



Picture credit: Avigador Photography
(Getty Images)

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION THROUGH ASEAN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

As one of the fastest growing regional economies in the world, with a GDP of more than \$3 trillion¹, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plays a vital role in setting shared goals and standards for its 10 member states² to stimulate national economic reform and guide regional economic integration and cohesion. Yet, implementation at the national level can vary from state to state.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is working with the Bureau of Customs (BOC) Philippines to exchange the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD). Linking the Philippines electronically to the ASEAN Single Window (ASW), which is an ASEAN trade facilitation platform, will broaden economic integration, meet the Philippines' commitment to ASEAN priority of digitalizing trade processes, and optimize the potential of intra-ASEAN trade.

¹ GDP ASEAN Countries from 2016-2026. Statista. Available At: [ASEAN countries GDP 2021 | Statista](#)

² Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

OUR WORK

In alignment with the U.S. Strategic Partnership with ASEAN and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, USAID's ASEAN Policy Implementation (API) project works to identify needs and opportunities to advance ASEAN policy implementation at the national level, and provides technical assistance to member states to strengthen implementation of ASEAN policies.

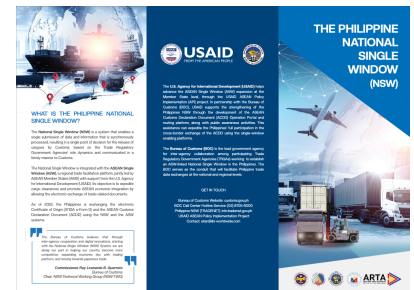
USAID helps close the loop on endorsed ASEAN policy initiatives at the member state level and targets areas of accountability where countries have made commitments underpinned by close collaboration with regional USAID flagship projects IGNITE and PROSPECT.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

MAXIMIZING TRADE FACILITATION

With USAID support, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) of the Philippines achieved a critical milestone to operationalize the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) Operations Portal via the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) to 7 other ASEAN member states, namely, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, and Brunei Darussalam. Improved cross-border trade efficiency, through paperless exchanges, was critical during extended COVID-19 pandemic lockdown periods. Highlights include:

- Development of the ACDD Operations Portal and the application program interface routing platform (ACDD Management System).
- Successful live exchanges of ACDD with Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand to date.
- Co-creation of outreach products to promote the ACDD Operations Portal and the Philippines National Single Window.



EXPANDING DIGITAL DATA GOVERNANCE

USAID is also assisting the BOC Philippines to develop a National Master Data Plan for Information Sharing and Interoperability to address the implementation of the ASEAN Framework on Digital Data Governance in line with AMS commitment to accelerate and expand digital economy integration. Through this effort, USAID helps the BOC Philippines strengthen risk management activities leveraging established information protection rules as well as build confidence in interagency information exchange. USAID assistance will result in enhanced cross-border cooperation and reduced customs clearance time for consignments to secure greater economic and trade visibility in the region.

QUARTERLY REGIONAL TRENDS ANALYSIS

The quarterly regional trends analysis summarizes research on ongoing developments for the United States Government, ASEAN, and its member states where API activities can respond to those trends. The [8th Regional Trends Analysis](#) report highlighted ASEAN circular economy development. Specifically, in October 2021, ASEAN adopted the Framework for Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community.



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