



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

AANZFTA FACT SHEET – ECONOMIC COOPERATION

AANZFTA is the first free trade agreement in which Australia has included an Economic Cooperation chapter. The chapter, together with a separate Economic Cooperation Work Program (ECWP), establishes the framework for trade- and investment-related cooperation. The ECWP will provide technical assistance and capacity building to developing ASEAN countries to assist in implementation of the AANZFTA.

Economic cooperation is integral to the AANZFTA. Through the negotiation period, Australia and New Zealand provided a number of capacity building activities to ASEAN counterparts through an FTA Facility provided by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). The workshops and seminars covered issues such as tariff and trade data analysis, rules of origin, intellectual property, scheduling of investment commitments and telecommunications regulatory disciplines. These workshops enhanced ASEAN members' capacity to participate in FTA negotiations and helped countries to narrow differences and develop shared understandings.

The ECWP was determined by the parties during the course of the AANZFTA negotiations, with priority accorded to activities that would enhance ASEAN's implementation capacity and boost economic integration between the parties. Assistance will be provided in eight broad components linked to different aspects of the AANZFTA: Rules of Origin; Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures; Services; Investment; Intellectual Property; Sectoral Integration; and Customs.

The ECWP will be implemented over five years after entry into force of AANZFTA at an estimated cost of up to \$20-25 million. Australia's contribution will be in addition to Australia's ongoing development cooperation assistance to ASEAN, through the ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II (\$57 million 2008-2015).

Australia has important long-standing development cooperation relationships with ASEAN and ASEAN countries. Other economic cooperation activities include AusAID's bilateral programs and the East Asia Initiative, the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), and the East Asia Summit Research Initiative.

Australia's broader regional economic cooperation falls under the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership (AACP) and associated Plan of Action (2008–13) which provide a comprehensive framework for the relationship between ASEAN and Australia, including in political and security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation.