

OVERVIEW OF ASEAN-PAKISTAN SECTORAL DIALOGUE COOPERATION

A. Introduction

1. Pakistan was accorded the status of sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN at the 26th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on 23 July 1993.
2. The inaugural meeting of ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Dialogue Relations was convened on 5-7 November 1997 in Islamabad to launch the partnership. The inaugural meeting agreed that ASEAN-Pakistan Sectoral Dialogue Partnership would initially cover cooperation in trade, industry, investment, environment, science and technology, drugs and narcotics, tourism and human resources development. The ASEAN-Pakistan Sectoral Dialogue Relations was institutionalised through the convening of the First Meeting of the ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AP-JSCC) on 5 February 1999 in Bali.

B. Cooperation

3. Pakistan acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia on 2 July 2004 in Jakarta. On the same day Pakistan was also admitted as the 24th participant of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).
4. ASEAN and Pakistan signed the Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism at the sidelines of the 12th ARF on 29 July 2005 in Vientiane.
5. In trade, ASEAN and Pakistan have undertaken a Joint Feasibility Study for an ASEAN-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to enhance and expand the overall ASEAN-Pakistan economic engagement. The Joint Feasibility Study was conducted by researchers of both sides: the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER). At the 41st AEM held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 13-14 August 2009, the Ministers noted the completion of the Joint Study on the Feasibility of the ASEAN-Pakistan Free Trade Area and agreed to defer consideration of the recommendations contained in the study. At the 43rd AEM held on 10-11 August 2011 in Manado, Indonesia, the Economic Ministers agreed to apply a moratorium on the proposal of Pakistan for an ASEAN-Pakistan FTA.
6. In 2016, the two-way trade between ASEAN and Pakistan was US\$6.3 billion, a negative growth by 3.4% from the previous year's figure of US\$ 6.6 billion. ASEAN's exports to Pakistan in 2016 was US\$5.5 billion while imports by ASEAN reached US\$0.8 billion. Foreign Direct Investment from Pakistan to

ASEAN significantly increased from US\$ -19.86 in 2016 to US\$ 45.23 million in 2016.¹

7. On other areas of collaboration, ASEAN and Pakistan have undertaken cooperation in trade, industry and investment, science and technology, drugs and narcotics control, environment, tourism, and human resources development.

8. On human resources development, Pakistan offers scholarships to students from ASEAN Member States in the fields of information technology, banking, engineering and medicine. Pakistan has also offered English Language Training Programmes for CLMV countries.

9. A number of cooperation projects have been carried out with the funding support of the ASEAN-Pakistan Cooperation Fund, including the First Meeting of ASEAN-Pakistan Business Council and ASEAN-Pakistan Trade Facilitation Workshop, both held back-to-back on 21-22 February 2000 in Karachi; Workshop on Industrial and Composite Design Applications on 29-31 October 2002 in Islamabad; Multimedia Training and Resources Development on 20 November-2 December 2006 in Islamabad; ASEAN-Pakistan Workshop on Geo-informatics on 10-12 September 2007 in Islamabad; 1st ASEAN-Pakistan Conference on Materials Science (APCOMS) on 15-16 December 2008 in Islamabad; Pakistan-ASEAN Workshop on Halal Food Production Technology and Certification System on 11-12 March 2009 in Karachi; ASEAN-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Joint Feasibility Study which was finalised in 2009; the ASEAN-Pakistan Photo Exhibition on 8-16 March 2011; 2nd ASEAN-Pakistan Conference on Materials Science (APCOMS) on 26-28 April 2011; and the 3rd APCOMS on 25-27 November 2014.



¹ Based on ASEAN Statistics Database as of October 2017.

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