

OVERVIEW

ASEAN-GERMANY SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERSHIP

1. Germany was conferred the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN by the 59th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) on 21 July 2026 in Manila, the Philippines. The conferment of the Sectoral Dialogue Partner status on Germany represents an important step towards further strengthening and expanding ASEAN-Germany cooperation.

2. Prior to this, Germany was conferred the status of Development Partner of ASEAN by the 49th AMM on 24 July 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The ASEAN-Germany Development Partnership was institutionalised through the convening of the 1st ASEAN-Germany Development Partnership Committee (AG-DPC) Meeting on 23 January 2017 at the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. To date, nine AG-DPC Meetings have been held, with the latest meeting held on 28 November 2025 at the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat.

3. The ASEAN-Germany Development Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas (PCA) (2023-2027), which sets out the framework for cooperation in practical areas of mutual interest and expertise between ASEAN and Germany, was adopted at the 6th AG-DPC Meeting on 28 November 2022.

A. Political-Security Cooperation

4. Germany accredited its first Ambassador to ASEAN in February 2009. The current Ambassador of Germany to ASEAN, H.E. Ralf Beste, presented his Letter of Credence on 24 November 2025.

5. Germany has supported a number of cooperation projects with ASEAN in the areas of counter-terrorism and combating transnational crime, maritime cooperation, as well as good governance and human rights, among others. It has been supporting the activities of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the capacity development programme for the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).

B. Economic Cooperation

6. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from Germany into ASEAN totalled US\$1.2 billion in 2025, compared to US\$0.40 billion in 2024.¹ The total two-way merchandise trade between ASEAN and Germany reached US\$74.16 billion in 2025,

¹ ASEAN Statistics, FDI data, preliminary as of 29 April 2026.

an increase from US\$67.16 billion in 2024.² The number of tourist arrivals from Germany to ASEAN increased to 2.29 million in 2025 from 2.11 million in 2024.³

7. Germany has supported a number of programmes in the areas of trade and investment, infrastructure development, competition policy and law, promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), tourism, consumer protection, food, agriculture and forestry, energy, the Initiatives for ASEAN Integration (IAI) within the framework of the ASEAN Single Market, and institutional strengthening and capacity development, among others.

C. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

8. Germany has been supporting the work of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in developing and implementing strategies and instruments in the field of biodiversity and climate change.

9. Germany has also supported the activities of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), including the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercises (ARDEX) in 2016 through providing technical expertise for planning and implementation. It has also developed programmes in the areas of education, cultural exchange, environment and climate change, sustainable agriculture and forestry, food security, energy, and human resources development, among others.

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² ASEAN Statistics, IMTS data as of 13 March 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.