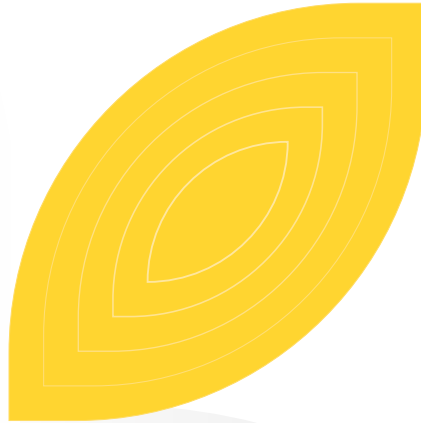




ASEAN - Australia - New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA)  
Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP)



# AECSP at a Glance 2022

Prepared by  
AANZFTA Support Unit



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SECTION ONE:  
**AECSP**  
**Overview**





# INTRODUCTION

On 27 February 2009, all ten ASEAN Member States (AMS), Australia, and New Zealand forged a historic milestone in their relationships when the 12 countries signed the Agreement establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA). It was their first region-to-region, most comprehensive, and highest quality free trade agreement (FTA). AANZFTA was a visionary and precedent-setting FTA that has delivered tangible benefits to businesses and consumers in the region since it entered into force in 2010.<sup>1</sup> It is now a large community of approximately 692 million people with a combined gross domestic product of USD 4.56 trillion and USD 63.8 billion in merchandise trade.<sup>2</sup>

**Uniquely integrated at the heart of the AANZFTA Agreement is the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP).** Established in 2010, the AECSP has assisted AANZFTA Parties to operationalise and implement AANZFTA—particularly the ‘Economic Cooperation’ chapter of the Agreement—so that the full benefits of AANZFTA could be realised. The Programme endeavoured to achieve this aspiration through four strategic approaches: (i) operationalise and implement AANZFTA, (ii) progress the AANZFTA’s built-in agenda, (iii) strengthen economic integration amongst the Parties, and (iv) promote the business utilisation of AANZFTA.

**The AECSP comprises two components: the AANZFTA Support Unit and the Economic Cooperation Work Programme:**

- The **AANZFTA Support Unit (ASU)**—instituted in the ASEAN Secretariat—assisted AANZFTA Parties and the ASEAN Secretariat in implementing the Economic Cooperation Work Programme through four key results areas. They included (i) AECSP Infrastructure and Implementation Support, (ii) AECSP Monitoring and Evaluation, (iii) AECSP Promotion and Outreach, and (iv) Technical Assistance and Capacity Development.



## AANZFTA SUPPORT UNIT (ASU)



### KEY RESULT 1 AECSP INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT



### KEY RESULT 2 AECSP MONITORING AND EVALUATION



### KEY RESULT 3 AECSP PROMOTION AND OUTREACH



### KEY RESULT 4 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

<sup>1</sup> ASEAN-AU-NZ 10th Anniversary of AANZFTA Ministerial Statement (2019)

<sup>2</sup> Source: ASEANstats (2020)

- The **Economic Cooperation Work Programme** (ECWP) consisted of annual work programmes covering 12 components linked to various chapters of the AANZFTA Agreement. Those components were: (i) Rules of Origin and Other Aspects of Implementation of Tariff Commitments, (ii) Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, (iii) Standards, Technical Regulations

and Conformity Assessment Procedures, (iv) Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation, (v) Services, (vi) Financial Services, (vii) Telecommunication Services, (viii) E-Commerce, (ix) Investment, (x) Intellectual Property, (xi) Competition and Consumer Protection, and (xii) Government Procurement.



## ECONOMIC COOPERATION WORK PROGRAMME (ECWP)



**RULES OF ORIGIN  
AND OTHER  
ASPECTS OF  
IMPLEMENTATION  
OF TARIFF  
COMMITMENTS**



**TRADE IN SERVICES**



**INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY**



**SANITARY AND  
PHYTOSANITARY  
MEASURES**



**FINANCIAL  
SERVICES**



**COMPETITION  
AND CONSUMER  
PROTECTION**



**STANDARDS,  
TECHNICAL  
REGULATIONS  
AND CONFORMITY  
ASSESSMENT  
PROCEDURES**



**TELECOMMUNICATION  
SERVICES**



**E-COMMERCE**



**CUSTOMS  
PROCEDURES  
AND TRADE  
FACILITATION**



**INVESTMENT**



**GOVERNMENT  
PROCUREMENT**



# OVERVIEW OF THE AECSP IMPLEMENTATION

The AECSP has been implemented through good governance processes and close partnership amongst the 12 Parties.

As of 30 June 2022, the total contributions from Australia and New Zealand to the AECSP amounted to AUD 36.92 million. Through the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN has provided contributions in kind, from technical to administrative and logistical, to implement the AECSP.

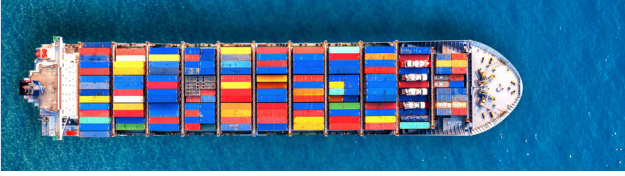
**The AECSP delivered commendable results through capacity-building at individual and institutional levels**, developing technical expertise amongst officials and enhancing AMS institutions. Over its 12 years of implementation, the AECSP supported 94 ECWP projects, enabling a rich diversity of high-quality, demand-driven technical capacity building, economic research, and policy dialogue and advice to deliver on its four strategic objectives. In particular, the AECSP has contributed to bridging the AANZFTA implementation gaps

amongst Parties by prioritising and providing the most benefits to the less-developed members. These were undertaken through 'Rapid Response' funding, deliberate consultations, inclusive engagement processes, and more. These collective and consistent efforts have benefited over 16,000 government officials and businesses (50% females, 46% males, and 4% others) across the region.

**The AECSP also supported a maturing policy dialogue between AANZFTA Parties**, deepening the Parties' mutual understanding on issues in AANZFTA's built-in agenda and overall AECSP implementation. A case in point was the support to the negotiations to amend the AANZFTA Agreement leading to the signing of the First Protocol to Amend the AANZFTA on 26 August 2014, making the Agreement more business-friendly. At the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers - Closer Economic Relations (AEM-CER) Consultations on 4 August 2016, the Ministers noted that economic cooperation under the AECSP was essential in operationalising and implementing AANZFTA. The Programme has contributed meaningfully to ASEAN's goal of regional economic integration as set out in its AEC Blueprint 2025.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup> Joint Media Statement of the 21<sup>st</sup> AEM-CER Consultations on 4 August 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR



**Moreover, the AECSP has contributed to boosting business confidence in regional economic opportunities for trade and investment and increasing business utilisation of AANZFTA over time.**<sup>4</sup> This encouraging trend has been underpinned by several complementary initiatives to improve the regional trade and investment climate, foster the adoption and implementation of international accords and standards, and catalyse knowledge-sharing and regional cooperation. A multitude of knowledge products and resources were developed and disseminated to assist Parties and businesses, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), reap the benefits offered by AANZFTA. These resources and information are available on the [AANZFTA website](#).

**Since 2019, the AECSP has set in motion targeted initiatives to support the AANZFTA upgrade negotiations to ensure that AANZFTA remains modern and relevant to the ever-changing business environment and regional trade and economic landscape.** A wide array of technical assistance and capacity-building activities was undertaken to support the negotiations of several areas, including the self-certification of origin, full cumulation, chemicals and plastic production process rules, the negative list approach to scheduling services commitments, consumer protection, sustainable government procurement, and trade and sustainable development. The AECSP also supported a project to distil lessons from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and other relevant FTAs to help AANZFTA Parties prepare to negotiate for the upgrade—targeted for conclusion within 2022.

**The AECSP adopted an adaptive and result-oriented approach to programme and project management.** In addition to effectiveness and efficiency, gender considerations and sustainability are at the heart of the design and implementation of engagement activities in equal measures. These considerations have explicitly been embedded in AECSP consultation and approval requirements and project management guidelines. The AECSP sought to sustain the programme and project outcomes by empowering individual, organisational, and institutional capacities with knowledge and skills that outlast project life cycles. Adapting to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the AECSP has re-framed its economic cooperation priorities, activities, and delivery means to respond to constraints and changes posed by the pandemic and beyond.

**With the end of the AECSP on 30 June 2022, this publication indulges a full retrospect of the AECSP implementation and results over the last 12 years (2010-2022).** The publication demonstrates commendable results from the AECSP implementation and its significance, relevance, and implications for the AANZFTA implementation and the ASEAN Economic Community building at large. Further, these achievements exemplify the ASEAN Secretariat’s successful delivery and management of the AECSP for results. AECSP has been a model for integrating economic cooperation provisions in regional trade and investment agreements.<sup>5</sup> AECSP also set the stage for a new phase of the AANZFTA economic cooperation programme—the **AANZFTA Implementation Support (AIS) Programme**—for many years to come.

<sup>4</sup> AECSP Independent Progress Report (2019), p.19

<sup>5</sup> AECSP Independent Progress Report (2019), p.7



# HIGHLIGHTS OF AECSP OUTCOMES

Twelve years on, the AECSP has made significant progress in deepening cross-border trade in the AANZFTA region, increasing business awareness to utilise AANZFTA opportunities, enhancing institutional capacities of AMS, and strengthening cooperation mechanisms amongst Parties across key components. The AECSP has encouraged and contributed to substantial results across various components, as highlighted below:



## RULES OF ORIGIN AND OTHER ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TARIFF COMMITMENTS



Transposed AANZFTA Tariff Reduction Schedules (TRS) and Product Specific Rules (PSR) from Harmonised System (HS) 2012 into HS 2017.



Facilitated the formulation and implementation of the [First Protocol to Amend the AANZFTA Agreement](#) by streamlining the Certification of Origin processes and form and developing a guide to assist businesses in transitioning to the First Protocol.<sup>6</sup>



Progressed the development of a regional mechanism to monitor the utilisation of AANZFTA tariff preferences.



Strengthened the capacity and readiness of AANZFTA officials to negotiate the Declaration of Origin (or self-certification) and Full Cumulation for the AANZFTA upgrade.



Developed and published [AANZFTA Tariff Finder web](#) and mobile apps on [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#), enabling businesses to check the preferential tariffs and rules applicable to specific commodities traded under AANZFTA.

<sup>6</sup> General Review of AANZFTA–Stage One: Review of Implementation 2010-2017 (2017), p.23



## SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES



Strengthened AMS' technical and regulatory capacity to implement SPS measures, including adopting new diagnostic technologies and developing ASEAN-wide scientific pest lists of high significance to trade.



Improved regional efforts in pest control and enabled market access within and outside the region for some of AMS' major agricultural products, namely rice and banana for Cambodia, corn and cassava for Lao PDR, papaya for the Philippines, and seed corn for Thailand. These AMS credited the specialised assistance from the ASEAN Regional Diagnostic Network Project.<sup>7</sup>



Developed the ASEAN Regional Guideline for the Implementation of International Standards related to SPS Measures and 16 corresponding [e-learning modules](#), helping AMS develop and implement their national SPS standards in line with the international standards, guidelines, and recommendations.



Set up an informal ASEAN network on whiteflies in 2015 and a national diagnostic network in Thailand and Indonesia in 2017 and 2019, respectively, fostering inter-agency and cross-border collaboration amongst the community of diagnosticians to efficiently discuss high-priority SPS challenges, share possible solutions, and communicate about the concerned SPS regulations when necessary.



## STANDARDS, TECHNICAL REGULATION AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES



Enabled crucial research on the current state of play in implementing the good regulatory practices in the AANZFTA cosmetics sector. The initiative has promoted mutual understanding of STRACAP measures and strengthened information exchange amongst AANZFTA Parties while signalling areas for improved cooperation.



Augmented the practical knowledge and technical expertise of MSMEs and MSME enablers in international prepared food standards to gain greater market access and deepen their integration into the global supply chains. The AECSP also helped AANZFTA Parties develop a one-stop source of reliable and up-to-date information and knowledge about food standards in the region.



<sup>7</sup> Case Study Report - The ASEAN Regional Diagnostic Network Project: Enhancing ASEAN Capacities to Reduce Phytosanitary Impediments to Trade (2019), pp.19-20





## CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND TRADE FACILITATION



Completed a comprehensive review on AANZFTA Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) as mandated under Chapter 2 (Trade in Goods) of the AANZFTA Agreement, recommending scope for additional means to enhance the facilitation of trade in goods between Parties.<sup>8</sup>



Deepened AANZFTA Parties' sustained understanding of [Advance Ruling on Origin \(ARO\)](#), preparing them to uniformly implement ARO in facilitating trade as mandated under Article 8 of the 'Customs Procedure' Chapter.



## TRADE IN SERVICES



Developed and implemented the [ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework \(AQR\)](#), providing a regional institutional foundation to improve AMS' education standards, facilitating increased student and labour mobility. The AQR was endorsed by the ASEAN Economic, Education, and Labour Ministers between 2014 and 2015, and the [AQR governance structure](#) was set up in 2016. The five-phase AQR projects helped [Indonesia](#), [Malaysia](#), the [Philippines](#), and [Thailand](#) complete referencing their national qualification frameworks (NQFs) against the AQR between 2019 and 2020, while others are making substantial progress in developing, implementing, refining, and referencing their NQFs to the AQR.



Deepened AMS' technical understanding and capacity to prepare their negative list services commitments—as part of the ongoing AANZFTA upgrade negotiations—to liberalise intra-regional trade in services. In 2019, AECSP technical assistance helped Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Thailand identify 70 draft reservations for targeted sectors, including professional, transport, education, financial, legal, and telecommunication services. AANZFTA Best Practice Guidelines for preparing a Negative List was produced and further refined in 2022, providing a practical, comprehensive guide to drafting negative list reservations and translating positive lists to negative list commitments.



## INVESTMENT



Enabled six comprehensive Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs) for [Cambodia](#), [Lao PDR](#), [Malaysia](#), [Myanmar](#), the [Philippines](#), and [Viet Nam](#), providing concrete evidence to support the investment climate reforms in these countries and the ASEAN and AANZFTA priorities by and large.<sup>9</sup> A follow-up Regional Forum on IPRs in 2019 provided an avenue for investment policymakers in the AANZFTA region, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and business associations to review the achievements and lessons learned since the IPRs.

<sup>8</sup> Article 7 (Quantitative Restrictions and Non-Tariff Measures) under Chapter 2 (Trade in Goods)

<sup>9</sup> Case Study Report - Investment Policy for Sustainable Development in the AANZFTA Region (2019). pp.4-7



Fostered policy dialogue amongst public and private sectors in AANZFTA on the investor-state disputes, resolution, and prevention to elevate investor confidence in the AANZFTA investment environment and government confidence in investment policy-making.



## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY



Assisted AMS to accede to the Madrid Protocol and effectively implement it post-accession, facilitating trademark registration regionally and globally. The AECSP support also contributed directly to realising the ASEAN 2025's strategic measure to complete ASEAN's accession to the Madrid Protocol.



Strengthened AMS' institutional capacity to design and adopt a high-quality, consistent, and sustainable approach to patent examination and tailored training—through three intertwined projects: Regional Patent Examination Training (RPET), Ideal Patent Examination Training (IPET) Model, and the RPET Mentoring Programme. Intellectual Property (IP) Offices in Malaysia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam have designed and implemented their respective new training programmes; other IP offices have worked toward instituting such a programme for their officials.<sup>10</sup>



Developed a [Regional Intellectual Property Public Education and Awareness Strategy](#) and a pool of resources (e.g., [IP for Business Portal](#), [handbook](#), and [guide](#)) to raise awareness of AANZFTA business communities and IP creators about strategic IP management, helping them reap the benefits of AANZFTA through innovation and applying for and using their IP rights.



## COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



Assisted AMS in introducing and implementing new and improved competition laws and institutions to foster greater business and consumer confidence and support AANZFTA economies to curb anti-competitive practices.<sup>11</sup> Through the Competition Law Implementation Programme (CLIP), the AECSP supported AMS (i.e., Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and the Philippines) in developing and enacting their national competition laws.



Updated the ASEAN Capacity Building Roadmap (ACBR 2021-2025), a priority activity under the ASEAN Competition Action Plan (ACAP) 2025 Deliverable 2.1.3, to address capacity-building gaps to ensure competition agencies develop the skills and competencies required to be able to effectively enforce the law. The ACBR 2021 - 2025 recommend capacity-building initiatives to support ASEAN Member States (AMS) to effectively and efficiently introduce and enforce competition policy and law.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Case Study Report - Enhancing ASEAN Competitiveness: Robust and Sustainable Patent Examination Training Model

<sup>11</sup> Case Study Report - Competition Law Implementation Programme: Building Competitive and Efficient Markets in ASEAN (2021), p.10

<sup>12</sup> ASEAN Competition Action Plan 2025 (2020), p.4

✓ Supported the development of the Investigation Manual on Competition Policy and Law (CPL) for the Digital Economy (ACAP Deliverable 2.4.2), which serves as a reference for ASEAN competition agencies to investigate competition cases within the digital economy by providing current international best practices.

✓ Enhanced AMS' capacity to develop and implement consumer protection laws, empower consumers, and drive merits-based competition between traders, supporting efficient, responsive, resilient markets and inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the AANZFTA. Sustained technical assistance from the AANZFTA Consumer Affairs Programme (CAP) has fostered regular and ongoing information exchange on key or emerging consumer protection issues, more robust regulator-to-regulator networks, and mutual understanding amongst AANZFTA consumer authorities.



## GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

✓ Set the stage for crucial policy dialogue amongst AANZFTA Parties on sustainable government procurement to support a new chapter on Government Procurement in the AANZFTA upgrade. The avenue enabled Parties to exchange experiences, increase knowledge of international best practices, and explore strategic issues on this critical agenda.



## CROSS-SECTORAL



Distilled essential lessons from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement and other relevant FTAs to support AANZFTA Joint Committee and its subsidiary bodies in the ongoing AANZFTA Upgrade negotiations.



Reviewed the AECSP implementation (2010-2021) to stocktake and celebrate its achievements and success stories, reflect on critical lessons learned, and recommend future directions for AANZFTA economic cooperation for years to come.





SECTION TWO:

# AECSP Implementation: Key Results 2010-2022



EXCELLENT  
NIGHTMARE  
Week: Weekend got no maybe in 1 hour  
the pro. It works so well. It makes  
me happy.  
Bran





## RULES OF ORIGIN AND OTHER ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TARIFF COMMITMENTS

**The AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP) has substantially progressed the development of a Regional Approach to Monitoring the Utilisation of AANZFTA Tariff Preferences.**

A project was initiated in 2010 to build a mutual understanding of the statistical tools employed by AANZFTA Parties in collecting and processing the data. A follow-up initiative between 2011 and 2019 demonstrated the importance and the feasibility of establishing a region-wide mechanism to capture, report and monitor the utilisation data of AANZFTA tariff preferences based on a unified template agreed upon by the AANZFTA Committee of Trade in Goods (CTG). As a result, Indonesia and the Philippines successfully conducted a pilot testing of the mechanism in 2014-2017. The AECSP has supported the third phase of the initiative to assess participating AMS' capacity and approaches to monitoring FTA utilisation to progress the agenda further. The project also developed tailored work plans with recommendations to overcome the identified challenges in establishing an effective regional monitoring mechanism for AANZFTA. Effective monitoring of the AANZFTA preferential utilisation rate can provide crucial insights for reviewing AANZFTA implementation and informing critical policy decisions regarding AANZFTA upgrade or other negotiations on market access.

**The AECSP has assisted AANZFTA Parties in completing the transposition of their AANZFTA tariff reduction schedules (TRS) and AANZFTA ROO product specific rules (PSR) from the Harmonised System (HS) 2012 to HS 2017.** This was realised through a series of in-country trainings and developing AANZFTA transposition guidelines. To date, all Parties have implemented the AANZFTA TRS and PSR in HS 2017 to collectively assist businesses in maximising the benefits of using AANZFTA preferential treatment and preventing trade disruption.

**Around 3,000 ASEAN government officials and business individuals have honed their technical knowledge and capacity in essential disciplines of trade-in-goods.** These include rules of origin (ROO), declaration of origin, and full cumulation:

- **ASEAN indicated their readiness to negotiate the Declaration of Origin (DOO) or self-certification under AANZFTA following a series of in-country training on DOO.** The self-certification scheme would be an alternative to the current certificate of origin regime, enabling eligible traders to claim AANZFTA preferential treatment based on origin declarations. Between February and April 2019, in-country training series in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam reached out to officials and private sectors from all ten AMS.

- Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam have strengthened their technical understanding and capacity for full cumulation for AANZFTA ROO—through four specialised trainings in November and December 2018.** When fully implemented, this new method would allow for the accumulation of originating costs for goods incurred in one AANZFTA Party to count in the production costs of a subsequent good in another AANZFTA Party, regardless of whether the processing of the original good is sufficient to confer originating status. A workbook was also produced to inform AMS on the Full Cumulation concepts, documentation, potential risk, risk management strategy, and possible application in AANZFTA ROO.
- The regional and country-level Training of Trainers (ToT) activities on goods delivered by participating AMS demonstrated the success and sustainability of the AECSP regional ToT approach.** The Regional ToT on AANZFTA Rules of Origin in 2013 was the most notable ToT, where five graduates from each AMS subsequently served as Lead Trainers for workshops in their respective countries.
- The AECSP facilitated the dissemination and sustainability of knowledge on Rules of Origin, focusing on the non-English speaking communities.** The programme supported the publication of [Primer on AANZFTA Rules of Origin \(2009\)](#), available in [English](#), [Khmer](#), [Lao](#),

[Burmese](#), and [Vietnamese](#). The second publication: [AANZFTA Rules of Origin Training Modules \(2013\)](#), is available in English, Khmer, Indonesian, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese. A total of 6,800 copies of these publications were distributed widely to assist in-country knowledge-sharing.

**Through AECSP support, all Parties had successfully implemented the First Protocol to Amend the AANZFTA Agreement** by streamlining the Certification of Origin form and developing a guide to assist businesses in transitioning to using the First Protocol.





## SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

**An array of targeted technical assistance from the AECSP has strengthened regional cooperation, collaboration, and information exchange necessary to facilitate trade while protecting the region's human, animal, and plant life and health.** These efforts have been reflected through streamlining and harmonising international standards, guidelines, and recommendations on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures at the national and regional levels. Nearly 800 ASEAN officials had benefited from various capacity-building initiatives.

**Three phases of the ASEAN Regional Diagnostic Network (ARDN) project (2010-2017, 2017-2020, 2020-2022) have significantly enhanced the capacity of AMS to identify plant pests and diseases, stimulated the adoption of new diagnostic techniques, facilitated access to some critical markets for agricultural products, and promoted regional collaboration and trade.** Notably, the ARDN project:

- **Assisted crop protection** through developing skills and tools for AMS to identify plant pests of high significance to trade, draw up scientifically credible, national and regional pest lists for particular pest groups or commodities, provide prompt notifications required under international phytosanitary obligations, bringing transparency to quarantine operations;

- **Improved market access and scientifically based quarantine policies** to ensure that AMS has a robust diagnostic capacity to assess commodity's potential risks and develop export strategies or import requirements. Specifically, the project: (i) assisted Lao PDR in defining pest status for its corn and cassava, which helped gain market access to China and Thailand for corn and to Cambodia; Thailand and Viet Nam for cassava; (ii) supported Cambodia in gaining market access to China for rice and banana exports; (iv) opened market access of the Philippines papaya to New Zealand; (v) assisted Viet Nam to use remote microscopy to assess detections by quarantine officers of insects in imported goods and clear consignments more quickly when there is no quarantine threat; (vi) initiated a national diagnostic network in Indonesia and Thailand, (vii) assisted a diagnostic protocol for a significant corn disease paving the way for the export of high-value seed corn from disease-free AMS, and (viii) complemented operations of Clearing House in Malaysia and Thailand national diagnostic network.
- **Continued support to ASEAN scientists and technicians in diagnosing plant viruses** to become more familiar with emerging technologies for diagnosing viruses and other plant pests. As of the second quarter of 2021, the project has supported the initial activities for developing diagnostic resources of fungi of economically important monocots and a database and manual for the ARDN Expertise Register.

The AECSP has supported AMS in developing ASEAN Regional Guideline for implementing International Standards related to SPS. The initiative supported AMS in implementing cohesive SPS measures according to international standards to foster seamless movements of goods, enhance trade networks, and promote greater integration amongst AANZFTA Parties:

- **The project identified challenges AMS faces in implementing its SPS international commitments and put forward crucial policy recommendations and a list of prioritised competencies to be strengthened.** Phase II followed on and completed the development of a comprehensive set of ASEAN SPS Guidelines, comprising (i) Guideline 1: International Frameworks; (ii) Guideline 2: Pest Risk Analysis; (iii) Guideline 3: Food Safety Risk Assessment; and (iv) Guideline 4: Animal Import Risk Analysis. This project has increased AMS officials' practical understanding of international guidelines and standards, including the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the Codex Alimentarius (Codex), contributing to better implementation of the SPS measures in the ASEAN region.

- Further, **a series of 16 e-learning modules were designed and is freely available on the AANZFTA website to facilitate accessibility for a broad audience.** These complimentary e-learning modules continue to benefit ASEAN officials, mainly newly recruited officers and businesses, to better their knowledge of essential principles of the SPS Agreement and risk analysis in animal health, plant health, and food safety. This is particularly important in contributing to narrowing the capacity gap between AMS.

The AECSP also assisted AMS in implementing international regulatory standards to ensure their safe and quality dairy products supply through the multi-phased project on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulatory Cooperation in Dairy. As a result, the project contributed to: (i) setting up a dairy cow association in Cambodia; (ii) revising Myanmar's existing Animal Health and Development Law to ensure its alignment with the National Dairy Development Plan; (iii) delivering customised orientation training on proposed new dairy regulations and controls to critical stakeholders and farmers in the Philippines; and (iv) revising Thailand's Good Agricultural Practice checklists for dairy cattle farms and delivered training on dairy processing, Good Agricultural Practice for farmers and Good Manufacturing Practice for mill collection centres.





Further, the AECSP enhanced AMS' technical capacity to conduct Import Risk Analysis (IRA) to import animal and animal products based on the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) risk analysis framework. The project, led by Malaysia and experts from Australia and New Zealand, provided an interactive training workshop and field visits to 25 representatives from nine AMS. The training equipped SPS officials from AMS with better knowledge and skills in import risk analysis and applying the Qualitative Risk Analysis Framework, narrowing the competency gap amongst the AMS and reducing barriers to importing animal and animal products in the region.



## STANDARDS, TECHNICAL REGULATION AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

The AECSP has supported the multi-year STRACAP Work Plan Implementation Programme (SWIP) to address policy gaps and needs in the food and beverage, cosmetics and health supplements industries. SWIP endeavours to achieve these through advancing Good Regulatory Practice (GRP), fostering cooperation in international standards engagement, and strengthening the technical capacity and infrastructure—while ensuring that they do not impede trade. More than 400 government officials and small and medium entrepreneurs have benefitted from capacity-building activities under SWIP:

- **In 2017, New Zealand led a successful initiative on GRP in the food and beverage sector** to improve Parties' understanding of the innovative practice models from various regulatory systems. This project paved the way for more in-depth GRP engagement in other sectors.
- **Building on this success, the AECSP has furthered its support in promoting GRP in the cosmetics sector.** The project—delivered between 2019 and 2022—reviewed international best practices and assessed the GRP implementation in each AANZFTA Party. Following extensive review and consultations, the project had rendered a vital reference document with policy recommendations to improve GRP implementation in the AANZFTA cosmetics industry.

The AECSP supported the participation of Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar in various regional meetings to augment their understanding of important initiatives in standards and conformance conducted by other AANZFTA Parties. AECSP supported officials from the three AMS in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Sub-Committee Meeting on Standards and Conformance, technical conferences on Good Regulatory Practices, and enhancing regulators on the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

Moreover, the AECSP assists Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)—the backbone of ASEAN economies—and MSME enablers to augment their practical knowledge and technical expertise in the international standards of prepared food.

The aim is to help them gain greater market access and deepen their integration into the global supply chains. AECSP assistance focused on marking and labelling, authorising food ingredients, contaminant limits, and analytical methods to enhance MSME expertise in these standards and enable greater market access and integration into the global supply chains.

- **Phase I of the Capacity Building Programme for MSME on International Prepared Food Standards project undertook a capacity needs assessment and designed a regional capacity building programme for MSMEs and country implementation plans.** MSMEs and the public have also benefited from a catalogue of regulations and food standards, a list of contact points of concerned regulatory bodies, and tailored training materials developed by the project, providing them with a one-stop source of reliable and up-to-date information and knowledge about food standards in the AANZFTA region.
- **Phase II followed up on the need assessment from the previous phase to establish a support mechanism for MSMEs in the prepared food industry.** The project compiled best practices and recommendations relevant to tiered technical food safety training and produced a training programme for MSME enablers or trainers in this area. Through this initiative, AANZFTA Parties also developed a mechanism to maintain the integrity of the database and information for sharing with businesses and the wider public.





## CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND TRADE FACILITATION

The AECSP has promoted regional cooperation amongst AANZFTA Parties' customs administrations through various capacity-building initiatives that sought to advance the implementation of Chapter 4 (Customs Procedures) of the AANZFTA Agreement.

**AECSP-supported research on AANZFTA Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) surfaced the impacts on the supply chains throughout the AANZFTA region.** This comprehensive review entailed a business survey involving extensive consultations with 110 companies, primarily small-and-medium enterprises. It also offered seven key insights and 11 specific recommendations—endorsed by respective AANZFTA Ministers—to ameliorate NTMs, providing an essential step toward facilitating regional trade.

**Various consultative workshops have contributed to the continuous effort to simplify border administrative procedures in AANZFTA** by enabling the exchange of experiences between Parties' customs authorities, particularly in risk management. Their interfaces also fostered in-depth discussions on how to progress regional cooperation in custom procedures and trade facilitation.

**Further, a two-phase initiative—undertaken between 2021 and mid-2022—has deepened the AANZFTA Parties' understanding of Advance Ruling on Origin (ARO),** preparing them

to implement ARO in facilitating trade mandated under Article 8 of the Customs Procedure Chapter. Phase 1 of the project focused on developing a training model and materials. They included two versions of [Handbook on Advance Ruling on Origin](#) for trainees and trainers. Each is available in three formats: interactive web-based, desktop apps, and PDF to encourage the handbook usage. Phase 2 delivered a regional train-the-trainers using the model and materials developed from the previous phase, seeking to share knowledge and best practices in ARO and promote its uniform applications amongst Parties.



## TRADE IN SERVICES

**Through a flagship five-phase project since 2010, the AECSP assisted AMS in developing and implementing the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRf) to drive substantial reforms within the AMS' education and training systems.** The initiative supports the increased trade in services, mainly education services, and advances regional integration with the greater temporary movement of natural persons through developing and operationalising mutually comparable NQFs based on a common reference framework. The AQRf was endorsed by ASEAN Economic, Education, and Labour Ministers between 2014 and 2015, followed by the institution of the AQRf governance structure in 2016.

- The AQRF project has consistently aided AMS in developing and implementing their national qualifications frameworks (NQFs), as well as referencing them to the AQRF—underpinned by quality assurance principles and standards towards enabling comparisons of education qualifications across ASEAN.
- As a result, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand have completed referencing their national qualification frameworks (NQFs) against the AQRF between 2019 and 2020, while others are making substantial progress—thereby boosting the international community’s trust in ASEAN qualifications and promoting greater mobility of students and workers within the ASEAN region.
- Sustained technical support has continued in Phase V (2020-2022) to assist the remaining AMS in identifying their needs and practical solutions to develop and implement their NQFs and the referencing processes. In late 2021, the AQRF Committee (AQRFC) endorsed two critical documents of the AQRF referencing toolkit: the AQRF Referencing Report template and the template to review the referencing report.

**The AECSP has prepared AANZFTA Parties to negotiate for the negative list services commitments as part of the ongoing AANZFTA upgrade negotiations to liberalise intra-regional trade in services.**

- **In 2019, the AECSP enabled a pilot programme to assist AMS in preparing negative list commitments in services sectors.** Through regional dialogue and in-country technical assistance workshops, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Thailand managed to identify 70 draft reservations for targeted sectors, including professional, transport, education, financial, legal, and telecommunication services. Further, the project developed (i) Best Practice Guidelines for Preparing a Negative List and (ii) instrumental training materials to build and sustain the technical capacity of officials, including policy officers and negotiators, to develop, refine, and negotiate their countries’ negative list schedules.
- **A follow-up initiative has been undertaken in 2022 to improve ASEAN Member States’ domestic consultations and deepen their understanding of negative list scheduling of services commitments.** This continued effort conducted a needs assessment, regional training, and targeted dialogues with participating AMS to deliberate specific issues, measures, and questions regarding drafting, negotiating, and implementing negative list services commitments. The *Best Practice Guidelines for Preparing a Negative List* document was refined to address issues, and necessary steps forward as AANZFTA Parties aspire to transition from the positive lists scheduling to the negative list scheduling of their services commitments—a collective effort to liberalise intra-regional trade in AANZFTA.



**The AECSP enabled comprehensive reviews of transport and logistics policies and institutional arrangements for Malaysia and the Philippines.** Completed in 2019, these reviews mapped out the laws and regulations affecting trade and investment in transport and logistics services in both AMS. They identified parameters for a coherent and well-functioning transport system. Further, a Policy and Institutional Framework (PIF) and Strategic Action Plan (SAP) were developed as part of a pilot programme to improve domestic regulations in logistics and transport in both countries. The Frameworks and Strategic Action Plan consist of options available to policymakers wishing to enhance transportation and logistics services regulations, requirements, and means of implementing each option.

**The AECSP supported analytical studies to facilitate ASEAN policy-making process at both regional and domestic levels.** The 2017 AECSP report on *AANZFTA Health and Education Policy Review* highlighted the barriers to trading health and education services and the benefits of international cooperation in these services. Similarly, AECSP sought to amplify the awareness of the benefits of services liberalisation by commissioning a report in 2017 on the *Impact of Services Liberation: Case Studies of Five Countries*. The report examined the various aspects of services liberalisation. It showcased the successes of Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam in undertaking liberalisation measures in the sectors of business services, financial services, logistics, telecommunications, and tourism.

**The AECSP strengthened ASEAN's technical capacity and inter-agency coordination in surveying and compiling statistics in trade in services (SITS)** through a three-phase program from 2011 to 2017. Pilot sectors included transportation, manufacturing, travel, and tourism. Around 300 AMS officials and enumerators were trained to design and conduct pilot surveys for SITS compilation, thereby supporting the development of statistical infrastructure on international trade in services for the AMS.





## INVESTMENT

**A wide array of AECSP-supported research, capacity-building initiatives, and dialogues have assisted Parties in addressing impediments to expanding investment flow throughout AANZFTA.**

Over 2,000 officials—mainly from ASEAN investment promotion agencies—have benefited from these activities, focusing on expanding market access, scheduling reservation lists, streamlining business licensing procedures, and promoting investment dispute resolution mechanisms.

**The AECSP enabled instrumental Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs) for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Viet Nam,** contributing

to creating a favourable investment environment in these AMS. With technical support from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), these IPRs provided a comprehensive assessment of the investment environment in each AMS and recommendations with tangible policy options that can support the process of policy formulation and adjustment and the promotion of inter-governmental and public-private dialogue in removing barriers to foreign investments. The following highlights are commendable developments that have transpired following the IPRs:

- Cambodia:** The first [Investment Policy Review for Cambodia](#) in 2018 recommends the country use Official Development Aid to expand its infrastructure and diversify the economy; refine investment climate; enhance trade promotion and facilitation; improve public and corporate governance; promote entrepreneurship, MSMEs, investor protection; level up the capacity and regulatory quality, competition policy and the application of technologies; and explore green growth sectors. On 15 October 2021, the Government of Cambodia enacted a new Law on Investment to replace the Law on Investment of 1993, aiming to magnetise and promote quality, efficient, and effective investment tailored to support socio-economic development.
- Lao PDR:** The country has implemented some recommendations from its 2017 [Investment Policy Review](#) to ameliorate the investment environment in the country, particularly in reducing domestic restrictions on investment, such as eliminating minimum capital requirements for investors in some sectors. To promote and facilitate domestic and foreign investment, Lao PDR undertook several reforms in 2018 and 2019 to increase the ease of doing business in the country and improve services on investment and operational licenses. In 2020, the Government of Lao PDR issued a public-private partnership (PPP) decree to stimulate investment projects in infrastructure development and public services delivery to boost economic growth.

- **Malaysia:** The [Investment Policy Review](#) (2013) presented Malaysia with critical recommendations to revive foreign and domestic investment. These recommendations included liberalising the service sectors, strengthening its intellectual property regime, fostering investment promotion and trade facilitation, reforming corporate governance, and improving responsible conduct. Cognisant of these strategic options, the Malaysian Government adopted its National Investment Aspiration (NIA) on 21 April 2021, which has guided subsequent targeted and effective investment promotion and facilitation strategies to attract high-quality investments and revitalise Malaysia's investment climate. Further, the establishment of the National Investment Council chaired by the Malaysia Prime Minister is underway to improve the existing institutional setup.
- **Myanmar:** Myanmar has undertaken key legislative improvements in response to critical recommendations from its 2014 [Investment Policy Review](#) to support a thriving business environment. Encouraging developments included enacting the Myanmar Investment Law in 2016, developing several strategic national plans under the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, and implementing the Myanmar Investment Rules in 2017. The Myanmar Companies Law, including the MyCO Electronic Registration System, came into force in August 2018 to ease the business registration process. In November of the same year, the new Ministry for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations was established as part of Myanmar's broader institutional reforms. Six years after the first review, the second IPR was undertaken in 2020 by the OECD Secretariat at the request of the Government of Myanmar. The second IPR of Myanmar emphasises complementary actions that can further strengthen Myanmar's business environment and ensure that these reforms benefit society at large.
- **Philippines:** Following its first [Investment Policy Review](#) in 2016, the Philippines amended its Anti Red Tape Act of 2007 through the passage of the 'Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Services Act of 2018' to promote transparency, simplify the requirements and procedures to reduce red tape and expedite business and non-business-related transactions in the government. In 2022, the Government of the Philippines amended its three-decade-old Foreign Investments Act to allow first-time foreign investors to set up and fully own small and medium-sized businesses and hold 100% equity in firms they could already operate to boost employment and growth. The amendments also created the Inter-Agency Investment Promotion Coordination Committee, which integrates all the promotion and facilitation efforts to attract more foreign investment uniformly.
- **Viet Nam:** The [Investment Policy Review](#) for Viet Nam was completed in late 2018. The review recommended Viet Nam to (i) further improve its investment climate and coordination on investment promotion and facilitation; (ii) enhance corporate governance, transparency

and predictability of legal frameworks and enforcement; and (iii) mainstream responsible business conduct and promote green growth. Building on these recommendations, Viet Nam passed its revised Investment Law and a new Public-Private Partnership Law in June 2020, designed to attract foreign investment into large infrastructure projects and increase linkages between foreign investors and the private sector in Viet Nam. In February 2021, Viet Nam approved a ten-year economic strategy seeking to shift foreign investments to high-tech industries with the possible inclusion of provisions and ensuring those investments include provisions relating to environmental protection.

**A follow-up Regional Forum on Investment Policy Reviews took place in 2019, providing an avenue for investment policymakers in the AANZFTA region, the OECD, and business associations to review the achievements and lessons learned since the IPRs.** Policymakers discussed the challenges and ways to strengthen ASEAN economic integration by improving investment climates, raising awareness of modern investment policy-making, and sound investment promotion and facilitation practices.

**The AECSP-supported Regional Forum on Investment Disputes, Resolution and Prevention, organised in late 2018, enhanced the Parties' knowledge and understanding of the latest investor-state dispute settlement developments.** This further improved AMS' capacity for dispute prevention and resolution in implementing the Investment Chapter of the AANZFTA. At this Forum, AANZFTA

government representatives gained a deeper understanding of critical issues encompassing dispute prevention and resolution, investment retention, and an awareness of typical challenges member states face. AANZFTA officials also discussed possible measures and tools for adequate investor-state dispute settlement, which can elevate investor confidence in the AANZFTA investment environment and government confidence in investment policy-making.

**In early 2019, AECSP further provided technical assistance to the Myanmar Investment Commission to implement its international investment commitments, including the AANZFTA.** This short-term assistance helped Myanmar prepare market access investment offers and enhanced officials' understanding of their investment obligations in international treaties, particularly the Investor-State Dispute Settlement and its implications, improving Myanmar officials' ability to avoid and manage investment disputes.

**Since 2020, the AECSP has assisted Viet Nam in developing a handbook for implementing international investment commitments.** This project seeks to enhance the awareness and understanding amongst its government officials at all levels of its investment treaty commitments. The development and implementation of the Handbook would contribute to the effective management of investment treaty commitments to improve investor confidence, avoid investor-state disputes, and facilitate new investment. The success of this project would establish a model for future investment handbooks in the other AMS.





## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The AECSP has offered vital assistance to foster the development of sound and balanced intellectual property (IP) systems amongst AANZFTA Parties to reduce impediments to trade and investment and deepen economic integration. It is a work in progress for the AECSP through deepening Parties' understanding and organisational capabilities in creating, utilising, protecting, and enforcing IP rights. A total of over 1,800 officials from AANZFTA have benefited from various initiatives since 2010 under this component.

From 2011 to 2017, the AECSP assisted AMS in accessing and implementing the Madrid Protocol to facilitate the registration of trademarks in the region and elsewhere worldwide. A wide range of technical capacity-building has contributed to realising the ASEAN 2025's strategic measure to complete ASEAN's accession to the Madrid Protocol. Key results from this project included:

- The successful accession to the Madrid Protocol by Cambodia in 2015; Lao PDR in 2016; Brunei Darussalam and Thailand in 2017; Indonesia in 2018;
- Technical assistance to Myanmar to aid its future accession by helping to develop its national legislative and organisational capability;
- Technical assistance to the Philippines and Viet Nam to implement the Protocol post-accession.

Three intertwined projects: Regional Patent Examination Training (RPET, 2013-2018), Ideal Patent Examination Training (IPET) model (2013-2018), and the RPET Mentoring Programme (2017-2020) have strengthened AMS' institutional capacity to design and adopt a high-quality, consistent, and sustainable approach to patent examination and tailored training.

Collectively, these complementary projects have achieved critical outcomes, including:

- A marked improvement in the quality of patent examination reports produced by RPET graduates; patent examination practices in the participating offices have likewise been enhanced, contributing to the grant of higher quality patents and positive effects of increased business confidence throughout the ASEAN region. A case study conducted regarding RPET reported feedback from participating IP offices (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) that trainees demonstrated a noticeable improvement in examination quality as a result of RPET training.
- Increased internal training capacity and self-sufficiency to provide their training to increase South-South cooperation between the AMS. As a result of RPEM, each participating IP office has a comprehensive competency-based patent examination training programme that includes online modules, a curriculum and training tools. IP Offices in Malaysia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam have designed and implemented their respective new training programmes. Other IP offices have worked toward instituting such a programme for their officials.

**The AECSP has further deepened AMS' understanding of and capacity to design and implement quality management practices within their respective trademark offices.** The 'Enhancement of Trade Mark Quality Management' project has improved the quality of information available to businesses in preparing for high-quality trademark applications and avoiding common issues that can cause a delay or become a barrier to entry into a new market in the region.

**The Regional Intellectual Property Public Education and Awareness Strategy equip with knowledge and toolkits to raise awareness of their respective business communities and IP creators about strategic IP management.** Two phases of this project had developed (i) [Regional IP Public Education and Awareness Strategy and Resource Kit](#); (ii) [IP for Business portal](#) on the AANZFTA website; (iii) [Business Guide to Intellectual Property Institutions, Laws and Filing Processes in AANZFTA Parties](#); (iv) [Handbook on Intellectual Property Commercialisation: Strategies for Managing Intellectual Property Rights and Maximising Value](#). These resources and publications aim to help businesses, especially SMEs, reap the benefits of AANZFTA through applying for and using their intellectual property rights.

**More recently, the AECSP has expanded Parties' awareness and understanding of the approaches and policy issues in protecting and promoting IP-related aspects of genetic resources (GR), traditional knowledge (TK), and traditional cultural expressions (TCE)**—part of indigenous people's culture and heritage and a potential source of revenue and economic development. In addition to running workshops, the project produced an instrumental research document: [Comparative Study of Existing GRTKTCE Legislation and Approaches with Recommendations for Best Practice Model National Policies and Law](#). It will assist AANZFTA Parties in enhancing their existing legal and non-legal measures to protect GR, TK and TCE. The study also seeks to support the eventual development of proposals for draft national policies and laws on GRTKTCE in interested AANZFTA Parties.





## COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

**AECS P has enabled the implementation of capacity-building activities to promote competition, economic efficiency, consumer welfare, and the curbing of anti-competitive practices while reducing the capacity gap between AANZFTA Parties.** Over 5,000 officials, mainly from ASEAN national competition agencies, have benefited from these initiatives.

**Since 2014, four phases of the 'Competition Law Implementation Programme' (CLIP) have consistently supported the implementation of the AANZFTA Chapter on Competition and the strategic measures under the ASEAN Competition Action Plan 2025.**

CLIP demand-driven technical assistance encompasses regional and sub-regional trainings, workshops, resident advisors and expert placements, secondments, study programmes, remote bilateral assistance, competition clinics, webinars, essay competition, and e-learning modules on the [CLIP Academy](#). Furthermore, CLIP has supported two ACAP 2025 Deliverables, namely the ASEAN Capacity Building Roadmap (ACBR) and the Investigation Manual on CPL for the Digital Economy.

In summary, CLIP's well-coordinated efforts have (i) deepened AMS' understanding of competition law and the importance of fostering a culture of competition, (ii) improved capacity to support AMS to become effective competition regulators, (iii) enhanced cooperation networks, (iv) furnished AMS with the necessary skills to

address emerging issues, and (v) increased progress towards finalising new and revised competition regulations. The following are highlights of commendable outcomes from CLIP:

- CLIP supported the development and enactment of national competition laws in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and the Philippines. To date, all AMS have their competition laws in place. CLIP continues to support AMS in enforcing and advocating their competition laws.
- CLIP has equipped around 2,600 staff of ASEAN competition authorities to be 'enforcement ready' with the skills necessary to implement new and revised laws effectively. CLIP e-Learning modules on competition law, economics, enforcement, and investigations have extended and sustained the learning outcomes. In collaboration with the Federal Court of Australia and the OECD, CLIP has also delivered enduring tools for the Judiciary through the publication of four Competition Primers for ASEAN Judges.
- CLIP promoted regional collaboration and skills transfer to provide support and mentorship to AMS officials and commissioners appropriately and in a timely fashion. These were done through expert placements and resident advisors for Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand secondment programmes with Australia and New Zealand. CLIP also fostered regional cooperation arrangements on Competition Policy and Law by arranging the AANZFTA

Heads of Agency Roundtable in 2018 and Commissioners' Retreat in 2019, implementing recommendations from the ASEAN Capacity Building Roadmap for Competition (2017-2020) and ASEAN Regional Cooperation Framework (ARCF). Further, CLIP contributed to updating the ASEAN Capacity Building Roadmap (2021-2025) to address the capacity-building gaps in effectively enforcing the laws across the region.

- CLIP has been fostering advocacy efforts toward a competition-aware ASEAN region. The AANZFTA Consumer and Competition Law Digest, formerly known as CLIPPINGS online newsletter, reach a broad audience, sharing competition development and cooperation highlights. CLIP also produces other communication materials to support its advocacy efforts: media releases, videos, posters and pamphlets. Additionally, the Call for Papers through the 2021 AANZFTA Competition Law Essay Contest helps support the [Virtual ASEAN Competition Research Centre](#) and regional discourse, through the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Competition Conference, about the effective implementation of competition law in ASEAN.
- Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, CLIP IV activities, namely competition clinics, webinars, and remote assistance, continue to help address issues of most immediate concern for ASEAN competition agencies in a practical and timely way. These technical assistances seek to support competitive markets and minimise economic and social harm resulting from the pandemic.

### **Support the convening of Seven ASEAN Competition Conferences with over 1,300 participants from ASEAN national competition agencies and the private sector.**

The happenings and participation exemplify the regional acceptance of the importance of competition policy. These thematic ASEAN Competition Conferences have served as an effective forum for ASEAN competition officials, practitioners, and academicians in and outside the region to discuss challenges in the implementation of competition policy and law in the region, exchange experiences and strategic discussions, and draw lessons from best practices in the region and beyond.

### **Alongside the competition, the AECSP has supported new initiatives to enhance AMS' capacity to develop and implement consumer protection laws, empower consumers, and drive merits-based competition between traders:**

- The **Consumer Protection Scoping Project (CPSP)** has strengthened the interface between consumer protection and competition law in the AANZFTA. It also explored the potential for ongoing cooperation on consumer protection under the AANZFTA. The Project delivered (i) an information paper on consumer protection administration of AMS, potential areas of AANZFTA cooperation and preparation for review and upgrade of Competition Chapter under the AANZFTA Agreement; (ii) a study visit to Australia to learn from Australian and New Zealand experience on implementing competition and consumer protection law and to identifying possible cooperation



to complement and strengthen competition law implementation in AANZFTA region; and (iii) report on Cooperation on Consumer Protection under AANZFTA - a Proposed Way Forward (2021-2025) for regulator-to-regulator technical cooperation on consumer protection.

- With the above foundation, the **AANZFTA Consumer Affairs Programme Phase I (CAP I)**, initiated in late 2020, supports consumer agencies in the AMS to respond to issues stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. This has included a significant focus on online consumer protection, owing to the pandemic precipitating more robust e-commerce in ASEAN. In that, CAP I has shared information about approaches to consumer protection, including hard and soft law development, practical aspects of implementation, and inter-agency cooperation coordination. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CAP activities—online training workshops, technical support for digital advocacy tools, video interviews, blogs, case studies, and more are fully delivered through virtual means. CAP I aimed to foster regular information exchange, more robust regulator-to-regulator networks, and mutual understanding amongst AANZFTA consumer authorities.





## GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

**AECSP set a regional dialogue on sustainable government procurement amongst AANZFTA Parties.** The ‘Sustainable Procurement Symposium’, which took place in November 2019, served as an avenue for participating officials to exchange experiences, increase knowledge on international best practices, and explore strategic issues relating to sustainable government procurement. The symposium also fostered a crucial discussion on further collaboration on developing a new chapter on Government Procurement for the AANZFTA Upgrade negotiations.



## CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES

**The AECSP has commissioned research on *Lessons from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement and Other Relevant Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to Support the AANZFTA Upgrade negotiations.*** The project assists the AANZFTA Joint Committee and its subsidiary bodies prepare for the upgrade negotiations. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the upgraded AANZFTA Agreement remains relevant to the current and emerging trends, modern, comprehensive, high-quality, and more responsive to the needs of business operations the production networks, and complementary to existing FTAs.

**The AECSP Symposium: Results, Lesson Learned, and Future Directions of the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation project celebrated the 11-year of AECSP implementation—since 2010.** The project took stock of the results and lessons learned from AECSP implementation through methodological and participatory reviews- stakeholder interviews and a consultative workshop. The project also identified potential priority areas for the AECSP successor programme. A virtual event: ‘AECSP Symposium’ on 23 August 2021 convened key AANZFTA stakeholders, including all AANZFTA bodies, ASEAN Secretariat, AECSP project implementing partners, and business community representatives, to celebrate and reflect the success of the decade-long AECSP implementation and explore possibilities for the AANZFTA economic cooperation beyond 2021.









SECTION THREE:  
**Lists and  
Figures**



# LIST OF ECWP PROJECTS (2010-2022)



## Rules of Origin and Other Aspects of Implementation of Tariff Commitments

- ✓ Monitoring the Utilisation of AANZFTA Tariff Preferences - Phase II - Building Individual Parties Capacities to Submit Compatible Data for CTG Analysis **(2021-2022)**
- ✓ Capacity Building to Support the negotiation of a Pilot Program on Full Cumulation for AANZFTA ROO **(2018-2019)**
- ✓ Capacity Building to support the negotiation of a Pilot Program for a Declaration of Origin (DoO) under AANZFTA **(2018-2019)**
- ✓ Transposition of AANZFTA Tariff Reduction Schedules and Product Specific Rules from Harmonized System Codes (HS) 2012 into HS 2017 **(2016-2019)**
- ✓ Joint Session to Discuss Implementation of the First Protocol to Amend the AANZFTA Agreement **(2015)**
- ✓ In-Country Training on Tariff and Trade Data Analysis for Government Officials of interested ASEAN Member States **(2014-2017)**
- ✓ Policy Dialogue on Future Transposition of Harmonized System (HS) of AANZFTA Tariff Reduction Schedules and Rules of Origin Product Specific Rules **(2014)**
- ✓ Enhancing SMEs Awareness and Participation in AANZFTA – Capacity Building for Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar **(2013-2017)**
- ✓ Developing a Regional Approach to Monitoring Utilisation of AANZFTA Tariff Preferences **(2011-2020)**



Workshop on AANZFTA Self-Certification of Origin **(2011)**



Workshop on Streamlining of CO Application and Issuance Procedures **(2011)**



Development of Training Modules and Training for Trainers on AANZFTA Rules of Origin **(2011-2019)**



Capacity-building on Monitoring the Utilisation of AANZFTA Tariff Preferences **(2010)**



Seminar/Workshop on Chemicals and Plastics Production Process Rules for the AANZFTA Rules of Origin **(2010)**



Rapid Response: Training on Transposition of AANZFTA Tariff Reduction Schedules from Harmonised System 2007 to 2012 for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam



Rapid Response: Training on Trade and Tariff Analysis for Cambodia and Indonesia



Rapid Response: Training on AANZFTA Rules of Origin for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and the Philippines



## Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures



ASEAN Regional Diagnostic Network (ARDN) Phase III (Part One) **(2020-2022)**



Capacity Building Program for the Development of Skills amongst the ASEAN Member States in Import Risk Analysis for Importation of Animal and Animal Products (Focusing on Livestock) **(2017-2018)**



ASEAN Regional Guideline for the Implementation of International

Standards related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures **(2017-2021)**



ASEAN Regional Diagnostic Network (ARDN) Phase II **(2017-2020)**



Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulatory Cooperation: Dairy **(2014-2016)**



ASEAN Import Health Standard: Priority Line and Capacity Development **(2011-2017)**



ASEAN Regional Diagnostic Network Phase I **(2010-2017)**



## Standards, Technical Regulation and Conformity Assessment Procedures



Capacity Building Programme for MSMEs on International Prepared Food Standards - Phase II **(2021-2022)**



STRACAP Work Plan Implementation Program (SWIP) - Work Stream 1: Good Regulatory Practice - Cosmetics Sector **(2019-2021)**



Capacity Building Programme for MSME on International Prepared Food Standards **(2018-2020)**



STRACAP Work Plan Implementation Program (SWIP) Stream 1: Workshop on Good Regulatory Practice **(2017)**



Dialogue Workshop on Priority Setting for AANZFTA Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures **(2014)**



Workshop on International Standards Development Best Practices **(2012-2013)**



Participation by AANZFTA Parties in the APEC Workshop on Harmonised Electrical Equipment Regulatory Risk Assessment Tools **(2012)**



### Customs Procedure and Trade Facilitation

- ✓ Capacity Building on Advance Ruling on Origin (ARO) **(2021-2022)**
- ✓ Review on Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) **(2011-2018)**
- ✓ Capacity Building and Technical Assistance on Advance Rulings on Rules of Origin, Tariff Nomenclature and Customs Valuation **(2012-2018)**
- ✓ Capacity Building on Risk Management **(2012)**



### Trade in Services

- ✓ ASEAN's Transition to Negative Listing for Services Commitments **(2021-2022)**
- ✓ ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework Phase V – Capacity Building for National Qualifications Frameworks and Referencing **(2020-2021)**
- ✓ Referencing National Qualifications Frameworks (NQF) to the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQR) [Education and Training Governance: Capacity Building for NQF Phase IV] **(2016-2020)**
- ✓ Enhancing ASEAN Logistics and Transport Services: Policy, Institutional and Regulatory Review **(2016-2020)**
- ✓ Preparatory Work on Transitioning to Negative List: Preparing Negative List Schedules (Pilot Phase) **(2019-2020)**
- ✓ Education and Health Services Policy Review **(2012-2017)**
- ✓ AANZFTA Capacity Building on Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS) Phase III: Enhancing Data Compilation of SITS through Pilot Surveys in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar **(2017)**
- ✓ Case Study on the Benefits of Services Liberalisation **(2014-2017)**
- ✓ Education and Training Governance: Capacity Building for National Qualifications Frameworks (NQF) - Phase II **(2016)**

✓ Education and Training Governance: Capacity Building for National Qualifications Frameworks (NQF) - Phase III **(2012-2016)**

✓ Capacity Building Workshop on International Trade in Services Statistics Collection and Management - Phase II **(2011-2014)**

✓ Technical Assistance to Enhance ASEAN Logistics Services Sector **(2012-2014)**

✓ Enhancing Domestic Regulations **(2012-2014)**

✓ Education and Training Governance: Capacity Building for National Qualifications Frameworks **(2010-2012)**

✓ Capacity Building Workshop on International Trade in Services Statistics Collection and Management **(2010-2011)**



### Investment

✓ Handbook for Implementing International Investment Commitments – Stage One: Pilot in Viet Nam **(2018-2022)**

✓ Investment Policy Review of Myanmar **(2012-2020)**

✓ Investment Policy Workshop for ASEAN Policymakers **(2017-2020)**

✓ Regional Forum on Investment Disputes, Resolution and Prevention **(2017-2019)**

✓ Investment Policy Review of Viet Nam **(2014-2018)**

✓ Investment Policy Review of Cambodia **(2014-2018)**

✓ Investment Facilitation and Technical Assistance for Newer ASEAN Members **(2011-2017)**

✓ Study on Investment Trends, Issues and Prospects in AANZFTA **(2011-2017)**

✓ Investment Policy Review of Lao PDR **(2014-2017)**

✓ Investment Policy Review of the Philippines **(2012-2016)**

✓ Increasing Foreign Investment Flows: CLMV Capacity Building to Facilitate the Implementation and Business Utilization of AANZFTA **(2014-2015)**

✓ Technical Workshop on Investment Disputes, Resolution (including Arbitration) and Prevention **(2013-2014)**

✓ Workshop on Non-Mode 3 Investment in Services **(2013-2014)**

✓ Investment Policy Reviews for Interested ASEAN Countries - Malaysia **(2011-2013)**

✓ Workshop on Investment Commitments in International Agreements - Key Issues for AANZFTA's Investment Work Programme **(2012)**

✓ Seminar cum Workshop on the Two-Annex Approach in the Scheduling of Reservation List under the Investment Chapter **(2010)**

✓ Rapid Response: Knowledge exchange on Investment Treaty Handbooks as a tool for Investor-State Dispute Prevention

✓ Rapid Response: Knowledge exchange on understanding and application of international investment commitments for Myanmar



### Intellectual Property

✓ IP Public Education and Awareness (Phase II) – Regional Information Campaign and Supporting Campaign Materials **(2018-2021)**

✓ Regional Patent Examination Training Mentoring Programme **(2017-2021)**

✓ Comparative Study on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Traditional Cultural Expressions (GRKTCE) (Phase 1) **(2019-2021)**

✓ Enhancement of Trade Mark Quality Management (Phase I and II) **(2020-2021)**

- ✓ Regional Patent Examination Training **(2012-2018)**
- ✓ Capacity Building for Patent Examiners - An Ideal Training Model **(2012-2018)**
- ✓ Accession to Madrid Protocol (Phase III) - Stakeholder-Focused Trademark Registration Systems in ASEAN **(2016-2017)**
- ✓ Policy Workshops on IP and Genetic Resources (GR), Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) **(2013-2015)**
- ✓ Accession to Madrid Protocol (Phase II) **(2014-2015)**
- ✓ Accession to the Madrid Protocol **(2011-2014)**
- ✓ IP Public Education and Awareness - Community of Practice and Strategy **(2012-2014)**
- ✓ IP Training for Small to Medium-Sized Enterprises **(2011-2012)**
- ✓ AANZFTA Intellectual Property Crime Conference **(2010-2011)**
- ✓ Workshop on Accession to the Madrid Protocol **(2010-2011)**

 **Competition and Consumer Protection**

- ✓ Competition Law Implementation Programme (CLIP) Phase IV **(2020-2022)**
- ✓ AANZFTA Consumer Affairs Programme Phase I (CAP I) **(2020-2022)**
- ✓ Competition Law Implementation Programme (CLIP) Phase III **(2018-2020)**
- ✓ AANZFTA Scoping Project on Consumer Protection (CPSP) **(2018-2020)**
- ✓ Competition Law Implementation Programme (CLIP) Phase II **(2016-2018)**

- ✓ 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Competition Conference 2017: 'ASEAN@50 - Managing Change in a Competitive ASEAN' **(2017)**
- ✓ AANZFTA Competition Law Implementation Programme (CLIP) **(2014-2016)**
- ✓ 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Competition Conference: 'Cartels Detection and Leniency' **(2016)**
- ✓ 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Competition Conference: 'Advancing Competition Policy and Law Post-2015: Progress Opportunities and Challenge' **(2015)**
- ✓ Building Competition Law Enforcement Capability through Investigation Skills Training **(2012-2014)**
- ✓ 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Competition Conference: 'Building Blocks for Effective Enforcement of Competition Policy and Law' **(2014)**
- ✓ Competition Regulatory Experts Secondment to the Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC) and Viet Nam Competition Authority (VCA) **(2012-2013)**
- ✓ AANZFTA Series of Workshops on Competition Policy and Law for the ASEAN Member States - First workshop **(2011-2012)**

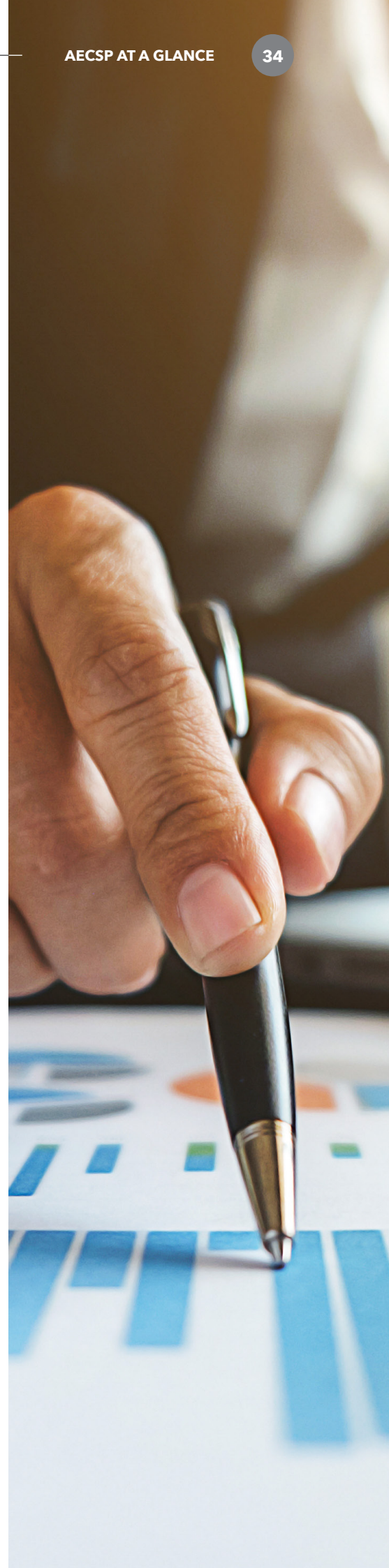
Series of Annual ASEAN Competition Conferences - 1<sup>st</sup> ACC **(2011)**

 **Government Procurement**

- ✓ 2019 Sustainable Procurement Symposium **(2019)**

 **Cross-Sectoral Initiatives (General)**

- ✓ Lessons Learned from the RCEP Agreement & Other Relevant FTAs to support AANZFTA Upgrade Negotiation **(2021)**
- ✓ AECSA Symposium: Results, Lessons Learned, and Future Directions of the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation **(2021)**



# LIST OF RAPID RESPONSE PROJECTS (2010-2022)

- ✓ Attendance of Expert at the Myanmar Investment Commission to Assist with Understanding and Application of International Investment Commitments **(2019)**
- ✓ Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar's participation in APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) **(2017)**
- ✓ In-country Training on Transportation of AANZFTA Tariff Reduction Schedules from HS 2007 to HS 2012 for Myanmar **(2013)**
- ✓ In-country Training on Transportation of AANZFTA Tariff Reduction Schedules from HS 2007 to HS 2012 for Viet Nam **(2012)**
- ✓ In-country Training on Transportation of AANZFTA Tariff Reduction Schedules from HS 2007 to HS 2012 for Lao PDR **(2012)**
- ✓ In-country Training on AANZFTA Rules of Origin for Philippines **(2012)**
- ✓ In-country Training on AANZFTA Rules of Origin for Myanmar **(2012)**
- ✓ In-country Training on AANZFTA Rules of Origin and Transportation of AANZFTA Tariff Reduction Schedules from HS 2007 to HS 2012 for Cambodia **(2011-2012)**
- ✓ In-country Training on AANZFTA Rules of Origin for Lao PDR **(2011)**

# PROGRAMME FIGURES

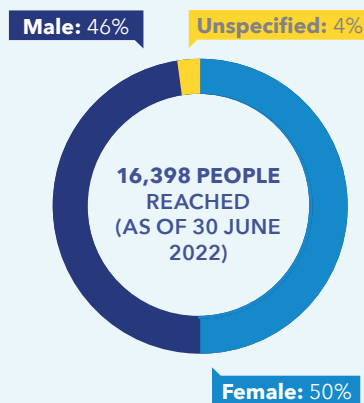
## Number of ECWP Projects by Components



## AECSP Project Initiating Parties



## AECSP Direct Beneficiary



## ECWP Budget Allocation

