

Blue Book 2016

EU-ASEAN

Development Cooperation
in 2015



Renewed Engagement



Blue Book 2016

EU-ASEAN Development Cooperation in 2015





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Foreword



Barely 10 months since the creation of the new EU Mission to ASEAN, I am pleased to present the EU-ASEAN Blue Book 2016, the first ever dedicated annual report on the growing development cooperation between our regions. It provides an overview of the main objectives, activities and outcomes of the cooperation initiatives that The European Union (EU) and its Member States are engaged in with the ASEAN Secretariat, its institutions and other bodies in the region. For over 40 years now, the EU and ASEAN have enjoyed a deepening political and economic relationship based on trust, mutual respect, common interests and values, and as the establishment of our new Mission demonstrates, this relationship is already moving to a higher level.

As the two major regional integration processes in the world, the EU and ASEAN are natural partners, and it is therefore no surprise that our cooperation has flourished so strongly over the years. Indeed, the EU has recently increased its development cooperation funds significantly to step up its increasing engagement. For the period 2014-2020, over € 170 million has been earmarked to fund the ongoing and post-2015 ASEAN regional integration agenda, more than doubling the amount for 2007-2013. To date, the EU is the biggest contributor to the ASEAN Secretariat and a major development partner of ASEAN. In addition, for 2014-2020 the EU has also pledged over € 2 billion to ASEAN countries bilaterally, the majority of which for low-income countries, to reduce poverty and address development gaps. On top of this, there is significant regional and thematic funding dedicated to individual countries of ASEAN.

The EU has a genuine strategic interest in strengthening its relationship with ASEAN, the major contributor for stability in the Asia-Pacific region. A strong and cohesive ASEAN proceeding with its own integration is beneficial for regional prosperity, stability and security, and creates new opportunities for cooperation on regional and global challenges. As ASEAN's second largest trade partner and ASEAN's largest Foreign Direct Investor, the EU supports ASEAN in its integration efforts and the establishment of its Communities. With a growing middle class and young population, there are huge opportunities for our societies, both in the EU and in ASEAN.

The EU and ASEAN share the same goals for their citizens: peace, prosperity and stability. I believe that the enhanced EU cooperation with ASEAN as outlined in this Blue Book will contribute to achieving them.

The first copy of the Blue Book on EU-ASEAN Development Cooperation in 2015 was handed over to the Secretary General of ASEAN, H.E. Le Luong Minh, and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, H.E. Ms Federica Mogherini, during her visit to the ASEAN Secretariat on 9 April 2016.

I hope you find this publication useful, and I thank you for your interest in the EU-ASEAN Partnership.

Francisco Fontan
EU Ambassador to ASEAN





The EU Worldwide

The EU is a unique economic and political partnership between 28 democratic European countries. It has delivered over half a century of peace, stability and prosperity, and is progressively building a single market in which people, goods, services and capital move freely. These achievements were celebrated internationally in 2012 when the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

With more than 508 million inhabitants, and responsible for one quarter of the world's gross domestic product, the EU is a global force. It is the biggest economy and the largest exporter and importer of goods and services in the world, accounting for one fifth of worldwide trade. Assuming a commensurate role in global governance, the EU actively promotes human rights and democracy, and contributes to finding solutions for the 21st century's global challenges.

A Common Foreign and Security Policy enables EU Member States to speak and act as one in world affairs, with the European External Action Service (EEAS) serving as the EU's diplomatic corps. Working in cooperation with the European Commission and the diplomatic services of the Member States, the EEAS carries out the EU's political, diplomatic and policy work and provides support to Member States through a global network of 140 Delegations and Offices.

The basis for the EU's foreign policy remains soft power: the use of diplomacy, trade and aid to reduce poverty, resolve conflicts, and promote international understanding. Development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and fostering people-to-people relations are important elements of the EU's commitment to understanding and action in the world.

Current EU Leadership Team



Martin Schulz
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

Four Decades of Friendship

EU-ASEAN links boost economic growth, social progress and cultural development by enhancing connectivity and promoting peace and stability.

The EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are the two most advanced regional integration projects in the world. Both are committed to addressing issues through a multilateral approach, and both are committed to regional integration as the most effective way to foster stability, build prosperity and address global challenges. The EU and ASEAN are therefore natural partners, which share the same goals for their citizens.

Like the EU, ASEAN is a global force. Collectively, the ten ASEAN Member States, with a combined population of 625 million people, constitute the seventh largest economy in the world and the fourth largest economy in Asia. The EU therefore has a significant interest in ASEAN's success, and ASEAN in turn has much to gain from interacting with the EU as the most successful integration project in the world, the largest market, the main provider of direct investments, the main donor, and an increasingly credible security actor.

Since the first contacts in 1972, which were formalised in 1977, the EU has sought to increase

dialogue and cooperation with ASEAN, and to pursue closer coordination on regional and international issues. In 1980, the ASEAN-EEC Cooperation Agreement established the Joint Cooperation Committee, and in 2007, the Nuremberg Declaration on Enhanced Partnership specified common long-term objectives, commitments and goals. Following this, in 2012, the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action 2013-2017 was adopted. The same year marked a landmark in the EU's political and security commitment to ASEAN by the EU's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. In May 2015, the European Commission adopted a Joint Communication "The EU and ASEAN: a partnership with a strategic purpose", a comprehensive and ambitious document which outlines a closer and deeper relationship. The Joint Communication puts forward concrete ideas for taking EU-ASEAN relations to the next level by providing a more coherent framework for cooperation and by ensuring a sharper political focus. This strategy was confirmed in the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions of 22 June 2015 on EU-ASEAN relations.





The ASEAN Community is comprised of three pillars: the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. EU cooperation efforts reflect this structure, and have four main dimensions:

1. A regional portfolio supports integration policy development, capacity building for policy makers, and programme implementation.
2. Bilateral portfolios assist in narrowing development gaps and addressing national issues such as poverty reduction.
3. Additional thematic programmes focus on global public goods and shared challenges such as climate change and human rights.
4. EU Member States also provide specific support at regional and/or national level.

The establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015 marks a major step towards closer ASEAN integration focused around its citizens. Aside from increasing the movement of goods, services, skilled labour and investment capital in the region, it puts ASEAN firmly on the path to benefits which the EU is enjoying as a result of its own integration. The EU supports a strong, united and self-confident ASEAN, proceeding with its own integration, and has consistently supported the ASEAN Secretariat and other ASEAN institutions. From its own experience, the EU knows how important strong institutions are to the integration process. The EU is committed to closer links with ASEAN and - beyond regular dialogues at technical and political levels - it has recently earmarked € 170 million of development assistance to support its activities.



EU Development Cooperation

Promoting Sustainable Development

The European Union and its 28 Member States are together the world's largest contributor of development aid providing € 68 billion in 2015.

Eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development are two of the world's greatest challenges, and the EU, working in collaboration with its Member States and partner countries, is determined to address both. Since 2000, the world has made great progress. Extreme poverty and child mortality have halved, two billion people have gained access to clean water, and more children – both boys and girls – are now at school.

But great challenges remain, particularly in addressing climate change and achieving sustainable development. If economic development depletes natural resources and damages ecosystems, our achievements will be undermined and future progress threatened. As the world's largest donor, providing € 68 billion of Official Development Assistance in 2015, the EU and its Member States are working to address these issues. Every day, 140 EU Delegations and Offices around the world strive to build solid and lasting partnerships for progress.

Since their adoption in 2000, the EU has supported the Millennium Development Goals, which have made an invaluable contribution to raising public awareness, increasing political will, and mobilising resources. The new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, will build on these successes. This post-2015 agenda is universal, applying to all countries at all levels of development, and represents a unique opportunity to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development together. The EU and its Member States have played an important role in shaping this new agenda, and are fully committed to it. We recognise that all countries have common challenges and opportunities for a shared future, and we all need to make concrete commitments – both global and domestic – to address sustainable development in all its economic, social and environmental dimensions.





The EU also sent a strong message by declaring 2015 the European Year for Development. EU institutions and Delegations, Member States, international development partners, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, universities, and the private sector all contributed their own energy and perspectives. This extensive engagement, as well as recent public opinion surveys, indicate how close international solidarity lies to the heart of the EU and its citizens.

The year 2015 also saw 195 countries adopting the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate agreement at the Paris Climate Conference (COP21). This agreement, which enters into force

in 2020, sets out a global action plan to limit global warming. The EU was at the forefront of international efforts to build the coalition that shaped this successful outcome.

In our interdependent world, the EU and its Member States are determined that a revitalised global partnership, characterised by shared responsibility, mutual accountability and energetic engagement, will contribute to eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. Bringing tangible improvements to the lives of all people, and ensuring the future of our planet, depends on joint action now.



Development Cooperation in Action

The EU-ASEAN development cooperation programmes, funded under the EU Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), are at the core of the cooperation activities established between the two regions. In addition to the traditional areas of cooperation – supporting both ASEAN economic integration and its socio-cultural priorities – the 2012 EU-ASEAN Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action introduced a third priority action area: climate change, disaster management and environment. The scope of our work today is therefore broader and more ambitious. As an indication of this ambition, and of the importance the EU assigns to the relationship, ASEAN was the only regional entity in Asia invited to a regional programming meeting in Brussels in 2014, during which the new priority areas of work were confirmed, and the doubling of EU assistance earmarked for ASEAN was announced.

The programmes and projects described in this first dedicated ASEAN 'Blue Book', are funded from European taxpayers' contributions to the EU budget. They are designed to align fully with ASEAN's key strategies, policies and plans, and are identified, formulated and monitored jointly by ASEAN institutions and the EU. Following the historical ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015, the EU is already taking into account the new ASEAN Vision 2025, particularly the ASEAN Economic Community and Socio Cultural Blueprints 2025, and EU development cooperation programming is being adapted accordingly.

In implementing the EU-ASEAN development cooperation portfolio we are working in close coordination with the European Commission Headquarters and the EU Member States that are active in the region. Strong coordination is done with the other EU Delegations in the ASEAN region also to ensure full complementarity with bilateral development actions funded by the EU, particularly in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV).

While EU-funded programmes are appreciated and well known by the ASEAN institutions and its Member States, more work is required with ASEAN civil society, and, indeed, the general public in Southeast Asia and in Europe, to make our actions more visible. This is the objective of this publication, and an important part of the work of the Cooperation Section together with Francisco Fontan, the EU Ambassador to ASEAN.



Franck Viault
Head of Cooperation
EU Delegation in Jakarta





EUROPEAN UNION

28 MEMBER STATES



Founded in 1957
Motto: "United in Diversity"

24 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

POPULATION 508 Million

Land Area 4,422,773 km²

ASEAN

10 MEMBER STATES



Founded in 1967
Motto: "One Vision, One Identity, One Community"

WORKING LANGUAGE English 1

POPULATION 625 Million

Land Area 4,479,210.5 km²

Friendship and Cooperation since 1972
Formalised Relations since 1977

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------|-------------|----------------|
| Austria | Estonia | Italy | Portugal |
| Belgium | Finland | Latvia | Romania |
| Bulgaria | France | Lithuania | Slovakia |
| Croatia | Germany | Luxembourg | Slovenia |
| Cyprus | Greece | Malta | Spain |
| Czech Republic | Hungary | Netherlands | Sweden |
| Denmark | Ireland | Poland | United Kingdom |

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Brunei Darussalam | Myanmar |
| Cambodia | Philippines |
| Indonesia | Singapore |
| Laos | Thailand |
| Malaysia | Vietnam |



EU-ASEAN Development Cooperation

A Modern Partnership with a Strategic Purpose

Connectivity is central, with the overall objective of bringing businesses, people and institutions closer together to boost trade, investment and exchanges.

The increasing importance the EU is placing on its overall relations with ASEAN as a regional bloc, and EU commitment to deepening our strategic relationship, is reflected in a significant recent increase in EU development cooperation to the region. The EU welcomes the establishment of the ASEAN Community at the end of 2015 and sees it as an opportunity to increase the intensity and momentum of EU-ASEAN cooperation in support of the integration agenda.

In addition to EU bilateral cooperation with individual ASEAN countries (which includes more than € 2 billion in grant assistance to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and the Philippines for 2014-2020), the EU is also significantly scaling up its funding to support ASEAN regional integration. In addition, dedicated thematic regional initiatives valued at around € 26 million were committed in 2014-2015. This brings total EU funding for ASEAN regional development cooperation programmes for 2014-2020 to around € 196 million. The scale of this action reflects a mutual

desire for a closer partnership that makes aspirations for a better life a reality for all.

The € 170 million exclusively earmarked for ASEAN for 2014-2020 covers support to three agreed focal areas:

Connectivity through sustainable and inclusive economic integration and trade	(50 %)
Climate change, environment and disaster management	(37.5 %)
A Comprehensive Dialogue Facility	(12.5 %)

Under this framework, two new major programmes were approved in 2014 and 2015: the Enhanced Dialogue Facility (E-READI), and the Sustainable Peat Land Management and Combating Trans-boundary Haze Pollution programme. In 2016, the new ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU programme - ARISE plus - is also expected to be approved. With almost half of the financial envelope earmarked for ASEAN



committed in the first three years of a seven-year financial period, work between ASEAN and the EU is clearly well underway.

In addition, three new EU thematic-funded ASEAN programmes worth a total of € 26.1 million were committed in 2014 and 2015: the ASEAN Farmers' Organisations' Support programme, which is already in progress; support to the ASEAN Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas programme; and a new study facility for infrastructure projects to support sustainable urban development and ASEAN's connectivity agenda.

In parallel during 2015, all projects funded by the EU under the previous financial framework have reached full implementation, or completion. Both the Border Management and Migration programme and the EU Support to Higher education (EU-SHARE) programme, started in 2015, along with the READI-Human Rights Facility, and four flagship actions supporting ASEAN economic integration reached 'cruising speed' in the past year.

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, investment, and to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Three tangible examples of EU support to ASEAN connectivity are the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS), which is currently being piloted under ARISE for the ASEAN North-South Corridor (Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore); EU support to higher education in the ASEAN region - EU-SHARE - which is inspired by the EU Bologna process; and the infrastructure study facility mentioned above.

The Financing Agreement the EU signed with ASEAN at end of 2015 prepared the ground for the launch of an enhanced EU-ASEAN dialogue facility (E-READI). This programme will build on the achievements of the previous programme (READI) but will also support EU-ASEAN dialogue in trade and economic affairs, as well as socio-cultural, environmental and political and security matters.

The Regional Peatlands programme, the first EU action co-funded with Germany in ASEAN, which starts in 2016 is important in the wake of recent forest fires that affected the region severely in 2015. Similarly, continued support to the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity through a new programme approved in 2015 is important to preserve Southeast Asia's rich land and marine biodiversity, one of the most diverse and important in the world.

Most of the EU projects and programmes are giving particular attention to building the capacity of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV), thus supporting the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and helping fill the development gap between ASEAN Member States.

Outside the dedicated ASEAN financial envelope, further opportunities for ASEAN exist under the 2014-2020 EU Asia Regional Programme to support Green Economy. These include the Asia Investment Facility (AIF), which blends EU grants with loans from European and other international financial institutions for large infrastructure projects; SWITCH-Asia, which supports sustainable consumption and production, and FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade), which is concerned with sustainable forestry.



Political and Security Cooperation

Growing Mutual Interests

The EU's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia in 2012 represented a significant step forward in EU-ASEAN relations - it brought a fresh impetus and expanded the cooperation on political and security matters. It has been followed by an unprecedented number of high level visits of EU leaders to ASEAN on a regular basis and a deepening of the political dialogue and cooperation on human rights, preventive diplomacy, mediation and crisis management, maritime security, transnational crime and counter-terrorism, defence, peace-keeping and peacebuilding operations. The EU stands ready to share its unique experience with rules-based regional integration and the ability of forging integrated and innovative strategies

Political and security dialogue between ASEAN and the EU has been progressing for over forty years and recently expanded on a wide range of topics.

to address complex global challenges, including in the area of security and defence. The EU has scaled up the level of engagement and is ready to take the partnership with ASEAN to the next level in line with the Joint Communication on the future of ASEAN-EU relations adopted in May 2015. ASEAN can draw inspiration from Europe's experience in security cooperation at the regional level, and the EU's active involvement in the region can contribute to the ASEAN centrality.

ASEAN has shown determination in engaging with regional and global partners and in building a regional security architecture through a set of fora such as ASEAN+3 (involving China, Japan and South Korea), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus process, the Expanded Maritime Forum and the East Asia Summit (EAS) among others. The EU is keen to exploit the convergence of interests with ASEAN and to continue making political and security issues a dynamic vector of our bilateral cooperation, including in the framework of the ARF, where the EU is an active contributor, as well as through all other ASEAN-led mechanisms and processes.

Maritime security is an issue of common concern and a key component in the EU's promotion of global rules-based governance. As more than half of the world's shipping tonnage passes



through the South China Sea, the route is of vital importance to many economies, including the EU's. The EU has consistently called for the peaceful and cooperative resolution of disputes in this area, in compliance with international law and norms, and took the initiative to organise two EU-ASEAN High-Level Dialogues on Maritime Security in 2013 and 2015; two more editions of such a High Level Dialogue are in the pipeline for 2016 and 2017.

The EU Centres of Excellence Initiative on CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) risks has built an effective regional network around its Secretariat in Manila. All 10 ASEAN Member States are partners in this initiative, which provides a regional platform for tackling CBRN risks. The EU welcomes closer ASEAN involvement in the initiative in order to ensure its future.

In 2015, the second ASEAN Border Management and Migration Programme began work to support ASEAN Member States in using

INTERPOL border checking tools and practices to combat trans-boundary crime.

The EU has co-sponsored (with Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia) two seminars on preventive diplomacy and mediation in 2014 and 2015, supporting the ARF agenda to move forward from Confidence Building Measures to Preventive Diplomacy.

Other areas where joint ASEAN and EU interests are growing include human rights, human trafficking, drugs, arms smuggling, protection of wildlife and marine environment; cybersecurity and cybercrime, trans-national organised crime, counter-terrorism, common visa policy; non-proliferation and disarmament; de-radicalisation and countering violent extremism; the position of vulnerable minorities; and election observation. In each of these areas, the EU is supporting practical initiatives to deepen dialogue and explore the region's needs in capacity building.



Improving connectivity



Working for better border management

The EU-ASEAN Border Management and Migration programme, funded by the EU with € 3.5 million over three years, aims to support ASEAN's integration efforts by strengthening law enforcement agencies' networks and cooperation at regional transit hubs, and working to ease visa requirements for ASEAN and non-ASEAN nationals. Implemented since June 2015 by an INTERPOL team based in Singapore, the project adopts a two-pronged approach. First, capacity building activities focus on the roll-out of the I-24/7 INTERPOL Global Secure Communication system and other services. Second, academic work addresses issues related to visa processing and visa-free travel. Both strands draw on the EU's integration experience and will enhance international law enforcement in areas such as smuggling and human trafficking, as well as making travel easier. The EU has been providing support since 2009 to ASEAN Border Management authorities, in combination with regular dialogue on Trans-national Crime and Counter-terrorism at EU-ASEAN Senior Officials' Meetings.

'The EU-ASEAN Border Management and Migration programme is a powerful example of turning knowledge into practice.'

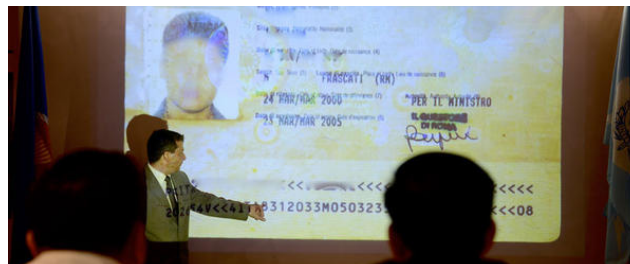
Michael O'Connell, Director of INTERPOL's Operational Support and Analysis unit



Security



INTERPOL helps secure the APEC summit



Under the umbrella of the EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management programme, INTERPOL deployed a Major Events Support Team (IMEST) to assist Philippine law enforcement authorities during the 2015 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Manila. With technology provided to immigration officers at seven international airports in the country to access INTERPOL's global databases, some 17.5 million searches were conducted immediately before the summit. Multiple hits against INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel documents database also led to an arrest. The programme, which is implemented by INTERPOL, aims to improve connectivity in the ASEAN region by strengthening law enforcement networks and cooperation at main regional transit hubs.

'Close cooperation between Filipino law enforcement agencies and INTERPOL's IMEST team contributed towards maximising security conditions at this important international event.'

Felizardo Serapio, Head of INTERPOL's National Central Bureau in Manila

Sharing parliamentary information

Working with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), founded in 1977, actively supports ASEAN integration. The Capacity Development for the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly project, commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office, and funded with € 2.1 million in 2012-2018, aims to strengthen the parliamentary functions of ASEAN Member States. The project supports AIPA's inter-parliamentary knowledge management and has helped to establish 'AIPA Connect', the institution's only intranet-based information platform. The comprehensive information that the system provides allows parliamentarians, their staff, and other interested parties to support ASEAN integration efforts at the national level. Working collaboratively with the ASEAN Secretariat Post 2015 project, which is also funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, the project has helped increase dialogue between the AIPA and ASEAN Secretariat and enhanced active collaboration.



Peaceful progress

Promoting moderation against violent extremism



Under the umbrella of triangular cooperation between the Netherlands, Indonesia, and ASEAN as the beneficiary party, in November 2015 the Netherlands supported a symposium hosted by the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) in Yogyakarta that examined the repercussions of violent extremism on moderate groups. Violent sectarianism can increase negative views and discrimination against such groups, and the symposium served as an effective capacity building exercise for the advisory body and its governing council to formulate policy recommendations designed to counter the growth of extremism and enhance the role of moderates. This was the second joint event between the Netherlands and the AIPR, which was attended by an expert on counter-radicalisation.

'The main point of having this symposium is to empower the moderates who support peace and to condemn violence by extremists and radicals.'

I Gusti Wesaka Puja, former Director-General of ASEAN Cooperation, Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Debating democracy



Strengthening regional human rights mechanisms

In 2015 the Netherlands and Indonesia's Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) convened a series of public debates to address common human rights challenges in the region. The debates, which involved key national stakeholders from government agencies, academia, the media, civil society, and members of Jakarta's diplomatic corps, covered the operation of human rights instruments under the ASEAN framework, and issues associated with migrant workers, business and human rights, violence against women, and religious freedom and tolerance.

'ASEAN consists of 10 different countries with different levels of human rights and democracy. Our challenge is to work out how the guidelines can be used as a reference for each of the member countries to develop a more mature level of democracy.'

Rafendi Djamin, Indonesia's former representative to AICHR



Diplomatic training



Capacity building for ASEAN diplomats and secretariat officers



In November and December 2015, the Clingendael Academy in the Netherlands hosted 22 mid-career diplomats from the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Member States for a two-week course aimed at deepening their knowledge of regional cooperation and integration. Aside from classroom sessions, the delegation met with experts, academics and policy makers, and visited the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Rotterdam Port Authority. The latter visit included a tour of Maasvlakte II, a harbour and industrial area near Rotterdam. The programme, which has operated each year since 2010, is financially supported by the Netherlands Embassy and implemented by Clingendael Institute of International Relations.

'We thank the Netherlands Government for giving us a short course at Clingendael to increase our officers' capacity. It has been really useful for their development.'

Keo Chhea, Assistant Director, External Relations, ASEAN Secretariat



Economic Cooperation

Deepening Economic Relations

The EU is committed to deepening economic relations both with individual ASEAN Member States and ASEAN as a whole.

Over the past decade, trade and investment between the EU and ASEAN have significantly intensified with the value of bilateral trade in goods reaching € 201.4 billion in 2015. The EU is ASEAN's second largest external trading partner after China with a share of almost 10 % of its total trade, while ASEAN as a bloc is the EU's fifth largest partner (and the third outside Europe, after China and the US). In fact, since 2004, bilateral trade between the EU and ASEAN has doubled. More impressive still, the EU is the biggest investor in ASEAN economies, with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows from the EU accounting for € 22 billion, representing 21.5 % of total investments in 2014. The EU invests three times more in ASEAN than China, and two times more than the USA.

Even during difficult economic times, trade and investment flows between the EU and ASEAN have grown substantially. This shows how robust and positive our commercial relations are.

Despite these impressive figures, there is still significant 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 a single market with 625 million consumers and a growing middle class, and therefore offers significant investment and export opportunities for European businesses. Following the identification of ASEAN as a priority region in 2006, the EU has been actively engaged in expanding these opportunities. Negotiations for a region-to-region free-trade agreement (FTA) were launched in 2007 and paused in 2009 to give way to bilateral approaches. The EU engages actively on the bilateral trade and investment level with ASEAN countries and has concluded comprehensive FTAs with Singapore in 2013, and Vietnam in 2015. In particular, the latter agreement can be seen as landmark deal between the EU and a developing country given the ambitious outcome. The launch of negotiations with the Philippines was announced in 2015, and the conclusion of the



preparatory discussions for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Indonesia was announced in April 2016, which will pave the way for the formal launch of the CEPA negotiations. An investment protection agreement with Myanmar has been under negotiation since 2014. Whilst a region-to-region FTA between the EU and ASEAN remains the ultimate objective, the EU will continue to pursue ambitious and comprehensive bilateral FTAs with individual ASEAN Member States, which could constitute building blocks towards a broader regional agreement.

The continuing financial envelope (2007-2013) for ASEAN economic development has four flagship programmes:

- ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE) supports the implementation of key initiatives prioritised in the Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity aimed at building the ASEAN single market and production base. ARISE supports the harmonisation of standards and transport and customs procedures. The programme also builds ASEAN Secretariat capacity and helps ASEAN strengthen its institutional arrangements and the overall management of its integration process.
- COMPASS supports the development of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS), and is building the capacity of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office to monitor the process and results of regional integration on behalf of the ASEAN Member States.
- EU-ASEAN Project on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (ECAP III) supports the legal and regulatory Intellectual

Property (IP) frameworks to enable ASEAN Member States to participate in global protection systems, develop ASEAN regional platforms and strengthen the network of ASEAN IP offices.

- ASEAN Air Transport Integration Project (AATIP) supports the development of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market, and addresses aviation safety, security and air traffic management in particular, which are key priorities outlined under the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan 2016-2025.

In 2014-2020, the EU will devote roughly half of its financial assistance to supporting ASEAN's connectivity through sustainable and inclusive economic integration and trade. It will also mobilise resources from the Asia Investment Facility (AIF), by blending EU grants with loans from the European Investment Bank and other international financial institutions.

In addition, in 2015, a new EU-funded programme to support farmers' organisations – encompassing millions of small farmers who are critical to food production in the ASEAN region – began work.

The EU is determined to take trade and economic relations with ASEAN to a new level, confident in the knowledge that investing in the relationship will bring significant benefits to both regions economically, socially and politically. Enhanced dialogue and interactions on trade-related regulatory and policy frameworks, intellectual property, standards, customs and transport, civil aviation, and more, will work significantly to the benefit of both the EU and ASEAN.



Adding up Supporting statistics



CLMV students in action

The EU-ASEAN Capacity building project for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics (COMPASS) aims to strengthen regional statistics and monitoring frameworks, and enhance the capacities of national data producers such as official statistical offices, customs services and central banks. The € 7.5 million project is currently supporting eight statisticians from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) to obtain a two-year master's degree in statistics at the University of the Philippines Diliman in Manila. The project will ensure that the CLMV countries and the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) are provided with highly qualified staff.

'The chance to undertake a master's course at one of the best universities in the region will increase my knowledge and capacity to support the ACSS as well as the Cambodian system. This is a life changing opportunity for me!'

Thy Veun, Master of Statistics candidate, Cambodian National Institute of Statistics

ARISE - Meeting standards Developing standards and conformance



In order for ASEAN to fulfil its objectives of removing trade barriers and establishing an effective regional free trade framework, an integrated standards and conformance regime is essential. The EU's ARISE programme has been supporting the development of such a regime through the production of the *ASEAN Guidelines for Standards, Technical Regulations, and Conformity Assessment Procedures* (AG STRACAP), a high level guidance document. ARISE has also provided critical assistance in formulating three supplementary guidelines addressing harmonisation of standards, accreditation and conformity assessment, and mutual recognition arrangements. These documents, which were adopted in 2015, ensure that all the required elements are effectively defined.

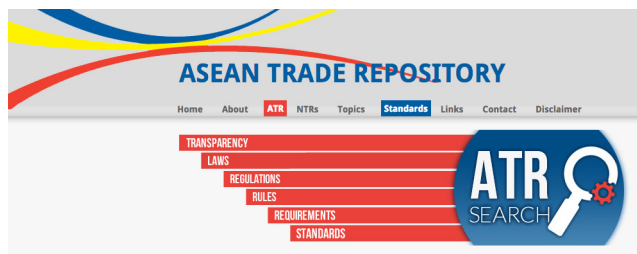
'ASEAN now has guidance documents for standards and technical regulations and for developing recognition arrangements that are based on best international practices and tailored to ASEAN's current and unique needs.'

Ridzwan Kassim, Senior Director of Standardisation, Department of Standards, Malaysia



Time to trade

The ASEAN Trade Repository



November 2015 saw the launch of the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR) at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Kuala Lumpur. Supported by the EU ARISE programme, the ATR provides a single point of access to ASEAN Member States' official national trade-related information including: (i) tariff nomenclature; (ii) MFN and preferential tariffs; (iii) rules of origin; (iv) non-tariff measures; (v) national trade and customs laws and rules; (vi) procedures and documentary requirements; (vii) administrative rulings; (viii) best practices in trade facilitation; and (ix) list of authorised traders. Increased transparency boosts trade, economic development, cross-border investment and ASEAN regional integration, and the potential of the ATR will expand as ASEAN Member States progressively provide this information on their online repositories.

'Trade repositories help facilitate the free flow of goods and services among Member States, and improve ease of doing business issues across the region.'

H.E. Mr. Adrian Cristobal Jr., Trade Undersecretary, Government of The Philippines

Trading resolutions

Solutions for investments, services and trade



As the ASEAN Economic Community integrates further and trade grows within the region, so does the potential for cross-border disputes. In order to address this issue, the EU ARISE programme is supporting ASEAN Member States in developing ASSIST, a non-binding consultative mechanism designed to address the implementation of ASEAN economic agreements and any related cross-border problems encountered by ASEAN-based enterprises. ASSIST is internet-based and free of charge. It can be activated by enterprises registered in any one of the 10 ASEAN Member States, and official responses typically follow within two or three months.

'We see ASSIST as vital in increasing transparency and therefore a key tool in helping ASEAN achieve its stated aim of reducing the number of non-tariff barriers to trade in the region. We believe that all of industry in the region should get behind this initiative.'

Chris Humphrey, Executive Director, EU-ASEAN Business Council



Good movements



Automating customs transit system



Working under the ARISE programme, the EU has been supporting ASEAN in developing an automated customs transit management system. Known as ACTS (ASEAN Customs Transit System) and modelled on the EU's New Computerised Transit System (NCTS), the aim is to facilitate the movement of goods by road throughout the ASEAN region. In 2015, significant progress was made in developing the system software, and a series of workshops, run in collaboration with the customs authorities of all the ASEAN Member States, developed the specifications for a pilot project. These preparations also included the development of the procedural environment required to operate the system, and involved engagement with the private sector. Implementation of a pilot version of the system in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand is due for completion by the end of 2016.

Food for thought



Enhancing food safety

Improving safety in the food chain is a priority for a number of ASEAN bodies working in the health, trade and agricultural sectors, as is facilitating intra-ASEAN trade in food products. The EU's ARISE programme has been instrumental in meeting these objectives, and ASEAN has now, with the adoption of the five ASEAN Common Food Control Requirements (ACFCRs), established common principles and requirements which can be applied across all Member States. These five principles prescribe requirements for food hygiene, certification and inspections, and import and export controls. The new policy is based on current international best practices and provides a strong foundation for ASEAN to build its institutions and systems while ensuring improvements in food safety and trade.



Something's in the air

Air transport integration



The EU's € 4.7 million ASEAN Air Transport Integration Project (AATIP), launched in November 2012 and implemented by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), aims to support ASEAN's establishment of a single aviation market. The project targets the development of systems and tools that strengthen ASEAN capacities to achieve a safe, secure and sustainable air transport system based on high regulatory standards. Using the EU single aviation market experience as a reference, core activities include conferences, seminars and workshops addressing market liberalisation, aviation safety, and air traffic management.

'Thanks to the EU and AATIP, the ASEAN Member States are exploring how they can best support a common aviation industry while providing the most consumer benefits. One useful question remains: can we achieve as much as the EU, or can we do even better?'

Thailand's Deputy Permanent Transport Secretary at the 2015 ASAM Conference in Bangkok, Thailand

The price of pepper

Kampot pepper registered for EU protection



Kampot pepper is one of Cambodia's most important exports and because of its popularity it has been subject to counterfeiting. To prevent this, a European Capabilities Action Plan (ECAP) project worked with Cambodian authorities to secure Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) for the product. One of three EU schemes designed to protect the names of quality agricultural products and foodstuffs, PGI provides protection from imitation and allows the specific character of the products to be promoted. ECAP support included legal advice and preparation for the registration, which was obtained in February 2016. Consequently, both farmers and processors stand to benefit from increased value and higher demand.

'If it had not been for the ECAP project, we would not have been able to secure this protection. It is very important because the EU is major market for this specialist pepper.'

Sim Sokheng, Director, Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia



Furthering farmers' future



The ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme



Smallholder farmers and rural producers in ASEAN countries cannot always obtain the technical, political and economic support from their local farmers' organisations that would most effectively improve both their livelihoods, and the food security position of their country and the region. In order to address this issue, the EU and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have initiated the ASEAN Farmers' Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP) with € 15 million funding provided by the EU. The programme is helping farmers' organisations evolve into stable, professional and accountable bodies that are capable of providing effective and sustainable services to their members and influencing policy and corporate processes at local, national, regional and global levels. It is addressing a range of challenges. These include marketing and interaction with the private sector, knowledge dissemination, and the need for incentives for younger generations to stay on and succeed in the agriculture sector.

Fair competition



Competition Policy and Law in ASEAN

Effective competition policy safeguards consumer interests regarding quality and price, and ensures fair market participation for and by suppliers. With € 7.5 million funding for 2011-2017 from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Competition Policy and Law in ASEAN (CPL) programme is assisting in the formulation of national competition laws that promote cross-border trade and investment in ASEAN. Multi-stakeholder consultations and learning from the experiences of more advanced Member States were key in realising this crucial commitment for the ASEAN Economic Community, which now covers all but one country.

'As the ASEAN Community takes effect, Laos now has a law that will bolster the country's competitive edge. I strongly believe that competition policy and law are essential tools for administering, monitoring and inspecting competition in business activities in Laos.'

H.E. Somchit Inthamith, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR



Food security



Sustainable agrifood systems



The ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems (ASEAN SAS) programme, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with € 7 million over four years, aims to provide solutions for food security in the region through the development of coordinated regional policies and strategies for sustainable agriculture. Aside from training some 700 ministry officials and over 15,000 farming households in sustainable agriculture, the programme was instrumental in developing the 2014 ASEAN Guidelines on Regulation, Use and Trade of Biological Control Agents (BCA).

'I used to apply chemical pesticides to control diseases. But, now, I use an organic fertilizer and pesticide for my cucumbers and string beans. The yield is higher and the vegetables are of better quality. I earn more compared to other farmers who use synthetic pesticides. And, now my kids are allowed to play in the vegetable fields.'

Sun Song, a farmer from Siem Reap province, Cambodia

Network visions



Corporate social responsibility

The ASEAN CSR Network, launched in January 2011 and supported by Sweden with a € 1.5 million three-year grant, aims to enhance the role of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in delivering sustainable socio-economic development in the ASEAN region. As a result of this engagement, the ASEAN CSR Vision 2020 is moving forwards in all the Member States. Ground up initiatives are being supported, awareness is being raised, and the relevant issues are being addressed effectively. It is accepted that CSR has an important role to play in ASEAN's next 10-year plan, and this initiative is helping build capacity and enable collective action.

'Sweden's efforts to realise the ASEAN CSR Vision 2020, and the UK government's anti-corruption initiatives, have enabled us to take concrete steps to promote human rights, business integrity, food security and sustainable agriculture through working with partners to take CSR to a higher level.'

Thomas Thomas, CEO, ASEAN CSR Network





Social and Cultural Cooperation

People-Centred Progress

Closer people-to-people contacts are a core component of the deepening EU-ASEAN partnership, and in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, 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. Focused on nurturing the human, cultural and natural resources needed for sustainable development and harmonious relations between people and countries, this work aims to build an inclusive and sharing society where livelihoods, well-being and welfare have top priority.

In this context, Europe's unique Higher Education Area, the EU Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (EU-SHARE) programme, and exchanges of higher education students and researchers through the new Erasmus+ programme are inspiring and facilitating the increased regional mobility of students in the region, and raising the quality of university education. This cooperation extends to the sharing of EU experiences on the mutual recognition of qualifications, and regional accreditation and evaluation systems. These are all of particular relevance to ASEAN as it seeks to increase mobility within the region, not only for students and academic staff, but also for skilled workers.

Enhanced cooperation on people-to-people contacts, climate change, environment and disaster management

In total more than 4,000 ASEAN students now travel to Europe on scholarships funded by the EU and its Member States every year, and ASEAN's strong participation in the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (2007-2013) led to over 100 successful projects in the region. Doubtlessly, the future will see enhanced 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 cross-boundary challenges such as climate change and natural disasters. Due to geographic factors, many ASEAN countries are vulnerable to natural catastrophes, and the reliability of food, water and energy resources remain areas of concern given population growth, urbanisation and migration, along with wealth and income disparities. The EU has therefore been supporting ASEAN and Member State





initiatives aimed at mitigating the adverse impact of climate change. This includes a programme focused on reducing peat-related emissions, and preventing peatland fires and trans-boundary haze.

The EU is also committed to supporting ASEAN farmers' adaptation to the changes of climate patterns by strengthening farmers' organisations in the region. More will also be done to promote low-carbon, environmentally sustainable and climate resilient ASEAN cities in the future, particularly in the context of fast moving urbanisation.

Similarly, the ASEAN-EU Emergency Management Programme (AEEMP) has shown

tangible results by working with the ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) and ASEAN Member States to develop more cohesive, coordinated and effective emergency response and early warning capabilities. This helps facilitate timely and efficient response to natural or man-made disasters, as well as to enhance cooperation with other regional and international organisations.

In 2015 a new project called Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN has been approved. It aims to enhance the conservation of biodiversity and the effective management of protected areas in Southeast Asia, notably the ASEAN Heritage Parks' network.



Sharing learning

Supporting higher education



The Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE) programme, which is running from 2015 to 2019 with € 10 million in EU grant funding, aims to strengthen regional cooperation, enhance the quality, competitiveness and internationalisation of ASEAN higher education institutions and students, and contribute to ASEAN connectivity and prosperity. The flagship programme is providing around 500 scholarships to support university student exchanges and academic credit recognition within the ASEAN region. Drawing on the EU's experience of the Bologna process and the European Higher Education Area, SHARE will promote the mobility of ASEAN students and enhance the competency and quality of human capital in the region.

'Building a regional higher education system with an effective and sustainable scholarship scheme at its core will not only benefit students and universities, but will also form a cornerstone of a truly people-centred ASEAN community.'

H.E. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, ASEAN Deputy Secretary General



Talking safety

Enhancing disaster management



The ASEAN-EU Emergency Management Programme (AEEMP) aims to improve cooperation and knowledge exchange between the different ASEAN civil protection and crisis management actors and the relevant EU bodies. The overall objective is to enhance resilience and disaster management in the ASEAN region. Supported by the EU with € 2.2 million between 2013 and 2016, two recent events have allowed the benchmarking of ASEAN's current practices and the enhancement of relations and technical collaboration. In May 2015, a study visit to Paris and Brussels allowed EU and ASEAN specialists to discuss and compare their respective cooperation policies, and a subsequent workshop in Jakarta provided a forum to examine policy and practical case studies as well as routine and emergency situations.

'The study visit was instrumental in bringing the AHA Centre closer to the EU's Situation Room operations and the Emergency Response Coordination Centre.'

Said Faisal, Executive Director, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA), Jakarta, Indonesia

For peat's sake



Managing peatlands to prevent fire and pollution



The € 3 million Sustainable Management of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia (SEApeat) project ran from 2011 to 2015. Funded by the EU and implemented by Malaysia's Global Environment Centre NGO in collaboration with all 10 ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat, the project engaged policy makers, planners, land managers, private sector and peatlands communities in action aimed at protecting key peatlands. This included introducing incentives to reduce pressure on peatland resources, and developing partnerships with the private sector to develop best practice guidelines. The project also strengthened regional fire prevention capacity, improved knowledge on the status of peatland in six countries, and assisted in establishing the ASEAN Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (APSMPE) 2014-2020 programme. Through work with ASEAN, the SEApeat project has demonstrated the value of integrated peatland management, and the importance of engaging local communities and the private sector to enhance fire prevention and warning.

Pushing towards Paris



Discussing the imperatives of climate change

Knowledge exists everywhere, but the challenge is using it to produce the ambitious, far-reaching and flexible policies that are needed to drive effective action against global climate change. Held in Bangkok in July 2015, the Regional Forum on Climate Change was an ambitious attempt by French diplomacy, supported by the EU, to bring together ASEAN politicians, scientists, media groups and academics to discuss and prepare for COP21 in Paris later that year. One aim of the conference was to present the EU's position. Another was to push for quick delivery of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) from ASEAN Member States.

'We feel the pressure to deliver following this conference. We all understand our moral and collective responsibilities. It's about our preparedness and readiness to deliver on our responsibilities. We have also developed more confidence in delivering on our results.'

Larry Maramis, Director, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation, ASEAN Secretariat





Multi-sector Policy Dialogue

Sharing Experience

A comprehensive dialogue facility aimed at supporting ASEAN policy makers and practitioners

The Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI), a four-year initiative completed in August 2015, was an innovative multi-sector dialogue programme designed to contribute to all three ASEAN Communities. With the objective of facilitating ASEAN integration by supporting the ASEAN Community Blueprints, it drew on European experience and expertise to support policy development in non-trade areas on a flexible 'on demand' basis. This allowed it to respond to evolving priorities as determined by both ASEAN and the EU.

Four sectors were initially identified for READI support: information and communication technology (ICT), energy, science and technology, and disaster management. However, as a result of regular consultations with ASEAN and EU institutions – notably

the European Commission – the scope of the programme quickly expanded to cover 10 components including education, climate change, capacity building, maritime cooperation, election observation, and human rights.

READI achieved a significant number of tangible successes. In all, 72 exchanges involving 790 specialists were facilitated, and 28 new action plans, agreements and dialogues led to the implementation of 30 ASEAN integration initiatives. In the field of ICT, READI supported – among other things – the launch and operation of the ASEAN Spectrum Policy Forum. In the energy sector, it contributed to a new investment regulation framework on energy interconnections and the commercial development of the ASEAN power grid. Among other activities in the science and technology sector, it supported cross-border green energy and food security research in ASEAN, and was instrumental in the development of monitoring and evaluation indicators for ASEAN's disaster management and emergency response systems. In education, it was central in the development of the 2014 ASEAN State of Education Report, which provided an important reference point for policy formulation in the sector.





In fact, READI became the model for two new programmes: a targeted initiative with additional support which began in August 2015 designed to expand READI's cooperation in human rights, and an expanded new facility (E-READI) that will continue existing work, and extend into new areas from 2016. The human rights related work is considered to be of particular importance by both the EU and ASEAN. Themes of common interest include human rights and corporate social responsibility, improving accessibility for people with disabilities, child protection systems, gender mainstreaming, promoting the

economic rights of women and older people, violence against women and children, and human trafficking.

By setting up flexible and efficient governance, management and communication structures, and by building trust among key stakeholders and interlocutors from ASEAN and the EU, as well as by delivering consistently good results, READI stands as a shining example of the benefits that can be derived from EU-ASEAN multi-sector dialogue.

Acting for health



Japanese Encephalitis research

A READI-funded workshop, organised by the ComMod Pilot Network in Food Security Research in Phnom Penh in October 2014, addressed the pressing issue of Japanese Encephalitis in humans and how appropriate control strategies could be developed for Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. Using the Network's 'companion modelling' approach, which employs a One Health perspective that addresses human, animal and environmental health holistically, issues associated with this mosquito-borne viral disease were explored in terms of the actors involved – which can include artefacts such as laws and regulation as well as stakeholders such as institutions and affected groups and individuals – and their interactions. The workshop generated better understanding of Japanese Encephalitis, and developed a number of plausible questions for further research.

'Everyone involved is extremely motivated. The high level of interest displayed indicates how important it is to continue this initiative.'

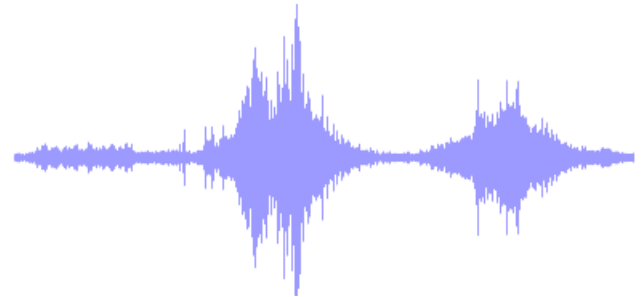
Raphael Duboz, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Khlong Luang, and Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand



Chasing waves



Facilitating radio spectrum policy



In March 2015, over 70 experts from ASEAN and the EU, including government and private sector actors, met in Vientiane to exchange EU and ASEAN experience on managing radio resources, and consider the increasing scarcity of space in the radio wave spectrum for mobile services. The 5th meeting of the ASEAN Spectrum Policy Forum (ASPF) focused on a process known as 're-farming'. This process, which involves the re-dedication of radio spectrum bands and offers significant benefits to consumers, requires that a number of policy and regulatory issues are addressed, including band planning, interference, cross-border coordination, and the impact of competition.

'We are not only facing increased demands for bandwidth, but also increased pressure from radio spectrum users, who see their requirements growing rapidly. Hence the increasingly important role of government as a regulator, and a key enabler of effective spectrum management.'

Thansamay Kommasith, Vice Minister, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Lao PDR

Research for all



Research for green energy and food security



READI has been supporting two innovative research networks. The first, the Pilot Networks of Excellence in Green Energy Research (ANEGER), aims to encourage the development of a competitive clean energy industry in ASEAN, and thereby contribute to the region's energy security. The second, the ASEAN Pilot Network in Food Security Research (also known as ComMod), applies a One Health approach to animal health management. This innovative approach emphasises the connections between human, animal and environmental health in developing the animal health surveillance and control systems that are central elements of food security. By sharing international experiences, best practices and recent technological developments, these two pan-ASEAN networks advance knowledge and technological capacities for the benefit of everyone in the region, and beyond.

'ANEGER is an excellent platform for knowledge exchange and the creation of opportunities for collaboration in fields far beyond the forms of the Network.'

Prof. Dr. Bundit Fungtammasan, ANEGER coordinator, King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thonburi, Thailand

Security at sea



Cooperating on maritime security

In May 2015, the 2nd High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security Cooperation, which was jointly organised in Malaysia by the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European External Action Service under the auspices of the READI programme, provided a clear demonstration of the potential benefits to both the EU and ASEAN of dialogue and closer cooperation on maritime security. Attended by high ranking officials and key experts from ASEAN Member States, EU institutions and EU Member States, the event offered in-depth exchanges on various aspects of maritime security including enhancing inter-agency cooperation and coordination, improving maritime situational awareness, and ensuring port security. Discussions drew on EU best management practices and lesson learned from the application of the EU Maritime Security Strategy, the EU's Common Information Sharing Environment, and the CRIMARIO programme. Practical matters were also discussed such as tackling transnational organised crime, port security, and capacity building.



Reaching across the region



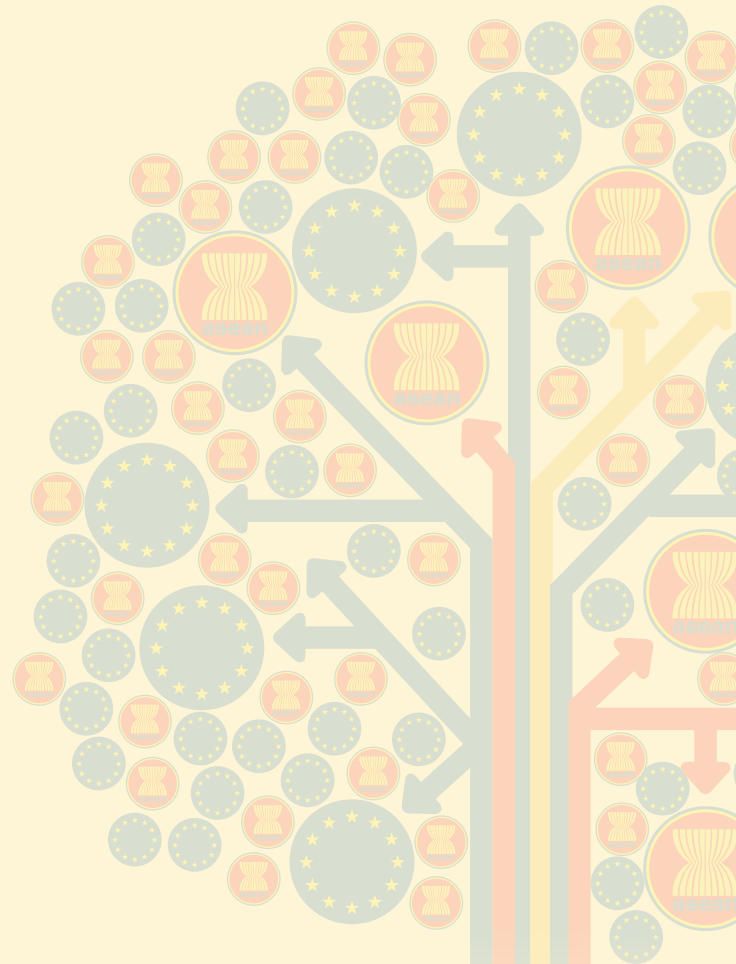
Capacity building at the ASEAN Secretariat



The ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) is the nerve centre of the recently launched ASEAN Community, acting in compliance with the ASEAN Charter and in the best interests of the region's 625 million inhabitants. A capacity building project, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office with € 11 million since 2008, has been working to strengthen the Secretariat institutionally. One element of the project has supported the development of a new corporate design which has raised the profile of the ASEAN brand, and boosted engagement across the region.

'The new ASEAN corporate design has been embraced by the Member States, and - starting from a very low base just a few years ago - ASEC nowadays regularly engages with over half a million people across the region. This really is the ASEAN Community in action!'

Romeo Arca, Community Relations Division, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia



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