

The United States Mission to ASEAN

"A united, integrated and effective ASEAN in the center of Asia is a force of stability, prosperity and peace."

Barack Obama,
President of the United States



“A strong relationship between the **United States** and **ASEAN** is essential to realizing our shared vision for the future of the **Asia Pacific...**”

Barack Obama,
President of the United States

The United States Mission to ASEAN

ASEAN is vital to America’s future. The United States Mission to ASEAN partners with ASEAN and related stakeholders to advance U.S. interests in a peaceful, prosperous, and integrated Southeast Asia that respects the rule of law, upholds the dignity of its people and actively addresses regional and global concerns.

The United States began engaging with ASEAN as a Dialogue Partner in 1977, and has cooperated with ASEAN ever since. The United States became the first Dialogue Partner to name a resident

Ambassador and established a dedicated Mission to ASEAN in 2010. Nina Hachigian became the third Ambassador in 2014. In 2015, the United States-ASEAN relationship was elevated to a Strategic Partnership in recognition of the importance of our cooperation.

Over the past five years, the United States has spent over \$4 billion dollars on development programs to benefit the people of ASEAN in collaboration with ASEAN and its Member States.

Supporting Economic Integration

The United States is the largest investor in Southeast Asia. American companies have invested more than Chinese, Japanese, and Korean companies combined. U.S. companies create millions of jobs in Southeast Asia and in the United States. They bring technology, train local workers, and make long-term commitments to local communities.

- In partnership with ASEAN energy officials, we developed a robust, five year U.S.-ASEAN Energy Work Plan with activities focused on increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy resources, as well as improving ASEAN's electric grid.

The U.S. supports the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) through several programs:

- Since 2008, the United States has helped implement the ASEAN Single Window to facilitate the free flow of goods across borders.
- The U.S. has trained small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through a flagship partnership between USAID and the U.S. – ASEAN Business Council. Over 3,500 SME owners have benefitted.
- We are partnering with ASEAN's telecommunications officials and businesses to promote Internet connectivity, mainly in rural and other underserved areas, as well as greater use of eCommerce, particularly for SMEs.

“ASEAN really is front and center in the region's multilateral architecture, and we want it to remain there.”

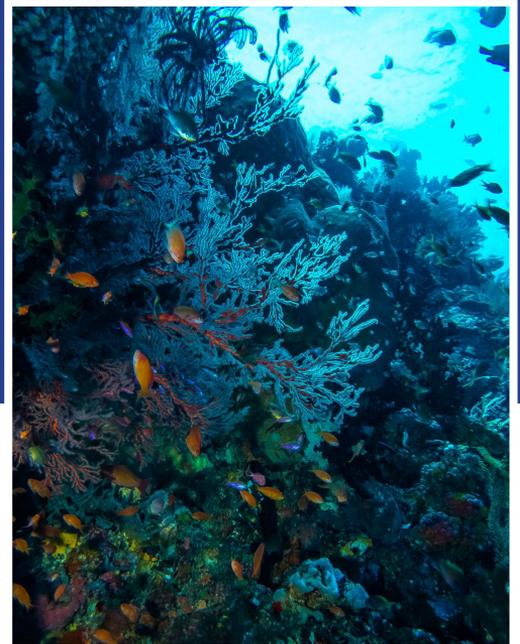
John Kerry,
U.S. Secretary of State



Secretary of State John Kerry with ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh at the ASEAN Secretariat

“Only together can we ensure sustainable fisheries and a future where we can continue to depend on the ocean for food security.”

Nina Hachigian,
U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN



Expanding Maritime Cooperation in ASEAN

People of ASEAN depend on the ocean for the food they eat, the air they breathe and their livelihoods. The United States actively contributes to maritime cooperation in ASEAN.

- USAID 's \$20 million Oceans and Fisheries Partnership strengthens regional cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and conserve marine biodiversity in the Asia-Pacific region. The program partners with the Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries.
- We support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, including helping ASEAN to set up a public-private body to accelerate adoption of better aquaculture and fisheries management.
- The United States supports maritime security and awareness through training, numerous workshops, and consultations including through the ASEAN Regional Forum, Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum and ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting-Plus. We support the peaceful resolution of claims in the South China Sea in accordance with international law.

The U.S. has invested over \$125 million in programs to address threats from overfishing, destructive fishing practices and climate change in Southeast Asia.

Cultivating the Emerging Leaders of ASEAN

With youth representing 65% of ASEAN's population, they will chart the future course of the region. We are investing tens of millions of dollars annually in helping build an ASEAN identity in a people-centered region.

- ASEAN launched the ASEAN Youth Volunteer Program (AYVP) with U.S. support and we have funded the second phase of AYVP through a grant of \$1.4 million. AYVP mobilizes ASEAN's young volunteers to develop innovative solutions to social, cultural, economic, and environmental challenges while forging a sense of regional identity and cross-cultural understanding.
- The Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Visiting Scholar Initiative awards citizens of ASEAN scholarships to the U.S. for up to four months of research on issues central to the U.S. - ASEAN relationship. This complements the 700 Fulbright scholarships between the United States and ASEAN Member States awarded annually.
- The ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology Fellows Program supports ASEAN early-career scientists to work for one year in ministries in their home countries to increase science-based policymaking. The Program is managed by USAID in partnership with the U.S. Mission to ASEAN.

"I had never really thought about ASEAN until I came to this YSEALI workshop."

Member of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative



President Barack Obama at the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Town Hall in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, November 2015.

- The YSEALI U.S.-ASEAN Innovation Challenge invites members of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) to identify science and technology-based solutions to real-life challenges across the region. This is a collaboration between ASEAN's science and technology officials, the United States in partnership with companies like Intel and Cisco. This competition will provide youth with a hands-on opportunity to practice S&T skills and develop important workforce readiness.



The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) is President Obama's signature initiative to strengthen leadership development across ASEAN, deepen engagement with young leaders on key regional and global challenges, and grow people-to-people ties between the United States and Southeast Asia. Currently there are nearly 60,000 YSEALI members.

Promoting Opportunity for Women in ASEAN

Research shows that the more girls and women are educated and join the workforce, the more economies grow, infant mortality falls, and communities improve.

- The U.S. Mission to ASEAN supported the launch of the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network (AWEN), which aims to improve business skills, support better access to financing, help women start new businesses, and link regional and international women's entrepreneur networks.
- The ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology and the U.S. Department of State, in partnership with Underwriters Laboratories, awards an annual ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women to a promising, ASEAN-based, early-career woman scientist, to support efforts to advance regional science and technology and to promote active collaboration in technical and scientific fields.
- The United States supports the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) by strengthening ACWC as an institution, supporting the development of a network of social service agencies, and helping to harmonize regional approaches to addressing violence against women and children.



ASEAN women entrepreneurs launched Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women) at the ASEAN SME Showcase and Conference 2015 in Kuala Lumpur.

“The global climate challenge is about opportunity, security, even our very survival.”

John Kerry,
U.S. Secretary of State

Addressing Transnational Challenges

The United States works with ASEAN to address 21st century challenges that cross borders, including climate change. The U.S.-ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change demonstrates our shared commitment to address this global issue. Partnering with ASEAN, the U.S. also works to address wildlife trafficking, biodiversity conservation, disaster management, as well as trafficking in persons, counterterrorism and violent extremism.

- USAID supports green growth objectives as outlined in the ASEAN-U.S. Joint Statement on Climate Change through over \$60 million in programs throughout the region.
- USAID has long been a supporter of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), helping to reduce consumer demand, strengthen law enforcement, and promote regional cooperation.
- The U.S. has helped train 30,000 ASEAN individuals in natural resources management and biodiversity conservation over the last five years.
- The U.S. contributed over \$1 million for an all-hazard Disaster Monitoring and Response System at the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance.

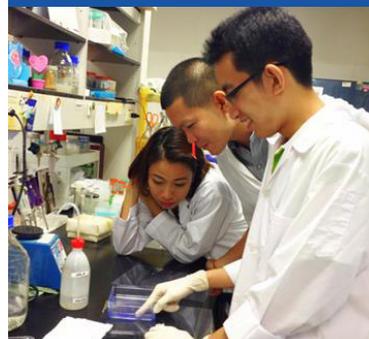
Since 2012, USAID has helped to protect and conserve approximately 64 million acres (28 million hectares) of forest lands and coastal areas in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines – a total area which is roughly the size of Laos.

ASEAN forestry officials visit a hotspot for deforestation and degradation in Vietnam through a USAID program.



- The United States supports ASEAN’s transnational crime officials and human rights bodies to promote victim-centered approaches to combatting trafficking-in-persons and raise public awareness to combat human trafficking.
- The United States is working with ASEAN to harmonize domestic trafficking-in-persons laws throughout the region.
- Since 2012, the U.S. has provided training to nearly 200 ASEAN law enforcement personnel in techniques for countering-terrorism at our regional law enforcement academy.

ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology Fellows



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