Established in February 2012, the United States-Singapore Third Country Training Program (TCTP) is a partnership between the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Department of State to jointly conduct capacity building courses for Southeast Asian countries, in particular those in the Lower Mekong region. TCTP supports ASEAN community-building efforts by addressing a range of economic, political, and social capacity building needs. Singapore and the United States draw on complementary expertise and experience to develop innovative capacity building programs that meet the priority needs of ASEAN member countries.

BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH CONNECTIONS

Each TCTP workshop is co-facilitated by teams of subject matter experts from the United States and Singapore, with courses adhering to three broad areas of training: (1) Connectivity; (2) Sustainable Development; and (3) Regional Resilience. Participants are comprised of relevant government officials from Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. Beyond developing greater expertise on the topic, participants work together on exercises and presentations. Through the program, participants reinforce personal connections with their counterparts from other Southeast Asian nations, building professional networks across national boundaries.

In 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, TCTP workshops shifted to a virtual platform, allowing several implementing partners, participants, and government officials to substantively engage over the second half of the year.

BY THE NUMBERS

- >1,500 Government officials trained since 2012
- >50 Implementing partners
- >20 Technical categories covered
- >57 Courses conducted as of 2021
- 11 Southeast Asian countries participating

PARTIAL LIST OF TOPICS

- Antibiotic Microbial Resistance
- ASEAN Trade and Intellectual Property Rights
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Emergency (CBRNE) Response
- Competition, Securities, and Investment
- Counterfeit and Substandard Medications
- Cybercrime and Intellectual Property Rights
- Cybercrime
- Cybersecurity
- Developing the Digital Economy for Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME)
- Developing Training Regimes for Public Procurement Officials
- Disease Outbreak Response
- E-Commerce and Telecommunications
- E-Payments
- Health benefits of Taking Action on Climate Change
- Infrastructure Finance
- Intellectual Property
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Intellectual Property Rights Customs Enforcement
- Promoting an ASEAN digital market
- Public Procurement Best Practices
- Religion and Peacebuilding
- Roads Management
- Smart Cities
- Startup Companies in a Digital Economy
- Water, Air, and Waste Management
- Water Efficiency
- World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation

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