

OVERVIEW

ASEAN-NORWAY SECTORAL DIALOGUE RELATIONS

1. Norway was conferred the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN at the 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) on 4 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Before the conferment of this formal partnership, ASEAN and Norway had forged relationship through a number of cooperative activities. ASEAN and Norway commemorated the tenth anniversary of ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership in 2025, marked by the Working Visit by the Secretary-General of ASEAN to the Kingdom of Norway from 9 to 12 June 2025.

2. The ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Relations was institutionalised at the First ASEAN-Norway Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AN-JSCC) Meeting on 11 December 2015 at the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat. The Meeting agreed that this partnership would be guided within the framework of the Joint Statement on ASEAN-Norway Partnership, which was adopted at the 47th AMM in August 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025: Forging Ahead Together.

3. The 2nd AN-JSCC Meeting on 21 July 2017 adopted the Priority Plan for the ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership and the Procedures for the Norway-ASEAN Regional Integration Programme (NARIP), which set out the overall framework and priorities for engagement and cooperation between ASEAN and Norway. The two documents served as foundation for practical cooperation to substantiate the partnership. The ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas (2021-2025) was adopted through an exchange of letters between the Co-Chairs of the AN-JSCC on 24 March 2021 to serve as the guiding document for the cooperation. The ASEAN-Norway Practical Cooperation Areas (2026-2030) was adopted on 6 February 2026 as the successor document. To date, ten AN-JSCC Meetings have been convened.

A. Political-Security Cooperation

4. Norway acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 1 July 2013 at the sidelines of the 46th AMM in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Norway appointed its first Ambassador to ASEAN in 2009 and accredited its first dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN in July 2017. The current Ambassador of Norway to ASEAN, H.E. Mariann Ruud Hagen, presented her Letter of Credence on 16 December 2025.

5. Nine Trilateral Meetings between the Chair of ASEAN, Norway and the ASEAN Secretariat have been held respectively on: 24 July 2016 at the sidelines of the 49th AMM in Vientiane; 8 August 2017 at the sidelines of the 50th AMM in Manila; 1 August 2018 at the sidelines of the 51st AMM in Singapore; 30 July 2019 at the sidelines of the 52nd AMM in Bangkok; 11 August 2021 at the sidelines of the 54th AMM via videoconference; 9 September 2022 via videoconference; 14 July 2023 at the sidelines of the 56th AMM in Jakarta; 25 July 2024 at the sidelines of the 57th AMM in Vientiane, Lao PDR and 8 July 2025 at the sidelines of the 58th AMM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Trilateral Meeting in July 2025 recognised that 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Relations and looked forward to activities to further strengthen the partnership.

6. Norway has supported several activities of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) and ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission of Human Rights (AICHR). Norway also supported projects/activities in the areas of peace, reconciliation and security, and human rights through a number of workshops, dialogues and capacity-building activities. In addition, Norway also supported the development of ASEAN Judiciaries Portal project as well as ASEAN-IPR's website.

B. Economic Cooperation

7. ASEAN's preliminary statistics recorded that in 2025, the total two-way merchandise trade between ASEAN and Norway amounted to USD 4.63 billion,¹ while Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from Norway to ASEAN reached USD 2.15 billion.² Tourist arrivals from Norway to ASEAN has shown a steady increase, reaching over 250 thousand arrivals in 2025.³

8. Cooperation in the area of energy has been channelled through the ASEAN Climate Change and Energy Project (ACCEPT) – Harmonising Regional Energy Indicators under the APAEC 2016-2025, aimed at producing analysis and recommendations to support formulation of actionable policies and coherent strategies through synergies between (i) energy policy and energy-related climate policy and (ii) policies at the national and regional levels. The cooperation has been extended until 2026 through the implementation of the ACCEPT II.

9. Norway supports the advancement of green shipping in ASEAN through the Pre-Feasibility Study of Green Shipping Corridors for the ASEAN Region project, which will help identify priority routes and guide policy, investment, and regional collaboration towards maritime decarbonisation. In addition, Norway also supports the implementation of strategic priorities in ASEAN's Blue Economy Framework among the ASEAN member states through the ASEAN-Norway collaboration on development of Blue Economy in ASEAN project.

C. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

10. ASEAN and Norway promote cooperation in the area of climate change, biodiversity, environmental protection, maritime and marine and people-to-people exchanges, including education and culture. Norway is supporting ASEAN's effort in reducing plastic pollution in the region through implementing ASEAN-Norwegian Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in the ASEAN Region (ASEANO) Phase 2. In collaboration with Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta and ASEAN University Network, Norway is supporting the ASEAN

¹ ASEAN Statistics. IMTS data, as of 13 March 2026

² ASEAN Statistics. FDI data, preliminary as of 29 April 2026

³ ASEAN Statistics. Preliminary Tourism Data as of 28 April 2026. Brunei Darussalam's data by country-of-origin cover air arrivals only, whereas Malaysia's data from 2024 refer to total visitor arrivals, including both tourists and excursionists. Data for Timor-Leste are available up to Q2 2025.

Master's Program in Sustainability Management – Phase 2. Norway is also supporting the ASEAN INFORMED – Towards Joint Solutions to Mis- and Disinformation project.

D. Cross-pillar Cooperation

11. Norway supported ASEAN in the area of ASEAN Smart Cities Network and connectivity, including through the Joint Study on Urbanisation, People Mobility and Inclusive Development across Urban-Rural Continuum in ASEAN.

12. In the area of Sustainable Development, Norway supported the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Accelerating Actions to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which serves as a platform for high-level discussion among the ministers and heads of national development planning agencies in ASEAN Member States and SDG coordinating agencies, on achieving the SDGs.

E. Development Cooperation

13. In July 2017, Norway established the Procedures for the Norway-ASEAN Regional Integration Programme (NARIP) to fund practical cooperation in areas of mutual interest as identified in the Priority Plan of ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership as well as its succeeding documents.

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