

OVERVIEW OF ASEAN-PAKISTAN SECTORAL DIALOGUE COOPERATION

A. Introduction

1. Pakistan was accorded the status of sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN at the 26th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on 23 July 1993.
2. The inaugural meeting of ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Dialogue Relations was convened on 5-7 November 1997 in Islamabad to launch the partnership. The meeting agreed that ASEAN-Pakistan Sectoral Dialogue Partnership would initially cover cooperation in trade, industry, investment, environment, science and technology, drugs and narcotics, tourism and human resources development. The ASEAN-Pakistan Sectoral Dialogue Relations was institutionalised through the convening of the First Meeting of the ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AP-JSCC) on 5 February 1999 in Bali.
3. Following the Sixth AP-JSCC Meeting on 2 November 2017, ASEAN and Pakistan have adopted the updated Terms of Reference of the AP-JSCC and the ASEAN-Pakistan Sectoral Dialogue Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas for 2019-2021, which serves as a practical guide to further substantiate the cooperation between both sides

B. Cooperation

4. Pakistan acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia on 2 July 2004 in Jakarta. On the same day Pakistan was also admitted as the 24th participant of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).
5. ASEAN and Pakistan signed the Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism at the sidelines of the 12th ARF on 29 July 2005 in Vientiane.
6. In trade, ASEAN and Pakistan took steps to explore ways and means to intensify economic cooperation by undertaking a Joint Feasibility Study for an ASEAN-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in 2009 to enhance and expand the overall ASEAN-Pakistan economic engagement. The Joint Feasibility Study was conducted by researchers of both sides: the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER).
7. Foreign Direct Investment from Pakistan to ASEAN increased from US\$ 11.59 million in 2018 to US\$ 21.34 million in 2019. Meanwhile, the total two-way trade between ASEAN and Pakistan experienced negative growth by 14.4% from US\$ 8.22 billion in 2018 to US\$ 7.04 billion in 2019.¹

¹ Based on ASEAN Statistics Database as of 23 September 2020. The data in 2019 is still preliminary

8. In tourism, the number of tourist arrivals from Pakistan to ASEAN in 2018 was 209,170 people, an increase by 13.6% from 2017's figure which stood at 184,186.²

9. On other areas of collaboration, ASEAN and Pakistan have undertaken cooperation in trade, industry and investment, science and technology, drugs and narcotics control, environment, tourism, and human resources development.

10. On human resources development, Pakistan offers scholarships to students from ASEAN Member States in the fields of information technology, banking, engineering and medicine. Pakistan has also offered English Language Training Programmes for CLMV countries.

11. A number of cooperation projects have been carried out with the funding support of the ASEAN-Pakistan Cooperation Fund, including in the areas of trade, investment, promotion of business-to-business contact, industry, multimedia and resources management, science and technology, material science, halal food production technology and certification system, among others.



² Based on ASEAN Statistics Database as of 23 September 2020. The data in 2019 is not yet available.