

ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap

1. Historical Background of ASEAN-Russia Economic Relations

Russia became a dialogue partner of ASEAN in 1996. At the initial stages of the dialogue, focus was on foreign policy and security issues. In 2002, the establishment of the Working Group on Trade and Investment Cooperation expanded the dialogue to include economic issues.

The inaugural ASEAN-Russia Summit in Malaysia in December 2005 had among its main outcomes the following documents: (i) Inter-governmental Agreement between ASEAN and Russia on Economic and Development Cooperation; and (ii) Comprehensive Program of Action to Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation (2005-2015).

The inaugural Senior Economic Official Meeting (SEOM)-Russia Consultations held in Singapore in July 2006 agreed to meet as and when the need arises. The 2nd SEOM-Russia Consultations were organized in the lead up to the 1st ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-Russia Consultations in Da Nang, Viet Nam in August 2010, where the mandate to develop the comprehensive roadmap for trade and investment was made.

ASEAN and Russia have been enhancing sectoral cooperation in energy, agriculture, transport, space, emergency, culture and tourism sectors, where direct contacts have been established between respective relevant agencies. An ASEAN-Russia Energy Cooperation Work Plan for 2016-2020, ASEAN-Russia Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation Work Programme 2016-2020 have also been adopted.

The commemorative ASEAN-Russia Summit to mark the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership held in Sochi in May 2016 gave a strong impetus to economic cooperation by adopting the Sochi Declaration “Moving Towards a Strategic Partnership for Mutual Benefit” and the Comprehensive Plan of Action to Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and Russia (2016-2020). Additional recommendations on further development of the collaboration in specific areas were made by the ASEAN-Russia Eminent Persons Group in its Report to the Sochi Summit.

2. Principles and Objective of the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap

Building on the Agreement on Economic and Development Cooperation between the Governments of the Member Countries of ASEAN and the Government of the Russian Federation (Kuala Lumpur, 10 December 2005), an ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap is being developed based on the principles of equality, mutual respect and benefit, common understanding, goodwill, friendly assistance and support, taking into account the potentials of ASEAN Member States and Russia, and the willingness to achieve practical results. This roadmap would support progress in Eurasian integration project, namely Eurasian Economic Community as well as ASEAN Community building including, inter alia, the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, AEC Blueprint 2025, the Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI); provide special and differential treatment for the newer Member Countries of ASEAN namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam by the Russian Federation in order to ensure their effective participation in the realization of this Roadmap.

The overall objective of this Roadmap is to institutionalize a comprehensive dialogue mechanism on trade-related issues with a view to promoting cooperation in sectors of mutual interest to ASEAN and Russia, taking into account regional and global developments. The Roadmap will also aim to:

- (a) develop a favorable environment for the promotion of trade and investment between ASEAN and Russia
- (b) encourage cooperation in areas of mutual interest related to trade in goods and services, and investment in order to facilitate trade and investment flows, including the areas of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, trade remedies, intellectual property and e-commerce, among others; and
- (c) develop cooperation in other areas of mutual interest, including development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), science and technology, energy, finance and banking, agriculture, healthcare, transportation, information and communication technologies, human resources development, tourism and environment.

Identification of areas of mutual interest to ASEAN and Russia will also take into account major cooperation areas in the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity in support of regional integration objectives and narrowing development gaps, particularly the less developed ASEAN Member States.

The Roadmap will serve as basis for any discussion at the SEOM-Russia level on ASEAN-Russia trade and investment activities and will be subject to review as deemed necessary.

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities
I.	High-level policy dialogue	To provide the overall policy direction to enhance ASEAN-Russia economic relations and to promote ASEAN-Russia cooperation and strengthen regional economic integration.	To organize an annual ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-Russia Consultations.
II.	Consultations at the Senior Economic Officials level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To oversee the implementation of economic cooperation programs and activities. 2. To exchange views on ASEAN dialogue with economic cooperation partners as well as on Russia's dialogue with economic cooperation partners. 3. To provide the forum for discussing issues of mutual interest including regional economic integration. 4. To support the AEM-Russia Consultation process. 	To organize the SEOM-Russia Consultations.
			To ensure the timely implementation of the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap.
			To recommend to the Ministers joint ASEAN-Russia responses to regional and global issues, which may include the possibility of deepening and/or broadening ASEAN-Russia trade and economic relations.
III.	Sectoral dialogues between ASEAN and Russian officials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To share best practices, experience and expertise, and discuss possible joint cooperation on mutually agreed priority areas. 2. To pursue economic cooperation programs and activities in the mutually agreed areas. 	To encourage the sectoral bodies in ASEAN and the relevant Russian agencies to consult with each other to share best practices in such spheres as transportation and communication, healthcare, environment, tourism, capital markets, finance and banking, agriculture, energy, intellectual property, industrial cooperation and cooperation in the sphere of innovation and to identify other areas of mutual interests.

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities
		3. To enhance ASEAN – Russia bilateral trade in agriculture and agricultural products.	<p>3.1. To implement the ASEAN-Russia Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation Work Programme 2016-2020.</p> <p>3.1. To conduct seminars/ workshops to discuss and understand rules and regulations, implementation mechanisms relating to sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures (SPS) in ASEAN and Russia.</p> <p>3.2. To exchange of information and technology.</p> <p>3.3. To build capacity for plant variety experiments and testing.</p> <p>3.4. To share information on biological technologies, diagnoses and prevention of aqua-cultural, animal and poultry diseases.</p> <p>3.5. To encourage an organization of joint ASEAN-Russia Agricultural exhibitions.</p>
		4. To enhance cooperation in the sphere of energy.	To implement the ASEAN-Russia Energy Cooperation Work Plan for 2016-2020.
		5. To enhance development of profitable, safe and secure supply chains between South East Asia region and Europe.	5.1. To promote diversification of supply chains between East Asia region and Europe with the use of the transit possibilities of the Russian Federation, including the North

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities
			<p>maritime route, the ports of the Far East of the Russian Federation and Trans-Siberian railway line.</p> <p>5.2. To study the possibility of implementation of methods of transport navigation based on GLONASS technologies.</p> <p>5.3. To develop the cooperation in the area of joint personnel training of transport workers for the fulfilment of infrastructure projects.</p>
		6. To enhance industrial cooperation.	To identify possible areas of mutual interests in the sphere of industrial cooperation.
		7. To enhance cooperation in the sphere of science and technology, innovation, intellectual property creation, commercialization and management.	<p>7.1. To identify possible areas of mutual interests in the sphere of science and technology.</p> <p>7.2. To study the prospects of setting up joint research centers, and innovation and technology support officers and/or patent libraries in academia and research development institutions.</p> <p>7.3. To encourage capacity building initiatives for IP officials, IP right holders, and IP users.</p>

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities
			7.4. To study the prospects of setting up joint research centers of excellence, to cover topics such as Intellectual Property commercialization and technology transfer.
		8. To enhance cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT).	To conduct symposiums and workshops on bridging digital divide, digital economy, information society and e-government development.
		9. To enhance human resources development cooperation.	9.1. To identify areas of mutual interest in the sphere of human resources development.
			9.2. To implement ASEAN-Russia Plan of Action on Education 2016-2020.
		10. To enhance cooperation in the tourism sector.	10.1. To conduct workshops and seminars on tourism and investment trends, and tourism products.
			10.2 To exchange information, including tourism statistics, laws and rules and regulation pertaining to entry of visitors and investments.
			10.3 To undertake joint promotion of tourist destinations through participation in travel and tourism fairs, exhibitions and trade activities.

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities
			10.4 To exchange tourism experts and conduct trainings for industry manpower development.
			10.5 To conduct regular meetings of the ASEAN and Russia National Tourism Organizations (NTOs) to discuss further cooperation on tourism.
			10.6 To promote Guidelines of Safety and Security for tourists while travelling and staying in destinations.
		11. To encourage cooperation on SME development.	11.1. To share best practices and experiences on efforts to develop and support small and medium enterprises.
			11.2. To organize symposiums to increase the awareness of SMEs on trade and investment opportunities in ASEAN and Russia.
			11.3. To identify barriers to SME trade and collaborate in addressing such barriers.
			11.4. To study possible ways to encourage trade-related and investment activities for small-and medium-enterprises, including through ICT.

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities
		12. To develop cooperation between ASEAN and Russia in electronic commerce.	<p>12.1 To share experiences and best practices in developing legal and policy framework in the field of e-commerce.</p> <p>12.2 To support joint workshops and training programs on e-commerce, and encourage capacity-building initiatives by those countries that are capable to provide more training opportunities.</p> <p>12.3 To enhance the cooperation in the field of consumer protection in e-commerce.</p> <p>12.4. To enhance the improvement of linguistic technologies and data retrieval systems used in e-commerce.</p> <p>12.5. To enhance mutual trust in data cooperation, including information security and data protection issues.</p> <p>12.6. To explore the possibilities of creation of transboundary trust space (TTS) and mutual recognition of electronic signatures for the exchange of electronic documents within the framework of e-commerce activities.</p>
		13. To develop cooperation between ASEAN and Russia in the sphere of women economic empowerment.	To develop professional and business networking to exchange best practices and experience in supporting and promoting the role

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities
			of women in economic activities.
IV.	Facilitating trade and investment	1. To promote transparency and information sharing on matters relevant to the flow of trade and investment between ASEAN and Russia.	<p>1.1. To identify trade opportunities between ASEAN and Russian businesses.</p> <p>1.2. To exchange and update information on tariff and non-tariff measures in order to identify major barriers to trade between ASEAN and Russia.</p> <p>1.3. To exchange information on the laws and regulations governing trade in services in ASEAN and Russia.</p>
		2. To enhance the development of national single windows.	To exchange experience and share best practical solutions in the development of the legal framework for the implementation of «single window» and interstate electronic interaction, including through joint seminars and training programs amongst customs authorities and other related agencies.
		3. To enhance investment facilitation.	<p>3.1. To exchange experience and share best practical solutions on investment facilitation issues.</p> <p>3.2. To promote investment in the sphere of innovation.</p>
V.	Enhancing dialogue with business	- To encourage business dialogue between ASEAN and Russia at business to business and business to government levels in order to raise awareness on	- To organize business summits, regular industry dialogues and investment symposiums to increase awareness of

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities
		<p>trade and investment opportunities in ASEAN and Russia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To seek private sector inputs in identifying barriers to ASEAN – Russia trade. 	<p>business associations on the advantages of doing business in ASEAN and Russia, in particular at the annual St. Petersburg International Economic Forum and Eastern Economic Forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To carry out business missions from Russian party to ASEAN countries on a regular basis (with the aim to support establishment of direct business contacts, exchange of the information on trade and investment opportunities). - To organize Business-to-Government Dialogues at the sideline of SEOM/AEM-Russia Consultations.
VI.	Supporting regional integration processes within the ASEAN Community and the Eurasian Economic Union	To explore the perspectives for mutually beneficial cooperation among ASEAN and EAEU.	<p>To explore the areas of mutually beneficial cooperation among ASEAN and EAEU.</p> <hr/> <p>To contribute to the expansion of contacts between the ASEAN and the EAEU.</p>