

OVERVIEW

ASEAN-ITALY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

1. Italy was conferred the status of Development Partner of ASEAN at the 53rd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) on 9 September 2020 via videoconference. The ASEAN-Italy Development Partnership was institutionalised through the convening of the 1st ASEAN-Italy Development Partnership Committee (AI-DPC) Meeting on 19 April 2021 via videoconference. To date, five AI-DPC Meetings have been held, with the last meeting held on 26 November 2025 at the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat.

2. The ASEAN-Italy Development Partnership Practical Cooperation Areas (PCA) (2022-2026), which sets out the framework for cooperation in practical areas of mutual interest and expertise between ASEAN and Italy, was adopted at the 2nd AI-DPC held on 10 June 2022 and was subsequently extended by one year, until 2027, on 30 July 2026.

A. Political-Security Cooperation

3. Italy accredited its first Ambassador to ASEAN in June 2009. The current Ambassador of the Italian Republic to ASEAN is H.E. Roberto Colaminè, presented his Letter of Credence on 19 June 2025.

4. Italy has contributed EUR 100,000 to the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) under the "Strengthen Gender Equality and Empowerment in Mine Action in the Mine/Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)-affected ASEAN Member States" initiative.

B. Economic Cooperation

5. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from Italy to ASEAN amounted to US\$162.01 million in 2025, compared to US\$74.78 million in 2024.¹ The total two-way merchandise trade between ASEAN and Italy reached US\$31.03 billion in 2025, compared to US\$28.09 billion in 2024.² The number of tourist arrivals from Italy to ASEAN increased to 873,575 in 2025 from 759,190 in 2024.³

6. In 2015, Italy established the 'Italy-ASEAN Association' (*Associazione Italia-ASEAN*) as a platform to raise greater awareness, particularly for the Italian private sector and businesses, on trade and investment opportunities in ASEAN, as well as a platform for Italy to understand and work with ASEAN and its Member States. Another

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

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.

platform to strengthen economic and strategic partnerships between ASEAN countries and Italy is the High-Level Dialogue on ASEAN-Italy Economic Relations. Since its inception in 2017, nine High-Level Dialogues have taken place, with the latest held on 13 November 2025 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

7. Since October 2023, the Italian Development Bank (*Cassa Depositi e Prestiti*, CDP) has been a regional partner of ASEAN Access, providing information, connecting and facilitating businesses, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the region, to enter international markets.

C. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

8. Over the last few years, Italy has funded projects worth over EUR 3 million for scientific cooperation, scholarships and traineeships for the ASEAN Member States. It has been providing training courses on various topics supporting capacity building for officials of ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat, including disaster risk reduction and management, diplomacy, environmental protection in peace operations, as well as protection and preservation of cultural heritage.

9. From March to April 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, together with the ASEAN Committee in Rome, the Italy-ASEAN Association and other stakeholders, organised the 1st Youth Conference on ASEAN and Italy virtually. The 2nd Youth Conference was organised on 29 May 2023, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, ASEAN, Global Action and partners. The Conference provided an avenue for youth delegates to exchange views on the future of ASEAN-Italy cooperation.

