Australia’s ASEAN and Mekong Program supports ASEAN to encourage economic growth and trade in the ten ASEAN Member States and respond to cross-border, regional challenges such as combatting human trafficking and improving management of the Mekong’s water resources.

**Strategic direction**

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, Australia’s ASEAN and Mekong Program focuses on:

- **Inclusive economic growth**: by removing barriers to economic cooperation, promoting financial inclusion, enabling private sector growth and assisting sustainable management of regional water resources.

- **Human security**: by strengthening regional responses to trafficking and the exploitation of migrant workers, and promoting safe labour migration.

**Program highlights**

- Commenced **ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking program** ($80 million; 2018-28) that aims to ensure ASEAN countries have effective justice systems that provide just punishment of traffickers and protects the rights of victims.

- Supporting the establishment of the **ASEAN Infrastructure Pipeline** - a rolling priority pipeline of potential ASEAN regional infrastructure projects and identifying potential sources of funding.

- Supported seminal research through the Mekong River Commission Council Study, published in 2018, in support of **sustainable regional and national water planning**.

- Supported development of an **ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy** (launched in 2018), under ASEAN’s connectivity agenda, to help the region’s rapidly-growing cities address common challenges.

- Supported development of the **ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (launched in 2018), providing a framework to integrate disability across ASEAN.

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**ASEAN and Mekong**

Development cooperation fact sheet April 2019

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Investment Priority</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>2018-19 Estimated Outcome</th>
<th>2019-20 Budget Estimate</th>
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For more details:

- Overview of Australia’s ASEAN and Mekong Program
- Aid Investment Plan: South-East Asia Regional Economic Growth And Human Security Program 2015-16 to 2018-19
- ASEAN and Mekong Aid Program Performance Report 2017-2018

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**Australian ODA to ASEAN and Mekong, by Investment Priorities 2019-20**

- **Infrastructure and Trade**: 38%
- **Agriculture, Fisheries and Water**: 16%
- **Effective Governance**: 34%
- **Building Resilience**: 8%
- **General Development Support**: 4%