

Overview of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations

1. Since New Zealand became ASEAN's Dialogue Partner in 1975, the ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue relations has evolved to a wide range of cooperation across the three Community pillars. The partnership between ASEAN and New Zealand reached a significant milestone with the adoption of the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership and the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration for ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Partnership (2010-2015) at the PMC +1 Session with New Zealand on 22 July 2010 in Ha Noi.

2. At the ASEAN-New Zealand 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit held on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, the Leaders announced the elevation of the ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue relations to a strategic level through the "Joint ASEAN-New Zealand Leaders' Statement on the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations: Advancing our Strategic Partnership towards greater mutual benefit and prosperity" and noted the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Statement for ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership (2016-2020).

Political-Security Cooperation

3. New Zealand continues to engage with ASEAN in the political-security pillar through their active participation in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) and the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC).

4. Cooperation in counter-terrorism and combating transnational crime has been strengthened through the framework of the 'ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism'. So far, New Zealand has participated in six Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Plus New Zealand Consultation.

5. New Zealand acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 28 July 2005. Furthermore, high level dialogue and engagement continues to take place, with the attendance of H.E. Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, H.E. Rt Hon Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, and H.E. Hon Damien O'Connor, Associate Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Trade and Export Growth, at the 12th East Asia Summit (EAS) in September 2017 in Manila, the Philippines. In 2018, the Prime Minister of Viet Nam, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, and the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, visited New Zealand.

Economic Cooperation

6. Preliminary data shows that ASEAN-New Zealand's total two-way trade in 2017 reached US\$ 9.5 billion making it the tenth largest trading partner of ASEAN among Dialogue Partners.¹ New Zealand is ASEAN's ninth largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) among Dialogue Partners in 2017 with a total inflow amounting to US\$ 300 million in 2017 (preliminary data)².

7. The Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) was signed by the Economic Ministers of ASEAN, Australia, and New Zealand on 27 February 2009. The Report of the First Stage of the General Review of AANZFTA (2017-2018) were presented to the AEM-CER Consultations in September 2017 and the recommendations from Stage Two of the General Review will be presented to Ministers in September 2018. The AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP) was established in 2010 and has contributed to enhancing the capacity of ASEAN Member States' institutions in implementing the AANZFTA and was extended to 31 December 2019.

8. The annual ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-Closer Economic Relations (CER) Consultations have become the highest-level forum where trade policies and ideas supportive of closer ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand partnership are being discussed and initiated. The ASEAN-CER Integration Partnership Forum (IPF) has served as a useful platform for ASEAN, Australia, and New Zealand to share experiences on various issues related to economic integration and connectivity.

9. New Zealand is one of the six Dialogue Partners of ASEAN that joined the negotiations on a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The 1st RCEP Summit held in Manila on 14 November 2017 to intensify efforts in 2018 to bring the RCEP negotiations to conclusion and the 4th RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting was held in Singapore on 3 March 2018 where Ministers provided strategic guidance on several outstanding issues. The 24th full round of negotiation is scheduled to be held on October in New Zealand.

10. Furthermore, through the expanded and reciprocal "ASEAN – New Zealand Young Business Leaders' Initiative (YBLI), New Zealand supported the efforts to enable young business leaders from ASEAN Member States to foster better links with New Zealand's business community.

Social-cultural cooperation

11. New Zealand has provided support for the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and

¹ ASEAN Trade Database as of April 2018

² ASEAN FDI Database as of 25 May 2018

operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre). In 2017, New Zealand committed to a further three years of support to AHA Centre's Executive Leadership Development Programmes.

12. New Zealand has also supported ASEAN through various cooperation programmes, including the New Zealand Prime Minister's Fellowship, the ASEAN Young Diplomat Study Tour, the Young Business Leaders' Initiatives (YLBI), the ASEAN-New Zealand Scholarships for ASEAN Students, and the English Language Training for Officials (ELTO) Programme, which will further solidify the strong links between ASEAN and New Zealand. At the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Plus One (PMC) Session with New Zealand in August 2017, New Zealand also announced the ASEAN@50 fellowships.

Development Cooperation

13. Under the new Plan of Action (2016-2020), New Zealand has announced a significant increase in investment into the **People Strategy** and the **Prosperity Strategy**, which will further strengthen the ASEAN-New Zealand relations. The **People Strategy** will focus on the development for the people in the region, particularly the youths, including current and future leaders, and will foster greater flows of people in both directions. The **Prosperity Strategy** will focus on agriculture and trade initiatives to support ASEAN and New Zealand's economic growth, achieve common regional integration objectives, and narrow the development gap within and between ASEAN countries. New Zealand's support towards narrowing the development gap includes capacity building and technical assistance to CLMV countries.

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