

List of Priorities for Cooperation under the ASEAN-Switzerland Sectoral Dialogue Relations for 2017-2018

BACKGROUND:

The Inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN-Switzerland Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AS-JSCC) held on 28 November 2016, marking the launch of the formal partnership between ASEAN and Switzerland, agreed to develop a list of priorities for ASEAN-Switzerland cooperation with the intention to implement projects/activities in 2017 and 2018. Such activities should be realised in cooperation between ASEAN and Switzerland. A document on ASEAN-Switzerland Sectoral Dialogue Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas 2017-2021 for the longer term, with a view to contributing to supporting the implementation of ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), will also be developed in 2017.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN 2017 AND 2018:

Political and Security Cooperation

1. Support the programs and activities of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in accordance with its Terms of Reference.
2. Support ASEAN's efforts to promote peacebuilding, mediation and preventive diplomacy through the sharing of experience and knowledge by Swiss experts.
3. Support the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) Symposium Exploring Convergences between International Humanitarian Law, Humanitarian Principles, Religious Norms, and Customary Practices in ASEAN to Address Humanitarian and Protection Challenges in ASEAN.
4. Support capacity-building to enhance good governance within ASEAN.

Economic Cooperation

5. Support capacity building in regional integration, entrepreneurial skills and MSMEs development.

6. Continue the cooperation within the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) addressing interlinked issues of food security, social forestry and climate change.
7. Continue to support ASEAN cooperation on Social Forestry, by enhancing cooperation in the areas of forest research and development, enhancing best practices on social forestry, and exchange knowledge and experience from civil society and private sector.
8. Continue to provide technical support, especially to the CLMV-countries, in order to meet the national and regional poverty alleviation goals with a particular consideration to the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) 2015-2020; continue to promote, amongst others, Good Agricultural Practices and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) that can help farmers respond to market demands and withstand climate change and natural disasters.
9. Continue to provide technical support with regard to local governance and citizen participation, especially to the CLMV countries, in order to contribute to inclusive and equitable local economic development, and to improve cooperation between public, private and civil society actors.

Socio-Cultural Cooperation

10. Promote cooperation in employment and vocational education and training through consultations, information sharing, capacity building, broader cooperation and partnerships by:
 - 10.1. Starting exchanges on best practices and experiences with the ASEAN Secretariat and the Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (SEAMEO VOTTECH) under the umbrella of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) based in Brunei.
11. Continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme and activities of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), and promote close cooperation between Switzerland's Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation networks, experts and specialized regional Office in Bangkok, and the Disaster

Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division (DMHA) of the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre.

Narrowing the Development Gap and Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI)

12. Support cooperation in programmes/projects to implement initiatives under the IAI Work Plan III.

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