



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

US-ASEAN CONNECT
partnering for sustainable and innovative economic growth



PROMOTING TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

The United States is expanding opportunities for U.S. businesses by supporting the ASEAN Single Window initiative for automated customs clearance. This streamlines trade in goods, reduces the cost of doing business, and leads to greater prosperity and sound governance in Southeast Asia.

When combined, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries are the fifth largest economy in the world and have the third highest economic growth rate, making the ASEAN Economic Community a key market for U.S. businesses. ASEAN countries are the fourth-largest U.S. trading partner. The U.S. is the 2nd largest trading partner for ASEAN, and the U.S. exported more than \$122 billion in goods and services to ASEAN in 2019.¹ In addition, U.S. exports to the region create over half a million jobs across all 50 U.S. States.²

THE ASEAN SINGLE WINDOW

The United States supports free, transparent, sustainable, and inclusive trade practices in ASEAN countries. Since 2006, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has worked with ASEAN member states (AMS) to make the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) for customs clearance a reality. The ASW work also contributes to the U.S.-ASEAN Connect initiative, a strategic unifying framework to deepen the United States' growing economic cooperation with ASEAN.



Inside the Indonesia National Single Window 'War' Room
(Photo: Timothy Buehrer, USAID IGNITE)

¹ <https://asiamattersforamerica.org/uploads/publications/2021-ASEAN-Matters-for-America.pdf> -pg.2

² <https://asiamattersforamerica.org/uploads/publications/2021-ASEAN-Matters-for-America.pdf> -pg.3

Linking National Single Windows (NSWs)

Each ASEAN member state's national single window (NSW) works to improve customs compliance and increase transparency in trade transactions, thereby reducing opportunities for corruption and increasing incentives for smaller firms to participate in trade. The ASW is a digital platform that connects and integrates the NSW of each member state to promote efficient, reliable, and secure automated customs exchanges for trade across ASEAN. In December 2019, with USAID support, all ten AMS successfully linked to the ASW to exchange electronic customs documents for the first time.



The Tanjung Priok Port, Jakarta, Indonesia (Photo: Deborah Tomasowa, USAID IGNITE)

Benefits of the ASW

The ASW streamlines electronic cargo clearance exchanges, reduces clearance times, boosts clearance reliability, decreases costs for storage and labor, helps ensure equitable administration of trade regulations, and lowers the cost of doing business in the region, saving private firms an estimated \$2.87 billion to date.

In supporting the initiative, USAID promotes prosperity through transparent trade and good governance, ultimately securing the future of U.S. economic and business interests in the ASEAN region. U.S. businesses in Southeast Asia have experienced the benefits and have been strong advocates for the ASW.

Highlighted Results

The ASW exemplifies a successful partnership between the United States and ASEAN. Member states have invested more than \$250 million to create, connect and maintain their custom single windows to link successfully to the ASW. ASEAN established the management oversight needed to operate the platform and provides funding for its ongoing maintenance and support.

Over the past decade, USAID has contributed approximately \$13 million in technical assistance to help facilitate this success. Highlights include:

- Helped countries design, launch, and implement their national single window programs.
- Developed the necessary regional legal reforms to operate the ASW.
- Promoted the marketability of the ASW platform for successful implementation and laid the groundwork for securing regional funding.
- Designed an ASW messaging system and assisted in its launch.
- Harmonized and standardized data among AMS to enable the exchange of trade documents.
- Incorporated Single Window data into risk management systems.
- Harnessed private sector feedback to improve the ASW.



The US-ASEAN partnership continues to foster dialogue during the High-Level Policy Dialogue-Cross Pillar-Labor and Trade, Jakarta (Indonesia), August 2019 (Photo: Deborah Tomasowa, USAID IGNITE)

Moving forward, USAID is working with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to exchange electronic trade documents with the ASW. This effort has the potential to expand two-way trade between ASEAN and the United States -- which amounted to over \$360 billion in 2020³-- to even greater heights.

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³ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/05/12/fact-sheet-u-s-asean-special-summit-in-washington-dc/>