



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA

# Partnering with ASEAN

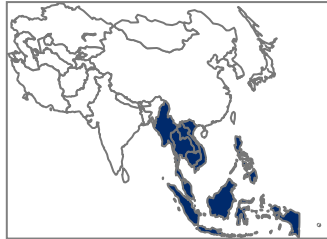
2010



*U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton makes a historic visit to the ASEAN Secretariat and announces a new era of ASEAN-U.S. cooperation. "This region is vital to the future of not only the United States and each of the countries, but to the world's common interests...a set of countries that will be key to any solutions we pursue on climate change, counterterrorism, global health, and so much else."*

## OVERVIEW

USAID supports the development of a secure, prosperous, and



democratic Southeast Asia and is deeply committed to the development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In particular, the United States supports the implementation of ASEAN's Roadmap for an integrated ASEAN Community by 2015.

## PROGRAMS

### PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

ASEAN member states committed themselves in the ASEAN Charter to protect and promote human rights. The United States supports the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) through training and has also supported the establishment of a network of academic research centers called the Human Rights Resource Centre for ASEAN. This network will provide research, training, and education on human rights issues. The United States also supported ASEAN's effort to create a repository of laws and regulations on the rights of migrant workers, and provided a related study of international best practices.

### FIGHTING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

The United States supports ASEAN's Wildlife Enforcement Network, which has become the world's largest nature-crime enforcement network and fosters regional cooperative links between police, customs, judicial, and environment agencies. The United States also has provided technical assistance to ASEAN in becoming drug-free by 2015 and has trained customs officials in the region to combat money laundering.

### IMPROVING DISASTER AND PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Given the frequency of disasters in the region, ASEAN has an active program of regional cooperation on disaster management implemented through a regional agreement. The United States supports the implementation of this agreement and the development of a regional early warning system in the disaster response center. Working with the broader ASEAN Regional Forum, the United States co-sponsored with the Philippines and the U.S. Pacific Command the largest-ever civil-military disaster response exercise involving assets from 12 countries.

Since the initial outbreak of avian influenza, ASEAN member states have improved their ability to respond to pandemics. With U.S. assistance, countries have developed programs to ensure the continuity of essential services while preparing themselves to monitor outbreaks.

### PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY

The supply disruptions and food price increases of early 2007, particularly for rice, highlighted how fragile food security is in the region. In response,



## FACT SHEET CONTINUED

ASEAN developed a comprehensive food security framework. The United States is encouraging private sector and civil society participation in ASEAN's policy development; the goal is to explore agricultural inputs to increase production and trade policies to ensure accessibility.

### **ENHANCING ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

The United States works closely with ASEAN on its efforts to promote standards in industries such as automotives, medical equipment, electronics/electrical equipment, and building and construction to promote green buildings. Working with the private sector, the United States is helping to identify and remove constraints to doing business in the region.

### **STREAMLINING TRADE**

In the ASEAN region, goods require an average of 21 days for import or export. To address this problem, ASEAN member states agreed to establish the ASEAN Single Window (ASW). Assisted by the United States, the ASW will allow traders to clear goods at the border through the single submission of harmonized data combined with simultaneous and expeditious processing and decision making.

Another barrier to trade is the lack of transparency in trade regulations. ASEAN has committed to establishing an Internet-based repository of trade regulations in the region, which the United States is supporting. The United States also is helping ASEAN maintain a harmonized tariff nomenclature consistent with the World Customs Organization.

### **MITIGATING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

With much of its population and industry located in low-lying coastal cities, the ASEAN region is very vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change. The United States is working with ASEAN to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change by mobilizing city governments as catalysts for change. Through collaboration between U.S. and ASEAN cities, people in the two regions are strengthening climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. The United States also has supported the ASEAN Working Group on Water Resource Management's effort to prepare a plan of action for floods and drought.

### **IMPROVING WATER QUALITY AND SANITATION**

The United States supports ASEAN's Clean Water Framework, which aims to increase accessibility and sustainable water supply and sanitation. U.S. support has led to cooperation among ASEAN cities and between ASEAN and U.S. cities to improve water quality and sanitation.

### **SUPPORTING LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN ASEAN**

ASEAN's Initiative for ASEAN Integration provides developmental assistance to ASEAN's newest members, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. The United States supports this program by assisting the government of Laos in implementing the bilateral trade agreement with the United States, acceding to the World Trade Organization, and implementing its obligations under the ASEAN Economic Community.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

USAID Regional Development  
Mission for Asia

Tel: +66 2 257-3099

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

<http://www.usaid.gov/rdma/>