UNLOCKING A COMMON VISION FOR A MORE SECURE, CONNECTED, AND RESILIENT SOUTHEAST ASIA

Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United States government is key to enhancing human security, resilience and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

Since 1977, the United States continues to be a long-standing partner of ASEAN, the leading regional institution for Southeast Asia. Collectively, the highly diverse and dynamic region of Southeast Asia has the world’s third largest population and fifth largest economy. Guided by ASEAN aspirations and the Sustainable Development Goals, ASEAN member states work together to build a stable, prosperous and resilient ASEAN community. Through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government works with ASEAN to strengthen collective capacity to meet complex 21st century challenges to human security and human rights in the Indo-Pacific.

ASEAN-USAID PROSPECT

Strong partnerships and regional organizations are essential components of the United States’ vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific that is more connected, prosperous, secure and resilient. Through the ASEAN-USAID Partnership for Regional Optimization within the Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Communities (PROSPECT) project, the U.S. supports ASEAN efforts to enhance regional policies, cooperation, and capacity across countries and partners to tackle shared challenges, such as public health emergencies and transnational crime, and strengthening common values, such as gender equality and human rights. Working out of its office in the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, the five-year PROSPECT project contributes to U.S.-ASEAN collaboration to address transnational crime and non-traditional security threats, promote responsive and transparent governance, and expand rights and opportunities for women and youth across Southeast Asia.

ADDRESSING TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES & NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY THREATS

PROSPECT collaborates with ASEAN officials, civil society, and dialogue and development partners to strengthen regional policies, systems, and capabilities to effectively coordinate on transnational threats, including countering violent extremism and disinformation, trafficking in persons and wildlife, as well as boosting collective preparedness and response for public health emergencies, natural disasters, and other humanitarian crises.
PROMOTING RESPONSIVE AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE

PROSPECT assists ASEAN efforts to strengthen governance, rule of law, compliance with ASEAN conventions and agreements and facilitates platforms promoting civil society engagement in ASEAN policymaking.

ADVOCATING FOR RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

In support of an inclusive and connected ASEAN community that leaves no one behind, PROSPECT provides technical assistance to ASEAN initiatives focused on promoting gender equality, human rights, and youth leadership and cross-cultural exchange.

HIGHLIGHTED RESULTS

- Facilitated multi-stakeholder engagement and exchange leading to the establishment or enhanced implementation of twelve regional laws, policies and resources related to anti-trafficking in persons, natural disaster management, promoting gender equality, civil society engagement, and other social protections. This includes ASEAN’s first-ever Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework 2021 - 2025 and Regional Study on Women, Peace and Security, both of which the U.S. will continue to help move forward in 2022.
- Provided technical expertise and management to ASEAN counter-terrorism officials to design the Bali Work Plan to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism (2019 – 2025). Follow-up support resulted in the launch of a new educational resource, Training-of-Trainers Program to Address Disinformation and Promote Media Literacy, which will be piloted in 2022.
- Advanced regional dialogue and cooperation on strengthening social protections and human rights across key stakeholders from government, civil society, and private sector through over 40 workshops and regional forums.
- Over 90 youth from across ASEAN have stronger leadership and technical skills and wider networks to raise awareness and mobilize their communities on important social issues including promoting inclusion and tolerance; equitable access to healthcare, information, and other pandemic recovery efforts; and sustainable development as a result of PROSPECT training, including through the Habibie Center’s Community Empowerment for Raising Inclusivity and Trust through Technology Application (CERITA) and the ASEAN Youth Social Journalism and Youth Video Contests implemented in partnership with the ASEAN Foundation.

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1 See PROSPECT’s workstream activity factsheets for more details about the project’s work related to counter-trafficking in persons, gender equality and inclusion, and disaster preparedness and response.