

Overview ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations

1. The ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations have evolved and matured since Australia became ASEAN's very first Dialogue Partner in 1974.
2. The Leaders of ASEAN, Australia, and New Zealand met in 2004 at the Commemorative Summit to mark the 30th anniversary of their Dialogue Relations, during which they adopted the Joint Declaration of the Leaders to further broaden and deepen the dialogue relations in all fields, including political, economic and socio-cultural cooperation.
3. The first stand-alone ASEAN-Australia Summit was held in Hanoi in October 2010 in conjunction with the 17th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, during which the Leaders reaffirmed the significance of Australia's longstanding partnership with ASEAN.
4. The ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations reached a significant milestone in 2007 with the adoption of the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership that charts out the direction of the ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations in the years to come. A Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration (2008-2013) was subsequently adopted in the same year, and was later extended until 2014. A new Plan of Action for 2015-2019 to implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership¹ was adopted by the Ministers at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Plus One (PMC+1) Session with Australia in August 2014.
5. The year 2014 marks the 40th Anniversary of the partnership between ASEAN and Australia. A Commemorative Summit to mark this Anniversary was held on 12 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, where the Leaders agreed to elevate the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership to a strategic level founded on common interests in regional peace and prosperity. This elevation was announced through the "Joint ASEAN-Australia Leaders' Statement on the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations towards a Strategic Partnership for Mutual Benefit". 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.

¹ The 27th ASEAN-Australia Forum on 25-26 March 2015 in Manila agreed to amend the name of the current POA to reflect the new status of the ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations. The Forum agreed to rename the current ASEAN-Australia POA into "Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership (2015-2019)" which was endorsed at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference Plus One (PMC+1) Session with Australia on 5 August 2015.

6. 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 a Special ASEAN-Australia Summit in Australia in 2018. The Leaders also adopted the renewed ASEAN-Australia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism.

7. The 29th ASEAN-Australia Forum held on 9-10 March 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar viewed that the Special Summit to be held on 17-18 March 2018 in Sydney, Australia would be a timely opportunity for ASEAN and Australia to further strengthen the engagement towards a new level. The Forum also welcomed Australia's initiative for hosting two side-line events, namely a Business Summit and a Counter-Terrorism Conference, which will be held a day before the Special Summit.

A. Political-Security Cooperation

8. Australia has appointed its first resident Ambassador to ASEAN, H.E. Simon Philip Merrifield, who presented his credentials to the Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Le Luong Minh, on 1 October 2013. This appointment, together with the establishment of the Mission of Australia to ASEAN in Jakarta, underlined Australia's strong commitment to deepen its engagement with ASEAN. Ambassador Elizabeth Jane Duke is the second Ambassador of Australia to ASEAN. She presented her letter of credence to H.E. Le Luong Minh on 16 September 2016.

9. 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.

10. Australia participates in several consultative meetings with ASEAN, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), the East Asia Summit (EAS), the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), the Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) and the Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) + Australia Consultation.

11. Australia has been actively participating in and supporting ARF's work on counter-terrorism and transnational crime, disaster relief, maritime security, non-proliferation and disarmament, and preventive diplomacy. For the inter-sessional year 2015-2016, Australia co-chaired the 10th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) Meeting with Singapore and the ARF workshop on National Maritime Single Points of Contacts with the Philippines, and also worked with Malaysia on the

proposed ARF Directory of Cyber Points of Contact. The 23rd ARF was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 26 July 2016. Australia also co-sponsored the ARF Ministerial Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies which was adopted at the 23rd ARF in July 2016. For the inter-sessional year 2017-2019, Australia is the Co-Chair of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security together with Viet Nam and the European Union.

12. Australia is a member and a strong supporter of the ADMM-Plus, under which it is co-chairing with Singapore the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) on Counter-Terrorism for 2014-2017. Australia regularly attends the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) since its inauguration in 2012. It co-chaired with Vietnam the EAMF's Expanded ASEAN Seafarer's Training Initiative (EAMF EAST) workshop in May 2015. The first-ever combined ADMM-Plus Maritime Security and Counter-Terrorism Exercise was jointly co-organised by Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand in Brunei Darussalam and Singapore in May 2016. For the period of 2017-2020, Australia is the new Co-Chair of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations together with Indonesia.

13. On the EAS, ASEAN and Australia have been working closely to strengthen the EAS as a leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political, and economic issues of common interest and concern. On disaster management and public health, Australia and the Philippines proposed an "EAS Statement on Rapid Disaster Response" adopted by the 9th EAS on 13 November 2014, delivered the third and final workshop on rapid disaster response together with Indonesia in June 2015 under the 2011 EAS Statement on Disaster Response, and is co-chairing with Viet Nam the Asia-Pacific Leaders' Malaria Alliance.

14. On counter-terrorism, the EAS leaders at the 10th EAS Summit in Kuala Lumpur in 2015 adopted "EAS Statement on Countering Violent Extremism", which was co-sponsored by Australia, Malaysia and Republic of Korea. On maritime security, the EAS Maritime Security Cooperation Seminar was held in Australia in November 2016, which were co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia. Australia attended the 11th EAS held on 8 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, where the EAS leaders adopted an EAS Statement on Non-Proliferation, proposed by Australia and co-sponsored by Myanmar. Australia is co-leading with Malaysia on counter-radicalisation under the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime. Australia co-hosted with the Philippines and the EU an ARF Workshop on Mainstreaming the Prevention of Violent Extremism in February 2017 and co-chaired with Vietnam the ARF Expert and Eminent Persons Meeting from 28 February to 1 March 2017 in Canberra. In 2016, Australia co-sponsored with Vietnam and the EU a Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law

Enforcement Agencies and also proposed to co-host with Vietnam and the EU a workshop to give effect to the Statement.

15. Regular consultations have been held between the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and Australia to discuss issues of mutual interest in the area of transnational crime, including counter-terrorism. The 10th SOMTC+Australia Consultation in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 11 June 2015 adopted the SOMTC+Australia Work Programme on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2015-2017.

16. Combatting trafficking in persons is a key area of collaboration between ASEAN and Australia, with the on-going implementation of the five-year programme (2013-2018) Australia-Asia Partnership to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) valued at AUD\$50 million, with its work Plan 2015-2016 adopted in June 2015. In connection to this programme, the First ASEAN-Australia Biennial Summit held on 7 September 2016 noted the new "International Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery" launched in March 2016. Australia also participates in the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM)-Australia Work Programme.

17. The 11th SOMTC + Australia Consultation convened on 25 May 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia, welcomed Australia's proposal to revise the SOMTC + Australia Work Programme and the inclusion of people smuggling and illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber as new areas under the SOMTC and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC). The 12th SOMTC + Australia Consultation is expected to be held on 26 May 2017 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, which will be held in conjunction with the 17th SOMTC and Its Related Meetings.

18. The Bali Process, co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia, also works to strengthen dialogue and practical cooperation among its 48 members on people smuggling, trafficking in persons and transnational crime in the Asia-Pacific region. In October 2016 Australia supported the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to deliver cybercrime training to Southeast Asian law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges in Bangkok. AAPTIP continue to support SOMTC's cross-sectoral coordination to implement the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), in 2017.

B. Economic Cooperation

19. According to preliminary figures, ASEAN's projected trade with Australia is at USD 52,098 million in 2016, which makes Australia the seventh largest trading

partner of ASEAN.² Australia became the sixth largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for ASEAN, with projected FDI at USD 72,431.2 million in 2016.³ On the tourism front, over 4.3 million Australian nationals visited ASEAN in 2014⁴, making Australia the 5th largest source of tourism for ASEAN.

20. The ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Commemorative Summit in 2004 launched negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Subsequently, the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) was signed by the Economic Ministers of ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand at the side-lines of the 14th ASEAN Summit on 27 February 2009 in Cham Hua Hin.

21. The first Protocol to Amend the AANZFTA, covering Chapters in Trade in Goods and Rules of Origins, was signed in August 2014 and entered into force for most Parties on 1 October 2015. Under the AANZFTA Agreement and with support from Australia and New Zealand, the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP) was established in 2010 with the committed expenditure of A\$18.9 million. AECSP has contributed to enhancing the capacity of ASEAN Member States' institutions in implementing the AANZFTA and was extended to June 2018 with a total contribution up to AUD 26.53 million. The General Review of AANZFTA (2017-2018) will help improve utilisation and uptake of AANZFTA by business, as well as help inform the design of a successor program to build on the work of the AECSP.

22. 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. Since its inauguration in 2011, 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. The 34th SEOM-CER Consultations was held on 8 April 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

23. Australia is one of the six Dialogue Partners of ASEAN that joined the negotiations on a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) since 2012. Parties to the RCEP are making efforts to conclude the negotiations by 2016 and have finalised the RCEP Work Programme for 2016 at the 11th RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) in February 2016. The 12th round of RCEP TNC negotiation was held in April 2016 in Perth, Australia. Market access negotiations

² Based on ASEAN Trade Database as of 7 February 2017 2016 *preliminary figures

³ Based on ASEAN FDI Database as of 10 June 2016 *preliminary figures

⁴ ASEAN Tourism Statistics Database as of 30 September 2015.

across goods, services, and investment continued to make progress during 2016. Two draft chapters on economic and technical cooperation and small and medium-sized (SME) enterprises (SMEs) were also concluded, adding momentum to the negotiations.

24. 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.

C. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

25. Australia has been actively providing technical assistance to ASEAN on disaster management which delivered through a Cooperation Arrangement to implement the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2010-2015. Amendment No. 6 was signed on 19 May 2015 to extend the cooperation until 31 December 2016 with an additional commitment of AUD\$1,000,000.

26. Education is a flagship area of cooperation between ASEAN and Australia. In 2016, the Endeavors Scholarships and other awards/grants have also supported over 2,000 Australian students in ASEAN region and over 900 ASEAN students to study in Australia. 42 Australian students have also received scholarships to study in ASEAN Member States in 2016. In order to increase the two-way mobility of students, the Australian Government launched in December 2013 the New Colombo Plan, with a committed funding of AUD\$100 million over five years. At the First ASEAN-Australia Biennial Summit, the Leaders welcomed the launch in 2015 of the Australia-ASEAN Council and the Council's ASEAN Emerging Leaders Program, which will build a cohort of young Southeast Asian leaders with links to Australia. ASEAN Leaders also welcomed Australia's announcement that the number of Australia Award scholarships offered to ASEAN Member States will almost double to more than 1,500 in 2017.

27. Australia, through the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Work Programme, has provided support to ASEAN in the development of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF), which was endorsed by the ASEAN Education Ministers in Vientiane in September 2014.

28. ASEAN and Australia have continued to collaborate on a number of health issues. The Australian Government supported the consultancy to assess the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development for 2010-2015. References were made to this study in finalising the ASEAN post-2015 Health Development

Agenda. Australia was also identified as one of ASEAN's Dialogue Partners to support the ASEAN Malaria Work Plan led by Myanmar.

29. The ASEAN Leaders and the Australian Prime Minister agreed at the 2014 Commemorative Summit to explore links between ASEAN Connectivity and the development of Northern Australia. Australia is also supporting ASEAN in implementing its Connectivity agenda, including the formulation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. The ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) is implementing two ASEAN Connectivity projects funded by the AADCP II on communication and outreach.

D. Development Cooperation

30. 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, as agreed at the 7th Joint Planning and Review Committee (JPRC) Meeting on 6 March 2013, with the budget allocation of approximately AUD 57.8 million. Among the 69 approved projects for this Programme, 49 projects have been completed, and 20 are currently on-going. In recent years, Australia has provided approximately AUD5.5 million annually to the AADCP II Trust Fund.

31. AADCP II also supports ASEAN's institutional strengthening agenda through the "Strengthening ASEAN Secretariat Business Processes and IT Systems" needs assessment project completed in January 2016, as well as providing technical assistance to ASEAN in developing the successor document of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II (2009-2015). AADCP II continues to deliver strong results, including the publication of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 in August 2016 and supporting the finalisation of Workplan III for the Initiative for ASEAN Integration, both integral components of ASEAN 2025. The program has also supported Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) in the tourism sector and assisted with the development of agricultural and aquacultural standards.

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