2016-2020.

A. Political-Security Cooperation

2. The first dedicated New Zealand Ambassador to ASEAN, Ms. Stephanie Lee, presented her Letter of Credence to Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Le Luong Minh, on 3 November 2014 and has officially established its Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta on 22 October 2015.

3. New Zealand acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 28 July 2005 and signed the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Declaration to Combat International Terrorism on 29 July 2005 in Vientiane.

4. New Zealand actively participates in ASEAN-initiated mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) and the East Asia Summit (EAS). Other consultative meetings such as the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC+1) Session with New Zealand, the ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue and the meetings of the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) have also provided opportunities for both ASEAN and New Zealand to review its cooperation based on mutual interest.

5. New Zealand is also co-chairing with Brunei Darussalam, the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Maritime Security for 2014-2017, and co-hosted with Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and Australia, the significant ADMM-Plus Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism Exercise in May 2016, and hosted a Maritime Security Exercise "Exercise Mahi Tangaroa" in Auckland from 13-16 November 2016.

6. Cooperation in counter-terrorism and combating transnational crime has been strengthened through the framework of the 'ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism'. So far, New Zealand has participated in five SOMTC-New Zealand consultations and cooperates through the Bali Process as well as other regional fora to combat people smuggling and trafficking in persons.
7. New Zealand regularly attends the annual EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force (ECTF) as well as the EAS Energy Ministers Meeting (EMM), and continues to chair the ARF ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament with Malaysia and Canada. The 8th ISM on NPD is scheduled for April 2016 in Malaysia.
8. Under governance and human rights, New Zealand has been pursuing dialogue with ASEAN and is now exploring practical cooperation opportunities in the areas of well-being of women and children.
9. High level visits has also been exchanged by ASEAN and New Zealand, with the most recent one being the official visit of H.E. Rtd Hon. John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand to the ASEAN Secretariat on 16 April 2012 and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN to New Zealand on 23-26 February 2015 as part of the commemorative celebration to promote ASEAN's interest in New Zealand.

B. Economic Cooperation

10. In July 2013, New Zealand announced the NZ Inc. ASEAN Strategy on "New Zealand's ASEAN Partnership: One Pathway to Ten Nations". The strategy sets specific targets for New Zealand to boost trade and investment with ASEAN through enhanced engagement of New Zealand's private sector and businesses in Southeast Asia.
11. Preliminary data shows that ASEAN-New Zealand's total two way trade reached USD 6,9 billion in 2016¹ and New Zealand remained the tenth largest trading partner of ASEAN. The ASEAN preliminary data also indicated that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flow from New Zealand to ASEAN in 2015 accounted at total US\$ 2.2 billion² and New Zealand became the seventh largest source of FDI for ASEAN. Tourist arrivals from New Zealand to ASEAN reached 475 thousands in 2015³.
12. An agreement to establish the ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) was signed on 27 February 2009 in Thailand and entered into force on 1 January 2010. The AANZFTA Agreement is the first region-to-region free trade

¹ Based on ASEAN Trade Database preliminary figures as of 07 February 2017

² Based on ASEAN FDI Database as of 5 October 2016

³ ASEAN Secretariat Tourist Statistic as of 31 January 2017

agreement for ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand. It is also the first time that Australia and New Zealand have jointly negotiated with other countries. In August 2014, ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand Economic Ministers signed the First Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the AANZFTA. The First Protocol entered into force for nine ASEAN Member States, Australia and New Zealand on 11 January 2016, whilst Indonesia is in the final stage of its internal procedures. The review of services commitments will be conducted as part of AANZFTA's General Review in 2017.

13. The AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Program (AECSP) established in 2010 continued to effectively support the implementation of the FTA. ASEAN Member States have benefitted from the AECSP not only in terms of the FTA implementation but also in having the AANZFTA contribute to the emerging regional economic integration. The AECSP has been extended to June 2018, effective from 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2018. A new design of the successor economic cooperation programme to replace the AECSP is currently being prepared and it is envisioned to cover a period of 10 years.

14. The ASEAN-CER (Closer Economic Relations) Integration Partnership Forum (IPF) was launched in June 2011 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and to date the Forum had been convened five times.

15. On 22 November 2015, the Joint Statement of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Negotiations was adopted by RCEP leaders in which they welcomed the progress that has been made thus far. The 13th RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Meeting and Related Meetings were held on 10-18 June 2016, in Auckland, New Zealand.

16. New Zealand through one of its Four Flagship Initiatives under the POA 2010-2015 "ASEAN – New Zealand Young Business Leaders' Initiative (YBLI)" supported the efforts to enable young business leaders from ASEAN Member States to foster better links with New Zealand's business community. As of June 2015, the YBLI has benefited 46 young leaders from ASEAN region.

17. Cooperation in agricultural development has been pursued through the "Agriculture Diplomacy Flagship" under the POA 2010-2015, which aimed to assist ASEAN Member States in a number of areas such as agricultural research, agribusiness, security, food safety, agricultural education and training.

18. During the PMC+1 with New Zealand in July 2016, ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed appreciation to New Zealand for its important support in education, business, disaster risk management, and agriculture cooperation. The Meeting also welcomed New Zealand's interest to enhancing cooperation on connectivity, including air links and

regulatory cooperation. The Meeting noted the already strong tourism and people flows between ASEAN and New Zealand.

C. Social-cultural cooperation

19. Cooperation in disaster risk management has focused on New Zealand's support for the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre). Over the past year, the New Zealand Official Development Assistance (ODA) support for ASEAN Member States included NZD 20 million funding in the area of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) for the next 3 years, and the continued support to the AHA Centre through its Executive Leadership Development Programme.

20. The English Language Training for Officials (ELTO) programme has greatly contributed on improving English language skills of the officials from ASEAN participating countries, in particular the CLMV countries as part of the implementation of the Initiatives for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II. New Zealand also provided \$258,000 support to Lao PDR over 2015/2016 for the tailored English language training for 150 Officials in support of Lao PDR's ASEAN Chair role in 2016. The design of Short Term Training Scholarships in Agriculture, Public Sector Leadership, Renewable Energy, and Disaster Risk Management is underway.

21. At the invitation of the Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Women and Children (ACWC), a representative from New Zealand attended the 8th ACWC Meeting, which was held on 18 February 2014 at the ASEAN Secretariat, to discuss potential areas of cooperation.

22. New Zealand regularly attends the EAS Environmental Track SOM Meetings to strengthen links between New Zealand and ASEAN in areas of mutual interest such as biodiversity conservation, natural resources management, green technology development, environmental governance, sustainable development, chemicals and hazardous wastes control, sustainable forest management, and climate change. Together with several ASEAN Member States, New Zealand is also a member of the Asia Pacific Carbon Market Roundtable (APCMR) Forum.

D. Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI)

23. New Zealand has provided assistance to support the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). As of April 2015, New Zealand's projects officially accredited as IAI under the new IAI Guidelines includes studies and capacity building projects under the AECSP Training on Project Proposal Formulation, technical assistance to the AHA Centre and the English Language Training of Senior officials.

24. New Zealand's contribution to ASEAN is made through its New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) with complementary contributions from other national organisations. 15 activities under AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (ECSP) and three (3) projects were directly funded by New Zealand, including (1) Training on project proposal formulation, (2) technical assistance through the AHA Centre and (3) English language training for CLMV senior officials.

E. Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat

25. Another important area of New Zealand's support to ASEAN is strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat. New Zealand has agreed to provide Short Term Training Awards (STTAs) in public sector leadership for the ASEAN Secretariat staff starting from 2016. The concept is currently being developed. The design of 30 Public Sector Leadership Short Term Training Scholarships per annum is underway and 6 scholarships will be available for ASEAN Secretariat participants.

F. New Zealand's New Initiatives under the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership

26. Under the new Plan of Action (2016-2020), New Zealand has announced a significant increase in investment into the People Strategy and the Prosperity Strategy, which will further strengthen the ASEAN-New Zealand relations. New Zealand will increase its contribution to over NZD 200 million in the next three years to realise the initiatives stipulated under these strategies.

27. The **People Strategy** will focus on the development for the people in the region, particularly the youths, including current and future leaders, and will foster greater flows of people in both directions. It includes the New Zealand Prime Minister's Fellowship for ASEAN; expanded scholarships and English language training opportunities, new vocational training; and an expanded as well as reciprocal Young Business Leaders' Initiative.

28. The **Prosperity Strategy** will focus on agriculture and trade initiatives to support ASEAN and New Zealand's economic growth, achieve common regional integration

objectives, and narrow the development gap within and between ASEAN countries. It includes a new bilateral trade capacity-building programme, extended cooperation under AANZFTA, and increased development cooperation in the area of agriculture.

Pending issues

29. To review progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership (2016-2020) through existing mechanisms, including the ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue and the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting(s).

30. To Submit annual progress reports on the implementation of this PoA to the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC+1) with New Zealand.

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