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ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

U.S.-ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI)

Funding Level

\$14.4 million

Duration

2013 – 2018

Geographic Scope

ASEAN Member States: Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

Key Partners

- ASEAN Secretariat
- U.S.- ASEAN Business Council
- ASEAN Women Entrepreneur's Network
- U.S. Chambers of Commerce
- ASEAN Business Advisory Council
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Small Business Administration

Activity Implementing Partner

Nathan Associates Inc.

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OVERVIEW

The United States - Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Connectivity through Trade and Investment project is a five-year program of the U. S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Department of State to increase U.S. economic engagement and cooperation with ASEAN countries. Asia is an increasingly inter-connected region; with the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015, the U.S. government has aligned its development assistance priorities to support regional integration.

FOCUS AREAS

ASEAN Single Window Development for Cargo Clearance

ACTI is helping to create an ASEAN Single Window that will enable streamlined electronic data submission for cargo clearance and lower the cost of doing business across the region. It will also increase transparency in customs systems and improve compliance, reduce clearance times and costs, and help ensure that trade regulations are administered equitably for all businesses.

Trade and Investment

ACTI provides technical assistance to reduce trade and investment barriers in the areas of trade in goods, trade in services, and investment, including harmonizing business standards in priority integration sectors in collaboration with the private sector.

Small and Medium Enterprises

ACTI trains entrepreneurs, especially women in Burma, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, to help bridge the gap between developing and developed countries in the region and to promote greater participation in emerging economic opportunities stemming from the AEC.

Energy

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, technical assistance to ASEAN member states under ACTI supports advancing renewable and sustainable energy solutions to help meet the region's energy challenges.

FOCUS AREAS (CONT.)

Information and Communication Technology

ACTI supports development and application of regulatory and technology solutions to rural broadband access in line with the objectives of ASEAN's ICT Master Plan.

GOALS

- Support the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement, Enhanced Economic Engagement Initiative, and the Enhanced Partnership Plan of Action 2015
- Stimulate the free flow of goods in a single market and production base of the AEC
- Encourage ASEAN to adopt free, transparent, sustainable and inclusive trade practices as it moves toward economic integration
- Launch the ASEAN Single Window in 2015 to streamline cross-border trade
- Improve the capacity of ASEAN entrepreneurs, especially women and youth, to create and operate small and medium enterprises, and promote equitable, inclusive development
- Help bridge the regional development gap and promote greater integration and participation in the AEC
- Improve SME access to regional and international markets, access to information, and access to finance
- Facilitate partnership between world-class American businesses in support of ASEAN SMEs
- Support the implementation of the U.S.-ASEAN Energy Cooperation Work Plan
- Improve the enabling environment for ICT, broadband, and emerging technology proliferation as well as improved accessibility, affordability, and utilization of broadband

IMPACT

- National Single Windows (NSWs) are now operational in five ASEAN member states, with NSWs under development in the remaining five
- Organized the Second U.S.-ASEAN Business Summit in collaboration with the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, ASEAN Business Advisory Council, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development of Myanmar
- Supported the development of the ASEAN Women Entrepreneur's Network
- Trained over 3,500 small and medium-sized businesses in all ten ASEAN Member States through a partnership with the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council
- Developed a climate risk assessment framework for hydropower projects to support climate-resilient energy decision-making for ASEAN Member States

ASEAN-US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FACILITY, 2007-2012

U.S.-ACTI builds on the *ASEAN Development Vision to Advance National Cooperation and Economic Integration (ADVANCE)* program, launched in 2007 by USAID and the U.S. Department of State, for comprehensive support for the integration of the ASEAN Community across its three pillars: political-security, economic, and socio-cultural. Under the ADVANCE umbrella program, the *ASEAN-U.S. Technical Assistance and Training Facility* provided technical assistance from 2007 - 2012 through the ASEAN Secretariat for a wide variety of activities, including the ASEAN Regional Forum, the Human Rights Resource Center, and ASEAN's response to natural disasters, as well as numerous initiatives to stimulate the free flow of goods in a single market and production base of the ASEAN Economic Community.