U.S.-ASEAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS  For more than 40 years, the United States has partnered with ASEAN and 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. In 2020, the United States celebrates the fifth anniversary of the U.S.-ASEAN Strategic Partnership. The United States participates in the ASEAN-centered East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting-Plus, and the ASEAN Regional Forum. ASEAN is the fulcrum of the free and open Indo-Pacific strategy.

U.S.-ASEAN COOPERATION HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2020, the United States continues to be a leader in global health, including by providing more than $3.5 billion in U.S. government assistance to fight COVID-19 in ASEAN member states.
- The U.S. Department of State created the Health Futures Alumni Network to bring together more than 2,400 medical and public health alumni of U.S. exchange programs from ASEAN member states and Timor-Leste. This network has already come together to share best practices in fighting COVID-19.
- The United States has worked with several ASEAN member states during their ASEAN chairmanship to conduct the Indo-Pacific Business Forum — 2019 in Bangkok and 2020 in Vietnam. The IPBF fosters millions of dollars in corporate deals and builds stronger connections across the U.S. and ASEAN private sectors.
- The United States, through USAID and ASEAN Secretariat, signed a five-year agreement USAID-ASEAN Regional Development Cooperation Agreement, with $50 million to support regional and global challenges, economic integration of ASEAN, and rule of law.
- The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation has already invested more than $1 billion dollars to support projects in ASEAN countries, and is poised to greatly expand its support, working with ASEAN governments and the private sector.

SECURITY COOPERATION

With more than $3.5 trillion in trade passing through the disputed waters of the South China Sea each year, including more than $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. ASEAN and the United States continue to focus on improving Maritime Domain Awareness and collaborating on information sharing best practices, joint and interagency operations, and multinational cooperation. 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 more than $682 million in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to the region after natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The ASEAN region is the largest destination in Asia for U.S. foreign direct investment, with more than $329 billion in cumulative investment, which is more than U.S. companies have directed to China, India, Japan, and South Korea combined. ASEAN member states taken together are the fourth largest goods export market for the United States after Canada, Mexico, and China, and the United States is the fourth largest trading partner for ASEAN. The U.S. exports more than $100 billion in goods and services to ASEAN countries annually. Trade with ASEAN supports more than half a million jobs in the United States.

BY THE NUMBERS

1 The United States was the first country to establish a permanent diplomatic mission to ASEAN
500K U.S. jobs across 50 states supported by trade with ASEAN
$3.6B USAID assistance in the ASEAN region from 2013-2020
$338B U.S. foreign direct investment into ASEAN
$5B ASEAN visitors add to the U.S. economy annually

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