

# Blue Book 2018

## EU-ASEAN Cooperation



Resilient and  
Reliable Partners





**Blue Book 2018**  
EU-ASEAN Cooperation



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# Foreword

by the Director-General for International Cooperation and Development at the European Commission



The relationship between the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is built on strong foundations. Relations have grown over time and encompass today a broad spectrum of social, political, economic, trade, developmental, and security dimensions.

Dialogue and cooperation are the basis of the EU-ASEAN partnership. The EU is one of ASEAN's longstanding dialogue partners and one of ASEAN's main development partners, both at regional and bilateral levels.

In times when our favoured multilateral and rules-based approach faces many challenges, we address jointly the most pressing issues of our time including climate change, poverty, global and regional security, and gender equality.

The year 2017 marked 40 years of the EU-ASEAN partnership, and the start of a new high-level dialogue on sustainable development. The first dialogue was co-chaired by the Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs Don Pramudwinai in his role of ASEAN Coordinator for Sustainable Development Cooperation and by the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica, evidencing its importance. This event in November 2017 was only the latest example of our deepening relationship, which reflects our shared commitment to the UN 2030 Agenda on

Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The EU and ASEAN bring together more than one billion people and two of the world's largest economic areas. We are reliable partners, who exemplify the benefits of regional integration and advocate a life of dignity for all reconciling economic prosperity, peaceful societies, social inclusion, and environmental responsibility. The new ASEAN-EU Plan of Action 2018-2022 provides the framework for our reinforced cooperation on the basis of these shared principles.

EU regional and bilateral development assistance focuses on areas where the EU and ASEAN can work together to counter negative trends. We have set our sights high on regional economic integration for reducing the development gap, on biodiversity conservation, improved border management and migration, and better and more mobile higher education. These are only few examples of our joint efforts to achieve tangible results for all citizens.

This Blue Book demonstrates the success and benefits of our close cooperation. By joining forces, we will continue to build on these achievements and contribute to prosperity, stability and security for all.

## Stefano Manservigi

*Director-General for International Cooperation and Development at the European Commission*



# Foreword

by the EU Ambassador to ASEAN



It is a great pleasure for me to introduce the 2018 Blue Book, our annual report on cooperation between the European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with contributions from several EU Members States.

2017 was very special for both our regions. It marked 60 years since the beginning of the EU, 50 years since the creation of ASEAN and 40 years since the establishment of formal dialogue relations between our two regions. It is not every day that we celebrate four decades of friendship, and together we marked this momentous occasion with events and high-level visits throughout the year.

The EU Mission to ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat organised the inaugural EU-ASEAN Run in Jakarta, as well as the first-ever ASEAN-EU Concert of classical and traditional music from both regions.

EU High Representative Federica Mogherini attended the 50th ASEAN anniversary celebrations in Manila, and together with ASEAN Foreign Ministers they adopted the new ASEAN-EU Plan of Action for 2018-2022.

Environment Commissioner Karmenu Vella was in Jakarta, where the EU and ASEAN reaffirmed their commitment to combat climate change. Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström was in Manila, where she and ASEAN Trade Ministers agreed on the next steps for a future EU-ASEAN free trade agreement. Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc was in Bali, to launch the first EU-ASEAN High-Level Dialogue on Multimodal

Transport with ASEAN Transport Ministers. And Development Commissioner Neven Mimica was in Bangkok, to launch the first High-Level ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development.

Last but far from least, in November the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, attended the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit in Manila, where he invited ASEAN leaders to come to the EU for their next meeting. President Tusk also participated for the first time as the Guest of the Chair at the East Asia Summit.

With these much-celebrated anniversaries now behind us, we turn our focus to the busy and bright road ahead. We look forward to further important occasions, like the EU-ASEAN Leaders' Meeting and the EU-ASEAN Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meeting, both due to take place in Europe in the months to come. And as the economic, security and people-to-people exchanges between ASEAN and the EU continue to grow stronger, we will be redoubling efforts to complete our strategic partnership.

On the following pages you can learn more about the impact of our cooperation, which brings together two regions covering 38 countries and over one billion people. Thank you for your interest in the work of the European Union and ASEAN, and I hope that you will enjoy our publication.

## Francisco Fontan

*EU Ambassador to ASEAN*



## The EU Today

### Delivering peace, stability, and prosperity

While Europe is sometimes referred to as “the old continent”, the history of the European Union (EU) began just over 60 years ago, in the aftermath of the Second World War. In 1957, six European countries decided to establish economic and trade links so close that military conflict among them would become all but impossible. The project overcame all expectations, as they (and others who joined them along the way) succeeded in building the “single market” – one unified economic territory covering all 28 EU Member States, without any internal borders or other regulatory obstacles to the free movement of people, goods, services and capital.

But the EU does not stop at the single market. What began as an economic partnership has evolved to become the most ambitious political union of sovereign states anywhere in the world, governed by the principle of representative democracy. European citizens vote directly in elections to the European Parliament (in addition to their national assemblies), and can contribute to the democratic life of the Union by having a say in the development of EU policies and laws.

The EU has made its Member States stronger, safer and more prosperous, and today more than 500 million EU citizens enjoy the many benefits of the Union. For example, they are able to travel freely thanks to the abolition of internal border controls, and they can choose in which country they want to study, work or retire. And they are all protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which brings together in a single text all the personal, civic, political, economic and social rights enjoyed by people within the EU.

As the world’s largest trading block, biggest exporter and most significant market for over 100 other countries, the EU unequivocally supports free trade. With its firm commitment to regionalism and multilateralism, the EU is playing an important role in tackling global challenges such as climate change, security and migration, and together with its Member States it is the world’s leading provider of development aid. And the EU is increasingly speaking with one voice in its external relations, where it promotes stability, prosperity, democracy, fundamental freedoms and a global order based on international law.

### Current EU Leadership Team



**Antonio Tajani**  
The President of  
the European Parliament



**Donald Tusk**  
The President of  
the European Council



**Jean-Claude Juncker**  
The President of  
the European Commission



**Federica Mogherini**  
High Representative of  
the Union for Foreign Affairs  
and Security Policy / Vice-President  
of the European Commission

## The EU and ASEAN

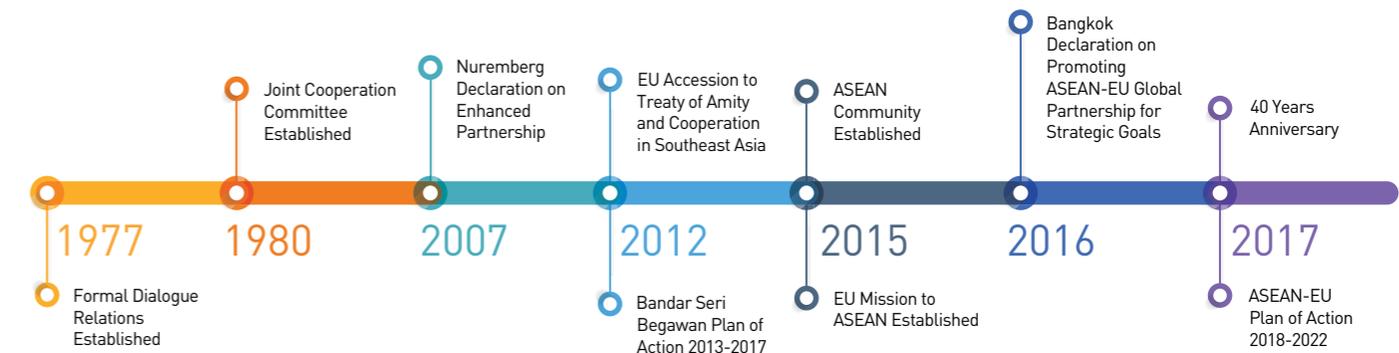
### Resilient and reliable partners

The European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are the two most advanced regional integration initiatives in the world. As natural partners, for over 40 years they have cooperated across a broad range of sectors including trade, investment, education, connectivity and sustainable development. The EU has become the largest provider of foreign direct investment in ASEAN, its first partner in development cooperation, its second largest trading partner and an increasingly important destination for investment from ASEAN.

The EU has compelling economic, sectoral and political reasons to enhance its cooperation with ASEAN, a pivotal player in a region of strategic importance. This was confirmed in the EU’s 2015 Joint Communication “The EU and ASEAN: a partnership with a strategic purpose”, in which the EU put forward concrete ideas for taking EU-ASEAN relations to the next level by providing a more coherent framework for sectoral cooperation and ensuring a sharper political focus.

EU-ASEAN relations continue to expand into new fields such as maritime security, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, illustrating the EU’s growing credentials as a security actor and its desire to engage with the region through all ASEAN-led processes. In 2015 the EU took its engagement with ASEAN to a new level, choosing ASEAN Day (August 8) to open the EU Mission to ASEAN with a dedicated Ambassador based in Jakarta. The following year the two sides issued the “Bangkok Declaration on Promoting an ASEAN-EU Global Partnership for Shared Strategic Goals”, taking them another step closer towards a Strategic Partnership.

Today, there is a new momentum in EU-ASEAN relations and both sides have an interest in sustaining it. The EU and ASEAN will continue to deepen their strategic cooperation, including through a renewed focus on political and security issues, to address global challenges and to achieve the shared goals of peace, stability and prosperity for their citizens.



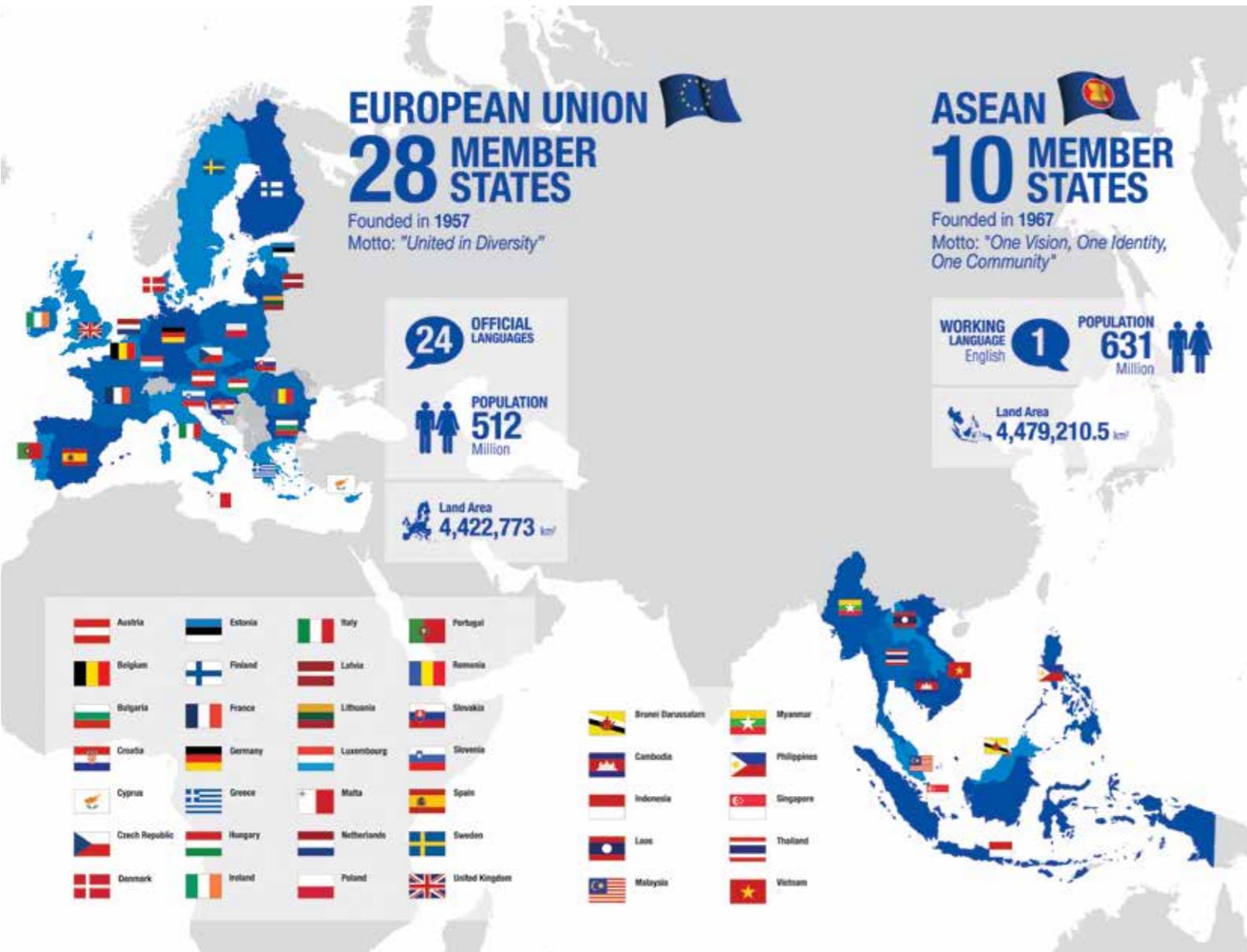


A closer look:

The New ASEAN-EU Plan of Action 2018-2022

Following the successful implementation of the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action for 2013-2017, the two sides worked jointly on a new document that would open the way towards further reinforced cooperation between them.

The new Plan of Action was adopted in August 2017 on the occasion of the ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Manila, co-chaired by the EU High Representative Federica Mogherini and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Don Pramudwinai. At that same meeting the EU and ASEAN committed to exploring new areas of cooperation in trade, security and defence, counter-terrorism and climate action. The meeting also adopted a Joint Statement on the Paris Agreement and a Statement on the 40th Anniversary of EU-ASEAN Dialogue Relations.



## European Council President at the East Asia Summit

On 14 November 2017 the Philippines welcomed Donald Tusk, the President of the European Council, as a first-time Guest of the Chair of the East Asia Summit (EAS). His presence at the EAS highlighted the tremendous importance that Europe attaches to strengthening ties with the region.

President Tusk called for enhanced cooperation between Europe and Asia, saying that “in a world where the geo-political realities are changing fast, and where global threats and challenges endanger Asians and Europeans alike, Europe needs Asia, and Asia needs Europe.”

President Tusk also joined ASEAN leaders at a special Commemorative Summit to celebrate 40 years of dialogue relations between ASEAN and the EU, where the two sides agreed to accelerate efforts toward the establishment of a Strategic Partnership. President Tusk used the occasion of the Commemorative Summit to reaffirm the EU’s commitment to ASEAN integration. He welcomed growing cooperation on political and security matters under the new ASEAN-EU Plan of Action 2018–2022, and called on the two sides to work toward a future region-to-region trade agreement.



## EU Trade Commissioner Meets ASEAN Economic Ministers

Cecilia Malmström, the EU’s top trade official, travelled to Singapore on 1-2 March 2018 for the 16th annual trade consultations between ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the European Union.

The AEM and the EU Trade Commissioner noted the Progress Report presented by the Joint Working Group (JWG) for the development of a Framework setting out the parameters of a future ASEAN-EU FTA. The Ministers tasked Senior Economic Officials to continue efforts in developing the Framework, including through continued domestic consultations and engagements in experts’ dialogues.

The AEM and the EU Trade Commissioner also noted the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme for 2017–2018, which includes various projects on trade facilitation, customs integration, standards harmonisation, and statistics and integration monitoring.

The EU Trade Commissioner welcomed the convening of the 6th ASEAN-EU Business Summit on 2 March 2018, noting the importance of having an annual platform for business leaders, thought-leaders and policy makers to interact and debate key business and trade issues.

On the side-lines of the EU-ASEAN meeting, Commissioner Malmström met with trade and economic Ministers from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Secretary General of ASEAN and held talks with representatives of the ASEAN-EU Business Council.

Commissioner Malmström said “the EU and ASEAN are committed to take the lead together on regional and global trade. The EU remains strongly committed to advancing a positive global trade agenda, in which all sides are winners.”



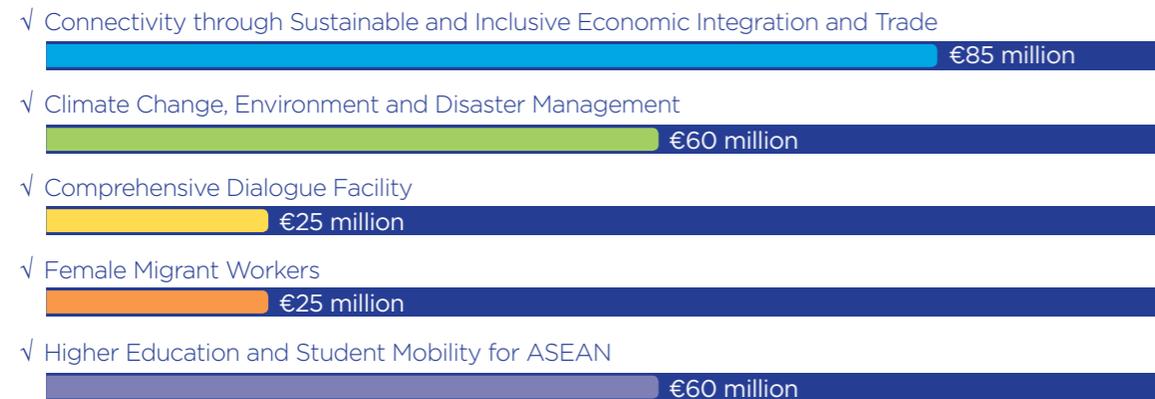
# EU-ASEAN Development Cooperation

The European Union is committed to deepening its relationship with ASEAN. In 2017, the strategic focus of EU-ASEAN cooperation was demonstrated through the launch of a ministerial High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangkok, attended by EU Commissioner Neven Mimica. This dialogue will be continued on a regular basis and highlights the contribution of our cooperation to achieving the SDGs in the ASEAN region and further narrowing the development gap among ASEAN Member States.

EU cooperation with ASEAN continues to grow fast. From 2014 to 2020, more than €170 million were earmarked to support ASEAN regional integration - more than double the amount allocated for the previous period from 2007 to 2013. The highlights of 2017 include the launch

of ARISE Plus and the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI), with a combined investment of €61 million, and the commitment of €10 million to support the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). Additional support is given to regional programmes with specific thematic focus for instance on climate change and environment. In addition, in 2017, the EU Spotlight Initiative to support female migrant workers was launched.

Further bilateral development cooperation with individual ASEAN Member States includes more than €3 billion pledged to the lower-middle income ASEAN countries such as Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and the Philippines for 2014-2020.



### EU Development Cooperation supports:

- ✓ Regional integration
- ✓ Regional programmes with a specific thematic focus
- ✓ Bilateral assistance to ASEAN Member States

The EU's support to ASEAN covers three main areas which are discussed and endorsed at the annual ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee meeting. All initiatives are designed to be flexible so that they can respond to the evolving needs of integration as defined by ASEAN.

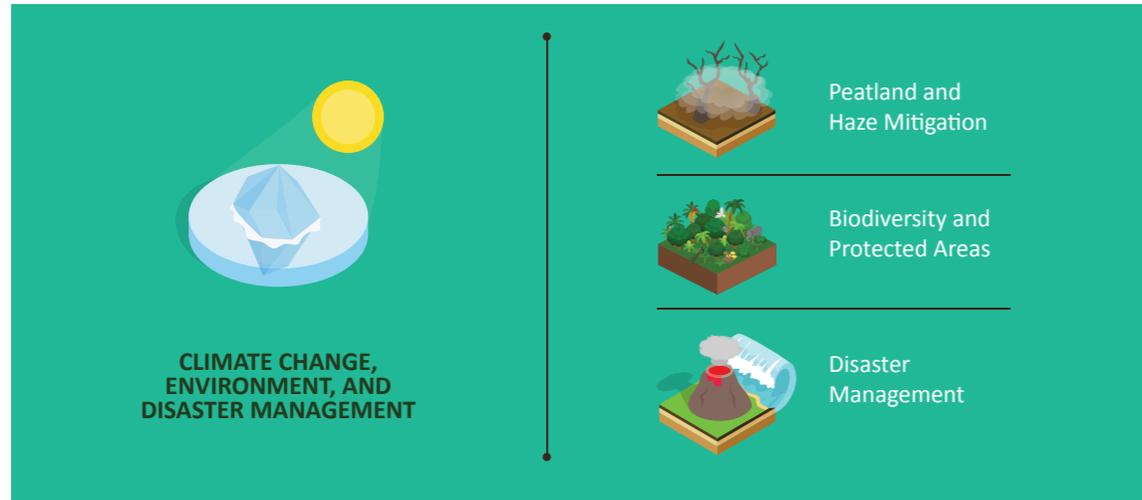
### Connectivity through Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Integration and Trade

Underpinned by the success generated from previous bilateral cooperation, activities in this area improve institutional connectivity and

contribute to the development and completion of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). The agenda foresees enhanced cooperation on issues such as trade-related regulatory and policy frameworks, intellectual property rights, standards, customs and transport, as well as civil aviation under the new ARISE Plus programme. The concept of connectivity is central to EU-ASEAN cooperation, with the overall objective of bringing businesses, people and institutions closer together to boost trade and investment whilst promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth across the region.

Inclusiveness is fostered through the special attention provided to the countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV). Support for the trade and integration agendas will be both at the regional and national level. This will include capacity-building measures, including for trade negotiations and for the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as to support ASEAN Member States with the implementation of their integration commitments.





### Climate Change, Environment and Disaster Management

Development activities in climate change, environment and disaster management are informed by the objectives contained in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural and Political and Security Communities' blueprints. Cooperation in these areas is based on the ASEAN Climate Change Initiative (ACCI) and the related ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change. Mitigation efforts aim to foster efficient, clean and renewable energy as well as the enhanced sustainable management of peatlands and the reduction of problems caused by trans-boundary haze.

Activities which focus on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are aligned with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response

(AADMER). A Commission Decision from September 2017 builds on previous institutional support and aims to further strengthen ASEAN's institutional and disaster response capacities through the ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance.

EU-ASEAN thematic programmes also preserve the biodiversity of Southeast Asia by strengthening the institutional capacities of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and support family farming and farmers' organisations across ASEAN Members States. The latter action aims at increasing food security and the adaptation to climate change. These efforts help accelerate the shift toward regional cooperation and rural development in ASEAN. Discussions on marine debris including plastic waste, and creating sustainable, climate resilient, and low carbon cities in ASEAN are also ongoing.

### EU-ASEAN DIALOGUE ON A WIDE VARIETY OF TOPICS



### Comprehensive Dialogue Facility

In 2017, the new E-READI Facility started building on the experience of the previous successful Regional EU ASEAN Dialogue Initiative (READI). The latter has helped significantly strengthen relations between the two regions.

E-READI is designed to be flexible and cover subjects crossing all the pillars of the ASEAN Community - the Security and Political pillar, the Economic pillar, and the Socio-Cultural pillar - including a range of topics where the development of policies can improve the situation of the poorest. It will boost EU support to ASEAN's integration agenda in areas of strategic importance for both regions and enhance dialogue with the EU. These dialogues will be complementary to and coordinated with other actions outside the EU's Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI).

**The READI Human Rights Facility (2015-2017) exclusively supported four ASEAN human rights bodies and committees:**

- ✓ the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR),
- ✓ the ASEAN Commission on Women and Children (ACWC),
- ✓ the ASEAN Committee on Migrant Workers (ACMW),
- ✓ the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW).

## A closer look:

## High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



The inaugural High-Level ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development was successfully launched in Bangkok on 17 November 2017. Co-chaired by Mr. Don Pramudwinai, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and Mr. Neven Mimica, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, it gathered ministers and senior representatives from ASEAN and EU Member States, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat.

This regular dialogue focuses on the question of how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can effectively be implemented. The global commitment to promote cooperation in this regard is shared by ASEAN and the EU and forms an integral part of both the EU and ASEAN regional integration processes, helping to ensure that they are people-centred and leave no one behind. These regional integration processes thus

serve as a tool to narrow the development gap. The EU's commitment to this agenda is based on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of 2015 and the new European Consensus on Development adopted in 2017.

Important cross-cutting development issues addressed both by ASEAN and the EU can serve as catalyst to attain multiple SDGs, namely: promoting gender equality and particularly the empowerment of women and girls as a key driver of change; promoting green growth and circular economy, including environmentally sustainable and climate resilient cities, sustainable consumption and production, and addressing the challenges of climate change. In addition, the SDG dialogue provided a forum for exchange on how to implement the 2030 Agenda using traditional as well as innovative modes of engagement, including triangular and South-South cooperation. This also includes finding ways to effectively involve the private sector, the civil society, and academia, which play an important role in promoting sustainable development and localising the SDGs – and thus in assuring their achievement.

Following-up on this first dialogue meeting, the EU and ASEAN are exploring concrete initiatives in line with the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action 2018-2022, and building on the ongoing and recently launched regional programmes. Possible triangular cooperation initiatives are also being explored.



## Political and Security Cooperation Global Partnership for Shared Strategic Goals

### HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL DIALOGUE

40 years of relations between the EU and ASEAN were celebrated by the President of the European Council Donald Tusk at the Commemorative ASEAN-EU Summit in Manila on 14 November 2017. On the same day, President Tusk was invited as Guest of the Chair to the East Asia Summit – a first for the EU.

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini attended celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN, the ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting, and the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in Manila in early August. The Post-Ministerial Conference was a milestone event that saw the adoption of the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action for 2018-2022, paving the way for a reinforced cooperation between the two sides.

Recent years have witnessed an unprecedented number of top-level visits by EU officials to Southeast Asia. High Representative Federica Mogherini travelled to Manila in August 2017 to co-chair the EU-ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference, and attend the ASEAN Regional Forum. In November 2017 President Donald Tusk

attended an ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit of the 40th anniversary of official ASEAN-EU relations in Manila and participated for the first time in the East Asia Summit as Guest of the Philippines' Chair. Looking ahead, an EU-ASEAN Leaders' Meeting, at the invitation of President Tusk and President Juncker, is scheduled to take place in Brussels in October 2018.

### ASEAN-EU POLICY DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The second ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogue on Human Rights was held in November 2017, addressing issues such as trafficking in persons, business and human rights, women's rights, child protection and the safety of migrant workers. It was supported by the READI Human Rights programme.

The EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Stavros Lambrinidis, has also been active in Southeast Asia to intensify dialogue on human rights. He met with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in May 2013 and travelled to Jakarta twice during 2014. In October 2015 the AICHR visited the EU institutions for the second time on a full-week visit during which the first EU-ASEAN Policy Dialogue



on Human Rights took place. Mr. Lambrinidis travelled to the Philippines in November 2017 for the second edition of the Policy Dialogue.

### CBRN

The Regional Secretariat of the EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence in Manila fosters knowledge sharing and technical support in CBRN risk mitigation, with approximately €20 million in funds already allocated to Southeast Asia.

The EU also continues to step up its involvement in security and defence matters, commensurate with its global role and responsibilities. Accordingly, cooperation on security issues is a growing aspect of the EU's relationship with ASEAN, and already includes a number of non-traditional security areas such as maritime security, conflict prevention, mediation and reconciliation, crisis management, transnational crime, counter-terrorism, cyber security, and non-proliferation.

### BORDER MANAGEMENT

Through the EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Programme II, implemented by INTERPOL, the EU supports capacity building of ASEAN Member States in addressing the

challenges of trans-national crime, and conducts a feasibility study of visa liberalisation in ASEAN.

The EU has so far organised three Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) orientation courses for ASEAN countries, informing ASEAN representatives on the EU's civilian and military missions and operations. In 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017 the EU organised High Level Dialogues on Maritime Security, which bring together senior officials and experts to discuss maritime security related challenges and possible solutions.

### EU CSDP SEMINAR

Since 2014, the EU has hosted three Orientation Courses on the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), with the participation of high-ranking officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence from ASEAN Member States

The EU also plays an active role in the regional security architecture, as illustrated by the participation of the High Representative Federica Mogherini in the ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial meetings and at the Shangri La Dialogue. The Chairman of the EU Military Committee has paid several visits to the respective chairs of ASEAN and has also attended the Shangri La Dialogue and the Asia Pacific Roundtable. The EU is co-chairing

- together with Australia and Vietnam - the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security until 2020.

### MARITIME SECURITY

A High-Level Dialogue (HLD) on Maritime Security cooperation takes place regularly since 2013, exploring maritime security, inter-agency coordination, investigation of incidents, and port security. Its 4<sup>th</sup> edition was held in Manila in October 2017. The dialogue also aims to develop concrete activities to strengthen bilateral cooperation in this area. The EU is also co-chairing with Australia and Vietnam the ARF ISM on Maritime Security during 2018-2020.

The EU has also co-chaired a number of initiatives in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) framework, for instance three training courses on Preventive Diplomacy, Mediation and Early Warning Systems as well as an ARF Workshop on The Prevention of Violent

Extremism (February 2017 in Brussels) and on Trafficking in Persons (Semarang, Indonesia, April 2017). Other security-related initiatives between the EU and the ARF include Inter-Sessional Meetings on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, the Defence Officials Dialogue, and Disaster Relief Exercises.

### FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

An official dialogue between ASEAN and EU Senior Officials takes place annually to discuss transnational crime and identify areas of cooperation. The meeting took place for the 17<sup>th</sup> time in 2017 in the margins of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC). The meeting assured continued cooperation, notably on counter-terrorism, cyber security and trafficking in human beings, but also an interest to increase cooperation with INTERPOL/EUROPOL.



## Immigration, technology and global security

### EU-ASEAN Border Management Programme II

Under the umbrella of the EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Programme II, INTERPOL deployed a Major Events Support Team (IMEST) to train and assist Philippine Law Enforcement Agencies during the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila on 13 November 2017, in particular, to reinforce the screening of passengers arriving in the Philippines during the event. The IMEST helped connect immigration officers at Manila International Airport to its global network whereby travellers were systematically screened against INTERPOL's databases to determine potential threats. Multiple hits against INTERPOL's databases have led to the arrest and return to the Netherlands of an individual wanted internationally under an INTERPOL Red Notice.

*"The Philippine Government is grateful to INTERPOL for its strong support in helping make the ASEAN Summit a secure event. Close cooperation between Philippine law enforcement agencies and INTERPOL's IMEST team contributed towards maximising security conditions at the international event."* - Felizardo Serapio, Head of INTERPOL's National Central Bureau in Manila



## The heart of EU diplomacy

### EU READI Human Rights Facility

In May 2017, the READI Human Rights Facility organised a study visit to Belgium featuring representatives from the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW). During the visit, the representatives learned about freedom of movement in the EU, access to employment and relevant rights, and obligations of migrant workers through exchanges with EU officials in charge of international cooperation, the Ministry of Justice of Belgium, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, and an NGO focusing on promotion of diversity (FOYER), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) and Payoke.

*"The study visit provided ACMW with an appreciation of the EU as a dialogue partner of ASEAN and how it benefits ASEAN Member States, not just in trade negotiations, but also in other policy areas including political, security and socio-cultural affairs."* - Attorney Brigido J. Dulay, Deputy Administrator of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration of Department of Labour and Employment of the Philippines



## Safeguarding human rights

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogue on Human Rights

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogue on Human Rights was held in Bohol, the Philippines on 29 November 2017 and hosted by the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). The policy exchange provided a platform for the EU and ASEAN to exchange views particularly on the issues of trafficking in persons, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, rights of the child, rights of migrant workers, business and human rights, as well as rights of persons with disabilities. At the end of the dialogue, both parties agreed to continue cooperation in human rights areas, including trafficking in persons, business and human rights, as well as women's and children's rights, and the rights of migrant workers.

*"The EU and ASEAN expressed their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms."* - Joint press release of 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogue on Human Rights



## Enhancing regional cooperation, nurturing diplomacy

### Diplomatic training courses

Since 2010, the Clingendael Institute of International Relations has run an annual training course in the field of diplomacy and regional cooperation for mid-career diplomats from Southeast Asian governments and the ASEAN Secretariat. The course consists of lectures, country presentations, working visits to various EU institutions, and a skills training seminar. In the spirit of the programme, participants were not only encouraged to share their perspectives during the course but were also given the opportunity to network and create new relationships, like the intercultural mixer which hosted other likeminded groups visiting Clingendael.

*"The course provided an opportunity for participants to improve their knowledge on regional issues and to learn the practical skills of diplomacy through lectures, interactive discussions, negotiation-skills training, scenario-building exercises, and working visits."* - Beni Sastranegara (Senior Officer for External Relations Division II, External Relations Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat)



## Learning the law of the sea and managing potential conflicts

### Capacity building for ASEAN diplomats and secretariat officers

Hugo Grotius, one of the founding fathers of international law, posed some of the key questions of international maritime law, such as: Where do national waters end and international waters begin? What constitutes an island and to whom does it belong? What happens to the natural resources underneath contested waters? These questions are becoming more relevant in an increasingly connected world. Experts from the Netherlands Institute of Law of the Sea (NILOS) at the University of Utrecht and the Clingendael Institute of International Relations provided a tailor-made course for Southeast Asian diplomats and ASEAN Secretariat officers in July 2017. Taking place at the capital of international law, The Hague, the course was sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

*“Programme participants saw the course as a great opportunity to discuss inter-related law of the sea issues and its essential elements with their counterparts.” - Sedy Hermawati, Senior Officer for Treaty Division, Legal Services and Agreements Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat*



## Fighting crime online

### Capacity building to counter terrorism

The Netherlands research organisation (TNO), in cooperation with INTERPOL, has provided workshops for financial specialists from government and law enforcement agencies of countries in Southeast Asia. Since its launch there have been two sessions in Singapore and one in Vietnam, training more than 60 financial specialists from 15 countries. The sessions familiarise participants with new technologies such as blockchain, the dark web, and cryptocurrencies so that they can identify and counter terrorist activities. This project is an example of how technical and operational outcomes can be generated through cooperation.

*“The lecture was a real eye-opener for someone like me who’s not familiar with the cyber world. I learned a lot during the workshop, especially, the practical tools which we can use back home to counter illegal activities on the dark web. The lecture was well thought out and maintained a strong focus on the practical skills required to take on the cyber world!” - CapaCT participant*



## Economic Cooperation

### Together for Trade Facilitation

The EU continues to work on improving trade and economic relations with ASEAN, which benefits both regions economically, socially and politically. Enhanced dialogue and interactions on trade-related regulatory and policy frameworks, intellectual property, standards, customs and transport, and civil aviation have been supported by cooperation programmes such as on economic integration (ARISE), capacity building for monitoring and statistics (COMPASS), as well as negotiations over an EU-ASEAN Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA).

Over the past decade, the economic relationship between the EU and ASEAN has matured as trade and investment have intensified. To illustrate the scale of this acceleration, since 2004, bilateral trade between the EU and ASEAN has more than doubled.

- ✓ The EU is the biggest investor in ASEAN economies
- ✓ Total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) stocks (€263 billion) account for nearly one quarter of the total FDI stock.
- ✓ Since 2004 EU companies have invested an average of €15 billion annually in the region
- ✓ In fact, the EU and its Member States have invested twice as much as the United States and four times as much as China during the same period

- ✓ EU imports from ASEAN are growing by more than 40%
- ✓ EU exports to ASEAN are growing by more than 60%
- ✓ The EU is ASEAN's 2nd largest trading partner (after China)
- ✓ ASEAN is the EU's 3rd largest trading partner outside Europe (after China and the US)

Despite these impressive figures, there is still scope for EU-ASEAN economic cooperation and trade relations to grow. With the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, the region is now moving towards the establishment of a single market and offers significant investment and export opportunities for European businesses. The EU-ASEAN Business Summit takes place on a regular basis and brings together business leaders and policy makers to shape commercial and diplomatic relations across a variety of sectors.



If ASEAN were a single economy, it would already be the fifth largest in the world. With an impressive annual average GDP growth rate of 5.5%, and a market that represents a population of more than 625 million people, ASEAN is set to become the fourth largest economy in the world.

At the latest ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting with the EU Trade Commissioner, Cecilia Malmström, in March 2018, Ministers agreed to continue the technical work on a framework for the possible resumption of the ASEAN-EU region-to-region FTA negotiations. Negotiations over trade and investment agreements between the EU and ASEAN are also taken forward on a bilateral level with several ASEAN Member States.

As regions, the EU and ASEAN benefit from enhanced connectivity among their member states. Thus, connectivity is an important area of engagement. ASEAN leaders adopted the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 in 2016 and ASEAN connectivity is embedded in most of the EU's programmes, which cover all strategic areas outlined in the MPAC (harmonisation of standards, mutual recognition of technical regulations

Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Investment Agreement Negotiations	
<b>Singapore</b>	FTA concluded 2013
<b>Vietnam</b>	FTA concluded 2015
<b>Myanmar</b>	Investment Protection Agreement launched in 2014
<b>Philippines</b>	FTA negotiations launched in 2016
<b>Indonesia</b>	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations launched in 2016
<b>Malaysia</b>	FTA negotiations launched in 2010 (on hold)
<b>Thailand</b>	FTA negotiations launched in 2013 (on hold)

and reduction of non-tariff measures under “regulatory excellence”, as well as “people-to-people mobility”).

It is worth noting that half of the EU development cooperation funding to ASEAN for 2014-2020 of €85 million has been allocated to ASEAN's economic integration. This reflects the priority the EU attaches to economic and trade connectivity as a bedrock of EU-ASEAN relations.

For instance, the new ARISE Plus programme, the biggest ever support programme with ASEAN (2017-2022), was kicked-off in November 2017. Within ARISE Plus, the EU engagement follows a unique two-level approach: regional activities, such as the ARISE Plus Regional programme (€40 million), follow the structure of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 and focus on trade facilitation, standards, customs, integration monitoring, intellectual property rights, and civil aviation. These are

complemented by national activities (circa €45 million), which support specific country needs and priorities of ASEAN Members States. This approach reinforces the coordination and inter-linkages between regional and national level interventions. These synergies will enhance the impact of EU programmes, nationally and regionally.

In addition to its development cooperation funds for ASEAN, the EU blends grants with loans from European and other international financial institutions under the Asia Investment Facility (AIF), for instance supporting project studies related to ASEAN connectivity and sustainable urban development in ASEAN countries. Moreover, SWITCH Asia, which supports sustainable consumption and production, and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) projects support sustainable forestry around the region. The EU is also strengthening farmers' organisations in the region.

In 2017, the ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP, €15 million) supported farmers' organisations activities in six ASEAN countries, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam, strengthening their institutional development, advocacy efforts, and private sector liaison. It thereby contributes to increasing food security and climate change adaptation efforts in the region.





## EU Support to Regional Integration: Achievements

In 2017 after four-and-a-half years, the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (**ARISE**) Programme (€15 million, 2012-2017), one of the most important EU-ASEAN programmes for regional economic integration, celebrated its successful completion.

### ARISE



✓ Conducted **115 workshops**,



✓ Gathered **4,309 participants**, including **1,370** from **CLMV countries** (Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam),



✓ Organised **99 ASEAN Meetings**



✓ Produced **30 publications**

ARISE supported the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint contributing to:

- **The freer flow of goods** in ASEAN by removing customs and transport barriers and enabling market integration. ASEAN now has effective and simplified Customs and Transport Procedures. The pilot ASEAN Custom Transit System (ACTS)

was designed and tested for Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. ARISE also helped improving the ASEAN policy framework for quality infrastructure, harmonised standards and accreditation, conformity assessment procedures, as well as post-market surveillance policies.

- **Enhancing ASEAN's economic integration process** through intensified EU-ASEAN dialogue on wider strategic options drawing on EU experience. It enhanced the AEC Scorecard with inputs for the development and endorsement of the official AEC 2025 Monitoring & Evaluation Framework.
- **Strengthening the institutional capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat** through an increase in staff in key economic integration areas. The related staff is now fully integrated into the Secretariat. This unique approach was crucial for ARISE to achieve the desired outputs and will have a lasting impact. The Grant also supported the development of the institutional capacities of the Secretariat to become more service-orientated.



ARISE leaves a strong legacy and several flagship interventions which will be enhanced under the successor programme, ARISE Plus:

- The **ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR)** enhances transparency on trade and customs procedures. The ATR is an electronic interface through which the public can access the information available on the National Trade Repository of each ASEAN Member State. The ATR is available online at <http://atr.asean.org>.
- The **ASEAN Solutions for Services, Investments and Trade (ASSIST)** provides a consultative, non-binding tool for ASEAN enterprises to refer trade-related problems to ASEAN Member States. ASSIST is a free web-based tool available at <http://assist.asean.org/>.
- The **ASEAN Customs Transit System (ATCS)** is a computerised customs transit management system piloted in the North-South Corridor under ARISE and to be rolled-out to the CLMV countries under ARISE Plus. This allows private companies to move goods between countries faster and, in turn, lower the cost for traders. The ACTS is accessible at <https://acts.asean.org/>.
- The **ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC)** hosted by the Food Safety and Quality Division of Malaysia's Ministry of Health, provides independent scientific opinions on food safety issues of common interest. The ARAC can be visited at [www.arac-asean.org/](http://www.arac-asean.org/).

## Tackling disparity through transparency

### EU-ASEAN Capacity Building Project for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics

The EU-ASEAN Capacity Building Project for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics (COMPASS - €7.5 million, 2014-2018), builds the capacity of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office to monitor the process and results of regional integration. Trainings and workshops enhanced the capacity of national data producers (statistical offices, customs, ministries of trade, and central banks) to consolidate regional statistics, thus contributing to narrowing the development gap between ASEAN members States. In 2017, COMPASS supported ASEAN to produce two highly praised statistical publications, "Celebrating ASEAN: 50 years of evolution & progress" and the comprehensive "ASEAN Statistical Report on MDGs 2007".

*"This publication presents a collection of statistical indicators from ASEANstats' databases, and highlights the main findings observed to showcase the evolution and progress of ASEAN over the past decades."* - Le Luong Minh, former Secretary-General of ASEAN, in the foreword of Celebrating ASEAN: 50 years of evolution & progress



## Innovative farming

### ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme

A new farming technology has improved farm productivity and climate resilience for family farmers in Jeng Village, Laos. It is less labour intensive and uses less water than conventional farming methods while increasing rice yields. This innovative, climate resilience agri-technique is based on the farmer's indigenous knowledge, supported by scientific knowledge from research institution and other partners. It was developed through participatory research, video documentation, and farmer-to-farmer exchange, funded by the EU ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme. The adoption of this farming practice, in particular, improved the livelihoods of women who traditionally bear the brunt of manual labour in the fields.

*"Our yield has increased 20-30% compared to conventional rice growing techniques while labour for rice transplanting is significantly reduced (about 38 working day reduction per Ha)." - Khammoune Xaymany, President of the Lao Farmer Network*



## Organic food online

### ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme

With their "Farmer's Baskets", youth in the Thongmang organic vegetable group are engaging in agriculture by purchasing organic vegetables and fruits and marketing them through social media and selling them directly to the consumers. This initiative, implemented by the ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme, increases farmer's incomes while providing healthy food for consumers by cutting costs and reducing the number of intermediaries throughout the value-chain. The Programme supported the training of young farmers in organic vegetable production, product design, collective marketing, and online distribution. In particular, the use of social media for marketing purposes has boosted interest of young people in agriculture.

*"70% of profit is divided among our team members, 30% are kept in a savings fund. I am very happy because I make some income from my free time from school."* - Alisa Souvathy (13 years old), a team member of the farmer basket



## From little things big things grow

### ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme

Cocoa farmers in Semarang, Central Java, were able to increase their income and the quality of produced cocoa with the support of the EU. Members of Ngudi Mulyo, a union of cocoa farmers' associations are provided equipment for fermentation and drying of beans, trained in cocoa production and primary processing practices, and benefit from collective sales. In addition, the organisation mobilised the support of the Indonesian Coffee and Cocoa Research Institute to improve the quality of the beans and is now engaging with the Indonesian Cocoa and Chocolate Industry Association to improve the quality of processed cocoa products.

*"Ngudi Mulyo has enabled me to achieve greater autonomy. Its cocoa project provided me with the knowledge and skills necessary to produce quality cocoa and maintain my plantation."*  
- Sri Murtirahayu, member of Ngudi Mulyo



## Boosting international trade National Accreditation Focal Point Concept

Internationally-recognised accreditation provides a single recognition of assessment certificates and reports. This is an essential component of cross border trade and, as a direct consequence, economic growth in ASEAN. The PTB (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt) project “Improving Quality Infrastructure in ASEAN” helps to develop the national accreditation services of Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar through both the provision of training and advisory services and by promoting partnership agreements with already established accreditation bodies in Thailand, Vietnam, and Singapore. This approach makes internationally-recognised accreditation for laboratories and inspection bodies available in partnership with an already recognised foreign accreditation body. This project eliminates potential technical barriers to trade and creates more opportunities for local businesses to trade internationally.



## Fair play, fair prices, fair choices Competition Policy Law

Competition policy is vital for encouraging innovation among suppliers and presenting more choices to consumers. That is why Germany supported the design of the comprehensive ASEAN Competition Action Plan (ACAP) 2017-2025. ACAP provides the strategic orientation of regional dialogue and cooperation on competition for the next ten years. In line with international good practices and through an “ASEAN helps ASEAN” approach, tools were also developed to guide and strengthen ASEAN competition regimes, to systematically build enforcement capacities, and promote greater compliance in the private sector.

*“We welcome the significant progress made to enact comprehensive competition laws, with nine ASEAN Member States having such competition laws to date. The key performance indicators identified in the ASEAN Competition Action Plan 2016-2025 monitors progress toward effective and enforceable competition rules that support a competitive ASEAN with efficient and well-functioning markets.” - Joint Media Statement of the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS’ (AEM), 3 August 2016*



## Getting everyone ‘round the table’ Multiplying Best Practices of Safe Food Production

Development goals are best achieved when public and private sectors cooperate. To strengthen food safety in Southeast Asia, the ASEAN-German Cooperation Project “Standards in the Southeast Asian Food Trade” (SAFT) established pilot projects, together with leading companies across the region to demonstrate the economic, environmental, and social benefits of certified farming practices. By showcasing best practices, the consortium aims to make the certification process more accessible to farmers. The feedback provided will inform future dialogue among key decision makers at the ASEAN level, advancing the safe production of food in Southeast Asia.

*“Lao Integrated Farms Inc. envisions Davao to be a source of organic produce to the Philippines. It is committed to providing a stable source of income to marginalised people in the region. This project shall become a vehicle to attain that vision.” - Benjamin Lao, Owner and CEO of Lao Integrated Farms Inc*



## Crafting climate diplomacy COP23 Yields a Decision on Issues Related to Agriculture

After years of longstanding discussions, the 23rd Conference of Parties (COP23) marks a momentous occasion as it finally reached a decision on agriculture. The decision, which derives in part from the ASEAN Common Positions on Agriculture and put forward by the G77 and China Group of Countries, will pave the way towards a joint address on an array of challenges on issues related to agriculture, a topic that has not been prioritised in recent years. The ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN), supported by the ASEAN-German project Forestry and Climate Change (FOR-CC), promoted joint positions and the engagement of the agricultural sector, using processes from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to gain much needed support to expand climate-conscious agriculture practices in the region.

*“The agriculture sector plays a unique role in addressing the effects of climate change. ASEAN Member States need to speak with one voice to ensure that agriculture remains on the international agenda.” - Dr. Margaret Yoovatana, Thai Department of Agriculture*



## Bringing Southeast Asia together The ASEAN Secretariat Post 2015

With the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN aims to deepen the regional cooperation and integration process. The ASEAN Secretariat Post 2015, Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development project, commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office, contributes to this objective by strengthening the institutional capacity and outreach of the ASEAN Secretariat. With the support of the ASEC Post 2015 project, ASEAN introduced the ASEAN Media Forum in 2017, which is a platform for ASEAN to communicate its goals, achievements, and challenges to top media leaders while, at the same time, allowing for timely engagement, discussion, and debate on international, regional, and bilateral issues which affect the region.

*“The AMF got us up to speed with the latest issues, access senior ASEAN leaders, and gain new perspectives from key thinkers on topics of regional significance. Another benefit was the opportunity to network with our peers from across Southeast Asia.” - Thomas Keane, Editor in Chief of Frontier Myanmar*



## Climate conscious transport

### ASEAN Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (KLTSP) 2016 – 2025

In 2015, ASEAN endorsed the ASEAN Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (KLTSP) 2016-2025 which contains a series of recommendations that aim to establish a policy roadmap for sustainable transportation. To ensure its effectiveness, the ASEAN-German project title “Transport and Climate Change” (TCC) supported ASEAN Member States through cross-sectoral forums and expert group meetings on sustainable transport, resulting in a regional fuel economy roadmap, sustainable transport indicator guidelines, and a regional strategy for sustainable land transport. Moreover, the project mobilised co-funding from the EU’s SWITCH Asia programme to help 500 freight transport SMEs from the Mekong Region improve their performance.

*“Dr. Joe Fai Poon (Land Transport Authority, Singapore) thanked the German contribution to ASEAN in supporting the development of sustainable transport deliverables under KLTSP and events related to sustainable transport in ASEAN.” - Mentioned at the Second Expert Group on Sustainable Land Transport (EGSLT) held in Bangkok, Thailand, March 2017*



## Socio-Cultural Cooperation

### Building on Closer People-to-People Contacts

Closer people-to-people contacts are a core component of the EU-ASEAN partnership. The EU’s social and cultural cooperation activities aim to support ASEAN’s commitment to improving the quality of life of everyone in the region through people-centred and socially responsible action. With a strong focus on nurturing the human, cultural, and natural resources needed for harmonious relations between people, countries, and sustainable development, this work aims to build an inclusive society where livelihoods, individual well-being, and social welfare are prioritised. It is closely aligned with the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community Blueprint.

As one of the EU’s flagship programmes, the EU Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (EU SHARE) programme, along with university student exchanges through the Erasmus+ programme are inspiring and facilitating the increased regional mobility of ASEAN students, and raising the quality of university education. This cooperation extends to the sharing of EU experiences on mutual credit recognition, qualifications and regional accreditation systems.

Throughout 2016 and 2017, SHARE established the first ASEAN-wide mobility scheme for students and awarded 508 scholarships for students from eight ASEAN countries to undertake a short-term study programme from a selection of 32 universities in ASEAN and eight universities in Europe. SHARE co-organised five policy dialogues with education ministries from each ASEAN Member State during 2017. A possible future student exchange system and credit recognition system among ASEAN higher education institutions will not only increase the mobility of students and academic staff, but also for skilled workers in the region.

In total, more than 4,000 ASEAN students now travel to Europe on scholarships funded by the EU and its Member States each year. ASEAN’s strong participation in the EU’s Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development led to more than 100 successful projects in the region. There is little doubt that the future will see greater cooperation under the EU’s new research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020.

Closer people-to-people contacts are also seen as central to addressing global and trans-boundary challenges such as climate change and natural disasters. Due to geographical factors, many ASEAN countries are highly vulnerable to natural disasters and the reliability of food, water, and energy resources remains an area of concern due to high rates of population growth, urbanisation, migration, and wealth and income disparities. The EU has therefore supported the initiatives of ASEAN and Member States in supporting the environment, disaster management and mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change. For instance, the EU supports institutional capacities for disaster response in ASEAN (ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance). In addition, in 2017, two new EU-ASEAN programmes were launched to improve the sustainable use of peatlands and haze mitigation in ASEAN, as well as conserving biodiversity and sustainably managing protected areas in ASEAN.

**The Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN** programme (SUPA, €20 million) promotes the sustainable management of peatlands and the fight against transboundary haze pollution in ASEAN. It contributes to the mitigation of carbon emissions from carbon-rich ASEAN peatland areas, thereby reducing carbon emissions from ASEAN Member States, particularly from land-use and forestry. It also helps conserve the unique biodiversity within these ecosystems – home to highly endangered flora and fauna – through conservation and protection of the peatland areas.

**The Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN** (BCAMP) programme is implemented by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in the Philippines. Launched in mid-2017, it aims at enhancing the conservation of biodiversity and effective management of protected areas in the ASEAN region, such as ASEAN Heritage Parks. In parallel, an EU-ASEAN video competition invited youth in the region to join and document biodiversity efforts, contributing to awareness-raising for biodiversity conservation in the region.



## PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY

**38 ASEAN Heritage Parks – A Regional Network of National Protected Areas**

- Improve the management of protected areas
- Develop and mobilise knowledge and research for biodiversity conservation
- Strengthen regional capacities
- Enhance sustainable conservation

**The EU and ASEAN support:**

- ASEAN biodiversity
- A regional network of protected areas
- Better ASEAN Heritage Parks
- Conservation across the Mekong River and Borneo

## Window of knowledge and opportunity

### EU Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region

The EU Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (EU SHARE) programme has awarded 508 scholarships to students from eight ASEAN countries to undertake a short-term study in 32 ASEAN universities and eight universities in Europe. The intra-ASEAN scholarships contribute to ASEAN connectivity by creating people-to-people linkages and aim at developing a future student exchange and credit recognition system among ASEAN higher education institutions. SHARE is an initiative of the EU and ASEAN, which supports the harmonisation of higher education across the region and ASEAN's aspiration to develop its Higher Education Area.

*"I had gained self-development and academic performance; abundant experiences of new cultures and new languages and an opportunity to interact with locals as much as I could. Students play an important part in ASEAN connectivity. We are different, but we embrace the diversities."* – Thida Sann, a SHARE Awardee from the University of Cambodia who studied at Bina Nusantara University (Binus) - Indonesia



## Fighting communicable diseases

### Companion Approach Project

The ComAcross project, supported by France and the EU, successfully enhanced the health capacities of local authorities, villagers, scientists, and government officers in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia. The programme also promoted participatory approaches and enabled a collaborative process for knowledge sharing and intersectoral actions. The action helped strengthen the "One Health" approach by bridging health, environment and agricultural sectors and involving relevant stakeholders in the field fighting communicable diseases between animals and humans such as encephalites, rabies or worms, and improving waste management at the municipal level for a healthier environment. Furthermore, academic training for the next generation of practitioners was also developed.

*"This project is different because village leaders and farmers were asked about their problems and what matters most to them. This flexibility really makes a difference - to feel committed and empowered to propose new activities."*  
- villagers of Chang Rai Nok, Ayutthaya province, Thailand



## Member States Cooperation

### Shaping a sustainable future The ASEAN-German Energy Programme

The ASEAN-German Energy Programme, implemented by the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and GIZ, aims to increase renewable energy sources and improve energy efficiency in ASEAN. The programme supported the publication of the 5th ASEAN Energy Outlook (AEO5) which states that renewable energy is expected to reach 13 out of 23% of the regional renewable energy target by 2025. ASEAN is well placed to reach its target of reducing energy intensity by 30% in 2025. The AEO5 was launched and presented during the 35th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting held in September 2017 in Manila, the Philippines.

*"We believe that AEO5 will create a broad appreciation of energy security, accessibility and affordability, driving economic prosperity, social development and environment sustainability within the framework of AEC. We hope AEO5 will serve as a valuable reference to both AMS and dialogue partners."* – Ir. Dr. Sanjayan Velautham, Executive Director, ACE



## Good governance starts with good government

### The Capacity Development for the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) project

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) project, commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office, aims to strengthen the parliamentary functions of ASEAN Member States. With a total funding of €2.1 million from 2012 to 2018, AIPA adopted a resolution on Human Capacity Development which has paved the way toward a more systematic training approach for parliamentary staff. Furthermore, AIPA laid the foundation of a strong people-to-people network within the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions in the field of communication and outreach. All three institutions plan to identify joint key messages to create a more coherent public image and to invest more in engaging with the ASEAN people.

*"I supported the Human Capacity Development Framework of AIPA because it uses a holistic approach to help individual to contribute to the goals of our organisation. I am grateful to the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany for the supports."* - Thuy Linh Nguyen, Officer, Foreign Affairs Department, Office of the National Assembly of Vietnam





## Bilateral Cooperation

### Building a More Resilient ASEAN-EU Development Cooperation through Individual Partnerships with ASEAN Member States



#### Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam is a valuable partner which works with the EU in different multilateral fora namely ASEAN, the ASEAN Regional Forum and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). The EU is Brunei's 5th largest trading partner at an overall value of almost €1 billion. The EU is the third largest supplier of Brunei in terms of goods. Brunei imports close to €1 billion worth of goods and about €500 million of services. Several small and large EU-based companies are part of Brunei's economy.

Brunei is an active member of ASEAN and the EU supports its strong legacy linked to the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action 2013-2017 which introduced climate change, disaster management and environment in the EU-ASEAN cooperation. The EU welcomes Brunei's voluntary participation in the implementation of key EU-ASEAN programmes such as border management, intra-ASEAN student mobility, and, soon, on peatlands and biodiversity. Brunei is not eligible for EU development assistance because of its high income per capita.

The conclusion of a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), like in other countries of the region, would result in deeper EU-Brunei co-operation (for instance on higher education or climate change). In the meantime, the EU looks forward to furthering its cooperation in the areas of common interest such as preventing violent extremism and maritime security.



#### Cambodia

The European Union and Cambodia marked 20 years of partnership in 2017 and the EU is a major development partner of Cambodia since the early 1990s. Currently, the EU, working under 'Joint Programming' together with nine EU Member States and Switzerland, is the country's largest grant development assistance provider, with total funding estimated at €1.4 billion for 2014-2019. The greatest share of this assistance is channelled through bilateral cooperation between the EU and the Royal Government of Cambodia, as set out in the Multiannual Indicative Programme 2014-2020.

With the overarching objective of reducing poverty, this assistance supports initiatives focusing on three main sectors: governance and administration reforms, education as well as the management of resources. On governance, EU assistance also supports the Public Finance Management and Decentralisation reforms; for natural resource management, the focus is on fisheries and aquaculture. This assistance is aligned with the government's Rectangular Strategy, and the National Development Plan. The EU's development assistance to Cambodia, which totals €410 million in bilateral cooperation for 2014-2020, and €21 million in thematic budget lines for 2014-2017, benefits millions of Cambodians.

In addition, the EU - the largest destination for Cambodian exports - is also providing bilateral trade-related technical assistance through ARISE Plus Cambodia as well as support to the Cambodian Climate Change Alliance.



In addition, European partners have a joint Roadmap for engaging with civil society 2014-2019 which sets out commitments to structuring dialogue with civil society, supporting civil society efforts to enhance accountability and transparency and further strengthening the enabling environment for civil society in the country. EU partners in Cambodia have also developed a joint Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 which focuses European action on preventing violence against women, supporting nutrition for girls and women, equal access to education and TVET, equal access to decent work and productive resources as well as promoting equal participation in policy and governance processes. The EU also recognises that the Sustainable Development Goals are increasingly complex and will require meaningful cross-sector engagement and coordination, which is the approach towards development of the New European Consensus on Development agreed on by the EU Member States in 2017.



## Indonesia

EU-Indonesia relations have now evolved from a donor-recipient relationship to an equal partnership. The EU-Indonesia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which entered into force in 2014, indicates the growing importance of the ties between the EU and Indonesia, with relations based on the principles of equality, mutual benefits and respect. The agreement is the first of its kind between the EU and an ASEAN country.

Over the last 10 years, the EU has contributed more than €500 million in development assistance to Indonesia with four priorities covering education, democracy and human rights, the environment and economic cooperation.

In education, major programmes have addressed supporting minimum service standards in disadvantaged areas, with a focus on fostering quality teaching, and developing higher education opportunities, as well as sector policy dialogue combined with budget support, which ended in 2017.

EU-Indonesia bilateral cooperation for good governance focuses on public finance management, human rights and justice. An EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society ensures a more structured approach for engagement between civil society, central and local governments across the archipelago and with the EU and its Member States. The EU also promotes gender equality, women's empowerment, and the fight against gender-based violence within the EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue.



Another important field of cooperation between the EU and Indonesia has been the protection of the environment, including support to the sustainable management of Indonesia's rich forests and peatlands and the fight against climate change. These efforts have seen significant success: Indonesia became the first country in the world to obtain Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licensing for its timber products exported to the EU market, a landmark achievement in the fight to reduce illegal logging.

Finally, economic cooperation programmes, have strengthened the policy framework and promoted trade and investment. This has recently been enhanced by the start of the negotiations of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the EU and Indonesia. Once concluded, the CEPA shall enable the free flow of goods, services and investments in a common market of 750 million people. This agreement will provide mutual benefit and build confidence between the complementary economies of Indonesia and the EU. A new large bilateral trade-support programme, closely coordinated with ASEAN-EU ARISE Plus regional actions, was designed in 2017.

## Lao PDR

Present in Lao PDR for more than 20 years, the EU has adapted its support during the country's rapid transformation with policy shifting from traditional project assistance to a more long-term approach focused on policy reforms and the promotion of government ownership, sectoral strategies, budget support and donor coordination. Overall, European grant aid has amounted to over €500 million for this period, making the EU one of Lao PDR's largest development partners.

The main EU bilateral programmes aim at reducing poverty by supporting the government's objective to graduate from the Least Developed Countries list by 2020. While EU funding amounted to more than €69 million for 2007-2013, the current programming period of 2014-2020 has seen a substantial increase to a total of €207 million.

Since 2016, European development partners have used a joint approach to improve their focus on delivering results. This involves nine European development partners, as well as the Lao government, and is fully aligned with the national development strategy. The primary objectives are poverty eradication, a clean and safe environment, good social services and a better life for all. Programming concentrates on seven sectors, all of which are priorities for the government and the population. The EU is leading on Education, Governance and Nutrition, while Natural Resources and Environment, and Private Sector Development are led by Germany, Agriculture and Rural Development by France, and Health by Luxembourg. A careful division of labour among the partners improves dialogue and coordination with government line ministries.





## Malaysia

The establishment of the EU Delegation in Malaysia in 2003 led to significantly closer cooperation between European and Malaysian federal and state authorities, civil society, and academia. Today, and in the past, cooperation in trade and economic issues is the driving force for closer relations.

Bilateral cooperation with Malaysia focuses on two main areas: business development, and the environment and climate change. With regard to business development, the EU is supporting the development of stronger business ties. Specifically, this initiative seeks to reinforce the presence of small and medium-sized EU enterprises (SMEs) in Malaysia, as well as Malaysian SMEs in the EU. Regarding the environment and climate change, cooperation covers a range of areas, including green technology, renewable energy, and sustainable forest management. Specifically, the EU is working with Malaysia to improve the readiness of the State of Sabah to engage in REDD+ activities and promote pro-poor sustainable forest management.

Increasingly, the EU is working with Malaysia in areas falling under the Common Foreign and Security Policy. These include maritime security, export control, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk. Under the Migration EU Expertise II facility, European experts are also providing training on improved border management practices and procedures. In the future, cooperation is expected to expand to include work on human rights and civil society engagement.



## Myanmar

The EU's cooperation in Myanmar aims to support the continuing reform process and the country's efforts to build a functioning democracy, as well as to foster inclusive and sustainable development. The country's strategy, as outlined in the Multiannual Indicative Programme for 2014-2020, provides €688 million worth of bilateral assistance, making the EU one of Myanmar's major donors. Four priority sectors have been identified following extensive discussions with the government, civil society and international partners: rural development, agriculture and food and nutrition security; education; governance, rule of law, state capacity building; and peacebuilding.

In addition to the EU's bilateral support, Myanmar also benefits from various EU thematic and regional programmes. These include the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, Non-State Actors and Local Authorities programme; the Energy Thematic programme, which includes the environment and natural resources; ARISE - ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU; and COMPASS - EU Institutional Capacity Building Project for ASEAN Monitoring and Statistics programme; and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace.





## The Philippines

The EU is a major development partner of the Philippines and has contributed more than €1 billion worth of grants over the past four decades to combat poverty and raise the living standards of the poor. The seven-year EU support strategy for 2014-2020, funded with €325 million, is aligned with national development priorities, and more than doubles grant assistance for 2007-2013 which totalled €130 million. Most EU funds are given as grants making the EU jointly with EU Member States the largest donor.

The 2014-2020 strategy focuses on two areas: the rule of law and inclusive growth through sustainable energy and job creation. The EU and the Philippines wish to increase cooperation in the justice sector to support the Philippine Justice Sector Reform Strategy. Regarding the latter, the EU is keen to help the government

achieve its ambitious electrification targets for poor areas.

Emphasis is placed on conflict-affected Mindanao, where the EU supports the peace process as well as community development. In addition, the EU remains a key partner in the health sector and provides trade-related technical assistance. The bilateral programme is complemented by additional funding – often channelled through civil society organisations – to address social issues, the environment, indigenous peoples, governance, human rights, peace building, and migration. The EU is also one of the most important providers of emergency funds needed in the event of natural disasters. Typhoon Haiyan (known as Super Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines) brought enormous support from the EU and EU Member States in 2013.



## Singapore

The EU regards Singapore as a key partner as both parties share common interests in trade and investment, regional and global security, and economic development. This is reflected in the upcoming EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA) which is complemented by a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), initialled in 2013. This agreement broke new ground on cooperation in education, transport, energy, as well as science and technology. As with other industrialised countries, the EU's engagement with Singapore seeks to emphasise public diplomacy and the development of people-to-people links.

Singapore is also the hub of the EU Business Avenues in Southeast Asia, an EU-funded business promotion programme which aims

to support European companies in Southeast Asia. As part of the programme, which covers several different sectors, European companies have the opportunity to participate in fairs, networking events and discussions with potential partners in pre-arranged meetings. Each event covers Singapore and one neighbouring market. The inaugural event took place in July 2016, in conjunction with the Singapore International Water Week, where 30 European companies participated.

At a second event, 35 participating companies spent two days showcasing their products and meeting local companies in Singapore as part of the Singapore International Energy Week, before travelling to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia for a two-day stand-alone event.

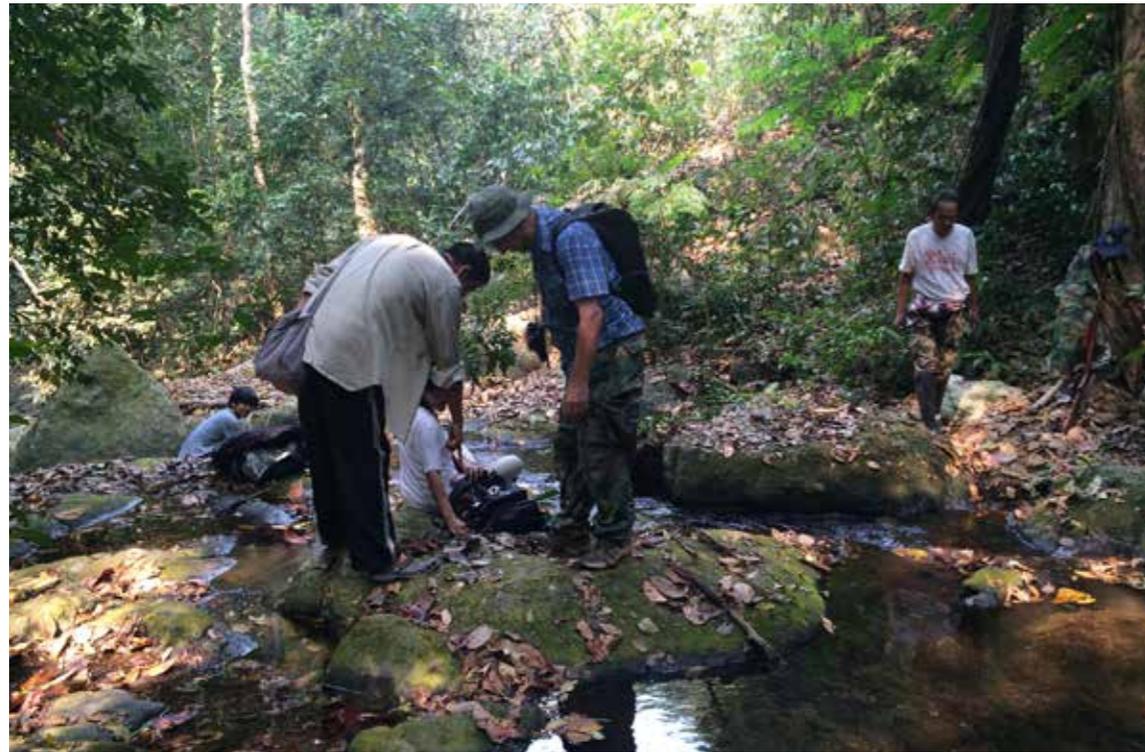


## Thailand

Bilateral development cooperation with Thailand falls into three main areas: sustainable growth and development; human development and migration; and environment and climate change. Most ongoing projects are implemented by civil society organisations which are working towards strengthening civil society in these areas, as well as addressing human rights and aid to uprooted people.

A number of additional projects managed from Thailand have regional reach. These are either

trade-related projects focused on sustainable production and consumption, intellectual property rights, and civil aviation, or are linked to the environment and climate change with an emphasis on supporting community forestry and sustainable natural resource management in the Mekong region. Two areas of cooperation – decent work and migration – cut across several programmes. Tackling these issues is high on the agenda of the Thai government as well as the EU.



## Vietnam

The EU first engaged bilaterally with Vietnam in 1990, and has since provided more than €600 million in grant funding, and developed a strong and dynamic partnership. This is enshrined in the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which came into force in October 2016, and lays the foundations for further political, economic and development cooperation. Many EU Member States are also active through their own development initiatives, making the EU and the Member States combined the largest grant donor in Vietnam.

In the Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2014-2020, the EU contributes €400 million to support Vietnam's socio-economic development by developing a sustainable energy sector and by strengthening governance and the rule of law. In the energy sector, the EU promotes efficient, clean and renewable energy. In 2017, the EU approved a total €108 million for the first Energy Sector Support Programme, mainly to support electrification in the rural areas of Vietnam. The EU Justice and Legal Empowerment Programme in Vietnam (EU JULE, already under implementation) with a budget of €14 million aims to strengthen the rule of law in Vietnam through a more reliable, trusted and better accessed justice system. The Economic Governance Programme (€20 million, Financing Agreement to be signed in 2018) aims to improve fiscal discipline, strategic allocation of resources and domestic revenue mobilisation, to foster sustainable development and inclusive growth including a business-friendly environment.

Health has been a focal sector of EU bilateral aid in Vietnam for more than a decade. The Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2007-2013 allocated more than €100 million to improve the population's health status, especially the poor and most vulnerable,



through a more effective, efficient and equitable health system. In continuing this successful programme, for the 2015-2018 period, the EU further contributes €114 million to the EU-Vietnam Health Sector Policy Support Programme – Phase 2, which is the largest health sector support programme in Asia. Specifically, the programme aims to support the achievement of key policy objectives as laid out in the national five-year plan for the health sector, including the establishment of universal health coverage and improving the availability and quality of services in the ten poorest provinces.

The EU's trade assistance cooperation covers not just trade in goods, but also trade in services, as well as intellectual property rights, export policy, and encouraging foreign direct investment. Negotiations for the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement were officially concluded on 2 December 2015, with the text made public in February 2016, and it is currently in the process of ratification. In 2016, EU-Vietnam trade in goods was worth over €42 billion, with €33 billion in imports from Vietnam into the EU, and €9 billion in exports from the EU to Vietnam. The EU is Vietnam's fifth largest foreign investor in terms of total investment stocks.

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