



U.S.-ASEAN COOPERATION



ASEAN IN BRIEF

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional organization focused on maintaining regional security and promoting regional integration. ASEAN has ten members: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. It collaborates closely with its ten Dialogue Partners: the United States, Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, and Russia. ASEAN aims to accelerate the economic growth, cultural development, and social progress of its member states, promote regional peace and security as well as respect for justice and rule of law, strengthen food security, and promote trade.

Home to 664 million people, ASEAN is the 3rd largest market in the world with almost 60 percent of the population under the age of 35. The region's middle class is expected to more than double in size to 334 million by 2030. The ASEAN Economic Community is currently the 5th largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$2.4 trillion.

U.S.-ASEAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

For over 40 years, the United States has partnered with ASEAN and its member states to strengthen economic engagement, security, rule of law, human rights, and people-to-people ties. The United States and ASEAN coordinate on issues ranging from maritime security and terrorism to disaster management, governance, anti-trafficking, and nuclear proliferation. In 2015, the United States and ASEAN elevated their relationship into a strategic partnership, and in 2017 celebrated 40 years as dialogue partners. The United States participates in the ASEAN-centered East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting-Plus, and the ASEAN Regional Forum. ASEAN is the fulcrum of the free and open Indo-Pacific strategy.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The ASEAN region is the largest destination in Asia for U.S. foreign direct investment (more than \$328 billion in cumulative investment), more than U.S. companies have directed to China, India, Japan, and South Korea combined. ASEAN member states taken together are the 4th largest goods export market for the United States after Canada, Mexico, and China, and the U.S. is the 4th largest trading partner for ASEAN. The U.S. exports over \$100 billion in goods and services to ASEAN countries annually. Trade with ASEAN supports more than half a million jobs in the United States.

SECURITY COOPERATION

With more than \$3.3 trillion in trade passing through the disputed waters of the South China Sea each year, including over \$200 billion in U.S. trade, maritime security is a priority for both the United States and ASEAN. The United States has supported regional efforts to increase security and awareness through trainings, exercises, workshops, and consultations. The U.S. military conducts major bilateral or multilateral exercises with all ASEAN states except Myanmar and Laos. In August 2018, the United States and ASEAN conducted their first ever Maritime Exercise. Since 2005, the U.S. Agency for International Development has provided over \$682 million in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief to the region after natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

U.S.-ASEAN COOPERATION HIGHLIGHTS

Over the last five years, the United States has:

- Provided \$35 million in technical assistance to advance ASEAN's vision for economic, political-security, and social-cultural integration;
- Provided training or assistance to 120,000+ entrepreneurs and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs);
- Conducted over 600 trainings, exchanges, and workshops and spent over \$51 million to advance maritime cooperation in ASEAN;
- Invested \$37 million on security assistance through the Southeast Asia Maritime Law Enforcement Initiative and an additional \$37 million for International Military Education and Training;
- Trained over 5,000 emerging Southeast Asian leaders ages 18-35 through the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative;
- Invested over \$14 million to fund women's engagement programs.

ASEAN BY THE NUMBERS



1

U.S. was the first country to establish a permanent diplomatic mission to ASEAN



550K

U.S. jobs across 50 states are supported by trade with ASEAN



\$328B

U.S. foreign direct investment into ASEAN



780K

Visitors from ASEAN to the U.S. per year

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