

Overview of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations

1. The ASEAN-Canada dialogue relationship was established in February 1977 with the convening of the first formal meeting between the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs and the ASEAN Standing Committee. In 1981, the ASEAN-Canada Economic Cooperation Agreement (ACECA) was signed, laying the grounds for industrial, commercial, and technical cooperation between the two sides.
2. While the initial focus of the relationship was on development cooperation, it has now been expanded to cover a wide spectrum of areas under the three community pillars. Cooperation activities are undertaken through the framework of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2016-2020), building upon the achievements made in the implementation of the previous Plan of Action (2010-2015).
3. ASEAN and Canada convened a Commemorative Summit to mark the 40th anniversary of the dialogue relations on 14 November 2017 in Manila. It was the first Leaders meeting since the establishment of the partnership in 1977. Various celebratory activities were also held throughout the year, including (i) the issuance of commemorative statements by the Prime Minister of Canada on 3 February 2017 and ASEAN on 6 March 2017, (ii) the visit of Secretary-General of ASEAN to Canada upon the invitation of Global Affairs Canada on 29-31 May 2017, and (iii) tree planting by the Committee of Permanent Representative to ASEAN (CPR) and Ambassador of Canada to ASEAN on 8 December 2017 at the ASEAN Secretariat, among others.

POLITICAL-SECURITY COOPERATION

4. Canada appointed its first Ambassador to ASEAN in 2009 and established a Mission to ASEAN in 2016, headed by its first dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN, H.E. H.E. Marie-Louise Hannan, who assumed the position in March 2016.
5. Canada acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 23 July 2010 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, and subsequently to the Third Protocol Amending the TAC on 23 July 2011 in Bali, Indonesia.
6. Political and security engagements between ASEAN and Canada continue to be strengthened on multiple fronts through Canada's participation in various ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Plus Canada Consultation.
7. Canada has expressed its interest to join the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) on various occasions. Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau participated in the lunch hosted by the President of

the Philippines as the Chair of ASEAN 2017, in Honor of EAS Heads of State/Government and Guests of the Chair.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

8. Canada is ASEAN's ninth largest trading partner among the Dialogue Partners with a total two-way trade in 2017 estimated at USD 13.2 billion.¹ Preliminary data shows that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Canada to ASEAN is registered at USD 1 billion in 2017, making Canada as ASEAN's eighth largest source of FDI among the Dialogue Partners.²

9. Economic engagement between both sides is guided by the Joint Declaration between ASEAN and Canada on Trade and Investment, which was signed on 2 October 2011. The first Work Plan for the period of 2012-2015 was adopted in August 2012 while its successor Work Plan for the period of 2016-2020 adopted in August 2015 is currently being implemented.

10. ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and ASEAN Senior Economic Officials' Meeting hold regular dialogue with Canada. The Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) was established at the First AEM-Canada Consultation on 31 August 2012 with an aim to promote business opportunities and build business network between the two sides. The first AEM Roadshow to Canada was held in June 2014. Both sides also agreed at the 5th AEM-Canada Consultation in August 2016 to convene the ASEAN-Canada Trade Policy Dialogue annually and the first Dialogue was held in July 2017 in Manila.

11. ASEAN and Canada are currently examining the potential benefits of establishing an ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by conducting a Joint Feasibility Study for an ASEAN-Canada FTA. The outcomes of the preliminary Study was presented at the 6th AEM-Canada Consultation in September 2017. ASEAN and Canada officials are currently completing the study incorporating more in depth analysis.

12. ASEAN and Canada are stepping up cooperation in the areas of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), narrowing the development gap in the region, clean energy and connectivity. Through the Canada-Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Project on MSMEs (COPAS), Canada provided funding support amounting to CAD 11.9 million to enable MSMEs development in ASEAN. In the areas of renewable energy and sustainable agriculture, Canada is supporting ASEAN through CAD 500,000 contribution to the ASEAN Centre for Energy (March 2016-March 2018) and CAD 4.5 million through the Grow Asia Initiative (2015-2018).

¹ ASEAN Trade Database as of April 2018

² ASEAN FDI Database as of May 2018

SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

13. Canada continues to support ASEAN's efforts in maximizing the protection of migrant workers and their contribution to equitable and inclusive growth in the region. In partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Canada provides CAD 5.5 million funding commitment to the Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (TRIANGLE) Project Phase II for the period of 2016-2020.

14. At the PMC Plus One Session with Canada in August 2017, Canada announced a five-year CAD 10 million Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) initiative that would allow Southeast Asian youth and mid-career professionals to undertake studies in Canada. The programme seeks to fight poverty and increase people-to-people linkages between the two sides with a focus on women empowerment and narrowing the development gap in the region.

