



Blue Book 2020

EU-ASEAN Natural Partners



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EU-ASEAN Natural Partners





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FOREWORD

By the EU Commissioner for International Partnerships

Against a backdrop of volatile geopolitics and challenges on both sides, the EU ASEAN "partnership in integration" remains more vital than ever. Indeed our common agenda far outweighs the challenges we face. Our two regions, bring together over one billion people and two of the world's largest economic areas. We have made joint commitments towards inclusive sustainable development including the pursuit of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. We have worked hard together to make tangible progress on those commitments.

The European Commission, which I am proud to be part of, has put its geopolitical ambitions high on the agenda and framed its approach to promote a "Union that strives for more". As Commissioner for International Partnerships, I will seek ever closer and stronger cooperation with all interested parties in the pursuit of our shared interests and priorities.

ASEAN has proven to be a very important, reliable and highly aligned partner for the EU across a wide range of policy areas and I will personally engage to set our ambitions even higher.



Jutta Urpilainen

EU Commissioner for International Partnerships

I firmly believe that the great challenges of our times - climate change and green transition, digital transformation, migration and reconciling jobs, growth and solidarity - will require us all to be much more ambitious. We must live up to our responsibility to make this world a liveable one for our children and to provide prospects for our youth.

The EU and ASEAN already demonstrate a unique brand of responsible global leadership that has an enormous potential. We can tap into this potential to create more synergies and enhance our cooperation across political, economic, social and cultural areas in pursuit of sustainable development.

The EU-ASEAN Blue Book, already in its fifth edition, highlights the relevance and impact of our joint cooperation. It provides an inspiring overview of what we can achieve when we work together. Hand in hand, let us continue to set our ambitions high, and show courage and determination when walking into the new decade together.

FOREWORD

By the EU Ambassador to ASEAN

I am proud to present the fifth edition of the Blue Book, our annual publication showcasing cooperation between the European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

As the new EU Ambassador to ASEAN, I am glad to share with you the new priorities of the European Commission, which focus on the environment and digitalisation, as well as social fairness and prosperity. This includes the recently announced *European Green Deal*, which charts the path to a sustainable green transition that is just, socially fair, and leaves no individual or region behind.

In 2019, we launched several new programmes that will help realise the Green Deal, including the EU Support to Sustainable Peatland and Haze Mitigation which aims to combat transboundary haze pollution and peatland fires across the ASEAN region. Other new programmes include our support to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, and an upcoming Smart Green ASEAN Cities project, which will promote sustainable urbanisation in several ASEAN cities to improve the quality of life for their inhabitants.

Also in 2019, we held the first ever ASEAN-EU High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change, where issues such as mitigation, adaptation, long-term strategies and sustainable finance were discussed.



Igor Driesmans

EU Ambassador to ASEAN

Our three flagship cooperation initiatives – E-READI, ARISE+ and EU SHARE – implemented numerous activities throughout 2019 that provided support in areas as diverse as digital economy, regional trademark registration, circular economy for plastics, and the ASEAN Higher Education Vision 2025.

Over more than 40 years, the partnership between the EU and ASEAN has delivered impressive results. Our deepening relationship now goes far beyond the traditional economic focus, having expanded to include political dialogue as well as development and security cooperation.

These advances should ultimately serve one purpose – making a positive change in the lives of the people of Europe and Asia. The following pages illustrate how our diverse cooperation is doing just that, through tangible impacts on individuals and communities.

Thank you for your interest and I hope you enjoy reading our publication.

THE EU WORLDWIDE

Strengthening international relations and global cooperation

Since its establishment by the original six Member States in 1957, the European Union (EU) has successfully promoted democracy, peace and stability on the European continent. Today, the EU is a unique economic and political community of countries that work together closely to improve the lives of their citizens.

The EU has become a single economic area in which people, goods, services, and capital can move freely. It has the biggest share of global trade in goods and services, and is the second largest economy in the world. To help ensure that people from all social and economic backgrounds enjoy equal rights and opportunities, the EU's aid and development programmes focus on communities, regions and countries that are most in need of support.

With the help of more than 140 diplomatic representations throughout the world, the EU works together with our partners to address global issues such as climate change, migration and sustainable development. The new European Commission, which took office in December 2019, has set ambitious goals: enhancing partnerships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), strengthening the links between people, nations and institutions, and leading the transition to a healthy planet and a new digital world through the European Green Deal.



David Sassoli
The President of the European Parliament



Charles Michel
The President of the European Council



Ursula von der Leyen
The President of the European Commission



Josep Borrell
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy



NEW COMMISSION PRIORITIES FOR 2019-2024 INCLUDE:



A European Green Deal
Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent by 2050



An economy that works for people
Working for social fairness and prosperity



A Europe fit for the digital age
Empowering people with a new generation of technologies



Europe in the world
Europe to strive for more by strengthening our unique brand of responsible global leadership



A new push for democracy
Nurturing, protecting and strengthening democracy



THE EU AND ASEAN

Natural Partners

The EU and ASEAN are committed partners in sustainable development and enjoy mutually beneficial cooperation in areas such as economic integration, connectivity, the environment and climate change mitigation, and education. As the EU increasingly takes on the role of a global security actor and engages in ASEAN-led processes, EU-ASEAN cooperation continues to expand into new fields such as maritime security, counterterrorism and transnational crime.

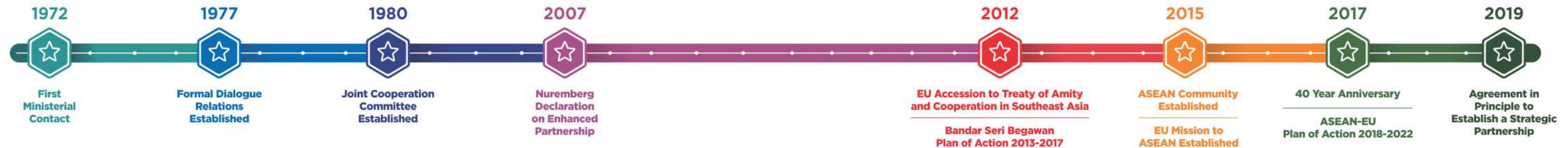
Connectivity, which is central to the EU's approach in its strengthening relationship with ASEAN, provides a new way to develop practical forms of cooperation which benefit all citizens in both regions. The EU's approach is based on the principles of cooperation, collaboration, equality, fair negotiation and participation. Both regions share the same objectives of peace and security, increased trade and resilience, and greater prosperity for all.

Recognising the impressive progress made in the implementation of the EU-ASEAN Plan of Action for 2018-2022, in January 2019 the 22nd EU-ASEAN meeting of Foreign Ministers agreed, in principle, to upgrade EU-ASEAN relations to the level of a Strategic Partnership. This will allow increased engagement on key regional and global issues.

The strengthening of EU-ASEAN relations will continue to be driven by shared values and interests, a mutual desire to cooperate on addressing common challenges, and a commitment on both sides to the rules-based international order.



The second ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development, held in Brussels on 10 February 2020, opened with statements by Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships, and H.E. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation.



CONNECTING EUROPE & ASIA: THE EU STRATEGY

Promotes **sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based** connectivity as a route to the enhanced prosperity, safety and resilience of people and societies.



Recognises the **importance of ASEAN** in strengthening connectivity in Asia.



Trade



Transport



Energy



Digital



Human Dimension

HOW THE EU ENHANCES CONNECTIVITY



Contributing to efficient **cross-border connections**



Strengthening **bilateral, regional and international partnerships** based on commonly agreed rules and standards



Leveraging **sustainable financing** for investments

EUROPEAN UNION

FOUNDED IN 1957



MEMBER STATES **27**



MOTTO:
UNITED IN DIVERSITY

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES **24**

MILLION POPULATION **446.8**

LAND AREA **4,214,995** KM²

ASEAN

FOUNDED IN 1967



MEMBER STATES **10**



MOTTO:
ONE VISION, ONE IDENTITY, ONE COMMUNITY

01 WORKING LANGUAGE
ENGLISH

642.1 MILLION
POPULATION

LAND AREA **4,479,210** KM²



The EU and ASEAN are the two most advanced regional integration initiatives in the world.



The EU is ASEAN's most significant collaborator in development cooperation.



EU-based entities are the largest provider of foreign direct investment to the ASEAN region, which is its second largest trading partner.



The EU is an increasingly important destination for investment coming from the ASEAN region.

EU & ASEAN

EU-ASEAN cooperation is aligned with the

3 ASEAN COMMUNITY PILLARS



Political and security cooperation

As a founding member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the EU is committed to increasing its cooperation with ASEAN on political and security issues. The growing number of visits and dialogue events reflects the mutual goal to increase regional security and stability.



Economic cooperation

The EU is working towards improving trade-related regulatory and policy frameworks, intellectual property rights, standards, customs and transport, and civil aviation. The ultimate objective is to accelerate regional economic integration and improve livelihoods in the ASEAN region.



Socio-cultural cooperation

EU cooperation addresses higher education, land use and forestry, disaster management and preparedness, biodiversity protection and the effective management of protected areas, sustainable urbanisation, sustainable agriculture, and improving labour conditions for migrant women.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

21 JAN



The 22nd EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting

agreed in principle to upgrade EU-ASEAN relations to a Strategic Partnership.

8 JUL



The 1st EU-ASEAN High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change

in Bangkok, Thailand addressed climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies as well as sustainable finance and waste management.

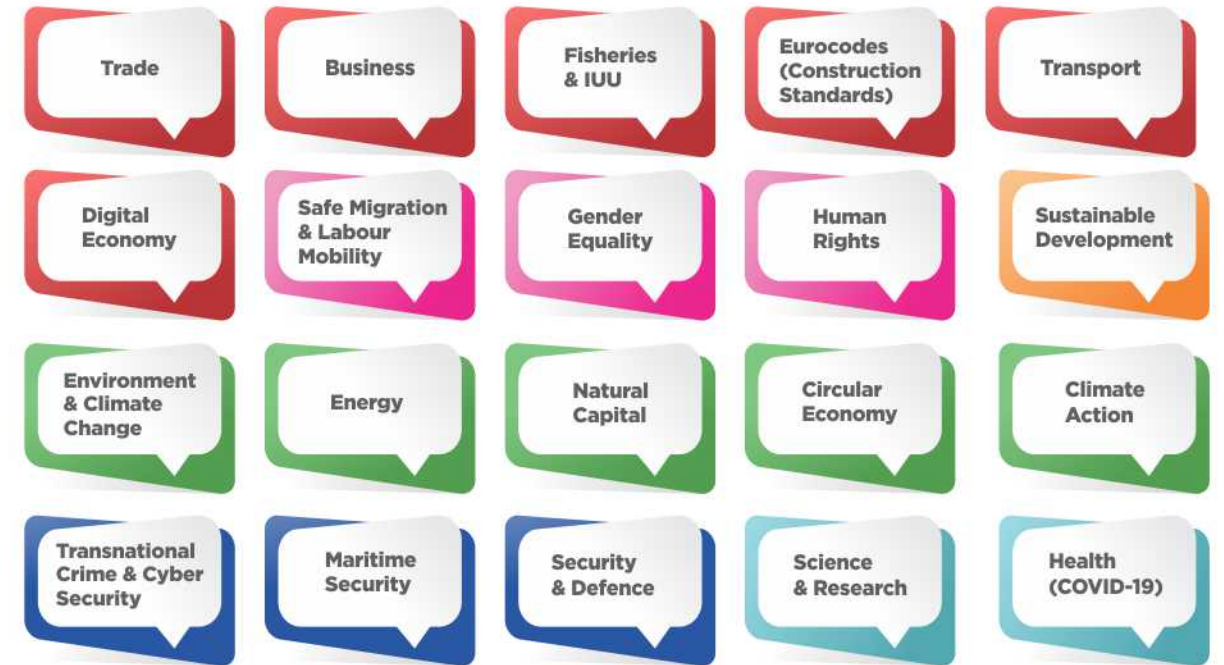
8 AUG



2nd ASEAN-EU Cooperation and Scholarships Day

As part of the ASEAN Day celebrations, the event, held at the ASEAN Secretariat, showcased scholarship opportunities provided by the EU, and EU and ASEAN Member States.

EU-ASEAN Dialogues



15 NOV



Launch of the Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN (SUPA) programme

The programme will work both to reduce emissions and protect biodiversity, while enhancing the economic value of peatland and improve livelihood opportunities.

27 NOV



The 3rd EU-ASEAN Dialogue on Human Rights

held in Brussels, allowed participants to exchange views on a broad range of human rights issues, including independent national human rights institutions, freedom of expression, opinion and information as well as freedom of religion and belief.

THE EU AND ASEAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Reducing poverty and supporting sustainable development

In 2020 the EU and its Member States remain the largest donor to ASEAN and its Member States. Today the relationship is stronger, deeper and more important than ever. Only by working together can global challenges be addressed successfully. The most urgent of these include responding to the climate emergency, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and ensuring the protection of the environment while maintaining sustainable economic growth.

EU-ASEAN development cooperation continues to develop rapidly. Together we are expanding new mechanisms for development financing such as the blending of grants and loans and exploring innovative methods of cooperation such as triangular and South-South cooperation. The shared commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs was reconfirmed through the second ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development in February 2020.

EU DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION INCLUDES:

Regional integration	€250 million	2014-2020
Regional programmes with a specific thematic focus		EU Member States support to ASEAN
Bilateral assistance to ASEAN Member States	€2 billion	2014-2020

EU-ASEAN development cooperation aims to narrow the development gap between the prosperous and less prosperous regions, nations and people, and address cross-cutting issues like the environment and gender equality, which are relevant to all aspects of development.



PRIORITY AREAS

Connectivity through Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Integration and Trade €85 MILLION	Climate Change, Environment and Disaster Management Preparedness €60 MILLION
Policy Dialogue Facility €25 MILLION	Higher Education and Student Mobility for ASEAN €60 MILLION
	Women Migrant Workers' Rights and Opportunities €25 MILLION

EU Development cooperation contributes to

- 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- European Consensus on Development
- EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy

EU AND ASEAN ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) TOGETHER



EU COOPERATION WITH ASEAN

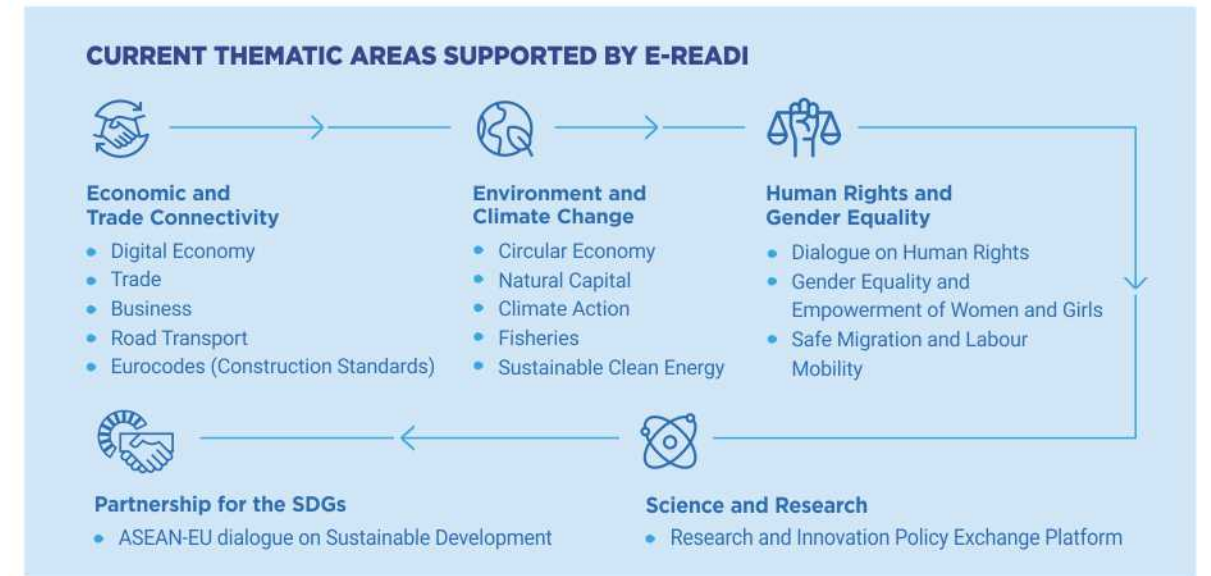
POLITICAL SECURITY	ECONOMIC	SOCIO-CULTURAL
Policy Dialogue Facility €20 million 2017-2023 E-READI		2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
CBRN Risk Mitigation €37 million 2010-2020 Centres of Excellence	Economic Integration €40 million 2017-2022 ARISE Plus	Higher education and student mobility €15 million 2015-2020 EU SHARE
Cybersecurity €11 million 2018-2021 CYBER4D	Country-level interventions national trade support programmes €50+ million 2019 onward ARISE Plus	Sustainable use of Peat Lands and Haze Mitigation €20 million from the EU & €4 million from Germany 2019-2022 SUPA
Preventing & Countering Violent Extremism €7 million 2017-2021 P/CVE	Support to farmers' organisations €15 million 2015-2020 AFOSP	Support to ASEAN's emergency response €10 million 2019-2022 EU Support to AHA Centre
	Sustainable Infrastructure investment €50 million 2020 onward ACGF	Safe migration €25 million 2018-2023 Safe & Fair
	Forest governance support programme €5 million 2020 onward FLEGT	Biodiversity Conservation Management of Protected Areas €10 million 2016-2019
	Governance and domestic accountability €3 million 2020 onward ASEAN SAI	SMART Green ASEAN Cities €5 million 2020 onward



ENHANCED REGIONAL EU-ASEAN DIALOGUE INSTRUMENT (E-READI)

E-READI is a demand-driven instrument that supports ASEAN regional integration by strengthening EU-ASEAN networks and exchanging knowledge and experience in policy areas of joint interest. In addition to engaging with policy makers from EU and ASEAN institutions and Member States, it facilitates ongoing and new dialogues with civil society, the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders across various policy areas.

The initiative offers organisational and logistical support to EU-ASEAN meetings, workshops and study visits which are related to jointly identified policy dialogue areas. It can also provide expert studies and analyses in support of sectoral dialogue areas, or other short-term technical assistance.



ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

★ 18 Thematic Dialogues	★ 1816 Participants	★ 17 ASEAN Secretariat Divisions, Sectoral Bodies and Working Groups	★ 28 Activities Implemented	★ 13 Studies
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POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

Responding to shared regional and global challenges

In recent years, political and security cooperation has come to play an increasingly important role in the EU-ASEAN partnership, alongside the EU's heightened engagement in security affairs globally. Recognising a shared interest in addressing global as well as regional challenges, ASEAN has likewise scaled up cooperation to encompass non-traditional as well as traditional security matters.



Political Cooperation

Working towards a Strategic Partnership

Through high-level political dialogues, the EU and ASEAN promote shared values and common interests. In 2019, at the 22nd EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, foreign ministers discussed how to enhance EU-ASEAN cooperation to address urgent global challenges such as the environment and climate change and threats to the rules-based multilateral system. They also focused on how to strengthen EU-ASEAN cooperation on connectivity and advance the EU's trade and investment agenda with the region, as well as regional issues including the South China Sea disputes and the Rohingya crisis.

The meeting, co-chaired by the then EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Vivian Balakrishnan, also agreed, in principle, to upgrade EU-ASEAN relations to the level of a Strategic Partnership and to hold a high-level dialogue environment and climate change. The second high level dialogue will take place in 2020.

In August 2019, the then EU High Representative, participated in the 26th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), held in conjunction with the 52nd Foreign Ministers Meeting and the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Sessions in Bangkok, Thailand. Alongside discussions on enhancing connectivity, including through support to the implementation of ASEAN's own Master Plan on Connectivity 2025, ministers stressed the need to strengthen the multilateral rules-based system, and the importance of free and open trade.

ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogue on Human Rights

The EU and ASEAN are committed to promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms

Promoting universal respect for the protection of human rights is an obligation for all. ASEAN and the EU are therefore committed partners in the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related international instruments.

Over the years, the EU and ASEAN have held regular policy dialogues on human rights and the EU Special Representative for Human Rights has made significant efforts to increase dialogue in Southeast Asia through regular visits.

The third Policy Dialogue on Human Rights took place in Brussels, Belgium on 27 November 2019, co-chaired by Eamon Gilmore, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, and Amara Pongsapich, the Representative of Thailand to ASEAN and current Chair of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

Recent developments in ASEAN and the EU were discussed, followed by an exchange of views on issues that included:










The dialogue was part of a four-day visit by ASEAN representatives to human rights institutions in Vienna, Austria and Brussels supported by E-READI that included consultations with civil society organisations (CSO), during which participants from Southeast Asia and Europe discussed the protection and promotion of human rights in ASEAN and the EU.

In preparation for the third Policy Dialogue on Human Rights, the AICHR Roadshow on the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the Role of AICHR, was held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta on 13 November 2019.

“Regional mechanisms are needed to ensure that human rights are upheld, as some issues such as human trafficking, migration and refugees cannot be effectively dealt with at the national level. We should therefore work together to continue to be innovative and forward looking in our human rights strategies and ensure that respect for human rights is hardwired into all our policies and practices.”

—
Eamonn Gilmore
EU Special Representative
for Human Rights

EU FOREIGN POLICY INSTRUMENTS SUPPORT ACTIONS IN FOREIGN POLICY AND SECURITY PRIORITY AREAS

Partnership Instrument (PI)	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)
 Policy support in areas such as competitiveness, research and innovation, and migration	 Crisis response
 Helping address major global challenges such as energy security, climate change and environmental protection	 Conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness
 Enhancing market access and boosting trade, investment and business opportunities for EU companies	 Response to global, trans-regional and emerging threats
 Promoting public diplomacy and academic cooperation	



Funded with €37 million, the EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative, which is running from 2010 to 2020, aims to help partner countries enhance coordination among institutions working towards CBRN risk reduction at the national, regional and international level. Focusing on technical support and knowledge sharing, the initiative adopts an all-hazards approach and aims to tackle the full spectrum of risks, ranging from criminal (e.g. theft, sabotage, illicit trafficking and terrorism) to accidental (e.g. industrial accidents, waste treatment, transport incidents) and natural (e.g. infectious disease outbreaks and releases caused by natural hazards).

ASEAN and EU Member States are facing similar challenges related to violent extremism, often driven by radicalisation, in particular among young people. In response, policies are required that combine prevention, de-radicalisation and law enforcement while maintaining full respect for human rights. Implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the EU's Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) project, delivers tailor-made actions in Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand. The project is working in three main areas: conducting research on the prevention of violent extremism and radicalism in the region, policy engagement with governments to support national action plans, and engagement with young people to promote tolerance and respect for diversity.

Fighting Transnational Crime

In August 2019, the EU and ASEAN reaffirmed their joint commitment to fight transnational crime, particularly cybercrime, and enhance efforts towards improving cybersecurity. Work is now underway to develop EU-ASEAN dialogue and cooperation aimed at securing an open, secure, stable and accessible information and communication technology (ICT) environment, consistent with international and domestic laws.

In support of these objectives, the EU is co-sponsoring a workshop on the protection of critical ICT infrastructure in the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and between 2020 and 2022, the EU will be co-chairing the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

Cooperation is also being promoted between EUROPOL and ASEANAPOL to facilitate exchanges of good practices and expertise in key areas of interest such as counter-terrorism, fighting transnational crime, human trafficking and migrant smuggling. In 2017, the EURASEAN Investigative Network on Combating Cyber Fraud was launched and several activities have since been organised to address payment card fraud.

The development of formal and informal networks for sharing best practices and incident information is central to the EU's objectives in all these initiatives, along with leveraging EU expertise to increase trust and enhance regional, trans-regional and international cooperation.

Security and Defence Cooperation

The EU's active role in the ASEAN region's security architecture is illustrated by the regular involvement of the EU High Representative in ARF Ministerial Meetings. These include the Inter-Sessional Meeting (ISM); the Inter-Sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy; the ARF Senior Officials Meeting; the ARF Security Policy Conference; the Defence Officials Dialogue; and disaster relief exercises. Since 2014, the EU has also hosted four orientation courses on the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), with participation of high-ranking officials from foreign affairs and defence ministries across ASEAN.

The EU also participates in the Shangri-La Dialogue every year, an annual inter-governmental defence meeting held by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in Singapore. Since its launch in 2002, the Dialogue has built confidence and fostered practical security cooperation by

facilitating communication among the region's defence and security policymakers. In June 2019, the EU High Representative participated, emphasising the EU's increasing role as a global security player and its willingness to contribute to security and peace in Asia.

The partnership between the EU and ASEAN in security affairs has expanded to non-traditional security matters. The range of issues range from conflict prevention, mediation and reconciliation, to counter-terrorism, transnational crime (including cybercrime), crisis management, non-proliferation, maritime security, and mitigating the dangers of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials.



In 2020, maritime security, disaster management and crisis response, along with transnational crime and crisis management, have been identified as priority areas.

Cyber-Resilience for Development



Global Action on Cybercrime Extended



The EU promotes international cooperation, maritime multilateralism and the rule of law at sea.

Outside national waters, safe and secure seas and oceans are a shared, international responsibility, especially as the bulk of the world's trade depends on transport by sea. Without cooperation between nations and collaboration between sectors, the rule of law at sea is weakened and the stability of the global trading system is threatened. Maritime security, and the ability for goods to flow freely, is a shared concern for the EU and ASEAN. Especially since threats are complex and interconnected, no nation acting alone can succeed in responding to smuggling, piracy, illegal immigration, and other forms of transnational crime. Respect for principles based on shared, transparent and consistent rules in international waters – and the stability that brings – is central to the mutually beneficial partnership between the EU and ASEAN.

As transnational threats require determined and collaborative action, focus areas of the EU-ASEAN Plan of Action 2018-22 on enhancing Maritime Security Cooperation (MSC) include:

- ✓ **sharing knowledge and expertise in the sustainable joint management of marine resources**
- ✓ **combatting sea piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking and arms smuggling**
- ✓ **maritime safety and search and rescue.**

ARF MARITIME



The EU co-chairs - with Vietnam and Australia - the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime security

Events in 2019

Second ARF Workshop on Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation and the 11th ARF ISM on Maritime Security held in Da Nang, Vietnam

High-Level Dialogue (HLD) which aimed to improve EU-ASEAN connectivity through increased information-sharing and cooperation in maritime security

Upcoming in 2020

Fifth ASEAN-EU HLD on Maritime Security Cooperation

ARF Workshop on Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation

12th ARF ISM on Maritime Security in Alicante, Spain

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Creating opportunities and delivering prosperity for all

Enhanced economic cooperation benefits everyone by spreading opportunities, reducing poverty, and generating other social and political benefits. United around common values, and working together in a partnership of equals, the EU and ASEAN can amplify positive influences in shaping globalisation, upholding the multilateral order, and promoting and sustaining the fair trade and investment rules the 21st century requires.

Economic and trade connectivity are also the focus of negotiations, which are nearing completion, for an EU-ASEAN Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA). As the first ever bloc-to-bloc agreement, this will go beyond traffic rights to encourage cooperation on safety, security and air traffic management.



Enhanced ASEAN Regional
Integration Support from the EU

ARISE+



Enhanced Regional
EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument

E-READI



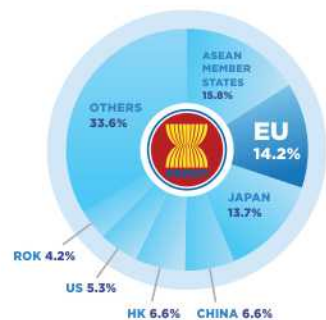
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TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Working together, the EU and ASEAN are a global economic force.



THE EU REMAINS **THE BIGGEST** PROVIDER OF EXTERNAL FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) IN ASEAN



THE EU IS ASEAN'S **2ND LARGEST** TRADING PARTNER



ASEAN IS THE EU'S **3RD LARGEST** TRADING PARTNER OUTSIDE OF EUROPE

MERCHANDISE TRADE

€137 BILLION (2008) → €237 BILLION (2018)

EU-ASEAN merchandise trade has almost doubled

2008 2018

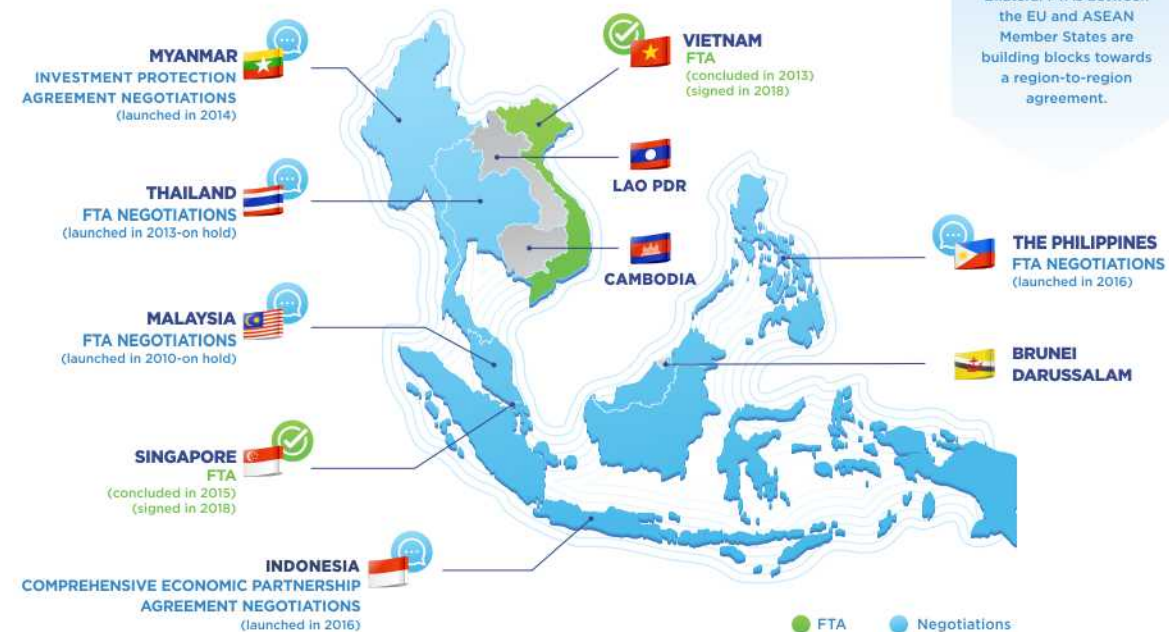
TRADE IN SERVICES

€40 BILLION (2007) → €88.3 BILLION (2017)

EU-ASEAN trade in services has more than doubled

2007 2017

EU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (FTA) AND INVESTMENT AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS IN ASEAN



EU-ASEAN FTA

Bilateral FTAs between the EU and ASEAN Member States are building blocks towards a region-to-region agreement.

Equitable prosperity depends on trade - trade which is free, fair and rules-based.

In all, half of all EU cooperation funding to ASEAN for 2014-2020 has been allocated towards ASEAN's economic integration and the ASEAN Economic Community. The EU's cooperation with ASEAN seeks to enhance economic and trade connectivity, with the aim of increasing sustainable and inclusive economic integration and trade, both within the ASEAN region and between the EU and ASEAN. In particular it focuses on connectivity in infrastructure, logistics, regulation, innovation and mobility.

Related EU initiatives cover all the strategic areas outlined in the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, including harmonisation of standards, mutual recognition of

technical regulations, reduction of non-tariff measures, and people-to-people mobility. For instance, specific initiatives aim at enhancing the transparency of trade and customs procedures in ASEAN, providing free online information on export trading regulations, and speeding road transport through the development of ASEAN's first ever computerised customs transit management system.

In addition, the ASEAN-EU Business Summit takes place on a regular basis as a key platform for business leaders and policy makers to discuss and shape commercial and diplomatic relations across a variety of sectors.

Enhanced ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU



ARISE+ INITIATIVES RELEVANT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR:



ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- ★ Has engaged with **13** ASEC Divisions, **38** ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, working groups and ASEAN entities and **85** AMS entities.
- ★ **2564** participants across **74** workshops. Participation from all 10 AMS - with 999 coming from CLMV countries.

ARISE+

MULTIMODAL MOVES

Enhanced ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU

The demand for multimodal transport – integrated end-to-end movement of commercial goods by different modes of transport – is increasing in the ASEAN region. If well managed, multimodal transport allows ASEAN Member States to take advantage of the increasing economic opportunities in the region, further ASEAN market integration, and enable ASEAN to benefit from its location at the crossroads of Northeast Asia, South Asia and Oceania.

In support of these aims, ASEAN's strategic transport plan includes the development and implementation of a Framework Agreement for Multimodal Transport (AFAMT). The draft implementation framework for this agreement was finalised during a meeting of ASEAN experts in Hoi An, Vietnam in August 2019, supported by ARISE+ in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport of Vietnam and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The experts also discussed future activities such as the development of implementation guidelines and procedural manuals as well as an initial pilot exercise to support the implementation of the AFAMT, once endorsed by ASEAN Transport Ministers. During the pilot exercise, the agreement will be implemented between at least two ASEAN Member States and the performance outcomes and the impact of cutting logistical costs on the economy of specific supply chains or corridors measured.



“The planned implementation of AFAMT represents a significant opportunity for ASEAN to facilitate multi-modal transport in the region. Doubtlessly, the private sector very much appreciates the support of ARISE+.”

Somsak Wisetruangrot
Chairman of ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA) Logistics Institute.



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ARISE+

TALKING TRADE

Enhanced ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU



In support of ASEAN's drive to become more transparent, the EU-funded ARISE+ programme has introduced a new e-Platform which allows the private sector to interact faster and more efficiently with public authorities on non-tariff measures (NTMs). For instance, businesses can lodge questions or complaints directly with ASEAN Member States when problems in cross-border trade are encountered, or consult Member States on new or modified NTMs ahead of their formal adoption. The new system was presented to key decision makers from ASEAN Member States and relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, as well as representatives of ASEAN's private sector at the 3rd ARISE+ Roundtable Discussion on Trade Facilitation held in Bangkok on 9 July 2019.



ARISE+ work on NTMs and private sector consultation is pivotal to the success of ASEAN economic integration. Ensuring that the private sector is effectively consulted and can play an active role in identifying the NTMs that inhibit economic integration and intra-ASEAN trade is critical.

Chris Humphrey

Executive Director EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC)



ARISE+

ORGANIC OPPORTUNITIES

ARISE+ Trade facilitation



Trade in organic agricultural products in the ASEAN region is increasing and farmers in the region can benefit if products from one ASEAN Member State are recognised as organically produced in another. ASEAN and the EU are working towards this goal by promoting organic food production and supporting regional integration in the food, agriculture and forestry sector. For instance, the EU-funded ARISE+ programme is working to develop an ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for organic agricultural products. This will ensure sustainable implementation of the ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture (ASOA) and harmonise certification systems. Reduced trade barriers will also increase intra-ASEAN trade, enable Member States to improve the competitiveness of their organic agricultural products and expand market access for safer and healthier food, sourced nationally and regionally.



Thailand, like the rest of ASEAN, has tremendous potential in organic farming and trading. The regional and local market, though currently small, is growing at a fast rate. The development of harmonised requirements in ASEAN and mutual recognition of certification is most welcome as it will boost awareness about organic products, increase markets and adoption of organic farming practices nationally and in ASEAN.

Pisan Pongsapitch

Vice Chair of TF AFSRF and Inspector General of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand



THE SKY IS NO LIMIT

ARISE+ Civil Aviation

The EU's ARISE+ project supports the development of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market. This will provide greater connectivity, cheaper air tickets and safer skies for ASEAN passengers. The project works in areas that include safety, licenses, air traffic management and passenger protection. In 2019, for example, the project supported the implementation of the Mutual Recognition Agreement of Flight Crew Licenses, which will allow professional pilots licensed in one ASEAN Member State to be hired by any air operator across the region. It also helps to improve capacity and to reduce emissions, delays and costs in air traffic management. A significant success occurred in September 2019, when Singapore and Malaysia signed a cooperation agreement on the operational use of AIDC, a tool facilitating the automatic transfer of aircraft information between control centres. All airlines and passengers flying across this border will benefit.



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“ While ASEAN and the EU already have much in common in aviation, including their commitment to establishing single aviation markets in their respective regions, both sides stand to benefit significantly from even closer cooperation. Apart from allowing both sides to better capitalise on the opportunities in and the capabilities of each other, a bloc-to-bloc agreement would also facilitate further intra-ASEAN integration by allowing ASEAN to learn from the EU's experience in developing a single aviation market since the 1990s.

Sommad Pholsena

Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR
and Chairman of the ASEAN Transport Ministers



GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION FOR GROWTH

ARISE+ Intellectual Property Rights

The EU has been working closely with ASEAN agricultural producers to build their capacity regarding Geographical Indications (GIs), a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities due to that origin. The aim is to maximise the benefits of GI protection in the ASEAN region. As part of the ARISE+ programme, in 2019 ASEAN producers had the opportunity to interact with experts from the EU to learn about the benefits of GIs, as well as registration procedures and management during the post-registration period, including product quality control and branding strategies.



“ Participation in the training has been very useful regarding the initiation of a GI application for our coffee, which will help increase our product value and improve livelihoods for coffee producers in our region.

Ngwe Tun

producer and member of the Ywar Ngan
Coffee Association, Myanmar



ELIMINATING NON-TARIFF BARRIERS

Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument



Despite progress in economic integration, ASEAN still faces challenges in tackling the proliferation of barriers to trade. In some cases, Non-tariff Measures (NTMs) may be legitimate policy actions aimed at protecting public health and safety, for example, but they can also serve as illegitimate barriers to trade known as Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs).

Engaging business communities in constructive dialogue and sharing business views with policy makers are of paramount importance to the EU and ASEAN. In this context, identifying the ways NTBs disrupt trade and business, and the benefits of their elimination, led to the production of a report, Non-tariff Barriers in ASEAN and their Elimination: A business perspective. Supported by EU-funded E-READI and commissioned by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) and the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC), the report, which was officially presented in Singapore in June 2019, examines the trade distorting effects of NTMs and barriers in three key sectors – automotive, agri-food, and healthcare – and provides a range of recommendations on how ASEAN could effectively address NTMs and eliminate NTBs.

“ **Whilst ASEAN has made excellent progress on removing tariffs for intra-ASEAN trade, Non-tariff Measures, and therefore Non-tariff Barriers, have increased markedly despite the commitments made under the AEC to remove them. There is no doubt that NTBs hinder the development of intra-ASEAN trade, increase complexity and costs for ASEAN based businesses, and ultimately reduce competition and innovation whilst increasing costs to the end users. They are particularly harmful to the interests of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the region.**

—
Donald Kanak
Chairman, EU-ASEAN Business Council



BUOYANT WATERS

Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument



Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems due to its ability to undermine national and regional efforts to manage fisheries sustainably and conserve marine biodiversity. As a powerful example of an issue that requires international and regional cooperation, IUU fishing is therefore a priority for both the EU and ASEAN, and the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (2016-2020) includes measures to prevent IUU fishing products from entering the supply chain, for example.

The first ASEAN dialogue with the EU on the issue of IUU in Bangkok in April 2019 represented an important step forward, providing a platform to share experiences including lessons learned and good practices. The two sides discussed possible ways of improving coordination of existing monitoring, control, and surveillance tools to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in ASEAN waters, such as the creation of an ASEAN Network for combatting IUU that could support stronger cooperation among ASEAN Member States.



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“ **IUU is a serious threat to the sustainability of fishery resources and the marine environment, but combatting IUU fishing is complicated as fishery resources are shared by several countries and fisheries products are traded intra-regionally before exportation.**

—
Theerapat Prayurasiddhi
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand



DEVELOPING INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT

Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument



Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) can provide solutions for road safety, emissions and congestion problems. As information is key in developing effective ITS, inter-agency and regional coordination and cooperation were strengthened through the first EU-ASEAN Workshop on Intelligent Transport Systems, organised by EU-funded E-READI on 25 October 2019 in Singapore. Participants discussed transport solutions that meet the demands of urban and rural areas, as well as business and society and the challenges and experiences of ASEAN Member States. As making transport more efficient is key to reducing emissions, the workshop included visits to the ITS World Congress 2019, where participants learned about leading technologies and innovations such as ground level pedestrian crossing lights and urban bicycle sharing schemes from around the world.



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“ The workshop was a great opportunity for sharing knowledge and experience between the EU and ASEAN as well as exploring opportunities and challenges of the implementation of solutions that will make intelligent transport in ASEAN a reality. ”

Henrik Hololei
Director-General for European Commission Directorate General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) and

Yap Ong Heng
Senior Adviser, Singapore Ministry of Transport



FUELLING CHANGE

Transport and Climate Change project



Over the past six years, the Transport and Climate Change project, funded by the Government of Germany, has worked in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam to improve the political framework associated with reducing fuel consumption in the ASEAN region. The project has, among other activities, supported the implementation of a fuel consumption labelling scheme for new vehicles in the Philippines and developing a standard for electric two-wheelers in Malaysia, and worked to reform the excise tax to reflect emissions from passenger cars in Thailand. At the ASEAN regional level, the project has supported the creation of the Expert Group on Sustainable Land Transport, the first working group addressing sustainability in transport, as well as the adoption of the ASEAN Fuel Economy Roadmap. For the first time in the history of ASEAN, the Roadmap introduces a commitment to reduce fuel consumption by 26% by 2025.



ASEAN Fuel Economy Roadmap for the Transport Sector 2018-2025: with Focus on Light-Duty Vehicles



THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Addressing the shared challenges of climate change

Through the European Green Deal, the EU recognises that action on climate change and the environment is an urgent priority.

Supported by investments in green technologies, sustainable solutions and innovative businesses, the Green Deal is the new EU growth strategy. Above all, it sets a path for sustainable transition that is just and socially fair. With the involvement and commitment of everyone crucial to its success, the transformative initiative will leave no individual or region behind. The EU therefore supports ASEAN and its Member States with initiatives related to climate change resilience and adaptation, environmental conservation, including protecting biodiversity, and disaster preparedness and response.



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SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument

In July 2019, senior officials from ASEAN and the EU met in Bangkok to launch a High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change to strengthen cooperation on the shared regional and global challenges. The event was supported by the EU-funded Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI), and future dialogues are to be held annually, with the participation of IGOs, NGOs and experts.

A circular economy approach is at the heart of the European Green Deal and during the High-Level Dialogue both regions committed to working together to move towards a circular economy for plastics. As a first step, a gap analysis on circular economy and plastics in ASEAN Member States was prepared by a team of experts from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), which identifies the main challenges to addressing plastics in the environment and highlights the value of regional networks and guidelines.

“Circular economy is not just another environmental policy, nor just another climate policy, and it is not another trade policy either. It should be all that and more – a truly cross-sectoral effort, built around people’s needs, and built together with industries and companies.”

Daniel Calleja Crespo
Director-General DG Environment,
European Commission



Also in the framework of EU-ASEAN dialogue activities, in November 2019 an ASEAN-wide study on natural capital (the world’s stocks of natural assets, including minerals, soil, air, water, forests and all living things) was launched at a two-day workshop in Bangkok organised in collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. Also supported by EU-funded E-READI, the event brought together 65 stakeholders from the EU and ASEAN to discuss how to include the concept of natural capital in decision-making. In a peer-to-peer setting, EU counterparts shared best practices in using natural resources more sustainably to create greater value. Participants also agreed on milestones for an ASEAN Natural Capital Road Map, with the goal of establishing a Regional Natural Capital Platform to increase collaboration among all stakeholders in this area.

“Impacts and dependencies on natural capital create both costs and benefits, not only for businesses but also for society. These are transferred as risks and opportunities that businesses need to manage more carefully. Natural capital ‘integral accounting’ approaches can help businesses and policy makers seize the magnitude and value of ecosystem services to take better decisions and limit risks.”

Marta Santamaria
Policy Director, Natural Capital Coalition



COOPERATIVE HARMONY

ASEAN Farmers’ Organisations Support Programme

Farmers in ASEAN Member States can benefit from regional integration when national agricultural cooperatives are aligned with the Action Plan for the ASEAN Roadmap 2019-2025. Two regional workshops in March and September 2019, organised by the EU-funded ASEAN Farmers’ Organisations Support Programme, brought together important stakeholders in the region: the ASEAN Centre for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives (ACEDAC), the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Agricultural Cooperatives (ASWGAC), farmers’ organisations, agri-agencies and the private sector. Important areas to be further developed are institutional capacity building, competitiveness, access to finance, and access to markets.

“I believe we can find effective ways to strengthen the involvement of agricultural cooperatives in implementing the Action Plan. ASEAN Member States working in collaboration with all stakeholders will be key to achieving this.”

Mya Myo Swe
Representative of ASWGAC Myanmar



ASEAN Farmers’ Organisations Support Programme



and enhancing the role of agricultural cooperatives in global value chains



through 26 national and 1200 sub-national farmers' organisations.



BREWING UP VALUE

ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme



Southeast Asia has the ideal climate and geography for coffee cultivation. With a strong coffee culture and expertise in production, a thriving industry has emerged. The ASEAN Community Vision 2025 also acknowledged coffee as a natural starting point for agricultural cooperatives to engage in global value chains. As part of the EU-funded AFOSP, an exchange visit was made to Pakse, Lao PDR in November 2019, which aimed to introduce coffee cooperatives to value chain management and geographical indications (GI) certification. Participants discussed challenges such as market access, and learned about best practices on fair trade certification, cooperative business management and international marketing. A field visit demonstrated how to make value added coffee products such as soaps, lip balm and coffee jam, enabling participants to expand their businesses.



Coffee farmers from various farmers organisations in Southeast Asia gathered in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 19-21 July 2017 in the ASEAN Learning Series and Policy Engagement on Agricultural Cooperative (ALSPEAC) under the EU-supported AFOSP.

“ We recognise that cooperative work plays an important role in stimulating the socio-economic development of many countries and is vital to reducing poverty and ensuring sustainability.

Kongkeo Vongpaseth

Director General of DRDC, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR



CONNECTING FARMERS AND BUYERS

ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP)



When smallholder producers are connected to private sector buyers both sides can benefit. For instance, at a workshop organised by the Lao Farmer Network (LFN) one of the participating private sector buyers, the Mueng Lao Company, proposed to buy over 60 items of fresh vegetables each day, including spring onions, for a fixed price from members of the network. Three smallholder collectives now supply the company with a total of 450 kilograms of spring onions daily. Even though the price has not increased, farmers have access to a dependable market which will help them plan investment, coordinate production, and generate reliable income.

In addition, in Tholakhom district, Vientiane province, LFN supported the creation of the Jaeng Agriculture Cooperative to strengthen lowland rice farming. Even as members of the cooperative, farmers found it difficult to get a fair price and were reluctant to grow rice. To enhance the livelihoods, LFN arranged a direct contract between the farmers and the Phoon Nguen Rice Company, a local company supplying packed rice in the markets in Vientiane. This has improved relations between the rice farmers and the purchaser, which together with timely information, has provided benefits for both parties: farmers have a reliable market, and purchasers have a reliable supply.



Lao Farmer Network supported by the AFOSP programme promote the partnership of rice farmers in Tholakhom district, Vientiane province.

“ Our members used to make about 2 million LAK (US\$230) per month, but with this partnership they now make about LAK6 million LAK (US\$690) a month.

Khammone Louanglath

Head of Thongmang organic vegetable group of LFN



SMELL THE COFFEE

ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme



U Zaw Myo Naing is a coffee farmer from Hpa Yar Gyi Kone village, Shan State, Myanmar. He owns six acres of land where for the past 10 years he has successfully cultivated organic Arabica coffee beans, but has lacked skills to add value to his production. After joining the Agriculture and Farmers Federation of Myanmar (AFFM), he received training through the EU-funded AFOSP which included attending a coffee forum in the Philippines. There he learned new production techniques and how other countries package their coffee products. When he returned to Myanmar, he started roasting his coffee beans at the optimum temperature, grinding the roasted beans more efficiently, and improving his packaging. Originally U Zaw Myo Naing produced 50 boxes of coffee from 50 kilograms of roasted coffee beans. Now he is able to make 2,000 packs out of 100 kilograms.



“ All smallholder farmers like me need knowledge and skills in sustainable agriculture to help increase our income and improve our livelihoods.

U Zaw Myo Naing
coffee farmer, Shan State, Myanmar

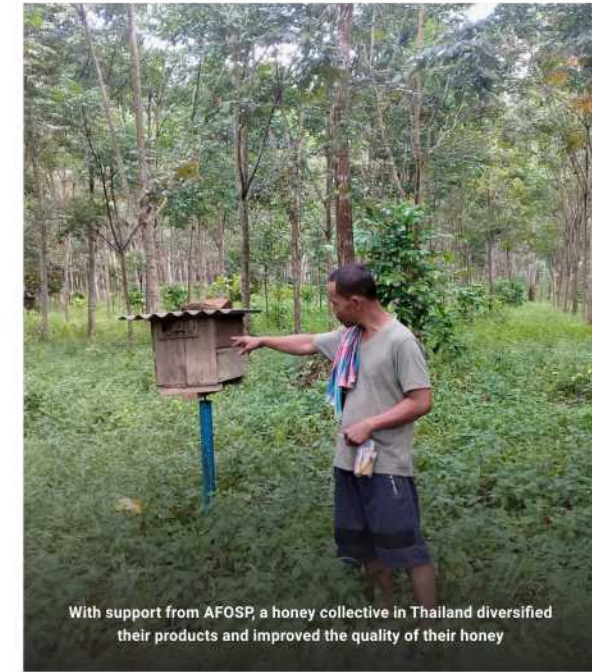


A SWEET WAY TO FIGHT POVERTY

ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme



Twenty-five smallholder farmers in the Network of People's Organisations for Bantad mountain range in the southern province of Trang in Thailand have formed a collective to diversify and protect their incomes when the price of rubber, the traditional local crop, falls. The initiative, supported by the EU-funded AFOSP, involves switching from a cash crop monoculture to an agro-ecological production system involving local bees being fed with nectar from coconuts, betel nuts, coffee trees and mangoes. In 2019, the members doubled the number of hives and harvested more honey during the summer as a result. The expansion is gradual in order to ensure that production remains entirely natural by, for example, ensuring the plantation where the bees are kept is chemical-free. The collective is also working to improve the packaging and product quality of their honey.



With support from AFOSP, a honey collective in Thailand diversified their products and improved the quality of their honey

“ I earned little from producing rubber, so now I grow other trees and fruit without using chemicals and keep bees. We use local bees and we have rules to ensure that our bees are kept naturally. This means our customers trust the quality of our honey and demand is higher than our output.

Khuk Pheuakchai
leader of the Honey Collective



Sustainable Land Use and Forest Management

EU-funded environmental initiatives include the new €5 million Regional ASEAN Forest Governance programme (FLEGT), which will start in 2020, aimed at strengthening ASEAN's institutional capacity to coordinate on a regional level, and supporting implementation at a national level. It builds on the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, published in 2003, which sets out a range of measures available to the EU and its Member States to tackle illegal logging.



Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN



The ASEAN region contains over half (56%) of all global tropical peatland, which stores 68 billion tonnes of the world's carbon, and contains some of its most endangered species of fauna and flora.

Reducing the impact of natural disasters



Integrated Programme in Enhancing the Capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms

“ The support from the European Union through this project is crucial for the AHA Centre to ensure its continuing development. It allows the Centre to develop its internal mechanism and expand at the same time. The project will also benefit the Member States through its support to a number of capacity building activities, workshops, and other events.

Adelina Kamal
Executive Director of the AHA Centre



© AHA Centre

Sustainable Urbanisation

Smart Green ASEAN Cities

The EU has considerable experience in promoting and delivering 'smart' urban growth and 2020 will see the launch of the €5 million Smart Green ASEAN Cities initiative, which aims to support sustainable urbanisation in the ASEAN region, reduce the environmental impacts of urban areas, and improve the quality of life of citizens. The initiative will combine city level solutions with national capacity building and regional approaches, such as the ASEAN Smart City Network, which supports green and smart city solutions in selected ASEAN cities. An integral element will be the increased exchange of proven environmentally-sound city management practices between the EU and ASEAN.



Financing for Sustainable Infrastructure

Under the Asia Investment Facility (AIF), the EU blends grants with loans from European and other international financial institutions to provide finance and technical assistance for sovereign infrastructure projects that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote climate resilient development.



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For instance, the EU will contribute €50 million to the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility (ACGF), an innovative initiative designed to encourage private investments in green infrastructure projects in ASEAN Member States. Targeting fast growing sectors in the green economy which are in the greatest need of de-risking, the ACGF will mobilise a total of US\$1 billion from the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund, the Asian Development Bank, and European development banks, such as the European Investment Bank (EIB), the German KfW, and the French AFD.

ACGF
ASEAN Catalytic Green
Finance Facility

€ **50**
MILLION
2020
ONWARD

DESIGNING CITIES FOR LIFE

The ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy

The ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) Socialisation Forum, which was held on 28-29 November 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia supported by the Government of Germany, provided a platform for 42 participants to discuss priority areas under ASUS and the actions and toolkits required to further develop them at regional and national levels. The Forum was organised by the ASEAN Connectivity Division (ACD) of the ASEAN Secretariat together with the ASEAN Lead Implementing Body for Sustainable Infrastructure (LIB-SI), with support from the ASEC 2025 project commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office.

“ The Forum gave us the opportunity to gather key stakeholders from ASEAN Member States to share programmes and priorities in advancing sustainable urbanisation and facilitate implementation across the region. It served as a valuable platform to discuss ways to enhance ASEAN's efforts in utilising ASUS and its toolkits.

Lim Chze Cheen
Director ASEAN Connectivity Division,
ASEAN Secretariat



ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy Socialisation Forum at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, 28-29 November 2019.



Preserving the natural environment



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS IN ASEAN (BCAMP)

- Supports ASEAN Heritage Parks
- Implemented by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
- The programme contributes to national, regional and global environmental sustainability by ensuring that ASEAN's rich biological diversity is conserved and sustainably managed to enhance social, economic, and environmental well-being.
- In 2019, achievements of BCAMP include:
 - Declaration of five new ASEAN Heritage Parks.
 - Establishment of a dedicated ASEAN Heritage Parks Secretariat within the ACB, which currently has seven staff members.

49 ASEAN HERITAGE PARKS

A REGIONAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL PROTECTED AREAS

€10 MILLION

2016-2020



© Daniel Ocampo

PROTECTING LANDSCAPES AND WILDLIFE

Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN



In October 2019, the sixth ASEAN Heritage Parks Conference (AHP6) gathered around 300 participants in Pakse, Lao PDR to discuss the efforts of ASEAN Member States to maintain and sustain protected areas, and to explore wider conservation approaches to halting species extinction. The event built on the experiences and knowledge of protected area managers and international experts. It aimed to improve the AHP programme, one of ASEAN's flagship initiatives, and strengthen networks among AHP stakeholders and other dialogue and development partners.



© Asean Ayal

The event kicked off with the ASEAN Policy Dialogue on Protected Areas, Landscapes, and Wildlife, which featured the EU's Larger than Tigers report, a publication that highlights the region's natural capital and the need for a strategic approach to curb environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Overall, the event proved to be an impressive example of cooperation and collaboration between the EU and a wide range of other partners. These included the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, the Lao PDR Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and organisations such as KfW and GIZ from Germany, SwedBio from Sweden, as well as other partners such as the Japan Biodiversity Fund.



© Kyaw Kyaw Win

“ This ASEAN-EU dialogue demonstrates our continued partnership within the framework of ASEAN cooperation on environment. It involves governments, non-government organisations, experts, and private sector groups as well as women, youth, indigenous and local communities, and other key stakeholders. ”

Theresa Mundita Lim
ACB Executive Director



YOUTH FOR BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN



Despite the fact that his professional background is in business, rather than biological or ecological science, for the past four years, Mark Liao, founder of Sarawak EcoWarriors in Malaysia, has been leading efforts to raise awareness for biodiversity issues in Sarawak. The Youth Biodiversity Leaders (YBL) fellowship programme, supported by BCAMP, was central in bolstering Mark's confidence, strengthening his commitment, and increasing his motivation. With the support of the regional YBL community, he is now planning to further his education and continue on the path of biodiversity conservation while deploying his business skills and perspectives.



ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Leaders meet in Bangkok, Thailand, 26 March 2019. The programme is supported by Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP).

“ The YBL programme has helped me by enhancing my knowledge and decision-making skills. Using a more holistic approach, I am now working with local stakeholders on projects that are beneficial and sustainable for all in the long term. The programme has also inspired me to pursue my education in environmental sciences. ”

Mark Liao
Founder of Sarawak EcoWarriors in Malaysia



SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

Putting people first

Connectivity between people, and among nations and regions, is central to the partnership between the EU and ASEAN. Improved connectivity in education and research means that new ideas and learning flow for the benefit of all and mutual understanding increases. EU-ASEAN cooperation aims to build connected and inclusive societies which place priority on well-being and social welfare. Aligned with the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint, and with a strong focus on nurturing the human, cultural and natural resources needed for sustainable development, EU development cooperation underpins ASEAN's commitment to improving living standards in the region through people-centric as well as socially and environmentally responsible actions.

SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION



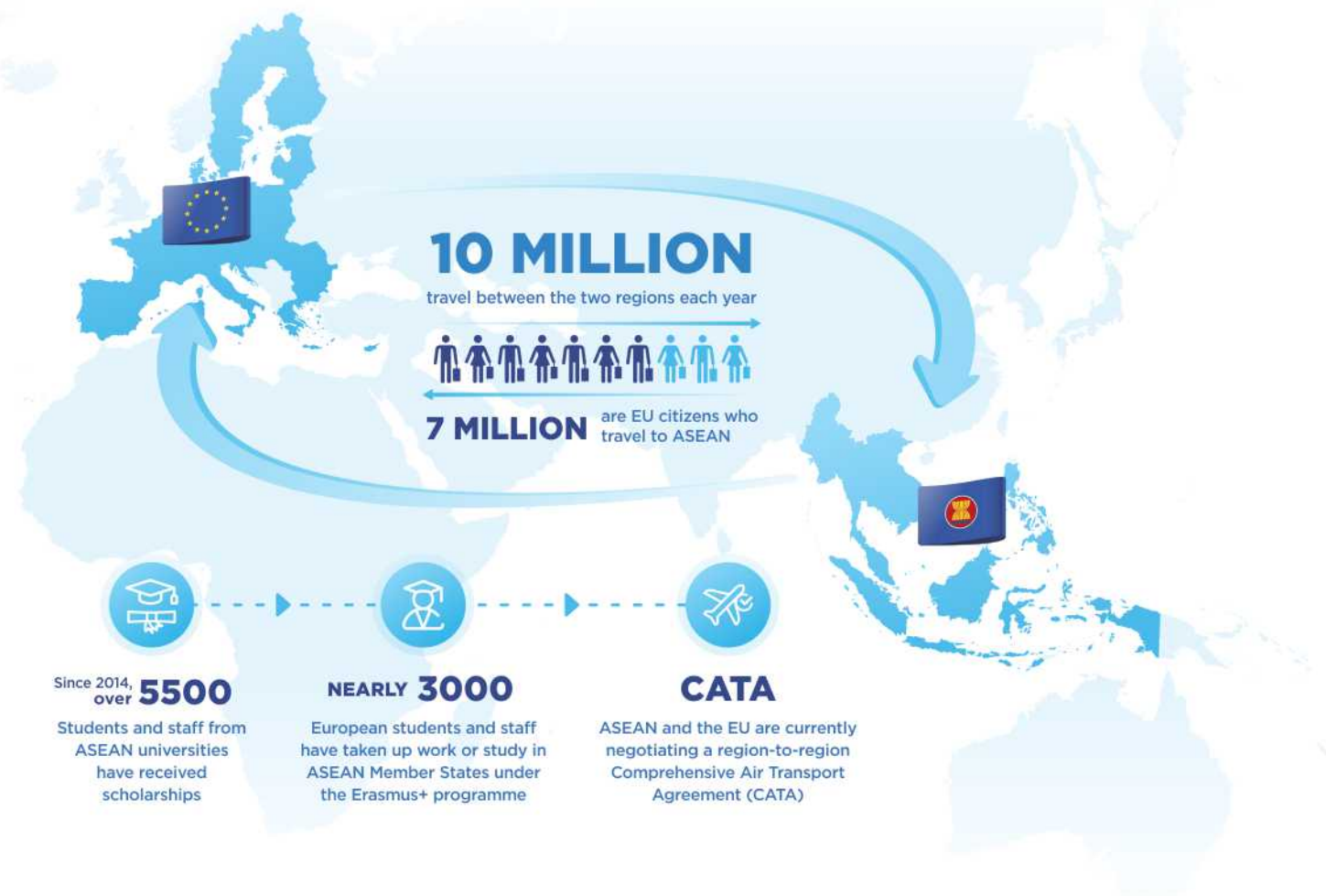
© Lauen Kara Chan



Exchanges for education, science and research



As connectivity increases and the ASEAN Community expands, the demands placed on national higher education systems are changing rapidly. EU socio-cultural cooperation therefore supports higher education and intra-regional mobility through initiatives to harmonise higher education frameworks – including the mutual recognition of qualifications and regional credit transfer systems – by providing scholarships, and as a platform to enable sharing of best practices.

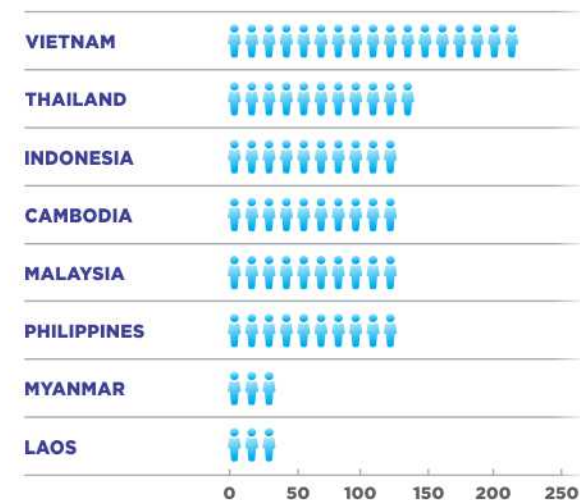


Academic cooperation

Erasmus+ is the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport. Aimed at developing and sharing knowledge and experience, it funds cooperation and mobility between Europe and other regions, including the ASEAN region, offering opportunities to individuals and a range of organisations, including universities, education and training providers, research organisations, and private businesses.

- International Credit Mobility**
mobility scheme for students and staff
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees**
two year scholarships with study in at least two different European countries
- Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)**
including partnerships with commercial enterprises
- Jean Monnet Activities**
excellence in teaching and research on the European integration process
- Capacity Building projects in the Field of Youth**
support to improve youth work, non-formal learning and volunteering

ASEAN participation in CBHE 2015-2019



Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degrees

PHILIPPINES	265
INDONESIA	162
VIETNAM	157
THAILAND	74
MALAYSIA	43
SINGAPORE	21
CAMBODIA	17
MYANMAR	17
TOTAL	756

EU cooperation with ASEAN on science, technology and research is driven by mutual interests and the desire to share experiences on issues of common concern, enhance connectivity, and boost sustainable economic growth.

Cooperation in science and research encompasses both bottom-up research initiatives proposed by EU and ASEAN scientists, and policy exchange through the regular EU-ASEAN Dialogue on Science and Technology. ASEAN-based entities are active participants in the EU Research Framework Programmes, including Horizon 2020, which will be followed by Horizon Europe from 2021.



Data : CORDA (JRC, EIT and art.185 not included) | Source : DG Research and Innovation - International Cooperation



PROCESSING POWER

E-READI support to the first EU-ASEAN HPC Coordination Group Meeting

The EU and ASEAN consider science, technology and innovation a priority in driving sustainable economic growth, enhancing connectivity, and addressing the climate emergency. High performance computing can help provide solutions to data intensive problems and when approached from a regional perspective can deepen digital connectivity, encourage innovation, and overcome high entry barriers by optimising resources and cost sharing. With this aim, the EU-ASEAN High Performance Computing (HPC) Coordination Group, supported by the EU-funded E-READI facility, met for the first time in March 2019 in Singapore. The event also focused on creating opportunities for skilled ASEAN professionals in the domain of HPC.

A subsequent second meeting and study tour to European HPC facilities took place in November 2019. Participants visited the headquarters of PRACE (Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe) as well as the peta-scale HPC facility at the Belval Campus, University of Luxembourg. ASEAN scientists and seismic, climate and bioinformatics experts also attended a PRACE training event at the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre focusing on extreme weather predictions, bioscience and bioinformatics. The event demonstrated the benefits for researchers of enhanced access to regional computing facilities, and the possibilities to increase competitiveness in a digital economy.



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“ We are convinced that Southeast Asia and Europe are unique and exciting partners for each other. Combining their respective strengths in the areas of science and technology is a promising endeavour for both sides. S&T cooperation can not only generate economic and social benefits for both regions but is likely to contribute to addressing bi-regional and global challenges as well.

Gerold Heinrichs and Christoph Elineau
SEA-EU-NET Coordination



CYBERSECURE CONNECTIONS

YAKSHA - Cybersecurity Awareness and Knowledge Systemic High-level Application

Cybersecurity is the common element buttressing all ICT technologies and without it ICT can be more of a risk than an opportunity for organisations, businesses and governments. However, low and middle-income countries in the ASEAN region in particular are exposed to cyber risks that range from data breaches to intentional intrusions.

The YAKSHA – Cybersecurity Awareness and Knowledge Systemic High-level Application – project, co-funded with €2 million under the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme will reinforce EU and ASEAN cooperation aimed at building knowledge partnerships in the cybersecurity domain. The project is working to leverage EU experience and expertise to develop solutions tailored to specific users and national needs. One specific objective is to develop and implement a new software toolkit to enhance the cybersecurity readiness of its users, help prevent cyber attacks, and enhance governance of the entire cybersecurity process. YAKSHA is also promoting knowledge sharing and is developing an ecosystem of partners to ensure sustainability beyond the end of the project.



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“ Cybersecurity capabilities are now essential for achieving individual, organisational and societal goals, especially in an increasingly globalised and connected world. Safe access to information is widely recognised as an enabling factor for developing economies and society. The importance of ASEAN cyber capacity-building, securing a safer common cyberspace, and facilitating exchanges on cyber norms was emphasised by ministers of communication of ASEAN countries at the inaugural ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cybersecurity.

Samuel Almeida
Project Coordinator, Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI)



STIPENDIUM HUNGARICUM

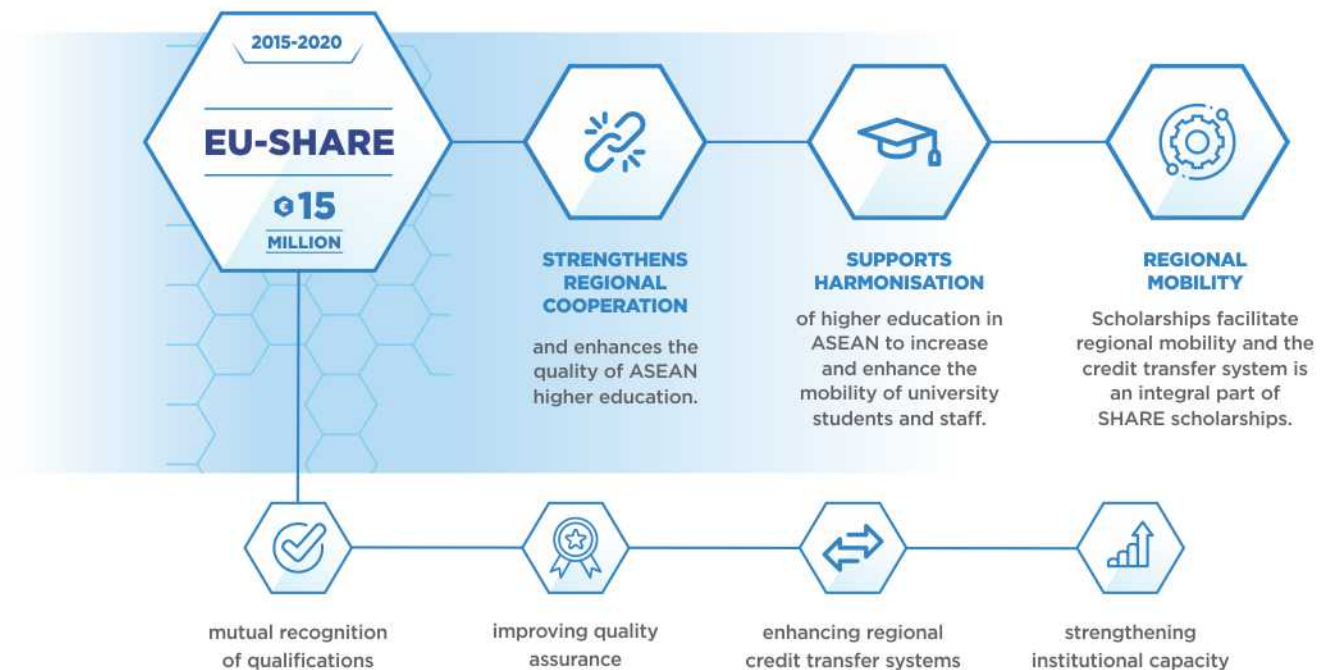
Expanding academic opportunities for ASEAN students



Recognising the invaluable contribution of education and student mobility to wider economic and social development, Hungary is currently offering 540 scholarships to students from ASEAN Member States to access its learning institutions. Hungarian higher education has much to offer, and applicants are encouraged to indicate their priorities and preferences in terms of the technical expertise they wish to gain across a wide range of subjects. In all, there are currently 598 degree programmes available for international applicants, and the number is rising every year. Hungary is also keen to work in partnership with ASEAN Member States to open up opportunities for Hungarian students and academics in the ASEAN region.



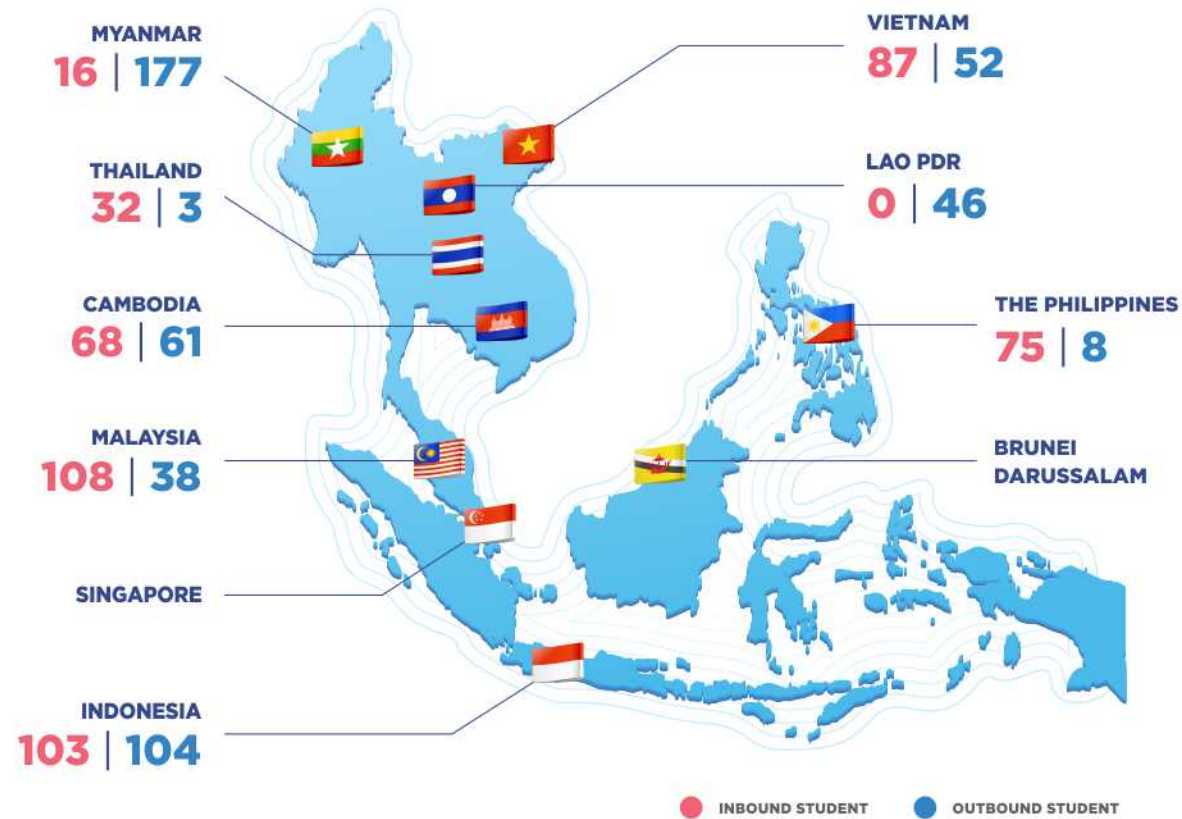
EU Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region



ACHIEVEMENTS UP TO 2019

- ★ **OVER 2000** participants in policy dialogues, workshops and forums
- ★ **11** country-based policy and capacity building workshops on qualifications frameworks and quality assurance
- ★ **OVER 500** scholarships awarded
- ★ **6** capacity building workshops
- ★ **22** publications including policy briefs, infographics and reports
- ★ **2** ASEAN student mobility forums
- ★ **10** policy dialogues
- ★ Establishment of national secretariats of SHARE scholarship alumni association in 8 ASEAN member states

EU-SHARE STUDENT EXCHANGE



489 INTRA-ASEAN SCHOLARSHIPS | **8** COUNTRIES | **32** UNIVERSITIES

TESTIMONIALS



“ I believe that SHARE helps to strengthen the ASEAN community because it fosters intercultural understanding and cooperation between nations. Finding the similarities and differences in the political, social, economic and cultural systems in different countries helps creates an awareness which can lead to changed attitudes or concrete action.

Erica Esteban

a SHARE Scholarship awardee from the the Philippines who studied at Vietnam National University



“ My SHARE Scholarship provided me with knowledge and opportunities. It gave me connections with both local and international students, and straight after graduation I got my first job through the network I built during the student mobility programme. Now I can identify myself not just as an Indonesian citizen, but also as an ASEAN citizen.

Fernando

a SHARE Scholarship awardee from Indonesia who studied at Vietnam National University, University of Science and is currently working at Worldfish in Myanmar



“ As a young professional I believe it is very important that we should engage more and share our mobility and work experiences overseas in our home communities and universities. This is simply a matter of contributing and giving back some of the benefits we have received.

Sara Viothini

a SHARE Scholarship awardee from Malaysia who studied at University College Cork in Ireland



“ SHARE has taught me the importance of the ASEAN community and that we have one identity as ASEAN citizens. I think we need to spread that idea and increase awareness among other students about the importance of ASEAN, and not just for education.

Nguyen Thi Sa Va

a SHARE Scholarship awardee from Vietnam who studied at University Malaysia Sabah

Realising women migrant workers' rights and opportunities

Estimates suggest that half of the 20.2 million migrants in the ASEAN region are from ASEAN Member States, and women migrant workers in particular are easily subject to exploitation, including sexual and physical violence, and trafficking. Working with International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UN Women through the global €500 million Spotlight Initiative, the EU aims to ensure that labour migration is safe and fair for all women in the ASEAN region.

Safe & Fair: Realising women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region



Safe & Fair

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

Safe & Fair Women Migrant Workers programme

Novelita Palisoc is a Filipina domestic worker, President of United Domestic Workers of the Philippines (UNITED), and an advocate for the rights and empowerment of domestic workers worldwide. Throughout her career, she has experienced first-hand a range of abuses that some 70 million domestic workers risk facing every day when they go to work. When a friend convinced her to join a domestic workers union she learned about her rights and the responsibilities of the employer and found her vocation: to fight for the rights of domestic workers. With support of the Safe & Fair programme Novelita was able to communicate experiences of sexual and gender-based violence, including during labour migration, and advocate directly to policy makers at several international conferences, such as the 108th session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva in June 2019, and an EU-UN Spotlight Initiative high-level event at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2019.



Portrait of Novelita Palisoc, President of the United Domestic Workers of the Philippines.

“ On behalf of my organisation and many migrant domestic workers in the ASEAN region, I convey our appreciation to the Spotlight Initiative's Safe & Fair programme which brings together many different actors working on labour migration, ending violence and anti-trafficking. Together, we can change the lives of women migrant workers.

Novelita Palisoc

President of the United Domestic Workers of the Philippines



© UN Women / Mohammad Rakibul Hasan



KNOWLEDGE THROUGH MUSIC

Safe & Fair Migration

Information is key to safe and successful migration. However, women workers often lack information about their rights, and fear the consequences of speaking out. To address this, the Safe & Fair programme is working with the ASEAN Commission to support the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW). In November 2019 an online campaign was launched which focuses on using knowledge and music to prevent gender-based workplace exploitation. The campaign, which includes a song with catchy lyrics aimed at women migrant workers in Thailand, is designed to make reliable information more widely available on where to get support, what women's rights are, and what sexual harassment is.

“ With the objective of turning policy commitments into a lived reality for all women migrant workers in ASEAN, ACWC in partnership with other concerned ASEAN sectoral bodies including the Safe & Fair programme, is highlighting the issue of human trafficking and violence against women.

Dr Ratchada Jayagupta

Representative of Thailand to the ACWC for Women's Rights



The photography exhibition, Extraordinary Women: Journeys out of the Ordinary, in Thailand in November 2019 shone a light on women migrant workers in ASEAN.

© Migrants and Music



VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

Safe & Fair Migration

Namwaan, a migrant from Myanmar working in Thailand, is one of over a million people who have seen an online video about the Spotlight Initiative's Safe & Fair. Initially she worked in textile manufacturing, where she experienced long hours, meagre wages, and saw her colleagues being treated violently. Namwaan felt the video spoke on her behalf and connected her to a wider movement. Subsequently in November 2019, she shared her story in a Safe & Fair photo exhibition Extraordinary Women: Journeys out of the Ordinary and on 3 December 2019 she had the chance to present her priorities for change to over 100 policy makers, employers and trade unionists at the Labour Mobility between Asia and the Arab States Inter-regional Meeting.

“ I am grateful that people have not forgotten about us, and that there are some people who are working to protect our rights. Millions of women migrant workers will benefit from Safe & Fair, and the result will be more women with decent work that is free from violence.

Namwaan (an alias)

a woman migrant from Myanmar working in Thailand



Namwaan (an alias), a woman from Myanmar working in Thailand, is one of many migrant workers who participate in the Spotlight Initiative through the Safe & Fair programme.

© UN Women / Youngmae Choi





© EU Delegation in the Philippines



BILATERAL COOPERATION

Strengthening EU-ASEAN development cooperation through close partnerships with ASEAN Member States





BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



1985

Cooperation Agreement between European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN Member States came into force

The EU and Brunei Darussalam share a close working relationship, partnering with each other through various multilateral dialogue platforms, including:

ASEAN

ARF | the ASEAN Regional Forum

ASEM | the Asia-Europe Meeting

FOCUS AREAS



Trade and investment



Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear risks (CBRN)



Security-related areas

HIGHLIGHTS OF EU COOPERATION



Cooperation on Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear risks (CBRN), in the framework of the regional Centres of Excellence initiative supports Brunei's National Action Plan

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

★ TRADE

- The EU is Brunei's fifth largest trading partner in goods, with an overall value of **€740 million in 2018**
- The EU is Brunei's **fourth largest** supplier of goods

★ IMPORT

- €611 million worth of goods** and **€512 million of services** from the EU
- Several small and large EU-based companies are part of Brunei's economy



CAMBODIA



2002

EU Delegation opened in Phnom Penh

TOTAL FUNDING SUPPORT

€ **500** MILLION

2014
2020

FOCUS AREAS



Good governance



Education



Natural Resources (fisheries)



FLAGSHIP PROJECTS



EU Support to Public Finance Management Reform phase III

2015-2020

€ **52** MILLION



EU-Cambodia Education Sector Reform Partnership

2018-2021

€ **100** MILLION



Cambodia Programme for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth (CaPFish)

2019-2023

€ **87** MILLION

HIGHLIGHTS OF EU COOPERATION



Effective cooperation through Joint Programming with nine EU Member States and Switzerland, aligned with Cambodia's national priorities

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

- ★ Signature of the Water Supply to Phnom Penh City Project - the largest European-funded project in Cambodia, with over €200 million funding from the AFD, EIB and the EU

INDONESIA



2014 Indonesia is the first country in ASEAN with a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the EU

Indonesia continues to receive support through regional and thematic budget lines.

FOCUS AREAS

- Trade, investment and connectivity
- Climate change and the environment
- Governance, human rights, and security

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

<p>ARISE+ Indonesia</p> <p>2018-2023</p> <p>€15 MILLION</p>	<p>Support to sustainable investments — and — infrastructure</p> <p>€28.8 MILLION</p>	<p>Safe & Fair Migration (Indonesia component)</p> <p>2018-2023</p> <p>€3 MILLION</p>
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HIGHLIGHTS OF EU COOPERATION

Indonesia is the first country to obtain Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licencing for sustainable timber products

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

- ★ **NEW PROJECTS:**
 - Support for sustainable investments and infrastructure
 - Sustainable urbanisation

LAO PDR



1997 Cooperation Agreement between European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN Member States came into force

TOTAL FUNDING SUPPORT **€ 203 MILLION** 2014-2020

FOCUS AREAS

- Nutrition >>>
- Education >>>
- Good Governance >>>

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

	Nutrition Support Programme	2014-2020	€ 100 MILLION
	Basic Education Support Programme	2018-2021	€ 62 MILLION
	Citizen Engagement for Good Governance, Accountability and Rule of Law	2017-2020	€ 18 MILLION

HIGHLIGHTS OF EU COOPERATION

- The EU and its Member States are the leading providers of development assistance in Lao PDR with over **€650 million funding (2016-2020)**
- Effective cooperation through Joint Programming with EU Member States and Switzerland, aligned with Lao PDR's national priorities

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

- ★ Support to the publication and dissemination of the new Penal Code
- ★ Continued support to capacity-building of Lao PDR's public administration





MALAYSIA



1980

Cooperation Agreement between European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN Member States came into force



Malaysia continues to receive support through regional and thematic budget lines

FOCUS AREAS

Business development

Environment and climate change

Support to civil society



FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Support to European Business in South East Asia Markets – SEBSEAM
2013-2020 € **2.7** MILLION

Tackling Climate Change through Sustainable Forest Management and Community Development
2013-2019 € **4** MILLION

Civil society support projects in Malaysia aim to strengthen the role of civil society in key areas, including those linked to media, indigenous peoples, human rights and gender

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

★ For the first time since 2011, the EU launched a call to support CSOs under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights



MYANMAR



2013

EU Delegation opened in Yangon

TOTAL FUNDING SUPPORT



FOCUS AREAS

Rural development, agriculture, food & nutrition security

Education

Governance, the rule of law and state capacity building

Peacebuilding

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

SMART Textile & Garments
Promotes sustainable consumption and production of garments
FROM 2019

Education Budget Support Programme
2019-2022
€ **221** MILLION

HIGHLIGHTS OF EU COOPERATION



The EU is one of Myanmar's most significant donors, supporting the country's continued reform process and efforts to build a stable democracy

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

★ The EU and Myanmar held their first Senior Officials' Meeting on 16 May





THE PHILIPPINES



1980

Cooperation Agreement between European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN Member States came into force

TOTAL FUNDING SUPPORT

€ **216** — MILLION

2014
2020

FOCUS AREAS



Justice and rule of law



Inclusive growth through access to sustainable energy



Job creation and peace building in Mindanao

HIGHLIGHTS OF EU COOPERATION



Alignment with the Philippine Development Plan which aims to achieve inclusive growth for all



Cooperation with CSOs in the implementation of EU projects

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

★ "Justice Zones" in six cities promote efficient cooperation between local stakeholders supported by the Go Just programme

★ The EU received the Golden Dagitab Award by the Philippine National Electrification Administration for its work on renewable energy

★ "Project of the Year Award" for the EU's programme supporting health facilities in drug users' recovery by prominent media



SINGAPORE



1980

Cooperation Agreement between European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN Member States came into force

FOCUS AREAS



Trade and investment



Regional and global security



Economic development

HIGHLIGHTS OF EU COOPERATION



The EU supports private sector development through the EU Business Avenues in Southeast Asia programme



From July 2016 to December 2019, 16 business missions have been successfully organised in the ASEAN region to showcase EU innovative technologies

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

★ The EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement came into force on 21 November 2019

★ The EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (EUSIPA) and Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (ESPCA) - signed in October 2018 - were ratified by the European Parliament in February 2019



★ The ESCPA will strengthen political dialogue with Singapore and enhance cooperation in a broad range of areas



THAILAND



1980 Cooperation Agreement between European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN Member States came into force



Thailand continues to receive support through regional and thematic budget lines

FOCUS AREAS

- Sustainable growth and development
- Human development and migration
- Environment and climate change

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Ship to Shore Rights Project

2016-2019

€3.7 MILLION

Aid to Uprooted People

2016-2021

€16 MILLION

HIGHLIGHTS OF EU COOPERATION



The "Ship to Shore Rights Project" improves working and living conditions for migrant workers in the fishing and seafood sector

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

- ★ Close cooperation with Thailand as ASEAN Chair under the theme "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability"
- ★ The EU lifted the "yellow card", recognising Thailand's efforts to tackle illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- ★ In February 2019, Thailand became the first country in Asia to ratify the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No.188)

VIETNAM



1999 Cooperation Agreement between European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN Member States came into force

TOTAL FUNDING SUPPORT € **325** MILLION 2014-2020

FOCUS AREAS

- Renewable / Sustainable Energy
- Government and Rule of Law
- Trade
- Sustainable consumption and production

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

EU-Vietnam Energy Facility

2018-2021

€108 MILLION

HIGHLIGHTS OF EU COOPERATION



The EU's budget support programme to the energy sector in Vietnam is the biggest in the world, with an indicative allocation of €266 million for 2014-2020

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

- ★ The EU and Vietnam signed a Free Trade Agreement in June 2019
- ★ In October 2019, Vietnam became the first country in ASEAN to sign the Framework Participation Agreement with the EU, setting a legal basis to facilitate Vietnam's participation in EU-led civilian and military crisis management operations

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