

ASEAN AT 50: EVALUATING ASEAN'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Azman Ayob and Jatswan S. Sidhu

ABSTRACT

While the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was formed with the explicit purpose of fostering economic, and socio-cultural cooperation between member states, nonetheless the main underlying reason was the threat posed by the Cold War, namely the spread of communism. With the end of the Cold War in 1991, ASEAN not only began witnessing enlargement in its membership but even in the area of its external relations. Since the 1990s, ASEAN embarked on ambitious journey to expand its extra-regional relations such that it currently has institutionalised mechanisms in place for engaging most, if not all, the major actors and regions around the world. As such, the purpose of this article is to examine the reasons behind the massive expansion in ASEAN's external relations with key actors across the globe.

Keywords: ASEAN, external relations, cooperation, fifty years

INTRODUCTION

ASEAN was formed in 1967 through the Bangkok Declaration with the explicit purpose to enhance economic, social and cultural relations between its founding member states, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Since its inception, ASEAN has not only been pursuing its agenda for deeper regional integration but has also made attempts to bring other regions of the world closer to the world of Southeast Asia. Much of ASEAN's efforts over the last 50 years have been towards forging closer relations with other regional organisations and states that are deemed important to the interests of the Southeast Asian region. In doing so, ASEAN has not only posited itself as a pivot to the international relations of the Asia-Pacific region but even the world at large. Managing extra-regional relations has been a task ASEAN has been trying to accomplish at its best while at the same time maintaining its centrality vis-a-vis the Asia-Pacific region.

ASEAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS (UN)

The ASEAN–United Nations (UN) relationship is one of the earliest attempts by ASEAN to engage multilateral institutions, dating back to the 1970s and initially limited to cooperation with the UN Development Program (UNDP). Eventually over time, ASEAN leaders began exploring the possibility of a more direct engagement mechanism between ASEAN and the UN. Among the first things that ASEAN and the UN have addressed was the promotion of closer cooperation in strengthening the existing dialogue mechanisms between both parties. Hence, the First ASEAN – UN Summit was materialized in February 2000 in Bangkok, and the sequel continues.¹ With regard to ASEAN-UN relations also, ASEAN has been making 'limited but valuable' contribution in maintaining global peace and security in terms of conflict prevention, containment, as well as termination among its member countries, at the very least.²

In the Second ASEAN–UN Summit in 2005 in New York, ASEAN leaders had expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the UN's undivided support for ASEAN in

materializing the ASEAN Community and the establishment of the ASEAN Charter. In its reply of such acknowledgement, the UN welcomes the possibility of ASEAN to seek for the status as an observer in the UN.³ Both ASEAN and the UN agreed on the necessity to broaden the cooperation between the two organizations in various UN agencies to cater for all areas related to the community building.⁴ In September 2007, ASEAN and the UN signed an MoU on ASEAN – UN Cooperation in New York. This MoU resulted in the establishment of a partnership between the two organizations, which would encompass multi-cooperation in various areas for mutual benefits largely in political, economic, and socio-cultural areas. The ASEAN-UN cooperation continues in 2010 when the Third ASEAN-UN Summit was held in Hanoi, in which leaders of both organizations reaffirmed their commitment to work more closely in enhancing cooperation in managing and resolving financial crisis, climate change, energy and food security, disaster management, security and peace, international as well as regional issues, and human rights. In the Fourth ASEAN-UN Summit held in Indonesia in 2011, the leaders had adopted the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN. This commitment serves as a framework to further cooperate in the areas of political security, economic, and socio-cultural by the two organizations.⁵ Cooperation with UN agencies and ASEAN sectoral bodies was further strengthened through the commitment of both organizations that has been recognized and adopted in the Fifth ASEAN-UN Summit in 2013 in Brunei Darussalam. This cooperation is crucial in establishing a more coordinated and cohesive cooperation.

Priorities in ASEAN-UN cooperation also has been charted in areas of regional peace promotion, security, as well as regional prosperity through the Sixth ASEAN-UN Summit that was held in Myanmar in November 2014. In this summit, the ASEAN-UN Work Plan 2015 was adopted. The ASEAN-UN relations continues to prosper through the formal review of the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership between both organizations, in the Seventh ASEAN-UN Summit in Malaysia in November 2015.⁶ The review is an important exercise for both organizations to adopt the necessary measures in the effort to advance the ASEAN-UN cooperation.⁷

THE ASEAN + 3

The ASEAN + 3 (APT) was initiated in December 1997 when leaders of ASEAN member-states, China, Japan, and South Korea convened in the Second ASEAN Informal Summit that was held in Malaysia. This summit, known later on as the ASEAN + 3 Summit was then institutionalized in 1999 when these leaders issued a joint statement on East Asia Cooperation at the Third APT Summit that was held in Manila. The main objective of ASEAN + 3 is to strengthening and deepening the East Asia cooperation in economic, political, and socio-cultural areas.⁸ The APT is a new ASEAN's method or arrangement in the area of international relations in Asia. The APT provides opportunity for various parties to meet together in discussing and resolving issues, as well as stabilizing the regional relations among the actors involved.⁹

In 2007, during the Eleventh APT Summit held in Singapore, the second joint statement on East Asia Cooperation was issued and adopted. This joint statement acted as a reaffirmation of the ASEAN + 3 process that will remain as the main platform towards achieving the long term goal of the establishment of the East Asian community, in which ASEAN would be the prime mover behind it. The APT since then becomes the framework that is so important in fostering the East Asian regionalism. The APT cooperation covers a multi-areas such as politics and security, transnational crime, finance, agriculture, economic,

forestry, minerals, energy, education, science, health, and so on. In the area of political-security for example, the APT Summit held in 1998 has seen the establishment of the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) due to the impact of Asian financial crisis in 1997.¹⁰ The ASEAN +3 leaders felt that there was a need for ASEAN + 3 countries to have a mutual cooperation in managing and overcoming the crisis, in the the long term effort to instill this kind of cooperation as one of the East Asian identity. This ASEAN's initiative to create a new institutional arrangements and to attract different actors in the region to a regular discussions have enabled ASEAN to moderate some of potential tensions.¹¹ The EAVG has the objective to inspire the East Asian peoples and their respective governments to work together in addressing and managing the East Asian region's future challenges.¹² In 2011, the Second EAVG was established with the objective to cater for the APT cooperation activities and the evaluation of these activities in developing the East Asia community-building and cooperation. The APT continues to progress and its summit meeting for the ninetieth times was held in September 2016. In this summit, the ASEAN + 3 leaders focused their attention on the significance of APT cooperation in promoting and maintaining peace, stability, and prosperity of the East Asian region. Agreement in further strengthening their cooperation in traditional and non-traditional security issues were achieved.¹³

In the economic and finance cooperation, ASEAN's trade with the + 3 countries contionued to grow despite several challenges faced due to the uncertainty in the world economy. This is showcased in 2015 in the number of total trade between ASEAN countries and their + 3 countries of 31. 1 percent. In the same year also, the total of the foreign direct investment (FDI) that flows from the +3 countries into ASEAN countries was USD 31 billion. With the objective to strengthening and deepening the economic coperation among the APT countries, the East Asia Business Council (EABC) was established in 2004 in Malaysia, with the focus to enhance the economic cooperation among private entrepreneurs of the East Asian countries. Tourism was recognised by the APT leaders as vital instrument to promote people-to-people relations and connectivity in the APT countries. The tourism industry cooperation in ASEAN + 3 countries has been strengthening by the memorandum of cooperation (MoC) on the APT Tourism Cooperation in January 2016 in Manila. The MoC is an important instrument for a deeper action-oriented mechanism to facilitate travel and tourist visits in the APT countries, apart from to develop quality tourism and strengthening linkages among the education and traning institutions in the APT countries.¹⁴

The cooperation in the ASEAN + 3 countries in the environment, climate change, as well as sustainable development is also enhanced and continued to progress. Through this initiative, a program was designed for the private sector in the APT countries to discuss and venture into the green economy and green technology, via the annual APT Leadership Program on Sustainable Production and Consumption, since 2008. Several environmental projects have been undertaken with the funding by APT Cooperation Fund in 2015 and 2016. In socio-cultural cooperation, strategies to eradicate poverty in the ASEAN + 3 countries were discussed in the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Plus Three (SOMRDPE + 3). This is the official platform for exchanging and sharing good practices in reducing poverty in the APT countries.¹⁵

ASEAN'S RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The ASEAN-Australia relations started when Australia became ASEAN's dialogue partner in 1974. The purpose of this engagement was to broaden and to deepen the dialogue relations in political, economic as well as socio-cultural cooperation.¹⁶ This cooperation continued

overtime and in 2010 the ASEAN-Australia Summit was held in Hanoi, Vietnam. Prior to that, in 2007 ASEAN and Australia adopted the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership which charted the future course of action of the ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Partnership. In 2014, the ASEAN-Australia Commemorative Summit that was held in Naypidaw, Myanmar marked the 40th anniversary of the partnership of ASEAN and Australia. The effort to strengthening and deepening the relationship of ASEAN and Australia is further emphasized in the 29th ASEAN-Australia Forum which was held in March 2017 in once again, Naypidaw, Myanmar. Here, ASEAN and Australia believed that the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit should be held in March 2018 to venture into a new level of bilateral cooperation.¹⁷ Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull highlighted in 2016 that the strategic partnership between ASEAN and Australia is important by focusing in economic opportunities as well as common security challenges that demand a united response.¹⁸

In security and political cooperation, Australia acceded to ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) in 2005. With this, Australia recognized the significance of TAC as a code of conduct which governs the inter-states relations in ASEAN. Australia also gave its commitment to promote the Southeast Asia's regional peace and security. In light of this commitment, Australia had participated in a number of consultative meetings with ASEAN, such as ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), East Asian Summit (EAS), Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), as well as Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) and Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) + Australia Consultation. ASEAN has seen Australia's active participation in supporting the ARF in counter-terrorism and transnational crime, disaster relief, marine security, as well as non-proliferation and disarmament activities. Australia also co-sponsored the 23rd ARF held in Vientiane, Laos in July 2016. On top of that, Australia regularly attends the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) since 2012.¹⁹ Australia continues to actively engage ASEAN through regular consultations in SOMTC + Australia to discuss many issues of common interests in transnational crime and counter-terrorism. Fighting human trafficking is another security issue in which Australia collaborates with ASEAN to suppress it.²⁰ The implementation of a five-year program 2013-2018 of the Australia-Asia Partnership to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) valued at AUD\$50 million is evident to the strengthened Australia-ASEAN partnership.²¹

The ASEAN-Australia economic and socio-cultural relations has witnessed an improved situation as ASEAN and Australia have free trade agreement. ASEAN's trade with Australia was at USD52 million in 2016. This figure has made Australia ASEAN's seventh largest trading partner.²² Australia, too becomes ASEAN's sixth largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) at USD72.4 million in 2016. The tourism industry is also booming with more than 4.3 million Australians visited ASEAN member countries in 2014. Australia also involves in ASEAN's trade negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) since 2012. The 12th round of RCEP trade negotiations was held in Perth, Australia in 2016. Australia has been continuously providing technical assistance to ASEAN in disaster management. This kind of assistance was made through the Cooperation Arrangement to Implement the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Program 2010-2016. Education is another area in which ASEAN and Australia cooperated well. Through the Endeavors Scholarships as well as other grants in 2016, Australia had supported more than 2,000 Australian students to further their studies in ASEAN countries and over 900 ASEAN students to study in Australia. Prior to that in 2013, Australia had launched the New Colombo Plan in which the amount of funding was AUD100 million in the span of five years.²³

As for New Zealand, the ASEAN relations with this country began in 1975 through ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Partnership. In 2015, this partnership became strategic partnership in the 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In this summit, the ASEAN-New Zealand new plan of action 2016-2020 was adopted. In the politico-security area, New Zealand also acceded to ASEAN's TAC in 2005. New Zealand also signed the Joint Declaration to Combat International Terrorism in Vientiane, Laos in July 2005. New Zealand actively participated in a number of ASEAN's politico-security mechanism mentioned above, similar with Australia. New Zealand portrays its commitment of cooperation in combatting transnational crime and counter-terrorism in Southeast Asian region through the framework of ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism. Apart from that, New Zealand also frequently participates in the annual Energy Cooperation Task Force (ECTF) as well as Energy Ministers Meeting (EMM) on the issue of non-proliferation and disarmament in the region.²⁴

In economic sector, New Zealand is serious in boosting trade and investment with ASEAN, especially in enhancing New Zealand's private sector engagement in Southeast Asian region. This is evident when New Zealand announced the NZ Incorporated ASEAN Strategy in July 2013. Similar with Australia, ASEAN and New Zealand have free trade agreement. The ASEAN-New Zealand bilateral trade relations has reached USD6.9 billion in 2016 where New Zealand becomes ASEAN's 10th largest trading partner. In 2015, the FDI from New Zealand in ASEAN countries were figured at USD2.2 billion, making New Zealand the seventh largest source of FDI for ASEAN. New Zealand major exports to ASEAN's five original member countries are also increased as the former's trading partners.²⁵ New Zealand also initiated ASEAN-New Zealand Young Business Leaders' Initiative (YBLI) 2010-2015 to support and enable young business leaders from ASEAN to establish good networking with New Zealand's business community. In agricultural sector, New Zealand pursued with the Agriculture Diplomacy Flagship 2010-2015 with the objective to provide assistance to ASEAN member countries in agricultural research, agrobusiness, food safety, food security, as well as agricultural training and education.²⁶ Not neglecting the socio-cultural cooperation aspect, New Zealand supported the implementation of ASEAN's AADMER and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). New Zealand even provided funding of NZD20 million for ASEAN in the area of disaster risk management. Between 2015 to 2017, New Zealand spent NZD200 million for ASEAN region in human resource development, technical, and economic assistance.²⁷ Similar with Australia, New Zealand also contributed in education, especially the English Training for Officials (ELTO) Program to improve English language skills to officials from ASEAN member countries, particularly from CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam). For example, the amount of NZD258,000 was given to Laos between 2015-2016 for English language training to its 150 officials in support of Laos' ASEAN Chair role in 2016.²⁸

ASEAN RELATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA AND CHINA

South Korea or the Republic of Korea (ROK) initiated its relations with ASEAN in 1989. In 1991, ROK was accorded by ASEAN with a status of full dialogue partner during the 24th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Again this relations has been upgraded to the summit level in 1997 and since then the bilateral relations of ASEAN-ROK eventually became important. ASEAN-ROK involves in strategic partnership since then. In order to facilitate the cooperation and mutual understanding with ASEAN, ROK opened its mission to ASEAN in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2012.²⁹

The ASEAN-ROK relations in politico-security area involves regular dialogues through ASEAN-ROK Summit, Ministerial Meetings, ASEAN + 3, ARF, and several other mechanisms. ROK also has acceded to the ASEAN's TAC in 2004. Apart from that, ROK becomes an active participant of the ARF since 1994. ROK even co-chaired the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security with Indonesia and the United States between 2012-2014. The ROK also actively involves in AADM Plus to cooperate in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, maritime security, counter terrorism, as well as peacekeeping operation. ROK also expanded its cooperation with ASEAN in anti-narcotics through the Knowledge Transfer Program on Narcotics Crime which was conducted between 2007-2013.³⁰ In economic sector, the interdependence between ASEAN and ROK is evident when ROK remained ASEAN's fifth largest trading partner. The FDI from ROK to ASEAN is totalled at USD4.3 billion in 2013 and increased to USD5.7 billion in 2015, making ROK as ASEAN's fifth largest investment partner.³¹ ASEAN and ROK also agreed to mutually achieve the target of USD200 billion bilateral trade volume by 2020 by maximizing the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA). Tourism industry is also benefiting from ASEAN-ROK relations. In 2014, more than 5.83 million Korean tourists visited ASEAN member countries, and ROK became ASEAN's third largest tourist destination after China and Japan with more than 1.6 million ASEAN tourists visiting the country in 2015.³² During the Korean Thanksgiving holidays in early October 2017, it is reported that around 600,000 South Koreans travelled to ASEAN's member countries.³³ In socio-cultural aspect, the establishment of the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) has contributed to the efforts in promoting trade, investment, tourism, cultural exchanges, as well as people-to-people contacts. In 2016 alone, several projects were implemented to enhance ASEAN-ROK cooperation, such as ASEAN Trade Fair, ASEAN Culinary Festival, and ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop. ASEAN and ROK also expanded their cooperation in film through the ASEAN-ROK Film Community Establishment in 2012, to enable cultural exchanges between ASEAN and Korean film entrepreneurs. ASEAN and ROK also have been in cooperation in the area of youth since 1998 through the ASEAN-Korea Youth Exchange and Cultural Community Building Program. The ROK also provided funding for ASEAN-ROK Scholarships for Korean Studies Program which is coordinated by the ASEAN University Network (AUN).³⁴

The ASEAN-China relations can be traced back to 1991 when the foreign minister of China attended the opening session of the 24th AMM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as a guest to the Malaysian government. Eventually, China was given the status of ASEAN Dialogue Partner in 1996 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Since then, the ASEAN-China relations has been elevated to several areas of cooperation such as agriculture, human resource development, investment, energy, tourism, and many more.³⁵ In security arena, China acceded to ASEAN's TAC as early as 2003. China also is the first country of nuclear power to accede to the protocol of Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ). China also joined ASEAN's ARF in 1994.³⁶ China expressed its commitment to promote peaceful and friendly environment in the South China Sea by signing the Declaration on the Conducts of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Apart from that, China and ASEAN are also actively cooperating under the ADMM Plus since 2010. Consultations are also held between ASEAN's SOMTC and China in promoting the cooperation to combat transnational crime as well as other non-traditional security problems.³⁷

China's financial support to ASEAN when the region struck with financial crisis in 1997-1998 has enhanced mutual trust in ASEAN-China relations.³⁸ The ASEAN-China economic relations has continued to increase where China bomes ASEAN's largest trading

partner in 2015 with total bilateral trade volume of USD364.4 billion (50 percent of ASEAN total trade). The China's FDI to ASEAN member countries is totalled at USD8.2 billion in 2015, making China as ASEAN's fourth largest source of FDI. In 2002, ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) was materialised. China also becomes a popular and major destination of ASEAN's tourists. In 2016, the number of ASEAN's tourists arrived in China was 10.34 billion, whereas a number of China's tourists to ASEAN member countries was 19.8 million in the same year. Around 37 ASEAN's cities have been connected with 52 China's cities through the implementation of ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement in early 2017.³⁹ China also has ventured into a number of socio-cultural cooperation with ASEAN, such as in public health, education, culture, labor, people-to-people exchanges, environment, youth, and poverty eradication. For instance, China and ASEAN have signed an MoU on health cooperation in 2012. ASEAN and China agreed to cooperate in the prevention and control of communicable diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, HIV-AIDS and plague. Besides this, ASEAN-China relations in socio-cultural aspect also involves youth exchanges such as China-ASEAN Youth Camp, ASEAN-China cultural cooperation, ASEAN-China Environmental Protection Cooperation Strategy 2009-2015, as well as ASEAN-China Disaster Management Cooperation 2014.⁴⁰

ASEAN'S RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND PAKISTAN

India became ASEAN's sectoral dialogue partner in 1992 in which the relations developed into a full dialogue partnership in 1995. In 2002, the ASEAN-India relations developed into the ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.⁴¹ Since then, the ASEAN-India Summit is held annually. In the 13th ASEAN-India Summit held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2015, ASEAN leadership welcomed India's initiatives of the "Act East Policy" and "Make in India" to encourage and complement the ASEAN's community building efforts. India has participated in several cooperations with ASEAN, such as in the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, the ARF, the PMC 10+1, as well as the East Asia Summit (EAS). India acceded to ASEAN's TAC in 2003, and shared its interests in insuring peace and stability in Southeast Asia. For this matter, India intensified its ASEAN's engagement through the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress, and Shared Prosperity that was signed in 2004 in Vientiane, Laos. This partnership became a platform for ASEAN-India long term engagement, especially in overcoming challenges of global financial crisis as well as the changing in political and economic landscapes.⁴² In 2012, with the intention to further deepening the ASEAN-India relations and cooperation, the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (EPG) was established. The EPG has taken the task to explore ways in widening the existing cooperation between ASEAN and India, as well as to recommend measures and initiatives for future ASEAN-India cooperation.⁴³

In economic sector, the ASEAN-India investment and trade flows are relatively low. Between 1993 to 2003, the ASEAN-India annual trade growth was only 11.2 percent. In the span of 10 years, it grew from USD2.9 billion in 1993 to USD12.1 billion only in 2003. The bilateral trade volume of ASEAN and India also decreased from USD58.6 billion in 2015 to USD56.4 billion in 2016. However, there has been some increment in the FDI flow from India in 2016, from USD0.96 billion in 2015 to USD1.05 billion in 2016.⁴⁴ ASEAN and India also signed in 2003, the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation which became the basis for the establishment of ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (FTA). Then in 2009, ASEAN and India signed the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) with the objective to create one of the world's largest free trade areas with the combined gross domestic products (GDP) of USD4.5 trillion. India and ASEAN hoped to enhance their

commitment to achieve a trade target of USD70 billion by 2012, an up of 40 per cent from \$50 billion in 2010.⁴⁵ The private sector is also encouraged in ASEAN-India economic cooperation through the ASEAN-India Business Summit (AIBS). In 2011, the first AIBS was held together with ASEAN-India Business Fair and Conclave (AIBFC) in New Delhi, India. More than 500 exhibitors from both ASEAN member countries and India took part in this business fair. Tourism industry of ASEAN and India has shown some increase. In 2015, more than 3.3 million Indians visited ASEAN member countries, as compared to 3.07 million in the previous year. In 2010, the ASEAN Promotional Chapter for Tourism (APCT) was established in Mumbai, India to act as a platform to market ASEAN member countries to Indian consumers, and vice-versa.⁴⁶

In socio-cultural affairs, India participated in the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) in which all cooperation projects are funded by the ASEAN-India Fund (AIF) and ASEAN-India Green Fund (AIGF). The IAI projects include the Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDC) and the Centre for English Language Training (CELT) in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam. From the people-to-people perspective, ASEAN and India initiated several projects and programs to cater for this purpose, such as the ASEAN-India Students Exchange Program, Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats, as well as Delhi Dialogue.⁴⁷

As for Pakistan, its ASEAN relationship began when the status of ASEAN sectoral dialogue partner was given in 1993. In approximately two decades, Pakistan has sought to establish close links, promote trade and investment, as well as increase cooperation with ASEAN in various fields.⁴⁸ The ASEAN-Pakistan relationship is further developed when the first meeting of the ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (APJSCC) convened in 1999 in Bali, Indonesia. Since then, there were five APJSCC meetings in which the fifth one was held in the ASEAN Secretariat in 2011. In politico-security area, Pakistan acceded to ASEAN's TAC in 2004. In Jakarta in the same year, Pakistan was accorded with the ASEAN's ARF 24th participant status. In 2005, ASEAN and Pakistan signed the Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism in the 12th ARF meeting held in Vientiane, Laos.⁴⁹ In trade and investment, ASEAN and Pakistan have undertaken a joint feasibility study to establish the ASEAN-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) for the purpose of enhancing and deepening of all ASEAN-Pakistan economic engagement. The joint feasibility study was completed in 2009, but both parties have agreed to defer the consideration of the study's recommendations. The ASEAN's total trade volume in 2013 with Pakistan was USD6.3 billion, in which ASEAN's exports to Pakistan was totalled at USD5.3 billion and imports was at USD1 billion. The FDI from Pakistan to ASEAN in the same year was recorded at USD13 million.

Pakistan cooperated with ASEAN in human resources development, in which it offers ten fully funded scholarships to ASEAN students in information technology, engineering, medicine, and banking. Pakistan also gave scholarships for the English Language Training Program to ASEAN's CLMV countries. Several other cooperation projects were initiated and implemented with the funding from the ASEAN-Pakistan Cooperation Fund, such as ASEAN-Pakistan Business Council and ASEAN-Pakistan Trade Facilitation Workshop in Karachi in 2000, Workshop on Industrial and Composite Design Applications in 2002 in Islamabad, ASEAN-Pakistan Workshop on Geo-informatics in 2007, as well as Pakistan-ASEAN Workshop on Halal Food Production Technology and Certification System in Karachi in 2009.⁵⁰

ASEAN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

The EU became ASEAN's Dialogue Partner since 1977. It was then institutionalized in 1980 after the signing of ASEAN-EEC Cooperation Agreement. Since then, the ASEAN-EU relations grows and among the important milestone in this relationship was the adoption of the Nuremberg Declaration in 2007 on EU-ASEAN Enhanced Partnership. This declaration paves way for future long term commitment of both parties to work together for common interests and objectives. Prior to that in 2006, the EU has opened its door for ASEAN in negotiating for a free trade agreement.⁵¹ In security area, EU has acceded to ASEAN's TAC in 2012 as a show of EU's commitment towards ASEAN in promoting peace, stability, and security in the region. Since 2003, the EU has given its assistance for ASEAN's regional integration since 2003, as a way to signal EU's economic and political presence in Southeast Asian region. The assistance in regional integration is one of the principles that guide EU relations with other regional groups and organizations.⁵² In 2012 also during the 19th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Brunei Darussalam, both parties have adopted the Plan of Action (PoA) to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership 2103-2017. This PoA provides a more strategic focus on cooperation in ASEAN-EU partnership.⁵³ In 2014, during the 20th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Brussels, the EU pledged its commitment to support the ASEAN's institutional building. In the 21st ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting 2016 in Bangkok, both parties have adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Promoting an ASEAN-EU Global Partnership for Shared Strategic Goals and PoA to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership 2013-2017. The meeting also noted on the high level dialogue in maritime security cooperation. Both parties also agreed to work closely to complete the action plans under PoA 2013-2017 and look forward to initiate the drafting process for the next PoA 2018-2022.⁵⁴

Economically, the EU is ASEAN's third largest trading partner, and ASEAN is also the EU's third largest trading partner in 2016.⁵⁵ The total trade volume between both sides in 2016 was USD207.5 billion. In FDI, the EU remains the largest source of investment flow into ASEAN, making a share of 21.3 percent of ASEAN's total FDI. The EU's FDI in ASEAN was totalled at USD201.1 billion in 2015. There were more than 9.5 million EU tourists visited ASEAN member countries in 2015. ASEAN and EU also negotiated for FTA since 2007 with seven ASEAN member countries in 2007, both parties agreed to suspend their negotiation in 2009. One of the ASEAN-EU initiatives, namely the ASEAN-EU Business Summit (AEBS) has attracted business community from both regions as it provides an avenue for public-private business dialogue. The AEBS focuses its discussion and dialogue as well as recommendation on connectivity, infrastructure, agri-food, healthcare, automotive, and services. To tap into the potential of aviation business, the EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit was convened in Singapore in 2014. The aim was to deepening EU-ASEAN strategic aviation dialogue for a comprehensive air transport agreement.⁵⁶

The socio-cultural cooperation under the Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI) provided support in several sectors, namely education, science and technology, environment, climate change, and disaster management. In 2014, through the 21st ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), both parties agreed on the programming of 2014-2020 financial support for ASEAN to focus in areas of connectivity, economic integration and trade, climate change and disaster management, as well as comprehensive dialogue facility. The EU also provided funding for a few projects such as the Institutional Capacity Building for ASEAN Monitoring and Statistics 2013-2017, the higher education in ASEAN region 2014-2019, and ASEAN Air Transport Integration Project 2010-2016.⁵⁷ ASEAN and EU also

have concluded two financing agreements on the Sustainable Use of Peat Lands and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN (SUPA) and Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP).⁵⁸

ASEAN RELATIONS WITH NORWAY, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND AND RUSSIA

ASEAN relations with Norway started in 2015 when the latter was given the status of ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partner in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. However, long before the conferment, ASEAN and Norway have already established their relationship through several cooperations. Norway has acceded ASEAN's TAC in 2013 during the 46th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.⁵⁹ In forging further ASEAN-Norway relations, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) visited Norway in 2014 in the effort to enable both CPR and Norway officials to indentify areas of common interests and to find ways for further cooperation between both parties. In 2015, Norway supported the ASEAN Workshop on Strengthening Women's Participation in Peace Processes, held in Cebu City, the Philippines. Norway also supported the establishment of ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) Symposium on the Plight of Women and Children in Conflict Situations in the same year, held in Tagaytay, the Philippines. Again in 2016, Norway supported the AIPR's Symposium on Principles, Mechanisms, and Practices of Peace and Reconciliation Processes, held in Yangon, Myanmar.⁶⁰

In trade and investment, there is evident that it is in good relations. In 2014, ASEAN member countries became Norway's fourth largest trading partner and home to the quite substantial numbers of Norwegian foreign companies.⁶¹ The total bilateral trade of ASEAN and Norway has increased by 14 percent from USD3.54 billion in 2015 to USD4.02 billion in 2016. In 2015, ASEAN's export to Norway was totalled at USD913 million and this figure has increased to USD1.96 billion in 2016. The flows of FDI from Norway to ASEAN also has shown some increment from USD21.6 million in 2014 to USD21.8 million in 2015. In socio-cultural sector, Norway has contributed in implementing the ASEAN's AADMER in two ASEAN-Norway projects – the One ASEAN One Voice: Building a Culture of Disaster Resilience and Enhancing ASEAN's Collective Response to Disasters through Effective Communication Strategy, and Strengthening Disaster Resilience Leadership in ASEAN Member States.⁶² Norway also gave ASEAN some humanitarian assistance and contribution after this region was hit by cyclones Nargis in 2008 and Haiyan in 2013. Apart from that, Norway also provided some funding to the ASEAN Judiciaries Portal, an initiative under the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) in profiling the legal systems of ASEAN member countries.⁶³

Germany, on the other hand, was given the status of ASEAN's Development Partner in 2016 during the ASEAN's Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane, Laos. This development partnership has been institutionalized in 2017 during the First ASEAN-Germany Development Partnership Committee (AG-DPC) Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand. The AG-DPC focuses on the potential areas of cooperation in technical and skills training, tourism, sustainable development, humanitarian and disaster relief, and support for ASEAN Connectivity 2025 Master Plan. Germany has expressed its commitment to support ASEAN's multilateralism in developing peace and prosperity in the region. Prior to this expression of commitment, Germany has been supporting the Capacity Development Program for ASEAN's Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) since 2012. This support is aimed at assisting AIPA to strengthen its institution and to develop the capacity of its members in enhancing its outreach.⁶⁴ In trade and investment, the ASEAN-Germany relations is full of

potentials, though it shows some decrease in the total trade volume. To date, Germany has signed a free trade agreement with Vietnam in 2015, however its entry into force is expected to be in 2018.⁶⁵ The bilateral trade relations of ASEAN and Germany in 2016 decreased by 6 percent from USD55.5 billion in 2015 to USD52.1 billion. ASEAN's exports to Germany in 2016 also saw some decrease of 9 percent from USD26.7 billion in 2015 to USD24.4. However, the FDI flow from Germany to ASEAN has increased from USD67.6 million in 2014 to USD408.8 million in 2015.⁶⁶ In socio-cultural cooperation, Germany supported the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) to develop and implement strategies in the area of biodiversity and climate change since 2015. The ACB is also meant for protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable development management of natural ecosystem as well as improving the livelihood of the population in Southeast Asian region. Germany also funded ASEAN's AHA Centre since 2016 for related activities. Germany is also keen on supporting ASEAN's Community efforts and cooperated with ASEAN in implementing several programs in agriculture, forestry, port development, as well as energy efficiency.⁶⁷

ASEAN has also developed a relationship with Switzerland since July 2016 when the latter was given the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner during the 49th ASEAN's AMM in Vientiane, Laos.⁶⁸ This relations was later on institutionalized when the first ASEAN-Switzerland Joint Sectoral Cooperation (AS-JSCC) meeting was held in November the same year in Jakarta, Indonesia. The AS-JSCC is aimed at establishing cooperation in support of materializing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 as well as focusing on potential areas of cooperation in human resource development, such as in vocational training and sustainable development in Southeast Asia.⁶⁹ Switzerland also supported the ASEAN's AIPR Symposium on the Plight of Women and Children in Conflict Situations held in 2015 in Tagaytay, the Philippines. In economy, ASEAN and Switzerland have a promising relationship. The total bilateral trade between the two parties in 2016 was amounted to USD24.2 billion, as compared to USD18.2 billion in 2014. ASEAN's exports to Switzerland also increased to USD13.1 billion in 2015 from USD6.8 billion in 2014. The Switzerland's FDI flow to ASEAN was recorded at USD536 million in 2015, an increment by 47 percent of USD365 billion in 2014.⁷⁰ Switzerland has partnered with ASEAN since 2011 in strengthening the ASEAN's Social Forestry Network (ASFN) in addressing the issues of food security, poverty elimination, and climate change through the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The objective of this partnership is to help ASEAN to adapt to, and to mitigate climate change through responsible forest management and protection. Switzerland also provided funding for the implementation of activities of the ASEAN's Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) in 2016. Earlier than that, Switzerland helped ASEAN in humanitarian assistance after the region was hit by Tsunami in 2004 and typhoon Haiyan in 2013.⁷¹

Not neglecting Russia in its external relations, ASEAN's engagement with the former is dated back in 1991 when Russian deputy prime minister was invited to attend the opening session of ASEAN's 24th AMM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In 1996, Russia was given the status of ASEAN Dialogue Partner during the 26th ASEAN's AMM in Jakarta, Indonesia. In politico-security area, Russia acceded to ASEAN's TAC in 2004.⁷² During the First ASEAN-Russia Summit in 2005 again held in Kuala Lumpur, Russia signed the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of ASEAN and the Russian Federation on Progressive and Comprehensive Partnership. This joint partnership was aimed at promoting and strengthening the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership in areas of security, economic, and development.⁷³ Since 2004, ASEAN and Russia have been working closely in

combating international terrorism in which both parties have adopted the ASEAN-Russia Work Plan on Countering Terrorism and Transnational Crime.⁷⁴ The ASEAN-Russia Eminent Persons Group (AREPG) has been established in 2016 to review the relationship of both parties, to explore new potentials in strengthening the ASEAN-Russia cooperation, as well as to recommend their future direction. In economic development, the ASEAN-Russia relations is focused in encouraging the private sector and small medium enterprises (SME) of both parties to explore each other's business opportunities. For that matter, the ASEAN-Russia Business Forum (ARBF) was held in Sochi, Russia in 2016. The total trade between ASEAN and Russia, however has shown some decrease from USD13.4 million in 2015 to USD11.6 million in 2016. But, both sides have agreed to increase the value of two-way trade by 2020, substantially.⁷⁵ The decrease in the total bilateral trade between ASEAN and Russia are probably due to Russia's economic downturn and its other difficulties related to the drop in global oil prices, Western sanctions and the overall condition of the Russian economy.⁷⁶ In contrast, the Russian FDI flow into ASEAN has recorded a positive trend from USD28.92 million in 2015 to USD56.61 million in 2016.⁷⁷ In tourism sector, it has recorded some decrease in visitor arrivals from Russia. In 2014, the total number of tourist arrivals from Russia was 2.38 million, and it decreased to 1.5 million in 2015. In 2007, the ASEAN-Russian Federation Dialogue Partnership Financial Fund (DPFF) was set up with initial amount of USD500,000 to implement several activities in energy, SME, tourism, and human resource development. Russia has increased the amount of fund to USD1.5 million annual contribution in light with the growing and deepening of ASEAN-Russia cooperation. In the area of people-to-people contacts, education, as well as information on ASEAN and Russia, and in trade, and tourism, an MoU on the establishment of ASEAN Centre in Moscow was signed in 2009, and consequently the centre was opened at the Moscow State University of International Relations in June the following year. ASEAN and Russia also cooperated in many cultural activities through the ASEAN-Russia Agreement on Cultural Cooperation that was signed in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2010. This agreement was reached with the objective to promote and develop cooperation as well as exchanges in areas such as music, archives, theatre, libraries, museums, visual arts, and other cultural forms.⁷⁸

In disaster management and cooperation, ASEAN and Russia have implemented two workshops, namely "Workshop on Financial Policies for Disaster Response" in 2012 in Moscow, and "Methodological Support for the Development of ASEAN's AHA Centre Based on Experience of the National Crises Management Centre in Russia" in 2013, again held in Moscow. In the effort to forge people-to-people contact of ASEAN and Russia, the first ASEAN-Russia Youth Summit was held in Moscow in 2013 in which the second summit was organized in Kuala Lumpur in 2014. The third and the fourth youth summit were held in Vladivostok, Russia in 2015 and Siem Reap, Cambodia in 2016 respectively.⁷⁹

ASEAN RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES (U.S.) AND CANADA

The United States (U.S.) has been in engagement with ASEAN since 1977 through the ASEAN-US Dialogue Relations. Since then, there were many exchange of views on many aspects of common interest, especially in security matters. Then, the focus of attention in the bilateral relations of both parties shifted to cooperation in market and capital access, commodities, technology transfer, shipping, food security, as well as energy resources development. This focus on attention later on shifted again to developmental cooperation in trade and investment, technology transfer, and human resource development. In 2009, the first ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Summit was held, and there the Joint Statement on the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity was adopted. This statement was

evident to both parties' commitment in enhancing their cooperation in further promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.⁸⁰ Looking forward since 2009, the leaders of ASEAN and the US met annually. The U.S.-ASEAN Summit was then institutionalized in 2013 following the adoption of the recommendation made by the ASEAN-US Eminent Persons Group (EPG) in 2012. The ASEAN-US Dialogue Relations was then elevated to a strategic level in 2015. This elevation has got the U.S.'s recognition when the country hosted the ASEAN-U.S. Special Leaders' Summit in Sunnylands, California in February 2016. Then, a Special ASEAN-US Foreign Ministers' Meeting was organized in Washington, D.C. in May 2017, to discuss further the future of ASEAN-U.S. relations.⁸¹ The U.S. participated in many security dialogues with ASEAN in its drive to promote peace, security, and stability in this region through a few ASEAN mechanism such as the ARF and ASEAN's Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus). The US participation in the ARF for instance, was since the latter's inception in 1994 and still become an active participant in the forum until now, as the US views the ASEAN's ARF as a supplementary tool in its China and East Asia policies. The U.S. also have made it clear of its hope for the ARF to play 'a useful role in conveying intentions, promoting constructive dialogues, restraining potential arms race, easing out tensions, promoting transparency, developing confidence, as well as cultivating habits of consultation and cooperation on security issues in this region.'⁸² The U.S. continues to expand its cooperation with ASEAN in promoting maritime security through the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) that focuses on seafarer training, education, as well as sharing experiences. Cooperation in battling transnational crime as well as other non-traditional security problems is continued and strengthened through between U.S. and ASEAN through the ASEAN's SOMTC. To date, ten consultations between ASEAN's SOMTC and the US have been held.⁸³

Economic cooperation is another major focus in ASEAN-U.S. relations. Both parties continue to establish good economic relations through Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) in 2006. This economic framework is significant in strengthening ASEAN-US economic cooperation. The economic cooperation of ASEAN and the U.S. include, among others trade facilitation, standard and conformance, intellectual property rights, as well as private-public sector engagement. The U.S., as primary partner in ASEAN's Single Window (ASW) initiative has provided ASEAN with technical assistance in standards and conformance for priority sectors, such as electrical and electronic equipment, automotive, and medical devices. In the ASEAN-U.S. Special Leaders' meeting in California in 2016, President Barack Obama announced two initiatives – the U.S.-ASEAN Connect and the U.S.-ASEAN Trade Workshop. The U.S.-ASEAN Connect works through the U.S.-ASEAN Connect Centre in Jakarta, Singapore and Bangkok for the purpose to better coordinate U.S. economic engagement as well as connecting entrepreneurs, investors, and businesses in this region.⁸⁴ The U.S. is one of the major ASEAN's trading partner, as the fourth largest trading partner in 2016, an economic ties that increased steadily since the end of Cold War.⁸⁵ Total bilateral trade between both parties in 2015 was at USD212.34 billion and increased to USD215.2 billion in 2016. In terms of FDI, the U.S. is ASEAN's third largest source with the total inflow is amounted at USD11.65 billion in 2016.⁸⁶ Ernest Bower argued that by 2030, a strong U.S.-ASEAN relationship will be based on a comprehensive economic engagement that will include China, India, and other large Asian economies. This economic engagement will demand a security model that is based on a strong, viable, and collaborative relationships where all important powers in the region have equity and responsibility for maintaining regional security.⁸⁷

In socio-cultural aspect, the cooperation involved between the U.S. and ASEAN include climate change, environmental protection and conservation, education, and youth initiatives. ASEAN and U.S. have establish the partnership on English Language Education for ASEAN. It is a long term commitment of the U.S. to improve English language capacity in Southeast Asia in support of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). As such, the U.S. has given a five-year fund of USD25 million, and this program is being carried out by the East West Centre in Hawaii and Brunei's University of Brunei Darussalam. The Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Visiting Scholars Initiative was also launched in 2012. On top of that, the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) was announced by President Barack Obama in 2013, to enhance youth leadership development and networking in ASEAN.⁸⁸

As for Canada, the ASEAN-Canada relations started in 1977. At that time, Canada extended its proposal to ASEAN for Canada's developmental assistance to ASEAN member countries. This commitment was formalised in 1981 through the ASEAN-Canada Economic Cooperation Agreement (ACECA). ACECA provided for commercial, technical, and industrial cooperation. This ASEAN-Canada cooperation is further strengthen through the establishment of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee to further promote various cooperation between both parties. ACECA was revised in 1993 to incorporate several new areas of cooperation that include science and technology, environmental policy networking, institution building, stimulating private sector activities, as well as bilateral business cooperation.⁸⁹ In security aspect, Canada acceded to ASEAN's TAC in 2010. Both parties have underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, as well as freedom of navigation and over flight in the South China Sea. ASEAN and Canada also agreed that disputes in the region should be resolved peacefully, through full respect for legal and diplomatic processes and without resorting to the threat or use of force, in conformance to the universally-recognized principles of international law.⁹⁰ Canada also is the founding participant of ASEAN's ARF and since 1994 continues to support all ARF's activities and programs in areas such as confiden building and preventive diplomacy, apart from addressing traditional and non-traditional security threats. Between 2014 to 2017, Canada co-chairs the ARF's Intersessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, with New Zealand and Malaysia. Canada has participated also with ASEAN in addressing security issues resulting from human connectivity, for instance the ASEAN's Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam Borders Security Support 2015-2016, and the Mitigation of Biological Threats in ASEAN Countries 2014-2017.⁹¹

Geographically, Canada is located far away from ASEAN and Southeast Asia, but the relationship between the two is developing well. The normal reason for Canada to involve more in Asia is focus only on trade and economic opportunities. Eventhough the region was hit quite badly in the economic and financial crisis, the reasons for its economic importance to Canada are well known. It is because of the massive size of Asian markets with three billion people, a combined GDP of USD17 trillion, and 40 percent of world trade, plus high growth rates, dynamism in manufacturing sector, the demand for raw materials and finished products, and opportunities in infrastructure and services.⁹² Economically, Canada is one of ASEAN's positive strategic partners. Canada remains as ASEAN's eight largest trading partner with the total bilateral trade volume is amounted to USD12.05 billion in 2016. The FDI flows from Canada to ASEAN is totalled at USD295.93 million in the same year, making it as ASEAN's eight largest source of FDI among the latter's Dialogue Partners. In 2012, the Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) was established. CABC is aimed at promoting business opportunities and building business networks. Several activities were organized by CABC to increase Canadian private sector's engagement with ASEAN between 2013 to 2015. ASEAN

and Canada are also in cooperation to strengthen their works in energy through the development of renewable energy sources as well as the promotion of clean energy technology. As such, Canada provided CAD500,000 between 2016 to 2018 in support of ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE). Apart from that, Canada also supports the implementation of ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for Small and Medium Enterprises between 2016 to 2020 through CAD12 million investment in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).⁹³ Apart from this, formal discussions on Canada-ASEAN free trade agreement have begun, and Canada is looking for a new multilateral trade deal across Southeast Asia that would open up business opportunities in this region.⁹⁴

Canada has contributed to the implementation of ASEAN's AADMER through a five-year work program of AADMER. It also launched a CAD10 million Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRM) Trust Fund with the aim to reduce the impact of disasters through technical assistance. Canada also funded CAD6 million into an ASEAN's project of Mitigation of Biological Threats in ASEAN Countries 2014-2017, with the aim to accelerate the implementation of the work plans of the ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD) and ASEAN Working Group on Pandemic Preparedness Response (AWGPPR). In 2013, the ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership Program (ACEPP) was established, with Canadian funding of CAD10 million to support the implementation of ASEAN-Canada PoA for the period of 2013 to 2015. Canada also funded CAD1.3 million for ASEAN's information management software known as "ASEAN Online". It is a product of Open Text Canada to the ASEAN Secretariat in the effort to enhance its information management and documentation work. The "ASEAN Online" was launched in April 2014.⁹⁵

CONCLUSION

It is evident from the discussion above that apart from working to enhance regional integration, ASEAN has also been actively engaging various state actors and regional organizations throughout the globe for the last 61 years. These engagements are undertaken as all these actor have interest in the Southeast Asian region and are thus deemed important to ASEAN's interests as well. Inadvertently and by doing so, ASEAN has posited itself as central organization which serves as pivot to the international relations of the Asia Pacific region and beyond. The development of these extra-regional relations clearly indicates that ASEAN has been, since its inception, an outward-looking organization and will surely remain so in future.

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⁹² Randolph Mank, *What should Canada be doing (and not doing) in ASEAN and Asia?* MankGlobal, July 2016, <<https://www.mankglobal.com/canada-relations>>

⁹³ "Overview of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations," p. 4.

⁹⁴ Alex Capri, "Free Trading Up: Why Canada's Pivot To Asia Could Lure Business From America," *Forbes*, 20 October 2017, <<https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexcapri/2017/10/20/free-trade-canada-pivot-america-nafta-tpp-asia/#150342c87788>>

⁹⁵ "Overview of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations," pp. 5-6.