



The AANZFTA Implementation Support Programme: An Overview

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Regional Trade for Development Facility

AANZFTA IMPLEMENTATION
SUPPORT PROGRAMME



REGIONAL TRADE
FOR DEVELOPMENT



The Regional Trade for Development Facility



Funded by Australia and New Zealand, the Regional Trade for Development Facility (RT4D) is the umbrella programme for the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA) Implementation Support Programme (AISP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement Implementation Support Programme (RISP). It aims to support ASEAN economies to meet their commitments and realise the full benefits of an upgraded AANZFTA and RCEP. Australia's contribution to ASEAN Member States (AMS) under this initiative is AUD46 million funded out to 2028.

RT4D builds on over a decade of experience delivering economic cooperation through the AUD36 million AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme. RT4D will support ASEAN economies to access world-class technical assistance and capacity building to respond to their needs and priorities.

RT4D Resources and Capabilities

Providing ASEAN economies with world-class technical expertise and support for economic cooperation activities



Providing monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) support



Providing an additional AUD5 million by Australia to fund a Trade and Gender Equality Incubator, helping to achieve the commitments to gender-responsive implementation set out in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025



Co-located headquarters in Jakarta and Hanoi to support economic cooperation across the region



Providing additional assistance to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam to support their engagement with the programme



Supporting increased engagement and relationship-building between businesses and AANZFTA Parties



Supporting communications and media efforts to promote AANZFTA and RCEP



Summary of Interim Projects

In 2022, Australia and New Zealand supported seven Interim Projects.

Consumer Affairs Program (CAP) Phase II

CAP II supported implementation of the AANZFTA competition and consumer protection provisions.

AANZFTA Trade Mark Quality Management Project Phase III

Enhanced quality management standards and practices across AMS IP offices.

Competition Law Implementation Program (CLIP) Phase V

CLIP V focused on leveraging competition to support economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ASEAN Regional Diagnostic Network (ARDN) Phase III Part 2

Helped develop pest lists, assurance and certification systems, and phytosanitary measures for AMS.

Standards and Conformance Relationships and Priorities

Bolstered engagement in the technical sub-committees in AANZFTA.

Transposition of the AANZFTA Product Specific Rules (PSR) from Harmonized Systems (HS) 2017 to HS 2022

Supported SC-ROO to finalise the transposition of PSR from HS 2017 into HS 2022.

ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) Project - Phase V

Phase V of AQRF identified ASEAN key priorities and advanced the development of national qualifications frameworks.

The Interim Projects are transition projects directly funded by Australia and New Zealand after the completion of the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme



The seven Interim Projects have conducted a total of 63 activities over the past year, such as:

**2**

CASE STUDIES

**3**

RESEARCH PROJECTS

**13**

DOCUMENTATIONS

**5**

EVALUATIONS/SURVEYS

**2**

REMOTE ASSISTANCE

**11**

TRAININGS

**1**

CONSULTATIONS

**24**

WORKSHOPS

**1**

TOOLS

**1**

OTHERS

Balanced gender participation in trainings and workshops

**64%**

TRAININGS

49%

WORKSHOPS

**36%**

TRAININGS

51%

WORKSHOPS

Case Studies of Interim Projects



ASEAN Regional Diagnostic Network (ARDN)

ARDN supported AMS to reliably and consistently identify plant pests by developing credible pest lists for market access, robust assurance and certification systems, and phytosanitary measures in line with international rules and standards.

Results

The current Phase III Part 2 of the ARDN is a continuation of the ARDN's earlier phases, which collectively contributed to the following results:



Strengthened AMS capacity to address challenges in diagnostic resources and skills



Strengthened networks of diagnostics expertise in ASEAN and streamlined the ARDN transition to AMS-led management



Established collaborations between AMS and new centres of innovation in pest diagnostics in Australia and New Zealand



Facilitated economic cooperation through stronger regional expert collaboration



Competition Law Implementation Program (CLIP)

CLIP focused on capacity development for AMS competition officials through practical skills transfer and leveraging competition to support post-pandemic economic recovery among AMS.

Results

The current Phase V of CLIP is a continuation of CLIP's earlier phases, which collectively contributed to the following results:



Improved AMS understanding of competition law



Improved AMS institutional capacity to support more effective competition laws and institutions



Improved capacity of AMS competition authorities to practice competition enforcement and support advocacy efforts



Enhanced enforcement cooperation among competition agencies in the ASEAN region

The 2023 AISP Economic Cooperation Work Programme

The 2023 AISP Economic Cooperation Work Programme allows AANZFTA Subsidiary Bodies to identify, approve and implement priority activities in 2023.



7 SUBSIDIARY
BODIES



18 ACTIVITIES



5.5M TOTAL BUDGET
ALLOCATION (AUD)

Under the 2023 AISP Economic Cooperation Work Programme, seven Subsidiary Bodies submitted 18 activities with a value of AUD5.5 million.

Approved 2023 AISP Economic Cooperation Work Programme

Economic Cooperation

1. Communications Package to Socialise Benefits of the AANZFTA Upgrade
2. 4 In-country Business Engagement Events
3. Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) Scoping Study Within the Context of the AANZFTA Agreement
4. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

Trade in Goods

1. Addressing Obstacles to Monitoring Utilisation of AANZFTA Tariff Preferences

Rules of Origin

1. Workshop on Full Cumulation

Intellectual Property

1. Strengthening Intellectual Property (IP) knowledge for Women's Enterprises
2. Supporting the female businesses to develop their trademark (design and registration), including packaging design
3. Supporting female enterprises participation in the IP Week 2023
4. Knowledge Sharing Activity and Research on the Competency Framework of ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand's IP Service Human Resources

Competition

1. AANZFTA Competition Law Implementation Programme's (CLIP) Phase VI
2. AANZFTA Consumer Affairs Program (CAP) Phase III

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Matters

1. Technical capacity development to support ASEAN economy import Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) process and ASEAN MRL harmonization – Phase III
2. Epidemiological Training Course
3. ASEAN Regional Diagnostic Network (ARDN) – Extension of Phase III

Standards, Technical Regulations And Conformity Assessment Procedures

1. International Standards Cooperation in Renewable Energy
2. Digital Transformation in Standards Development – Regional Workshop
3. Capacity building in Pattern Approval and Verification of Automatic Weighing Instruments for conformity assessment purposes.

Strategic Planning in AISP Implementation

RT4D and the Development of the ASDP and SSDPs

The RT4D Facility has begun supporting AANZFTA Parties in the development of the AANZFTA Strategic Directions and Priorities (ASDP) and the Sectoral Strategic Directions and Priorities (SSDP) documents. These will support a more strategic approach to economic cooperation by clearly identifying medium-term priorities of FTA parties.

The ASDP will enable the AANZFTA Joint Committee (FJC) to define key sectors and priorities for AANZFTA implementation, as well as funding envelopes under each priority area. The ASDP will also guide AANZFTA Subsidiary Bodies to develop their own SSDPs.

The ASDP strengthens FJC strategic guidance, direction, and oversight over the AANZFTA economic cooperation agenda by:



Ensuring coherence and alignment between FJC and Subsidiary Body priorities



Allocating activity resources and strengthening FJC oversight over Subsidiary Bodies



Supporting the FJC in ensuring responsive and results-based management

Subsidiary Bodies will develop SSDPs that identify FTA implementation priorities, desired outcomes and indicative activities to achieve those outcomes.

Nine Subsidiary Bodies are in the process of finalising their SSDPs.

01
COMMITTEE ON TRADE
IN GOODS (CTG)

02
SUB-COMMITTEE ON SANITARY
& PHYTOSANITARY (SC-SPS)

03
COMMITTEE ON TRADE IN
SERVICES (CTS)

04
SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS, TECHNICAL REGULATIONS AND
CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES (SC-STRACAP)

05
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
COMMITTEE (IPC)

06
SUB-COMMITTEE ON
RULES OF ORIGIN
(SC-ROO)

07
COMMITTEE ON
COMPETITION (CC)

08
SUB-COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES
(SC-FS)

09
COMMITTEE ON
INVESTMENT (COI)

The remaining AANZFTA Subsidiary Bodies will develop their SSDPs after further guidance from the FJC

Outlook for 2024

In the year ahead, the RT4D Facility will assist AANZFTA Subsidiary Bodies with the development and implementation of strategic documents, work programmes and activities that support AANZFTA implementation in 2023-24 and beyond.



Implementing the 2023 AISP Economic Cooperation Work Programme



The implementation of the 2023 AISP Economic Cooperation Work Programme has begun. The RT4D Facility will continue to liaise closely with the ASEAN Secretariat, project proponents and AANZFTA Subsidiary Bodies to complete the activity designs and implement all approved activities.

Supporting a Strategic Approach to AANZFTA Implementation

RT4D will support all AANZFTA Subsidiary Bodies in the completion and endorsement of their SSDPs and the development of Sectoral Work Programmes that contribute towards SSDP outcomes. The Sectoral Work Programmes will be consolidated into a 2024 AISP Economic Cooperation Work Programme.

The AISP planning process is as follows:



