

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.

3. ASEAN and Germany has also developed the Practical Cooperation Areas (PCA) for the ASEAN-Germany Development Partnership 2018-2022, which aims to implement future cooperation under the framework of the ASEAN-Germany Development Partnership and serves as a foundation for practical cooperation to further substantiate the Partnership. The PCA 2018-2022 was adopted at the 2nd AG-DPC Meeting on 20 March 2018.

A. Political-Security Cooperation

4. Germany accredited its first Ambassador to ASEAN in February 2009. H.E. Peter Schoof, current Ambassador of Germany to ASEAN, presented his Letter of Credence to H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN on 6 November 2018. During the presentation, Ambassador Schoof reaffirmed Germany's commitment to continue supporting ASEAN's Community building efforts, including through the framework of ASEAN-EU dialogue relations.

5. Germany has been supporting the activities of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission of Human Rights (AICHR) and capacity development programme for the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).

B. Economic Cooperation

6. ASEAN and Germany enjoyed robust trade and investment relations. In 2019 the total two-way trade was US\$63.60 billion, a 2.86 percent decrease compared to previous year amounted to US\$65.47 billion.¹ The foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from Germany to ASEAN also experienced negative growth from US\$1.36 billion in 2018 to US\$260.10 million in 2019.²

7. Germany has supported a number of programmes in the areas of infrastructure development, competition policy and law, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), consumer protection, Initiatives for ASEAN Integration (IAI) within the framework of the ASEAN Single Market, and institutional strengthening and capacity development, among others.

C. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

8. 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. The activities of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), and ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercises (ARDEX) have also been supported by Germany. On the concrete cooperation related to the social-cultural sphere, Germany has also developed programmes in the areas of environment and climate change, sustainable agriculture and forestry, food security, energy, higher education and the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET), among others.

D. Development Cooperation

9. Germany is among the largest contributors to supporting the ASEAN Community building goals, with the current total contributions of approximately US\$184 million over the past decade to implement 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 through 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 coordination among various stakeholders in ASEAN-Germany cooperation programmes. Besides the AGJCR mechanism, Germany is also in consultation with the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Development Cooperation (SCDC) to provide overview of ASEAN-Germany cooperation programmes.

10. 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

¹ Based on preliminary data of ASEAN Statistics Database as of September 2020.

² Ibid

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11. 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.

