

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 was 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. The Ministers noted the formation of a customs union among Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan

At present, ASEAN and Russia have been enhancing sectoral cooperation in energy, space, emergency, culture and tourism sectors, where direct contacts have been established between respective relevant agencies. An ASEAN-Russia Energy Cooperation Work Programme (2010-2015) has also been adopted.

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 socio-economic progress of Siberia and the Russian Far East as well as ASEAN regional integration including, inter alia, 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 on a regular basis.

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities	Timeline
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	Organize an annual ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-Russia Consultations	Annual – back-to-back with either the regular AEM Meetings or the AEM Retreat
II.	Consultations at the Senior Economic Officials level	1. To oversee the implementation of economic cooperation programs and activities	Organize the SEOM-Russia Consultations	At least once a year, back-to-back with the regular Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM)

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities	Timeline
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Ensure the timely implementation of the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>As and when the need arises</p>
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. 	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.	2012 onwards

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities	Timeline
		<p>3. Enhance ASEAN – Russia bilateral trade in agriculture and agricultural products</p>	<p>3.1. 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. Exchange of information and technology, e.g. geographic information system (GIS) for forest planning and development</p> <p>3.3. Build capacity for plant variety experiments and testing</p> <p>3.4. Share information on biological technologies, diagnoses and prevention of aqua-cultural, animal and poultry diseases</p> <p>3.5. Encourage an organization of a common ASEAN-Russia Agricultural exhibition.</p>	
		<p>4. Enhance cooperation in the sphere of energy</p>	<p>Implement the ASEAN-Russia Energy Cooperation Work Programme for 2010-2015</p>	

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities	Timeline
		5. Enhance development of profitable, safe and secure logistic chains between Russia and ASEAN	5.1. Organize demonstration of delivery of containered cargoes through intermodal routes by maritime transport to the ports of the Far East of Russian Federation with subsequent delivery by Trans-Siberian route to Russia and further to Europe and Central Asia 5.2. Study the possibility of implementation of new methods of transport navigation based on the latest navigation systems 5.3. Study the prospects of implementation of joint projects on transport infrastructure development 5.4. Study the possibility to discuss and conclude an “ASEAN and Russia Air Services Arrangement” to promote air transport between ASEAN and Russia	
		6. Enhance industrial cooperation	Identify possible areas of mutual interests in the sphere of industrial cooperation	

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities	Timeline
		7. Enhance cooperation in the sphere of innovation and modernisation and intellectual property creation, commercialization and management	<p>7.1. 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>7.2. Study the prospects of setting up joint research centers of excellence, to cover topics such as Intellectual Property commercialization and technology transfer</p> <p>7.3. Study the prospects of cooperation in the sphere of education, including implementation of joint educational programs for highly qualified specialists</p> <p>7.4. Study the opportunity of cooperation in the sphere of telecommunication</p> <p>7.5. Technology transfer from Russia to ASEAN Member States for agricultural and rural development as well as human resource development</p> <p>7.6. Study the possibility of cooperation on Scolcovo innovation centre</p>	
		8. Enhance Human Resources	8.1. To share best practices and	

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		Development Cooperation	experiences in establishing qualification standards for individual professional and institutions covered in the sectoral cooperation, where appropriate	
			8.2. Explore the possibility of Mutual Recognition Arrangements/Agreements (MRAs/MRAs) creation for particular sectors;	
			8.3. Exchange information on regulations related to human resources management	
		9. Enhance cooperation in the tourism sector	9.1. Conduct workshops and seminars on tourism and investment trends, and tourism products;	
			9.3. Exchange information, including tourism statistics, laws and rules and regulation pertaining to entry of visitors and investments;	
			9.4. Undertake joint promotion of tourist destinations through participation in travel and tourism fairs, exhibitions and trade activities;	
			9.5. Exchange tourism experts and	

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			<p>conduct trainings for industry manpower development; and</p> <p>9.6. Conduct regular meetings of the ASEAN and Russia National Tourism Organizations (NTOs) to discuss further cooperation on tourism.</p> <p>10.1. Share best practices and experiences on efforts to develop small and medium enterprises</p> <p>10.2. Organize symposiums to increase the awareness of SMEs on trade and investment opportunities in ASEAN and Russia</p> <p>10.3. Identify barriers to SME trade and collaborate in addressing such barriers</p> <p>10.4. Study possible ways to encourage trade-related and investment activities for small-and medium-enterprises.</p>	
IV.	Trade and investment facilitation	1. To promote transparency and information sharing on matters relevant to the flow of trade and investment between		2012 onwards

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities	Timeline
		<p>ASEAN and Russia. 2. To pursue activities that would enhance trade and investment between ASEAN and Russia</p>	<p>3.1. Identify trade opportunities between ASEAN and Russian businesses. To the extent allowed under its domestic laws, regulations and policies, Exchange information on tariff between ASEAN and Russia including information related to ASEAN’s FTAs and Russian Federation.</p> <p>3.2. Exchange information on technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, trade remedies, and other non-tariff measures and non-tariff regulatory practices, particularly those that could impede bilateral trade between ASEAN and Russia</p> <p>3.3. To set up focal points to exchange and update information on tariff and non-tariff measures in order to identify major barriers to ASEAN-Russia bilateral trade between ASEAN and Russia</p>	

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities	Timeline
			3.4. Share best practices, experience, and expertise on the simplification of customs procedures and customs modernization in ASEAN Member States and Russia	
			3.5. Exchange information on the rules and regulations governing trade in services in ASEAN and Russia.	
			3.6. Exchange information on intellectual property rights regulations in Russia and ASEAN member States as well as encourage capacity building initiatives for IP officials, IP right holders, and IP users.	
		4. Enhance investment facilitation	4.1. Identify investment opportunities between ASEAN and Russian businesses	
			4.2. Promote investment in the sphere of innovation including green technologies	

No	Area	Objective(s)	Activities	Timeline
			4.3. Exchange information on the rules/requirements, particularly the current foreign exchange regulatory framework that covers current account, foreign direct investments, and advantages in doing business in ASEAN and Russia	
V.	Enhancing dialogue with business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To encourage business dialogue between ASEAN and Russia at business to business and business to government levels in order to raise awareness on trade and investment opportunities in ASEAN and Russia - To seek private sector inputs in identifying barriers to ASEAN – Russia trade 	Organize business summits, regular industry dialogues and investment symposiums to increase awareness of business associations on the advantages of doing business in ASEAN and Russia.	2012 onwards
