

## OVERVIEW

### ASEAN-NORWAY SECTORAL DIALOGUE RELATIONS

1. Norway was conferred the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN at the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) on 4 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Long before the conferment of this formal partnership, ASEAN and Norway had forged relationship through a number of cooperative activities.
2. The ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Relations was institutionalised through the convening of the First ASEAN-Norway Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AN-JSCC) Meeting on 11 December 2015 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, which signified the launch of ASEAN-Norway formal cooperation mechanism. The Meeting agreed that this partnership would be guided within the framework of the Joint Statement on ASEAN-Norway Partnership, which was adopted at the 47<sup>th</sup> AMM in August 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025: Forging Ahead Together.
3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> AN-JSCC Meeting on 21 July 2017 adopted the Priority Plan for the ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership and the Procedures for the Norway-ASEAN Regional Integration Programme (NARIP), which set out the overall framework and priorities for engagement and cooperation between ASEAN and Norway and serves as a foundation for practical cooperation to further substantiate the partnership.
4. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> AN-JSCC Meetings were held respectively on 28 May 2018, 6 May 2019 and 4 June 2020. The Meetings discussed extensively several projects for implementing the Priority Plan for ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership, including, among others, support to the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) and ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) activities; support to the development of the ASEAN Judiciaries Portal; and projects in the areas of maritime, marine environment, climate change, energy, biodiversity, youth, education, and sustainable development. The 5<sup>th</sup> AN-JSCC Meeting also discussed practical cooperation between ASEAN and Norway to address the COVID-19 pandemic and to mitigate its socio-economic impacts. The Meeting also agreed to develop an ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas (PCA) 2021-2025 to succeed the Priority Plan and further enhance and ASEAN-Norway cooperation over the next five years.
5. Norway appointed its first Ambassador to ASEAN in 2009 and has now accredited its first dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN, H.E. Morten Høglund, who presented his Letter of Credence on 21 July 2017.

## **A. Political-Security Cooperation**

6. Norway acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 1 July 2013 at the sidelines of the 46<sup>th</sup> AMM in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Norway's accession to the TAC underscored the importance of the TAC as a code of conduct governing inter-state relations in the region, as well as Norway's strong commitment to promoting regional peace and security.

7. Four Informal Trilateral Meetings between the Chair of ASEAN, Norway and the ASEAN Secretariat had been held on 24 July 2016 at the sidelines of the 49<sup>th</sup> AMM in Vientiane, 8 August 2017 at the sidelines of the 50<sup>th</sup> AMM in Manila, 1 August 2018 at the sidelines of the 51<sup>st</sup> AMM in Singapore, and 30 July 2019 at the sidelines of the 52<sup>nd</sup> AMM in Bangkok. The Trilateral Meeting in July 2019 in Bangkok noted significant progress in the implementation of the Priority Plan for ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership and suggested for both sides to explore cooperation, among others, in the areas of connectivity; Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI); trade and private sector development, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs); smart cities; and human capital development.

8. Norway has supported several activities of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) and ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission of Human Rights. These activities include ASEAN-IPR Symposium on the Plight of Women and Children in Conflict Situations on 8-9 December 2015; ASEAN-IPR Symposium on Peace and Reconciliation Practices in November 2016; Symposium on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in October 2017; ASEAN-AIPR's website; AICHR Interregional Dialogue on Sharing Good Practices on Business and Human Rights in June 2018; and AICHR CSO Symposium in October 2018. Norway also supported the development of ASEAN Judiciaries Portal project, ASEAN High Level Dialogue on Ocean and Blue Economy for Enhancing Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Pollution in Southeast Asia in May 2018, and Symposium on the establishment of an ASEAN Women for Peace Registry in December 2018.

## **B. Economic Cooperation**

9. The total two-way trade between ASEAN and Norway increased by 38.3% from US\$ 2.74 billion in 2018 to US\$ 3.79 billion in 2019. However, foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from Norway to ASEAN experienced negative growth from US\$ -1,47 billion in 2018 to US\$ -1,62 billion in 2019.<sup>1</sup>

10. In tourism, the number of tourist arrivals from Norway to ASEAN in 2018 was 268,584 people<sup>2</sup>, a slight increase by 4% from 2017's figure which stood at 258,468.

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<sup>1</sup> ASEAN's Statistics Database as of 18 September 2020. The statistics figures in 2019 are still preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> ASEAN's Statistics Database as of 18 September 2020.

11. Norway also promotes cooperation with ASEAN in the area of energy, through a project on ASEAN Climate Change and Energy Project (ACCEPT) – Harmonising Regional Energy Indicators under the APAEC 2016-2025, aimed at producing analysis and recommendations to support formulation of actionable policies and coherent strategies through synergies between (i) energy policy and energy-related climate policy and (ii) policies at the national and regional levels.

### **C. Socio-Cultural Cooperation**

12. Norway contributed to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). There are two ASEAN-Norway projects in the area of disaster management, namely: One ASEAN, One Voice – Building a Culture of Disaster Resilience and Enhancing ASEAN’s Collective Response to Disasters through Effective Communication Strategy; and Strengthening Disaster Resilience Leadership in ASEAN Member States. These projects helped enhance leadership skills and qualities of ASEAN Member States in disaster resilience and support the implementation of the AADMER.

13. Norway provided significant humanitarian assistance to ASEAN in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis and Typhoon Haiyan in 2008 and 2013, respectively.

14. ASEAN and Norway also promote cooperation in the area of climate change, biodiversity, environmental protection, maritime and marine and people-to-people exchanges, including education and culture. Norway is supporting ASEAN’s effort in reducing plastic pollution in the region through implementing ASEAN-Norwegian Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in the ASEAN Region (ASEANO). In collaboration with Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta and ASEAN University Network, Norway has been initiating ASEAN Master in Sustainability Management. Norway is also supporting ASEAN to implement the project on the project on Mobilizing Stakeholders to Inform the Development of a Science-based Decision Support System for Coastal Wetlands in the ASEAN Region, and ASEAN Youth Sport for Development, Peace and Leadership.

15. Both sides are exploring practical cooperation in the areas of (i) connectivity, (ii) Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), (iii) trade and private sector development, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

