



## Australia's development cooperation with East Asia



*Australia is improving productivity and access to markets for agricultural businesses like these peanut producers in Lombok. This supports economic growth, creates jobs and reduces poverty in the region.*

Photo: Josh Estey for AusAID

Australia and East Asia have a long history of development cooperation. Our focus is on helping people overcome poverty through education, sustainable economic development, improving public health and effective governance. We work together to respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

- > Australia will provide **\$1.32 billion** in development assistance to East Asia in 2012–13—more than we give to any other region.
- > Over the next four years Australia will become the **largest bilateral grant donor to East Asia**.
- > Australia is committed to a **partnership approach** in the way we deliver aid.

### Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Australia became ASEAN's first dialogue partner in 1974. The ASEAN–Australia Comprehensive Partnership (2007) identifies priority areas for cooperation. Development cooperation is an important feature of the partnership.

- > Australia has committed **\$1.16 billion** in development assistance to ASEAN and its members in 2012–13. While the main focus of Australia's aid program is bilateral assistance, we are also a strong contributor to regional programs.
- > A major priority of our regional program is assisting ASEAN to achieve a regional **Economic Community** by 2015.
- > Australia is working with ASEAN to implement its **Community Blueprints** and the **Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity**.
- > Australia is one of the leading donors to the **ASEAN Secretariat**, helping to strengthen its institutional capacity to deliver priority ASEAN projects.

### East Asia Summit (EAS)

Australia is supporting development activities across the EAS's priority areas.

- > Australia is working with EAS partners towards regional harmonisation of tertiary education systems.
- > Australia and Indonesia co-sponsored a new EAS initiative to **improve regional capacity to respond to natural disasters**.
- > Australia is a strong supporter of the **Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)**.
- > Australia has funded regional seminars exploring how EAS cities can be more **environmentally sustainable and adapt to climate change**.



*Seven-year-old Nang Paysaung takes part in a class held in her village near Sekong, Laos. Her teacher was trained as part of an AusAID-funded education program for minority groups.*

Photo: Jim Holmes for AusAID

## Key areas of development cooperation

### Education

Education is the flagship of the Australian aid program. In 2010–11, Australia spent around **\$270 million** on education in East Asia.

- > In Indonesia, Australia has helped construct or extend almost **2100 junior secondary schools**, creating around **330 000 new school places**.
- > Australia has helped more than **two million children** access better quality education in disadvantaged provinces in the Philippines.
- > In 2011, more than **2100 people** received **Australia Awards** scholarships to undertake study, research and professional development in East Asia and Australia.

### Economic growth

Sustainable economic growth is critical to creating jobs, boosting incomes and addressing poverty. In 2010–11, we spent more than **\$50 million** on private sector development, trade and social protection in East Asia.

- > The **ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Program** is working towards achieving the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 by improving investment, trade in services and consumer protection in the region.
- > Australia is working with the ASEAN Secretariat to help developing economies open their markets and experience the benefits of free trade agreements through the **AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Program**.
- > Australia has helped rollout low cost mobile banking services to more than **200 000 rural Cambodians**, saving them an estimated **US\$16.8 million each year**, creating jobs and increasing their financial literacy.
- > Australia assisted the Lao Government to cut red tape and reduce the time it takes to start a business by more than **two months**.

### Infrastructure

Improving infrastructure is essential for East Asia's economic development and future prosperity. In 2010–11, Australia provided around **\$120 million** to support transport, energy and communications infrastructure in the region.

- > In the Greater Mekong region, Australia is helping the rural poor access markets by building or improving more than **1500 kilometres of road** and **118 bridges**. This includes the **Cao Lanh Bridge** across the Mekong River in Vietnam, which will benefit around **five million road users**.
- > Australia is spending **\$150 million** (2008–2015) on a facility to help the Indonesian Government enhance infrastructure policy, planning and investment. Since 2008 this facility has improved road safety and provided water or sewerage services to over **410 000 people**.
- > Australia has funded roads, electricity and water infrastructure, which has helped around **8.7 million people from ethnic minorities** in Vietnam.
- > Australia is partnering with the World Bank and providing **\$48 million** (2007–2015) to build vital infrastructure and increase connectivity between cities and rural areas through the **East Asia and Pacific Infrastructure for Growth Trust Fund**.

## Humanitarian and disaster response

East Asia is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. Australia is working to strengthen disaster management organisations so they can better manage emergency responses in the region, with around **\$60 million** provided for humanitarian and disaster responses in 2010–11.

- > Australia helped establish the **ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre)**.
- > The **Australia–Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction** has assisted more than **260 000 people** and helped rebuild **eight health facilities** and **57 schools** following the 2009 earthquake in West Sumatra and West Java.
- > Australia provided **\$7.8 million** to help disaster relief in the wake of Tropical Storm Washi in the Philippines. Survival kits were distributed to more than **5000 families**.
- > Australia has helped clear unexploded ordnance from over **1000 hectares** of land in Laos, benefiting **65 000 people**.

## Human trafficking, governance, law and justice

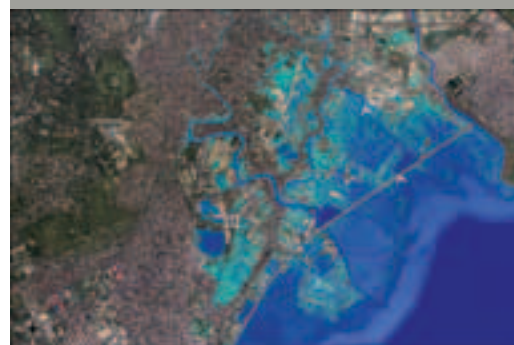
Australia is recognised internationally for its leadership on combatting human trafficking in the region. Australia is also contributing to regional efforts to end the exploitation of labour migrants and to fight child sexual exploitation in tourism. In 2010–11, Australia's support to governance, law, justice and combatting human trafficking was around **\$160 million**.

- > Australia has helped train more than **7000 police, judges and prosecutors** in the detection and prosecution of trafficking in persons.
- > Australia and the International Labour Organization will provide advice on workers' rights to around **20 000 vulnerable and exploited workers**.
- > Australia has funded more than **20 000 Cambodians** to take part in gender-related community crime prevention and safety activities.
- > Australia is helping government agencies, law enforcement officers and NGOs in China to promote the rights of women, children and minority groups through the **Australia–China Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program**.

## Health, HIV/AIDS and pandemic preparedness

Australia invested around **\$220 million** in health, water and sanitation programs in East Asia in 2010–11, with a strong focus on primary health care and disease prevention.

- > Australia has helped prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in the region by distributing **13.5 million needles**.
- > Australia is one of the lead donors driving regional efforts to combat drug resistant malaria. In Burma, Australia has helped protect more than **1.9 million people** from malaria by providing bed nets and spraying houses.
- > In Vietnam, Australia has provided **2.5 million people** with access to clean drinking water.
- > Australia has assisted Cambodia to reduce its maternal mortality rate by more than **50 per cent** and its child mortality rate by more than **30 per cent** since 2005.



*Geoscience Australia is working with the Philippines Government and local authorities to develop state-of-the-art hazard information, such as this flood inundation map of Manila. This information is being used to improve urban planning and build safer houses.*

*Geoscience Australia is working with government agencies across the Asia-Pacific region to develop fundamental information on reducing the impact of natural hazards and climate change.*

Image: Geoscience Australia



*A peer educator provides counselling on the dangers of HIV/AIDS harm in Cambodia. This is part of Australia's HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program (HAARP) that aims to reduce the spread of the disease across Southeast Asia.*

Photo: Ryan Libre for AusAID





*Women in Cambodia hard at work in the rice paddies. In 2010, Australia supported the construction of two irrigation schemes in Cambodia that helped 1500 farmers cultivate additional dry-season crops and earn additional incomes.*

Photo: Kevin Evans for AusAID



*Women actively participate in the planning, priority setting and monitoring of a road building program in the Philippines. The Provincial Road Management Facility is upgrading roads and building the capacity of local governments to manage their roads.*

Photo: Oibone Enobio for the Provincial Road Management Facility, the Philippines

## Environment, climate change and natural resource management

Australia is committed to helping East Asia manage its natural resources in a sustainable way and respond effectively to climate change. In 2010–11, Australia provided around **\$45 million** for environment, climate change and natural resource management activities in East Asia.

- > Australia has committed **\$13 million** to improve the management of Mekong water resources.
- > Australia is investing in efficient and renewable energy projects that will provide electricity to remote areas and solar power to **120 000 people** in the Mekong region.
- > In Vietnam, Australia has helped coastal communities adapt to climate change. Over **40 hectares** of mangroves have been protected in the southern province of Kien Giang and new sustainable livelihood activities introduced, such as growing salt-tolerant crops. This has increased incomes for targeted households by between **50 and 150 per cent**.

## Rural development and food security

Australia is internationally renowned for its innovations in agricultural research and development. In 2010–11, Australia provided around **\$65 million** to promote rural development and food security in East Asia.

- > In Burma, Australia helped reduce hunger and increase incomes by providing agricultural training, access to microfinance and other support to around **two million** poor and vulnerable people.
- > Australia has assisted around **21 000 farmers** in East Timor to grow high-yield rice, maize, sweet potato, cassava and peanuts, increasing production by between **24 and 159 per cent**.
- > In Laos, Australia has provided food to more than **94 000 children in 1084 schools** so that they can better concentrate and learn more at school through the World Food Programme's School Meals initiative.

## Equitable development

Australia is dedicated to ensuring that people in East Asia have equal opportunities to escape poverty. Women are being empowered to participate in the economy, leadership and education. This is vital for increasing economic growth and reducing poverty. Gender equality is a critical cross-cutting theme across the aid program. We are also enhancing the lives of people with a disability by ensuring that the aid program includes and benefits them.

- > Australia has helped the Philippines integrate gender principles into several land reform policies. In targeted areas, **75 per cent** of land purchased was titled to both the wife and husband, compared to non-target areas where only 18 per cent of purchased land included title for the wife. This has increased economic opportunities for women.
- > Australia, UN agencies, governments and civil society organisations are working with men and boys in the Asia-Pacific to change attitudes and prevent violence against women through **Partners for Prevention**.
- > In 2011, **7151 Cambodians** were provided with disability services, such as prostheses and orthoses, through AusAID support. Cambodia is a focus country for Australia's disability inclusive development efforts.
- > In Indonesia, the Australia–Indonesia Partnership for Justice is working with service providers, courts, judiciary, NGOs and the wider community to improve the rights of people with disability.

Images in strip on front cover by:  
David Haigh for AusAID; Jim Holmes for AusAID;  
Jing Damaso for AusAID; Jay Directo for AFP; and  
J.Vas for AusAID