

OVERVIEW

ASEAN-GERMANY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

1. Germany was conferred the status of Development Partner of ASEAN by the 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) on 24 July 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Prior to the conferment of this formal partnership, there has been a great degree of cooperation between ASEAN and Germany across the political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation.

2. The ASEAN-Germany Development Partnership was institutionalised through the convening of the First ASEAN-Germany Development Partnership Committee (AG-DPC) Meeting on 23 January 2017 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta. The Meeting took stock of the current status of ASEAN-Germany cooperation and discussed new possible areas for future cooperation, including technical and skills training, tourism, green and renewable energy, sustainable development, promotion of small and medium industries and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as well as support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III, among others.

A. Political-Security Cooperation

3. Germany appointed its first Ambassador to ASEAN in February 2009. H.E. Michael Baron von Ungern-Sternberg, current Ambassador of Germany to ASEAN, presented his Letter of Credence to H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN on 31 October 2016. During the presentation, Ambassador von Ungern-Sternberg reassured of Germany's continued support towards ASEAN as well as multilateralism as Germany believes that multilateral cooperation contributes to peace and stability.

4. Germany has been supporting the Capacity Development Programme for the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) since 2012, which is aimed to assist AIPA towards strengthening its institution, develop the capacity of its members and enhance its outreach.

B. Economic Cooperation

5. ASEAN and Germany enjoyed good trade and investment relations. The total two-way trade between ASEAN and Germany decreased by 6% from US\$55.5 billion in 2015 to US\$52.1 billion in 2016. ASEAN's export to Germany decreased by 9% from US\$26.7 billion in 2015 to US\$24.4 billion in 2016, and imports from Germany decreased by 4% from US\$28.7 billion in 2015 to US\$27.6 billion in 2016. Meanwhile, foreign direct investment (FDI)

flows from Germany to ASEAN increased significantly from US\$67.6 million in 2014 to US\$408.8 million in 2015.¹

C. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

6. Germany has been supporting the work of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in developing and implementing strategies and instruments in the field of biodiversity and climate change. A Programme on “Protection of Biological Diversity in the ASEAN Member States in Cooperation with the ACB” was launched in April 2015, which aims to protect the biological diversity, promote the sustainable management of natural ecosystems and improve the livelihoods of local population in the ASEAN region.

7. Germany, in partnership with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and Switzerland, also provided funding support for the activities of the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) from August to December 2016.

D. Development Cooperation

8. Germany is among the largest contributors to ASEAN’s Community efforts and cooperation is being pursued through the implementation of various cooperation programmes in the areas of agriculture, forestry, port development, energy efficiency, quality infrastructure, competition policy and law, among others. The programmes are funded by the Federal Foreign Office (FFO) and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ) and implemented through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) and the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW).

9. Given the growing number of ASEAN-Germany cooperation programmes carried out over the years, ASEAN has already had a cooperation mechanism with Germany through the ASEAN-Germany Joint Cooperation Review (AGJCR) since 2012 to streamline and strengthen coordination among various stakeholders in ASEAN-Germany cooperation programmes. On 3 February 2015, Germany and the EU convened the 4th ASEAN- Germany Joint Cooperation Review at the ASEAN Secretariat, back-to-back with the 22nd ASEAN-EU JCC Meeting. The Meeting agreed to further improve coordination between ASEAN-EU and ASEAN-Germany cooperation programmes. Besides the AGJCR mechanism, Germany has met the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Development Cooperation (SCDC) in May 2012, in July

¹ Source: ASEAN Statistics Database

2013, in July 2014 and in June 2016, respectively, to provide overview of ASEAN-Germany cooperation programmes.

10. The ASEAN Secretariat has also benefitted from the ASEAN-German Cooperation Programme on Capacity Building for the ASEAN Secretariat, which was aimed at strengthening its institutional capacity and outreach strategy. Currently, the ASEAN Secretariat Post 2015 – Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development, the successor of the programme, is being implemented.

