

## Overview of ASEAN-Peru Development Partnership

1. The Republic of Peru was conferred the status of Development Partner of ASEAN during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat (AMM Retreat) on 29 January 2024 in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR.
2. Peru was the first Latin American country to accredit an Ambassador to ASEAN, in November 2009. Up to date, Peru has accredited three (3) Ambassadors to ASEAN. The current Ambassador of Peru to ASEAN, H.E. Luis Tsuboyama, presented his Letter of Credence to the Secretary-General of ASEAN in August 2022.
3. In terms of bilateral relations, Peru has established diplomatic relations with all ASEAN Member States (AMS) with resident Ambassadors in five (5) AMS: Indonesia (concurrently accredited to ASEAN and Timor-Leste); Malaysia (concurrently accredited to Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia); Singapore; Thailand (concurrently accredited to Myanmar and the Philippines); and Viet Nam (concurrently accredited to Lao PDR). Peru is currently considering increasing the number of embassies in Southeast Asia including by reopening its embassy in Manila which had been closed since 2003. Meanwhile, three (3) AMS namely Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have established their respective embassies in Lima. The ASEAN Committee in Lima (ACL) was established in 2012 and comprises the Ambassadors from these three AMS. The ACL has been promoting awareness of ASEAN among Peruvians including policy makers and academics.

### Political Cooperation

4. On 31 July 2019, Peru acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), becoming the 38<sup>th</sup> Contracting Party to the treaty and thereby legally binding itself to "the fulfilment of the ASEAN goals and objectives of peaceful coexistence, peaceful settlement of disputes, and development cooperation".
5. As part of its efforts to improve bilateral engagements with AMS, Peru has signed a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) in various areas of cooperation such as: (i) visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, official and service passports (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines and Thailand); (ii) mutual assistance in criminal matters (Thailand); (iii) mutual assistance between customs officials (Viet Nam); (iv) cooperation against production and trafficking of narcotics, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals (Indonesia and Thailand); (v) technical, scientific and economic cooperation (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam); (vi) air services (Malaysia and Singapore); (vii) promotion and protection of investments (Malaysia); (viii) agriculture (Indonesia); (ix) academic and education cooperation (Indonesia and Thailand); (x) protection of intellectual property (Lao PDR); and (x) environmental protection (Thailand). In addition, Singapore and Peru have established a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) since 2009, while more recently (in August 2023), Indonesia and Peru launched negotiations towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between them.

6. Peru is a founding member of the Pacific Alliance (*Alianza del Pacífico*) together with Chile, Colombia and Mexico. ASEAN has a robust relation with the Pacific Alliance. Since 2014 to date, six Ministerial Meetings between ASEAN and the Pacific Alliance have been held at the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Furthermore, ASEAN and the Pacific Alliance adopted a Framework for Cooperation in September 2016, which lays the foundation for cooperation between the two sides in four priority areas. On August 1, 2023, Peru assumed the Pro Tempore Presidency (PTP) for the Pacific Alliance for 2023-2024.

### **Economic Cooperation**

7. The overall trade between ASEAN and Peru declined during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic but experienced a resurgence in 2021, as detailed below:

- 2018: USD 1.66 billion
- 2019: USD 1.59 billion
- 2020: USD 1.51 billion
- 2021: USD 2.01 billion
- 2022: USD 2.12 billion

8. In its capacity as the Pro Tempore President for the Pacific Alliance, Peru fostered the following topics with regards to economic cooperation, including with ASEAN:

- Strengthening the capacities of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to facilitate their insertion in international trade;
- Reinvigorating the cooperation pillar with the 63 Observer States and other strategic partners such as ASEAN, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with emphasis on projects with a direct impact on citizens;
- Accession of new State Parties to the Framework Agreement of the Pacific Alliance (Costa Rica, Ecuador) and incorporation of Associate States (Republic of Korea, Australia, Canada, New Zealand) through the negotiation of free trade agreements such as the one signed with Singapore, consolidating the international projection of the Pacific Alliance, with special emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region.

9. Peru is set to host Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) for 2024. Peru has previously hosted the forum in 2008 and 2016.

### **Socio-cultural Cooperation**

10. In its capacity as the current Pro Tempore Presidency for the Pacific Alliance, Peru fostered the following topics with regards to socio-cultural cooperation: explore opportunities for student exchanges between the Pacific Alliance and ASEAN. The Peruvian Pro Tempore Presidency supports the possibility of advancing a proposal that directly impacts the citizens and demonstrates the joint potential between the two blocs.

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