

OVERVIEW

ASEAN-UNITED STATES COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

A. Introduction

1. Since its establishment in 1977, the ASEAN-United States (U.S.) Dialogue Relations has evolved from the exchange of views on political and security issues to a broad range of cooperation areas across the three ASEAN Community pillars.

2. At the 3rd ASEAN-U.S. Summit in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, the Leaders announced the elevation of the ASEAN-U.S. dialogue relations to a Strategic Partnership. The goals and vision of this Partnership were pursued through the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership (2016-2020). Following this elevation, the U.S. hosted the ASEAN-U.S. Special Leaders' Summit on 15-16 February 2016 in Sunnylands, California, U.S.

3. The 5th ASEAN-U.S. Summit was held on 13 November 2017 in Manila to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the ASEAN-U.S. dialogue relations. A number of activities took place throughout the year to commemorate this auspicious occasion, including the visit of U.S. Vice President Mike Pence to the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat on 20 April 2017.

4. At the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations on 12-13 May 2022 in Washington, D.C., the Leaders adopted the Joint Vision Statement of the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit 2022, reflecting the breadth and depth of the Strategic Partnership.

5. At the 10th ASEAN-U.S. Summit on 12 November 2022 held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the Leaders agreed to establish the ASEAN-U.S. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) and issued the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Statement on the Establishment of the ASEAN-U.S. CSP. To further substantiate and deepen the CSP, the Annex to the ASEAN-U.S. Plan of Action 2021-2025: ASEAN-U.S. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was adopted at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) with the U.S. on 14 July 2023.

6. At the 11th ASEAN-U.S. Summit on 6 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Leaders adopted the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). This reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation in the AOIP's four priority areas within ASEAN-led mechanisms, with a view to promoting cooperation, peace, security, stability, and robust, inclusive, resilient, and

sustainable development and growth in the region. At the Summit, the Leaders also committed to establishing the ASEAN-U.S. Center in the U.S., envisioned to promote and deepen the ASEAN-U.S. partnership.

7. At the 12th ASEAN-U.S. Summit on 11 October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the Leaders adopted the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Statement on Promoting Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI), which reaffirmed the significant potential for AI to improve the lives of the peoples of both sides, including through the realisation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

8. At the 13th ASEAN-U.S. Summit on 26 October 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Leaders adopted the *ASEAN-United States Leaders' Joint Vision Statement to Promote a Stronger, Safer, and More Prosperous ASEAN and America*, reaffirming their shared commitment to further strengthening cooperation.

B. Political-Security Cooperation

9. The U.S. continues to engage with ASEAN under the political-security pillar through its active participation in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), the East Asia Summit (EAS), and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF). Key areas of cooperation include maritime security, cybersecurity, and combating transnational crime, including terrorism and trafficking in persons (TIP). Notable initiatives include: (i) the inaugural ASEAN-U.S. Maritime Exercise (AUMX), held on 2-6 September 2019 in international waters of Southeast Asia, and the 2nd AUMX held on 9-13 December in Batam, Indonesia, and surrounding international waters; (ii) the Table-top Exercise on Response Capabilities to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Incidents on 13-15 June 2022, co-chaired with the Republic of Korea and the Philippines; (iii) the 6th ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue on 21 October 2025, following the inaugural dialogue in 2019; and (iv) the ASEAN-U.S. Defence Ministers' High Tea held on 1 November 2025, on the sidelines of 19th ADMM and 12th ADMM-Plus in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The U.S. has also attended the EAMF regularly since its inception in 2012, with its last participation at the 13th EAMF held in Port Dickson, Malaysia, on 11 September 2025.

10. Cooperation in combating transnational crime and other non-traditional security issues has been strengthened through the U.S.' engagement with the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC). The SOMTC + U.S. Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2023-2026) was adopted at the 15th SOMTC + U.S. Consultation. To date, sixteen SOMTC + U.S. Consultations have been convened, with the 17th SOMTC + U.S. Consultation held in conjunction with the 25th SOMTC and Its Related Meetings on 26 June 2025 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

11. The U.S. acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) in July 2009 during the ASEAN PMC with the U.S. in Phuket, Thailand. It was also the first Dialogue Partner to appoint its dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN and establish a Mission to ASEAN in 2010.

12. On cybersecurity, the U.S. has provided extensive support for ASEAN's capacity programmes, and enabled platforms for policy dialogues by closely engaging ASEAN's key stakeholders, including the ASEAN Digital Ministers Meeting (ADGMIN) and the ASEAN Anti-Online Scams Working Group, thereby benefiting dozens of officials from ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat. In January 2025, ASEAN Digital Ministers endorsed the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council-led ASEAN Cybersecurity Assessment Model, which offers insights and recommendations on the regional cybersecurity landscape and assesses the progress made by ASEAN Member States in enhancing their cybersecurity posture. The U.S. also participated in the ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cybersecurity, most recently in October 2025.

C. Economic Cooperation

13. The U.S. remains an important trading partner of ASEAN. In 2025, the total two-way merchandise trade reached US\$ 552.80 billion,¹ marking a nearly 22% increase from US\$ 453.23 billion in 2024. The U.S. is ASEAN's second-largest trading partner of ASEAN among the dialogue partners, accounting for 12.6% of ASEAN's total trade. The U.S. was also ASEAN's second-largest external source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2025, with a total inflow amounting to US\$ 28.65 billion, a decrease from USD 34.18 billion in 2024, accounting for 11.85% of total ASEAN inward FDI.²

14. The ASEAN Economic Ministers-U.S. Trade Representative (AEM-USTR) Consultations and ASEAN Senior Economic Officials-Assistant USTR (SEOM-AUSTR) Consultations are convened annually to promote trade and investment flows between both sides, as well as to exchange views on a range of economic issues.

15. Both sides continue to intensify trade and investment ties between the two regions, including through the implementation of the 2025-2026 ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) Work Plan, as adopted at the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the U.S. Trade Representative (AEM-USTR) Consultation on 24 September 2025. Within this framework, both sides continue to pursue a broad range of key economic initiatives across multiple areas of cooperation, including the digital economy; trade facilitation; good regulatory practices; intellectual property rights; labour,

¹ Source: ASEAN Statistics, IMTS Database, as of 13 March 2026

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

micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) development; and agriculture. The U.S. has also committed to supporting ASEAN Member States in enhancing workforce skills and economic competitiveness through initiatives in education and training, SME development, youth entrepreneurship, and women's empowerment.

16. The ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting—held annually—with the U.S. Treasury (AFCDM-UST) serves as a platform for both sides to exchange views on global and regional macroeconomic policies and outlooks. This consultation mechanism is aimed at improving mutual understanding and ensuring policy complementarities to maintain resilience and growth on both sides. The most recent meeting was held on 8 April 2026, in Manila, Philippines.

17. At the ASEAN-U.S. Special Leaders' Summit, the U.S. announced two initiatives, namely the U.S.-ASEAN Connect and the U.S. Trade Workshop. The U.S.-ASEAN Connect Centres in Jakarta, Bangkok, and Singapore have supported the U.S.' economic engagement in the region by connecting entrepreneurs, investors, and businesses from both sides. Under this programme, the U.S-ASEAN Internship Programme, launched in 2018 provides ASEAN students with opportunities to gain work experience in U.S. companies based in ASEAN Member States.

18. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Roadshow to the U.S., initiated in 2013, has played an important role in creating partnership opportunities for ASEAN and U.S. businesses. Building on this foundation, ASEAN-U.S. private sector engagement has been further strengthened through the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council (USABC)'s sustained engagement with various ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies that include the ASEAN Economic Ministers, ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry, ASEAN Ministers on Energy, ASEAN Transport Ministers, ASEAN Tourism Ministers, and ASEAN Digital Ministers. Beyond ministerial-level engagement, USABC has also participated actively at the senior officials and working group levels, particularly in areas such as MSME development and Customs cooperation. It has maintained close coordination with regional business councils, most notably the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), to ensure robust private sector participation and alignment with regional priorities.

19. ASEAN and the U.S. work closely to strengthen cooperation on cybersecurity and the digital economy, including through consultations between ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) and the U.S. The 4th ADGMIN held on 2 February 2024 endorsed the ASEAN-U.S. Digital Priority Cooperation Areas, which cover the following: (i) the ASEAN-U.S. Digital Work Plan (2023-2025); (ii) the ASEAN Cybersecurity Assessment Model; (iii) Artificial Intelligence; (iv) Undersea Cables Capacity Building; (v) Cloud Computing Transformation Principles; (vi) Combating Online Scams Capacity Building; and (vii)

Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) negotiations support. The ASEAN-U.S. 2025 Digital Work Plan Priorities, approved at the 4th ADGMIN + U.S. in January 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand, continue the priorities outlined in the 2024 Digital Work Plan. On cybersecurity, following the adoption of the 2018 ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation, the inaugural ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue took place in October 2019 in Singapore. Since then, six iterations of the ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue have been convened, most recently in October 2025.

20. In the transport sector, ASEAN and the U.S. enhanced their dialogue with ASEAN on transport in 2022 with the first iteration of the ASEAN-U.S. Senior Transport Officials Dialogue (ASEAN-U.S. STOD). The 4th ASEAN-U.S. STOD, held in May 2025, provided a platform for both sides to explore initiatives to be prioritised under the forthcoming ASEAN-U.S. Transport Cooperation Workplan 2026-2029.

21. Under energy cooperation, ASEAN and the U.S. have conducted consultations through the ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and the U.S. Exchange (AMEM+U.S. Exchange), with the third AMEM+U.S. Exchange held on 24 August 2023 in Bali, Indonesia. The ASEAN-U.S. Energy Cooperation Work Plan 2021-2025 is currently being implemented to enhance regional energy cooperation. The Work Plan incorporated several programme areas of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025 Phase II (2021-2025) into four ASEAN-U.S. energy priorities, namely (i) energy security and resilience; (ii) renewable, advanced, and emerging energy technologies; (iii) energy market integration; and (iv) natural gas and petroleum.

D. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

22. ASEAN and the U.S. cooperate across a broad range of areas, including disaster management, the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children, health, environment and climate change, as well as education and youth.

23. The U.S. continues to contribute to human development in the region and to enhance people-to-people connectivity through initiatives such as the Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Visiting Scholar Program, the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) programmes, the ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women, the U.S.-ASEAN Institute for Rising Leaders Fellowship, the ASEAN Youth Video Contest, the ASEAN Youth Social Journalism Competition, the Billion Futures Initiative, and a dedicated International Visitors Leadership Program for the ASEAN Secretariat staff.

24. The U.S. continues to support the advancement of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in the region, including support for the ASEAN Regional Study on WPS, which was launched on International Women's Day on 8 March 2021, and the

implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security, including the convening of the ASEAN WPS Summit: High-Level Dialogue to Advance the Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in July 2023. The U.S. has provided continuous assistance in realising gender equality through support for gender mainstreaming across ASEAN Community pillars, including in the implementation of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (AGMSF).

25. The first ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change was held on 24 August 2023, where both sides endorsed the ASEAN-U.S. Environment and Climate Work Plan. The Work Plan focuses on four areas of cooperation, namely: (i) enhancing climate ambition and regional mitigation and adaptation; (ii) innovation for a low-carbon future; (iii) mobilising climate finance; and (iv) supporting environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. Dialogue on environment and climate change between both sides has continued to deepen through the convening of the ASEAN-U.S. High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change, with the most recent iteration held in a hybrid format on 31 July 2025 in Langkawi, Malaysia.

26. The ASEAN-U.S. High-Level Dialogue on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was organised in parallel with the ASEAN High-Level Forum (AHLF) on Disability-Inclusive Development and Partnership Beyond 2025 Forum on 10 October 2023. The Dialogue reaffirmed the shared commitment of ASEAN and the U.S. in deepening cooperation in promoting disability inclusion through the implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025, as highlighted in the Joint Vision Statement of the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit, 2022. In addition, the U.S. Senior Advisor for International Disability Rights has engaged ASEAN and its officials to advance disability inclusion and the human rights of persons with disabilities across Southeast Asia.

27. Under public health, ASEAN and the U.S. are implementing the ASEAN-U.S. Health Cooperation Work Plan (2022-2025), focusing on three areas, namely (i) health system strengthening for public health emergencies; (ii) health system strengthening through workforce development and capacity building; and (iii) information and data system strengthening. Further, both sides also adopted the Concept Note on Deeper ASEAN-U.S. Relationship through Formalisation of an ASEAN and U.S. Health Cooperation: Advancing ASEAN-U.S. Health Sector Engagement. An ASEAN-U.S. Infection Prevention and Control Task Force was established through cooperation between the ASEAN Health Cluster on Responding to All Hazards and Emerging Threats and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

28. The ASEAN-U.S. Center was established through a public-private partnership between the U.S. Department of State and Arizona State University in December 2023 to deepen ASEAN-U.S. relations, bolster support for economic and cultural engagement

between ASEAN and the U.S., and connect key private sector organisations, academic institutions, and civil society groups of both sides. The Center has undertaken various initiatives, including organising the ASEAN Day in August 2024, in collaboration with the ASEAN Committee in Washington, and hosting various engagements, including with young leaders under the YSEALI, the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting in May 2024, as well as the launch of the Center's Speakers Series by the Secretary-General of ASEAN in June 2024. In May 2025, the Director of the Center engaged with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat during her visit to Jakarta in May 2025.

E. Development Cooperation

29. ASEAN and the U.S. have jointly implemented several multi-year programmes aimed at advancing regional integration and sustainable development. These efforts began with the ASEAN Development Vision to Advance National Cooperation and Economic Integration (ADVANCE) and the ASEAN-United States Technical Assistance & Training Facility (TATF), both of which were implemented from 2007 to 2013. They were followed by the ASEAN-United States Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (PROGRESS) and the ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI) programme, which ran from 2013 to 2018. Subsequently, the U.S.' support was extended through the Regional Development Cooperation Agreement (RDCA), which has been extended to 2029.

30. Under the RDCA, ASEAN and the U.S. completed the implementation of the ASEAN-USAID Inclusive Growth in ASEAN through Innovation, Trade and E-Commerce (IGNITE), Partnership for Regional Optimization within the Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Communities (PROSPECT), and the ASEAN Policy Implementation (API), which had been implemented since 2018. These programmes supported the realisation of goals under the three ASEAN Community Pillars. Currently, both sides are implementing the ASEAN-U.S. Partnership Program, which aims to respond to the evolving priorities of both ASEAN and the U.S. Government, and reaffirms its integral role in strengthening the ASEAN-U.S. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The ongoing and future priorities will include the ASEAN Single Window, Mineral Cooperation, Artificial Intelligence, undersea cables, cloud computing, cybersecurity capacity building, and combating online scams. The programme has been implemented since 1 March 2024 and will continue until 1 March 2029.

31. The U.S. also supports ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap within and among ASEAN Member States through the implementation of the IAI Work Plan. In addition, it has also been providing support for sub-regional development through the

Mekong-U.S. Partnership (MUSP) in collaboration with other Dialogue Partners of ASEAN.
