

OVERVIEW

ASEAN-NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

1. The Netherlands, officially known as the Kingdom of the Netherlands, was conferred the status of Development Partner of ASEAN during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 4 September 2023 at the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.
2. The ASEAN-Netherlands Development Partnership was institutionalised at the First Meeting of the ASEAN-Netherlands Development Partnership Committee (AN-DPC) on 17 May 2024, during which the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the AN-DPC was adopted.
3. The ASEAN-Netherlands Development Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas (2025-2029) was adopted through an exchange of letters between the Co-Chairs of the AN-DPC on 9 January 2025. The PCA (2025-2029) serves as a practical guide to substantiate the Development Partnership in areas where ASEAN and the Netherlands share expertise and mutual interests.
4. The ASEAN Committee in The Hague (ACTH) was established and endorsed by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in October 2015. The ACTH comprises Ambassadors accredited to the Netherlands from five (5) ASEAN Member States (AMS), namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, while the other six AMS are based in non-resident embassies. The ACTH has organised numerous activities and events over the years to promote ASEAN's profile in the Netherlands and to further strengthen ASEAN-Netherlands cooperation.

A. Political-Security Cooperation

5. The Netherlands has accredited its Ambassadors to ASEAN since 2010. The current Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to ASEAN, H.E. Marc Gerritsen, presented his Letter of Credence on 9 December 2024 at the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat.
6. The Netherlands acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 3 August 2022, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Since 2010, the Netherlands has sponsored various training programmes including the "Annual Diplomatic Training for Diplomats from AMS and ASEAN Secretariat Officers (2016-2019)" with the latest edition held from 13 to 24 April 2026 in The Hague as well as annual courses in the Hague on the Law of the Sea for ASEAN diplomats involved with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), organised since 2016 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, in cooperation with the Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS) and the Clingendael Institute. The Clingendael training courses was officially accredited as an ASEAN-Netherlands project earlier this year.
7. The Netherlands supported the "ASEAN Youth Peace Figures" as part of the ASEAN-Institute for Peace and Reconciliation's (ASEAN-IPR) 10th Anniversary Commemorative Activities in 2022 and 2023, which was aimed at advancing the Youth,

Peace, and Security (YPS) Agenda in the region by publishing stories and experiences of youth involved in peacebuilding-related themes. In a related initiative, the “Dialogue on Peace and Multilateralism: The Youth as the Agents of Future Change” was held in September 2022, aimed at raising awareness of the role of the youth in peacebuilding, including their contribution in promoting peace narratives across various frameworks.

B. Economic Cooperation

8. The total two-way merchandise trade between ASEAN and the Netherlands increased from USD 51.53 billion in 2024 to USD 60.46 billion in 2025¹, while the foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from the Netherlands to ASEAN increased from USD 1.50 billion in 2024 to USD 10.38 billion in 2025². The tourist arrivals from the Netherlands to AMS have decreased slightly, from 911,623 visitors in 2024 to 904,919 visitors in 2025.³

9. A Clingendael Cyber Diplomacy Course: Towards a Comprehensive Understanding of the Evolving Cyber Landscape and the Role of Diplomacy in Fostering Peace and Security in Cyberspace, organised by the Clingendael Academy, was held online from 17 to 20 February 2025.

10. The Netherlands has carried out economic missions on trade, technology and knowledge to AMS. In 2022, the Embassies of the Netherlands in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam organised a joint green transition mission to the International Greentech and Eco Products Exhibition and Conference in Malaysia, aimed at promoting green technologies in the ASEAN region.

C. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

11. The Netherlands Organisation for the Internationalization of Education (Nuffic) has been a key consortium partner in supporting the establishment and development of an ASEAN Higher Education area since 2015.

12. In October 2020, the Netherlands supported a project titled “Solidifying the Role of Think Tanks and CSOs in the Advocacy to Strengthen the ASEAN Commission of Women and Children (ACWC)”, through a webinar and diplomatic briefing. The webinar launched the Report on the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)+10 titled *Assessing the Commission’s Impact on Protecting Women and Children’s Rights in ASEAN*.⁴

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

² ASEAN Statistics, FDI Preliminary Data 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 2024 and 2025 data refer to total visitor arrivals, including both tourists and excursionists. Timor-Leste up to Q2 2025.

⁴ “Press Release – “Diplomatic Briefing on the ACWC 10th Year Commemoration – Solidifying the Role of Think Tanks and CSOs in the Advocacy to Strengthen the ASEAN Commission of Women and Children (ACWC).” ASEAN Studies Center Universitas Gadjah Mada, October 12, 2020. <https://asc.fisipol.ugm.ac.id/2020/10/12/press-release-diplomatic-briefing-on-the-acwc-10th-year-commemoration-solidifying-the-role-of-think-tanks-and-csos-in-the-advocacy-to-strengthen-the-asean-commission-of-women-and-children-acwc>. (accessed on 3 August 2023)

D. Development Cooperation

13. The Netherlands continued to support and contribute to the ASEAN Community-building efforts. The Netherlands is committed to increasing its investment in efforts that combine foreign trade and development cooperation. In 2023, the Government of the Netherlands invested EUR 84 million, and is expected to increase its funding to EUR 190 million annually.⁵

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⁵ Netherlands' Development cooperation policy - <https://www.government.nl/topics/development-cooperation/the-development-policy-of-the-netherlands>