

Chapter 17

A Forward-Looking Framework for ASEAN Free Trade Agreement Strategy

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17.

A Forward-Looking Framework for ASEAN's Free Trade Agreement Strategy

Soo Yeon Kim

This chapter makes four main recommendations regarding the free trade agreement (FTA) strategy of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community (AEC). First, ASEAN should consider new ASEAN-level FTAs that build on and consolidate existing FTAs of individual ASEAN Member States (AMS). The approach involves leveraging current individual member FTAs and negotiating agreements that encompass all ASEAN countries at the regional level. Second, all FTA projects should align with the internal objectives of the AEC, ensuring that FTA commitments are consistent with the strategic measures and key action lines enumerated in the AEC Blueprint 2025. Such alignment ensures that past, present, and future FTA projects progress in harmony with the AEC's evolution at every stage. FTA projects in step with the AEC Blueprint 2025 will provide the strongest foundation for future agreements. Third, ASEAN should base future FTA projects on commitments established in its most recent FTA, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. As RCEP consolidates existing FTAs amongst its signatories, it should serve as a key reference point for future commitments. Adopting RCEP as a baseline will help prevent fragmentation of trade regulations in new FTA projects. Finally, in the rapidly developing area of digital trade, ASEAN should adopt a two-fold strategy: consider joining the stand-alone Digital Economic Partnership Agreement (DEPA) and at the same time build upon the e-commerce chapter of the RCEP to develop digital trade commitments. The approach will ensure ASEAN's full engagement and manoeuvrability within overlapping agreements, securing its position in the most important emerging frontier for trade governance.

ASEAN's FTA strategy is anchored in two key dimensions. The first is the status of FTAs, both at the ASEAN level and amongst individual AMS. ASEAN's future strategy should build on these accomplishments, especially by enhancing the network of FTA ties between AMS and external trade partners. The second anchor is the AEC Blueprint 2025, which contains strategic measures and key action lines that set the priorities for ASEAN's trade agreements. Building on existing FTA achievements and advancing the AEC's goals provide constructive parameters for crafting an FTA strategy for ASEAN.

This chapter is organised into two main sections: partners and provisions. The first section explores the AEC’s objectives as outlined in the AEC Blueprint 2025, providing clear guidance for future FTA strategy. The section examines the status of ASEAN’s FTAs at both the regional and individual AMS levels. The second section uses the identified goals in the Blueprint to provide detailed recommendations for the AEC’s FTA strategy. It draws on the Global ASEAN goal, which recommends review and reform of existing ASEAN+1 FTAs. The discussion emphasises ASEAN’s institutional and economic role, FTA projects undertaken by individual AMS, and the key provisions needed to advance regional integration.

1. The State of Play: ASEAN’s Current Free Trade Agreement Partners

ASEAN has six FTAs in effect, all of which are with trade partners in Asia. The agreements include the ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Area, the ASEAN–China Free Trade Area, the ASEAN–India Free Trade Area, the ASEAN–Republic of Korea Free Trade Area, the ASEAN–Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and the RCEP.

Table 17.1 lists the agreements, their signature dates, and their effective dates. Agreements highlighted in bold have been identified for review under the AEC Blueprint 2025 and its accompanying Consolidated Strategic Action Plan, which lays out key action lines for achieving AEC goals in FTAs. Whilst ASEAN FTAs are exclusively with Asian partners, individual AMS have bilateral or plurilateral trade agreements with partners both within Asia and beyond. Appendix Table 17.6 to Table 17.11 list FTAs in effect for each ASEAN member. Figure 17.1 shows a network analysis of FTA connections involving AMS, illustrating the density of FTA relationships and highlighting prominent non-ASEAN FTA partners. AMS are represented by blue nodes, whilst non-ASEAN states with at least one FTA involving an ASEAN member are represented by red nodes. The size of each node indicates its degree centrality, which reflects the number of FTAs a country has with other nations. A higher degree centrality, represented by a larger node, indicates more FTA connections.

Figure 17.1 shows that Singapore has the highest degree centrality amongst the AMS, with 18 FTAs in effect. Singapore's Asian FTA partners include China, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Sri Lanka. Singapore is also a member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Singapore has FTAs with Peru, Panama, the United States (US), and Costa Rica in the Americas, and bilateral FTAs with the European Union (EU), United Kingdom, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and Türkiye in Europe. In the Middle East, Singapore's FTA partners include Jordan and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Malaysia ranks second amongst ASEAN members, with seven FTAs in effect. Its agreement partners include India, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Türkiye, Chile, and Pakistan. Viet Nam follows closely with six FTAs, partnering with the Republic of Korea, Japan, the EU, the United Kingdom, Chile, and the Eurasian Economic Union. Indonesia, also with six FTAs, has partners including Australia, Japan, the EU, EFTA, Chile, and Pakistan. Thailand has five FTAs, with partners including Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, and Chile. Cambodia, the Philippines, and Brunei Darussalam each have one FTA in effect: Cambodia–China, the Philippines–EFTA, and Brunei Darussalam–Japan.

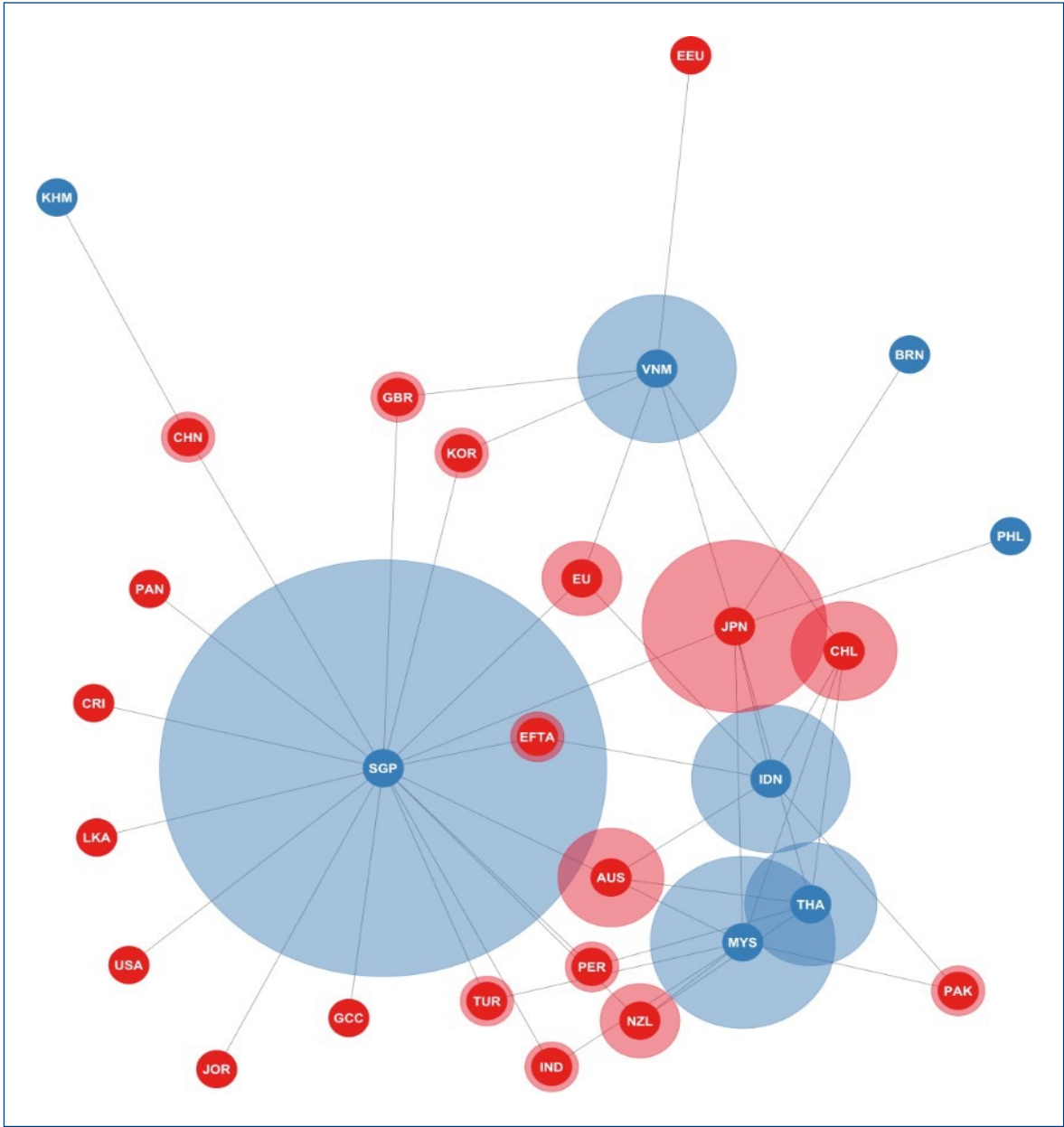
Table 17.1. ASEAN Free Trade Agreements in Effect

Partner	Name of FTA	Date Signed	In Effect
China	ASEAN–China Free Trade Area	29 Nov 2004	01 Jul 2005
Republic of Korea	ASEAN–Republic of Korea Free Trade Area	24 Aug 2006	01 Jun 2007
India	ASEAN–India Free Trade Area	13 Aug 2009	01 Jan 2010
Japan	ASEAN–Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership	14 Apr 2008	01 Dec 2008
Australia	ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Area	27 Feb 2009	01 Jan 2010
New Zealand	ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Area	27 Feb 2009	01 Jan 2010
Hong Kong	ASEAN–Hong Kong, China Free Trade Area	12 Nov 2017	11 Jun 2019
China, Republic of Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership	15 Nov 2020	01 Jan 2022

Note: Agreements in boldface are marked for review.

Source: Consolidated Strategic Action Plan, AEC Blueprint 2025

Figure 17.1. Network of Free Trade Agreements of ASEAN Member States



- Notes:
- ASEAN Member States (AMS) are depicted as blue nodes.
 - Non-AMS with at least one FTA with an AMS are depicted as red nodes.
 - The node size indicates degree centrality of a given AMS, where degree centrality represents the number of FTAs. The more FTAs in effect, the larger the node.

ASEAN = Association of Southeast Asian Nations, AUS = Australia, BRN = Brunei Darussalam, CHL = Chile, CHN = China, CRI = Costa Rica, EEU = Eurasian Economic Union, EFTA = European Free Trade Association, EU = The European Union, GBR = Great Britain, GCC = Gulf Cooperation Council, IDN = Indonesia, IND = India, JOR = Jordan, JPA = Japan, KHM = Cambodia, KOR = Korea, LKA = Sri Lanka, MYS = Malaysia, NZL = New Zealand, PAK = Pakistan, PAN = Panama, PHL = Philippines, SGP = Singapore, THA = Thailand, TUR = Türkiye, USA = United States of America, VNM = Viet Nam.

Source: Author, based on free trade agreement information from ASEAN Members States' websites.

Table 17.2. Future Partners for ASEAN Free Trade Agreements

Partner	Current FTAs	ASEAN Member FTA Partners
Chile	4 bilateral FTAs and CPTPP	Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam; Singapore through CPTPP
Peru	2 bilateral FTAs and CPTPP	Singapore and Thailand Malaysia and Viet Nam through CPTPP
European Union	3 bilateral FTAs	Indonesia, Singapore, and Viet Nam
EFTA	2 bilateral FTAs	Singapore and Indonesia
United Kingdom	2 bilateral FTAs	Singapore and Viet Nam
Türkiye	2 bilateral FTAs	Malaysia and Singapore
Pakistan	2 bilateral FTAs	Malaysia and Indonesia

ASEAN = Association of Southeast Asian Nations, CPTPP = Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, EFTA = European Free Trade Association, FTA = free trade agreement.

Source: Author, based on ASEAN Member States' websites.

2. Leverage Existing Free Trade Agreements for Upgrades to ASEAN Free Trade Agreements

All of ASEAN's current FTAs involve partners exclusively from Asia. ASEAN, along with the AEC, has consistently committed to open regionalism, and the participation of all ASEAN members in the RCEP has consolidated existing FTAs with Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea. An effective strategy moving forward would involve leveraging the existing FTAs of individual member states and upgrading these to ASEAN-level agreements. The FTA portfolios of individual ASEAN members can help determine potential partners and the commitments outlined in these agreements.

Table 17.2 highlights the FTAs in effect between non-ASEAN trade partners and individual AMS. Amongst non-ASEAN members with high centrality within the FTA network, Japan, China, India, Australia, and New Zealand already have FTAs with ASEAN. Amongst trade partners without an ASEAN-wide agreement, Chile has the highest number of bilateral FTAs with ASEAN members, with four FTAs in effect. Chile's FTA partner countries include Viet Nam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. Chile is also linked to Singapore through shared membership in the plurilateral CPTPP. Peru has two bilateral FTAs with Singapore and

Thailand and is linked to Malaysia and Viet Nam through the CPTPP. The EU has bilateral FTAs with Viet Nam, Singapore, and Indonesia, whilst the EFTA group has bilateral FTAs with Singapore and Indonesia. The United Kingdom has FTAs with Singapore and Viet Nam, and Türkiye has bilateral FTAs with Singapore and Malaysia. In South Asia, Pakistan has bilateral FTAs with Indonesia and Malaysia.

The current portfolio of FTAs between individual ASEAN members and non-ASEAN partners suggests that Chile and Peru are promising candidates for ASEAN FTAs. Both countries have existing FTAs with several of the largest ASEAN economies. Consolidating these bilateral agreements at the ASEAN level and extending them to the remaining AMS would be a viable and strategic project for the immediate future. Such agreements would strengthen and expand ASEAN's trade ties across the Pacific. Peru and Chile are particularly important due to their membership in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

The EU stands out as a most important potential candidate for an FTA with ASEAN. The EU has FTAs with three major ASEAN economies, and the benefits of an ASEAN-wide trade agreement with the EU would be considerable. The EU, which comprises 27 member countries including Germany – the world's third-largest economy – is a major global trade player. The EU represents the most advanced regional integration model, serving as an influential example for ASEAN's own economic integration efforts.

Lastly, EFTA, the United Kingdom, Türkiye, and Pakistan, each with two existing FTAs with ASEAN members, are viable potential partners for ASEAN FTAs. It will be important to monitor the FTA initiatives pursued by these non-ASEAN partners. Should they negotiate new bilateral FTAs with additional AMS, their importance and potential for full ASEAN FTA partners will increase.

3. Aligning Free Trade Agreement Commitments with the Goals of the ASEAN Economic Community

Whilst the network of FTAs and partnerships amongst AMS shows potential for upgrading to ASEAN-level FTAs, any such efforts should align with the explicit goals of the AEC, especially in advancing objectives under the economic pillar. ASEAN's FTA strategy should build on the goals set out in the AEC Blueprint 2025, with a view to the post-2025 era and the next stage of regional integration. The AEC Blueprint 2025 builds on the achievements of the AEC Blueprint 2015, which guided the AEC's first decade and saw significant achievements. These included the elimination of tariffs, facilitation of trade and skilled labour mobility, progress in investment liberalisation, trade in services, competition policy, consumer protection, intellectual property rights protection, regulatory harmonisation to facilitate capital markets, enhanced connectivity, efforts to close development gaps in the region, and strengthened relations with external partners. The AEC Blueprint 2025 seeks to deepen these efforts through the following goals:

1. A highly integrated and cohesive economy
2. A competitive, innovative, and dynamic ASEAN
3. Enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation
4. A resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN
5. A global ASEAN

ASEAN's FTA strategy should be designed to serve these goals. This discussion references the AEC 2025 Consolidated Strategic Action Plan (CSAP), a comprehensive guide for stakeholders and the public. The CSAP, envisioned in the AEC Blueprint 2025, outlines key action lines to be implemented through the work plans of sector bodies. It identifies over 150 strategic measures aimed at achieving AEC goals and serves as a dynamic document, periodically reviewed to reflect sector developments. The CSAP facilitates the monitoring and progress of goals under the AEC Blueprint 2025, providing indicative timelines for the completion of key action lines by relevant ASEAN sector bodies. The periodic reviews and updates allow for stakeholder feedback and adjustments.

The strategic measures and objectives outlined in the AEC Blueprint 2025 are interconnected. For example, improving the investment environment is important for facilitating multinational firms' activities across ASEAN and enhancing and expanding regional value chains. FTAs, as broad institutional tools, can leverage the CSAP's cross-cutting approach, which enables single-sector bodies to carry out key action lines that span multiple strategic measures under a unified work plan. This integrated approach highlights sector complementarities and fosters greater coordination amongst ASEAN bodies. Collectively, the action lines outlined in the CSAP support ongoing deep integration and reaffirm the AEC's commitment to completing the remaining integration measures under the Blueprint 2025.

4. Alignment of Free Trade Agreement Strategy with Key Action Lines for a Global ASEAN

The AEC Blueprint 2025 outlines strategic measures prioritised according to the five AEC goals. The CSAP provides the key action lines, timelines, sector work plans, and sector bodies that will implement these measures.

Global ASEAN. The fifth goal of the AEC Blueprint 2025, Global ASEAN, focuses on future FTA priorities. Its objective is 'to strengthen ASEAN's position as an open and inclusive economic region and lay the foundation for ASEAN to retain its centrality in global and regional engagements, where possible'. The CSAP identifies six strategic measures for achieving a Global ASEAN, most of which directly align with AEC's evolving strategy.

1. **Develop a common position in regional and economic forums.** The CSAP highlights the importance of a unified stand, particularly in the technical barriers to trade (TBT) chapters of ASEAN+1 FTAs, to support ASEAN-led initiatives, technical support, and consultation. These initiatives should be coordinated with the World Trade Organization (WTO) through the TBT Committee.

2. **Review and reform ASEAN FTAs and comprehensive economic partnerships.** This measure focuses on updating FTAs to ensure that they are comprehensive and meet the needs of businesses in ASEAN. Key action lines included the conclusion of ongoing negotiations for the RCEP, signed on 15 November 2020 and effective from 1 January 2022, and the ASEAN–Hong Kong, China FTA, signed on 28 March 2018 and fully in force by 12 February 2021.¹

Table 1 in the CSAP lists ASEAN+1 FTAs slated for review, with the exception of the ASEAN–China Free Trade Area agreement and the RCEP. For the ASEAN–Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, effective since 1 December 2008, priority is given to implementing outcomes related to trade in services, movement of natural persons, and investment.² Reviews are planned for the ASEAN–India Trade in Goods Agreement, in force since 1 January 2010, and the ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, effective since January 2012. In August 2023, AMS and India agreed to begin a review of the ASEAN–India Trade in Goods Agreement, aiming for completion by 2025. On 21 August 2023, ASEAN and its partners in the ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement signed an upgraded agreement expanding its scope to services, investment, and broader economic cooperation. For the ASEAN–Korea Trade in Goods Agreement, priority is given to concluding negotiations on further liberalising sensitive-track products, which have staggered tariff reduction schedules.

3. **Upgrade existing trade and investment frameworks and agreements with non-FTA partners.** This measure supports the enhancement of existing trade and investment frameworks and plans as potential foundations for comprehensive ASEAN-level FTAs. Key action lines include agreements such as the ASEAN–European Union Trade and Investment Work Programme, and post-2015 initiatives such as the ASEAN–Russia Trade and Investment Work Programme, the ASEAN–Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment, the ASEAN–US Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement, and the Expanded Engagement (E3) Initiatives Work Plan under the US–ASEAN Connect framework. The EU, which already has FTAs with Indonesia, Singapore, and Viet Nam, presents a very promising opportunity for an upgraded ASEAN FTA. For frameworks with Russia, Canada, and the US, progress is expected to be incremental. The US holds an FTA with Singapore only, Canada is linked through the Comprehensive and Progressive Transpacific Partnership to Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, and Viet Nam, whilst Russia has an FTA with Viet Nam through the Viet Nam–Eurasian Economic Union FTA. To enhance these programmes, AMS already connected to non-ASEAN partners – the EU, Canada, Russia, and the US – should be encouraged to lead efforts to strengthen ASEAN trade and investment programmes and explore opportunities for upgrading them to full ASEAN-level FTAs.
4. **Engage strategically with emerging markets and regional groupings.** This measure emphasises forming global and regional partnerships, including with emerging markets and regional groupings such as APEC and the Eurasian Economic Union. Viet Nam is the sole ASEAN member with an FTA with the Eurasian Economic Union. Continued engagement with APEC aligns with the ASEAN commitment to open regionalism. APEC recognises the importance of trade agreements for trade liberalisation, which complements ASEAN's goals.

¹ The ASEAN–Hong Kong FTA (AHKFTA) went into force in stages: beginning on 11 June 2019 for Hong Kong, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam; on 13 October 2019 for Malaysia; on 12 May 2020 for the Philippines; on 4 July 2020 for Indonesia; on 20 October 2020 for Brunei Darussalam; and on 12 February 2021 for Cambodia. The AHKFTA prioritises reducing TBTs, aligning with ASEAN's strategic focus.

² The ASEAN–Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement was signed on 14 April 2008 and came into force on 1 December 2008.

The APEC Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) project represents a significant opportunity for ASEAN's engagement. Progress towards establishing the FTAAP began in November 2014, when APEC leaders endorsed the Beijing Roadmap for APEC's Contribution to the Realization of the Free Trade Area of Asia-Pacific. By November 2016, the Collective Strategic Study on Issues Related to the Realisation of the FTAAP was completed, highlighting topics that align closely with the priorities of the AEC. These include next-generation trade and investment issues, specific measures affecting trade and investment activities, and an evaluation of existing trade agreements within the Asia-Pacific region. In November 2016, APEC leaders issued the Lima Declaration on Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, which initiated the implementation of measures and a series of initiatives aimed at facilitating the eventual realisation of the FTAAP. The seven AMS in APEC – Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam – should pursue close cooperation to ensure strong representation of ASEAN's interests during FTAAP negotiations.

5. **Maintain strong support for the multilateral trading system.** This strategic measure requires sustained and active engagement in the Doha Development Agenda to support ongoing reforms in international trade.
6. **Promote engagement with regional and global institutions.** This involves cooperation and engagement with the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and other regional and global institutions.

5. Aligning Trade Liberalisation Within AEC With Its FTAs

Aligning ASEAN's FTA strategy with the AEC's goal of a Global ASEAN is as significant as achieving the AEC's internal objectives, which focus on i) a highly integrated and cohesive economy; ii) a competitive, innovative, and dynamic ASEAN; iii) enhanced connectivity and sector cooperation; and iv) a resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN. The key action lines defined in the AEC Blueprint 2025 parallel the areas typically addressed in FTAs. These measures specify the provisions that will promote and support AEC integration and identify the ASEAN agreements to be integrated into FTAs.

A highly integrated and cohesive economy. This goal covers six primary areas, addressing more FTA-related issues than any other goal. The strategic measures cover the trade in goods (A1); trade in services (A2); the investment environment (A3); financial integration, inclusion, and stability (A4); facilitation of the movement of skilled labour and business visitors (A5); and enhancement of participation in global value chains (A6). The aim is to reduce or eliminate regulatory barriers, both at and behind borders, to facilitate competitive, efficient, and seamless movement of goods within the region. Table 17.3 summarises the strategic measures and key action lines related to this goal, with the third column specifying the ASEAN agreements that should guide the development of FTA provisions in each area.

Aligning ASEAN agreements with FTAs is essential to foster and support economic integration within the AEC. The strategic measures associated with this goal also emphasise the most relevant FTA provisions, including trade liberalisation in goods, investment, and services, with particular focus on financial services and the movement of skilled labour and business visitors.

A competitive, innovative, and dynamic ASEAN. The AEC's second objective underscores key provisions that align AEC integration efforts with FTA commitments. The key action lines relevant to FTA negotiations include effective competition policy (B1), strengthening cooperation on intellectual property rights (B3), and promoting sustainable economic development (B8). The ASEAN Competition Action Plan (2016–2025) serves as the foundation for completing the legal framework on competition policy and law within the region.

The strategic measures emphasise developing a legal framework for competition, harmonising competition policy terminology amongst AMS, updating the 5-year Regional Capacity Building Roadmap, enhancing national institutional capacities relevant to competition policy, and increasing awareness of competition policy and its interface with other economic areas. Competition policy is recognised as one of the most difficult areas of economic governance in the context of trade policy (Anderson et al., 2020, 2018). In addition, a clear commitment to aligning AEC and FTA provisions is outlined in strategic measure 32 of the Consolidated Strategic Action Plan: 'Ensure alignment of competition policy chapters that are negotiated by ASEAN under the various FTAs with Dialogue Partners and other trading nations with competition policy and law in ASEAN to maintain consistency on the approach to competition policy and law in the region'.

The key objectives under B3 (strengthening intellectual property rights cooperation) encompass measures aimed at strengthening domestic intellectual property (IP) offices and building IP infrastructure within AMS, contributing to a solid ASEAN IP system. ASEAN objectives include the development of regional IP platforms and infrastructure, and the expansion of the ASEAN IP ecosystem, involving cooperation amongst intellectual property bodies, the judiciary, customs, and other enforcement agencies within member countries. A particular focus is the goal of promoting the commercialisation of geographical indications in ASEAN and establishing a protection mechanism for genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions. For instance, the creation of a geographical indication registry could become a new area for negotiation as ASEAN seeks new FTA partners.

Table 17.3. A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy: Elements and Objectives

Element	Objective	Relevant ASEAN agreement
A1. Trade in Goods	Reduce or eliminate border and behind-the-border regulatory barriers	ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)
A2. Trade in Services	Broaden and deepen services integration within ASEAN and its integration into global supply chains, enhancing AMS competitiveness	ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA)
A3. Investment Environment	Establish an open, transparent, and predictable investment regime to enhance ASEAN's attractiveness as an investment destination	ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA)
A4. Financial Integration, Financial Inclusion, and Financial Stability	Support ASEAN macroeconomic stability and growth	ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF); ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) within ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA)

Element	Objective	Relevant ASEAN agreement
A5. Facilitating Movement of Skilled Labour and Business Visitors	Enable temporary cross-border movement of skilled individuals and business visitors involved in trade, services, and investment	ASEAN Agreement on Movement of Natural Persons (MNP); ASEAN Mutual Recognition Agreements; ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF)
A6. Enhancing Participation in Global Value Chains	Develop regional value chains to enhance ASEAN's participation in global value chains	

Source: ASEAN Economic Community 2025 Consolidated Strategic Action Plan.

To ensure alignment with ASEAN's strategic goals, the *ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan 2016–2025* should guide any FTA negotiations.

Regarding the goal of B8 (sustainable economic development), objectives include promoting green development that emphasises the use of clean energy and related technologies such as renewable energy and fostering sustainable consumption and production. Strategic measures focus on collective targets to support the development of renewable energy. FTA negotiations should align with the *ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016–2025*. Strategic measures also support the development and utilisation of efficient and cost-efficient low-carbon technologies, free trade in biofuels within ASEAN, and investment in research and development (R&D) for third-generation biofuels to encourage their use in transport. Other strategic measures include promoting multilateral electricity trade under the ASEAN Power Grid framework and cooperation on the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) through the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline, enhancing regional connectivity. Additional key action lines aim to support the *ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry* to address food security and investment needs in these sectors. They also focus on developing new technologies and best practices for food safety, harmonising ASEAN-level standards, and accrediting and certifying food, agricultural and forestry products. Further action lines are devoted to conserving natural resources such as soil, forests, and water, and to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Notably, measures to promote sustainable forest management emphasise the importance of coordinating policies between forestry and related sectors. The *Strategic Plan of ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016–2025* outlines the goals in this area, and any FTA strategy should align with the action plan's provisions.

Enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation. Strategic measures aim to reinforce the objectives outlined under the theme of A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN, the second goal stipulated in the AEC Blueprint 2025. Strategic measures relevant to FTA negotiations include the development of sustainable transport systems that prioritise low carbon, user-friendly solutions, energy efficiency, integrated transport networks, and sustainable land-use planning.

The set of key action lines under C3 (E-commerce) is particularly important for negotiating FTAs in the digital era. The objective is to promote the growth of e-commerce and facilitate its development within the ASEAN region. Strategic measures for the AEC include a wide range of harmonisation measures. These cover consumer rights and protection laws, a legal framework for dispute resolution, and e-identification and authorisation (electronic signature) schemes based on principles of interoperability and mutual recognition, ensuring that they are secure, reliable, and user-friendly. A comprehensive framework for personal data protection is required to implement the ASEAN Framework on Personal Data Protection Framework.³

Resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN. This goal focuses on strengthening the role of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in line with the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME [Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise] Development, 2015–2025, which is important for ASEAN's FTA strategy. Specific strategic measures and key action lines aim to enhance MSME productivity through innovation, industry clusters, private–public dialogue, and business–academia collaboration. Other strategic measures include improving MSMEs' access to finance by strengthening financial infrastructure and creating a conducive policy environment to support their activities. The ASEAN SME Service Centre is responsible for facilitating market access and internationalisation of MSMEs, with a key action line focused on improving market information, advancing FTAs, and identifying potential partners. This goal is linked to the promotion of e-commerce to foster partnerships between MSMEs and multinational firms, enabling their integration into the global supply chain. Negotiations focusing on MSMEs and e-commerce are likely to be crucial for ASEAN as interconnected areas of strategic importance.

6. Putting It All Together

The AEC Blueprint 2025, along with the accompanying Consolidated Strategic Action Plan, offers vital, substantive guidance on negotiation areas, their goals and linkages, as well as ASEAN programmes that will align regional integration within the AEC with external FTA projects. Table 17.4 summarises the blueprint's goals and elements, with those in boldface highlighting the key negotiating areas essential for ASEAN integration and alignment with upcoming FTA projects.

Several key negotiation areas fall under the theme of Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy, covering central issues in trade liberalisation, including trade in goods, services, investment environment, commercial presence, and movement of persons. Competition policy, intellectual property rights, and sustainable economic development are major negotiating areas under the theme of A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN. The theme Global Megatrends and Emerging Trade-Related Issues covers e-commerce and agriculture, whilst A Resilient, Inclusive, and People- Oriented, People-Centered ASEAN focuses on MSMEs. Finally, Global ASEAN provides direct guidance on FTAs, encompassing the review of existing agreements, the upgrading of trade and investment frameworks to full FTAs, and seeking stronger engagement with regional agreements through APEC and the Eurasian Economic Union.

³ <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/10-ASEAN-Framework-on-PDP.pdf>. (accessed 24 November 2024).

7. The RCEP Agreement as a Baseline

In pursuing FTAs with non-ASEAN partners, whether by upgrading existing trade and investment partnerships or seeking new FTA projects, the RCEP should be used as the baseline for negotiations. The RCEP is ASEAN's most recently concluded trade agreement and one that has been in effect since 1 January 2022. As the most recent agreement to include all ASEAN members as signatories, the RCEP represents ASEAN's highest standard of commitment in trade liberalisation, as it consolidates numerous ASEAN + 1 FTAs. This suggests that the RCEP provisions are at least minimally aligned with ASEAN's ongoing regional integration goals as outlined in the AEC framework.

The key provisions of the RCEP suggest that this comprehensive FTA surpasses the scope and sophistication of ASEAN+1 FTAs, which are individual agreements between ASEAN and the six negotiating partners of RCEP. The RCEP's legal text comprises 20 substantive chapters and four annexes. These chapters cover various areas, including trade in goods; rules of origin; customs procedures and trade facilitation; sanitary and phytosanitary measures; standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures; trade remedies; trade in services; temporary movement of natural persons; investment; intellectual property; and electronic commerce, competition; small and medium-scaled enterprises; economic and technical cooperation; government procurement; and dispute settlement. Chapter 20, Final Provisions, details the RCEP's relationship with the WTO, conditions for entry into force, and provisions for accession and withdrawal. Government procurement, notably included in the RCEP, is a substantive chapter not previously included in existing FTAs (Shimizu, 2021). The annexes include member countries' individual tariff schedules, schedules of specific commitments for services, schedules of reservations and non-conforming measures for services and investment, and schedules of specific commitments on temporary movement of natural persons.

Table 17.4. ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together

ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025	
A. Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy	
A1	Trade in Goods
A2	Trade in Services
A3	Investment Environment
A4	Financial Integration, Financial Inclusion, and Financial Stability
A5	Facilitating Movement of Skilled Labor and Business Visitors
A6	Enhancing Participation in Global Value Chains
B. A Competitive, Innovative and Dynamic ASEAN	
B1	Effective Competition Policy
B2	Consumer Protection
B3	Strengthening Intellectual Property Rights Cooperation
B4	Productivity-Driven Growth, Innovation, Research and Development, and Technology Commercialization
B5	Taxation Cooperation
B6	Good Governance
B7	Effective, Efficient, Coherent, and Responsive Regulations, and Good Regulatory Practice
B8	Sustainable Economic Development
B9	Global Megatrends and Emerging Trade-Related Issues

ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025

C. Enhanced Connectivity and Sector Cooperation

- C1 Transport
- C2 Information and Communications Technology
- C3 E-Commerce
- C4 Energy
- C5 Food, Agriculture and Forestry
- C6 Tourism
- C7 Healthcare
- C8 Minerals
- C9 Science and Technology

D. A Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented and People-Centered ASEAN

- D1 Strengthening the Role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
- D2 Strengthening the Role of the Private Sector
- D3 Public-Private Partnerships
- D4 Narrowing the Development Gap
- D5 Contribution of Stakeholders on Regional Integration Efforts

E. A Global ASEAN

Steady progress towards integrating the region into the global economy through FTAs and comprehensive economic partnership agreements (CEPs), etc.

Source: ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025.

8. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and ASEAN+1 Free Trade Agreements

The suitability of the RCEP as the baseline agreement for the AEC’s FTA strategy is evident when compared to existing ASEAN+1 FTAs. Table 17.5, constructed using data from the Design of Trade Agreements (DESTA) (Dür et al., 2014), shows the depth of trade agreements. The table presents depth as an additive index derived from provisions across seven key negotiating areas, with each provision coded 1 if included in the agreement and 0 if not. The first provision – FTA – indicates whether the agreement commits signatories to reduce all tariffs (with limited exceptions) to zero in the future, thereby signalling support for the formation of a full free trade area. The remaining six areas – standards, investment, services, procurement, competition, and intellectual property rights – are assessed to determine the extent of commitments to trade cooperation beyond tariff liberalisation. The DESTA database captures substantive provisions for each negotiation topic; for instance, a detailed National Treatment provision in the Services chapter, as opposed to a general statement promoting market liberalisation. The total depth index, with a maximum of 7, is calculated by summing the binary values of the provisions.⁴

⁴ The DESTA database also codes for flexibility, the strength of dispute settlement provisions, and an alternative measure of depth. This analysis uses a basic additive index, constructed from dichotomous indicators that show whether key chapters are included.

The RCEP agreement achieves the highest depth score of 7, representing the most comprehensive set of commitments adopted collectively by AMS (Table 17.5). The RCEP plays a crucial role in promoting regional integration within the AEC by harmonising the rules and regulations found in existing FTAs between ASEAN and its RCEP partners. This harmonisation effectively multilateralises the commitments of FTAs and strengthens links with WTO agreements, supporting the goal of a Global ASEAN as outlined in the AEC Blueprint 2025.

Table 17.5. Depth of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and ASEAN+1 Free Trade Agreements

Agreement	Year signed	FTA	Standards	Investment	Services	Procurement	Competition	IPRs	Depth (DESTA)
ASEAN FTA	1992	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
ATIGA	2009	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
ASEAN–India	2009	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
ASEAN–China	2007	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
ASEAN–Japan	2008	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
ASEAN–Korea	2007	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand	2009	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	6
RCEP	2021	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7

ASEAN FTA = Association of Southeast Asian Nations Free Trade Agreement, DESTA = Design of Trade Agreements, IPRs = intellectual property rights, RCEP = Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

Source: DESTA, author coding for RCEP.

Beyond these provisions, the RCEP has unified rules of origin requirements (ROOs), consolidating these standards for its 15 signatories. This harmonisation ensures that all traded goods adhere to common ROO and cumulation rules. Chapter 3 of the RCEP agreement, which follows Chapter 2 on trade in goods, includes Article 3.4 on cumulation, stating: ‘...goods and materials which comply with the origin requirements provided in Article 3.2 (Originating Goods), and which are used in another Party as materials in the production of another good or material, shall be considered as originating in the Party where working or processing of the finished good or material has taken place’. This ensures that production and value added within RCEP member countries qualify for preferential treatment. Consequently, firms can use intermediate goods from RCEP partners, and the final product will maintain its originating status, qualifying for trade preferences under the agreement.

9. The Next Frontier: Governance of Digital Trade

The WTO defines digital trade as ‘all international trade transactions that are digitally ordered and/or digitally delivered’ (Fund et al., 2023). Digital trade has emerged as one of the most dynamic and fastest-growing areas of global trade and the broader global economy. In 2022, global exports of digital trade were valued at US\$3.8 trillion, representing 54% of the global services exports and 12% of total world’s exports in goods and services. From 2005 to 2022, digitally delivered services grew at an estimated average annual rate of 8.1%, surpassing the growth rate of goods exports (5.6%) and other service exports (4.2%) (OECD, 2023).

Given the rapid rise of digital trade as a significant part of global trade, the AEC’s FTA strategy should be anchored in its e-commerce goals and the ongoing negotiations of the Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA). The DEFA negotiations were announced on 3 September 2024 at the ASEAN Economic Community Council meeting, following the endorsement of the ASEAN DEFA by the ASEAN economic ministers held earlier in August. The study identified nine core areas of interest for ASEAN, including digital trade, cross-border e-commerce, cybersecurity, digital ID, digital payments, cross-border data flows, and flexibility for emerging issues to be proposed for negotiations in the framework agreement.

ASEAN’s FTA strategy for digital trade should follow a two-fold approach. First, ASEAN should explore joining the DEPA, signed on 12 June 2020 by Singapore, Chile, and New Zealand. DEPA is a pioneering agreement focusing on digital trade issues, promoting innovative approaches and cooperation in digital trade governance. Its main priorities include ensuring interoperability between different regulatory frameworks and addressing challenges brought by digitalisation. DEPA’s key objectives include i) facilitating digital trade through measures such as digital identities, e-invoicing, and paperless trade, along with fintech sector cooperation; ii) promoting trust in data flows by enhancing personal data protection, supporting open government data, enabling cross-border data flows, and promoting data-driven innovation across member states; and iii) building trust in digital systems, supporting SME capacity-building, protecting online consumers, and advancing digital inclusivity. The DEPA is a stand-alone agreement dedicated to governance in the digital economy, encompassing trade and addressing broader issues of trust and inclusivity within this rapidly evolving sector. Its scope aligns with and overlaps the negotiating areas of ASEAN’s DEFA, creating significant opportunities for fruitful collaboration. This is especially promising as Singapore is a party in both initiatives.

The other strategy focuses on pursuing commitments for digital trade liberalisation within the FTAs themselves. The RCEP, ASEAN’s most recent community FTA, includes a chapter dedicated to electronic commerce. The chapter outlines commitments related to cooperation amongst SMEs; trade facilitation measures such as paperless trading, electronic authentication, and electronic signatures (related to digital IDs); and the establishment of an environment conducive to electronic commerce, emphasising online consumer protection, personal data security, domestic regulatory frameworks, customs duties (specifically the prohibition of such duties on electronic transmissions amongst signatories), transparency, and cybersecurity. It promotes cross-border electronic commerce, addressing the location

⁵ ‘ASEAN launches world’s first regionwide Digital Economy Framework Agreement’ (ASEAN, 3 September 2023).

of computing facilities and the transfer of information by electronic means, whilst including provisions for continued dialogue on electronic commerce and mechanisms for dispute settlement. The scope of these commitments aligns with ASEAN's governance objectives in the ongoing negotiations of ASEAN's DEFA and the DEPA signed by Singapore, Chile, and New Zealand.

ASEAN's FTA strategy for digital trade and e-commerce would benefit from a two-fold strategy: pursuing a stand-alone digital trade agreement and incorporating digital trade and e-commerce commitments as dedicated chapters within comprehensive FTAs. When seeking membership in digital-only agreements such as the DEPA, ASEAN should ensure that its strategy aligns with its ongoing negotiations for the DEFA. In pursuing e-commerce or digital trade chapters as components of comprehensive FTAs, ASEAN's strategy should build upon the commitments established in the RCEP, its most recent FTA. This dual strategy enables ASEAN to advocate for its interests through two distinct governance frameworks: stand-alone agreements and comprehensive FTAs. The stand-alone agreements, like the DEPA, are particularly beneficial for addressing new and evolving issues, given their nature as 'living agreements'. Conversely, comprehensive FTAs create connections between e-commerce and other key areas vital for developing the AEC as a unified market and production zone. Looking ahead, the future of digital trade and digital economy governance remains uncertain. Institutionally, the regulation of digital trade and the digital economy may continue along two paths: stand-alone agreements and FTA chapters. In either scenario and considering that the importance of digital economy governance is set to increase in the coming years, it is in ASEAN's best interest to pursue harmonisation and liberalisation through both channels.

10. Conclusion: Harmonisation Within, Liberalisation Without

This chapter has outlined a forward-looking framework for ASEAN's FTA strategy, aligned with the progress of the AEC and its regional economic integration goals. Analysis of ASEAN's current FTAs, the AEC Blueprint 2025 and its Consolidated Strategic Action Plan, alongside the challenges and opportunities posed by the expanding digital economy, has led to several key recommendations for advancing ASEAN's FTA initiatives. Central to these recommendations is the idea that ASEAN's FTA strategy should encompass both internal harmonisation and external liberalisation. Harmonisation is essential for the continued economic integration of the ASEAN region, whilst liberalisation reflects ASEAN's commitment to open regionalism, facilitating economic exchange with external trade and investment partners. The specific recommendations are as follows:

- Leverage FTAs of individual ASEAN members by exploring the possibility of upgrading them to ASEAN agreements that include all member states. For instance, ASEAN could consider new FTAs with Chile, Peru, the EU, the EFTA group, the United Kingdom, Türkiye, and Pakistan (Table 2). These countries already have FTAs with individual AMS, and negotiating these up to ASEAN agreements would enhance regional trade cohesion.
- Anchor FTA commitments in the objectives of the AEC's internal goals, ensuring that provisions align with the strategic measures and key action lines outlined in the AEC Blueprint 2025. This consistency guarantees that FTA projects evolve in step with the AEC's development.

- Use the RCEP as a baseline for future FTA negotiations. The RCEP consolidates 38 FTAs amongst its signatories, including ASEAN and individual member agreements, and harmonises key provisions such as rules of origin. This approach supports cross-border production and facilitates the trade and investment activities of multinational firms in the region. Basing new FTAs on the RCEP ensures that important trade rules remain harmonised across AMS and their partners, preventing fragmentation.
- Adopt a two-fold strategy for digital trade by considering accession to the stand-alone DEPA and by building on the e-commerce chapter of the RCEP to include similar or more advanced commitments in future FTAs. With the rapidly evolving landscape of digital trade governance, the two-fold approach ensures that ASEAN retains flexibility in determining the most effective pathway for digital trade governance, whether through standalone agreements or leveraging the existing framework.

These recommendations outline an ASEAN FTA strategy designed to reinforce ASEAN centrality and its pivotal role in promoting regional integration and open regionalism across Asia. ASEAN centrality, in both theory and practice, has significantly influenced Asia's political economy in the post-Cold War period. The ASEAN Way, marked by consensus and consultation, serves as a distinctive decision-making approach. This approach has been evident since the early post-Cold War years, exemplified by instances such as the Kuching Consensus adopted by the APEC forum (Damond, 2003; Elek, 2005; Elek and Soesastro, 2010).

As a theoretical construct, ASEAN centrality embodies two key characteristics. First, it underscores the 'actorness' of ASEAN in international arenas. Although the concept of actorness has traditionally been associated with the EU as a unified entity in international politics (Bretherton and Vogler, 2005; Broude and Haftel, 2022), it is equally applicable to ASEAN, which functions as a cohesive actor in Asia and in major international fora. ASEAN's actorness is evident in the capacity of its member states to collaborate and advocate for shared interests in the pursuit of economic integration. This cooperative endeavour, achieved without any transfer or pooling of sovereignty, is a defining feature of ASEAN's unique brand of actorness. Notably, ASEAN distinguishes itself as a distinct actor in Asia's international politics by successfully engaging with external actors and assuming a prominent role in the establishment of Asia's institutional architecture. Thus, ASEAN's actorness is unparalleled as a regional organisation originating from the Global South.

Secondly, ASEAN centrality is intrinsically connected to the ASEAN Way, a distinctive decision-making process characterised by consultation and consensus amongst the AMS to address differences and reach shared agreements (Acharya, 2009; Goh, 2000; Narine, 1997; Yukawa, 2018). This normative aspect of ASEAN centrality values informal practices of consultation and consensus as essential for facilitating cooperation amongst governments. In the early post-Cold War years, ASEAN's use of these practices was seen as a way to cultivate 'trust and confidence and instill habits of cooperation and consultation' amongst countries in the wider Asia-Pacific region (Snitwongse, 1995).

ASEAN's pursuit of deeper economic integration is taking place amidst an unprecedented level of tension between the US and China in the post-Cold War period. This rivalry has manifested through the US–China trade war, which began in 2016, and the emergence of competing institutions such as the RCEP, the CPTPP, and the recent Indo-Pacific Economic Framework spearheaded by the US. Geoeconomic factors (Luttwak, 1990; Blackwill and Harris, 2016) continue to shape Asia's political and economic exchanges, particularly in trade policy (Harding and Harding, 2017; Adriaensen and Postnikov, 2022). In response, ASEAN must continue to assert its centrality in pursuing its FTA projects.

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Table 17A.1. Singapore's Free Trade Agreements in Effect

Partner	Name of Free Trade Agreement	Date Signed	In Effect
China	China–Singapore Free Trade Agreement	23 Oct 2008	01 Jan 2009
Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea–Singapore Free Trade Agreement	04 Aug 2005	02 Mar 2006
India	India–Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement	29 Jun 2005	01 Aug 2005
Japan	Japan–Singapore Economic Partnership Agreement	13 Jan 2002	30 Nov 2002
Australia	Singapore–Australia Free Trade Agreement	17 Feb 2003	28 Jul 2003
New Zealand	New Zealand–Singapore Closer Economic Partnership	14 Nov 2000	01 Jan 2001
Peru	Peru–Singapore Free Trade Agreement	28 May 2008	01 Aug 2009
European Union	European Union–Singapore Free Trade Agreement	19 Oct 2018	21 Nov 2019
Panama	Panama–Singapore Free Trade Agreement	01 Mar 2006	24 Jul 2006
United States	US–Singapore Free Trade Agreement	06 May 2003	01 Jan 2004
Costa Rica	Singapore–Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement	06 Apr 2010	01 Jul 2013
Jordan	Singapore–Jordan Free Trade Agreement	16 May 2004	22 Aug 2005
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka–Singapore Free Trade Agreement	23 Jan 2018	01 May 2018
Türkiye	Türkiye–Singapore Free Trade Agreement	14 Nov 2015	01 Oct 2017
United Kingdom	United Kingdom–Singapore Free Trade Agreement	10 Dec 2020	11 Feb 2021
Gulf Cooperation Council	Gulf Cooperation Council–Singapore Free Trade Agreement	15 Dec 2008	01 Sep 2013
European Free Trade Association	European Free Trade Association–Singapore Free Trade Agreement	26 Jun 2002	01 Jan 2003
Canada, Australia, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Viet Nam	Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership	08 Mar 2018	30 Dec 2018

Table 17A.2. Malaysia's Free Trade Agreements in Effect

Partner	Name of Free Trade Agreement	Date Signed	In Effect
India	India–Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement	18 Feb 2011	01 Jul 2011
Japan	Japan–Malaysia Economic Partnership Agreement	13 Dec 2005	13 Jul 2006
Australia	Australia–Malaysia Free Trade Agreement	22 May 2012	01 Jan 2013
New Zealand	New Zealand–Malaysia Free Trade Agreement	26 Oct 2009	01 Aug 2010
Türkiye	Malaysia–Türkiye Free Trade Agreement	17 Apr 2014	01 Aug 2015
Chile	Malaysia–Chile Free Trade Agreement	13 Nov 2010	18 Apr 2012
Pakistan	Malaysia–Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement	08 Nov 2007	01 Jan 2008

Table 17A.3. Viet Nam Free Trade Agreements in Effect

Partner	Name of Free Trade Agreement	Date Signed	In Effect
Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea–Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement	05 May 2015	20 Dec 2015
Japan	Japan–Viet Nam Economic Partnership Agreement	25 Dec 2008	01 Oct 2009
European Union	Viet Nam–European Union Free Trade Agreement	30 Jun 2019	01 Aug 2020
United Kingdom	Viet Nam–United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement	01 Jan 2021	01 May 2021
Chile	Viet Nam–Chile Free Trade Agreement	11 Nov 2011	14 Mar 2012
Eurasian Economic Union	Viet Nam–Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Agreement	29 May 2015	05 Oct 2016

Table 17A.4. Indonesia's Free Trade Agreements in Effect

Partner	Name of Free Trade Agreement	Date Signed	In Effect
Australia	Indonesia–Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement	04 Mar 2019	05 Jul 2020
Japan	Indonesia–Japan Economic Partnership Agreement	20 Aug 2007	01 Jul 2008
European Union	Indonesia–European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement	18 Jul 2016	01 Nov 2021
European Free Trade Association	Indonesia–European Free Trade Association Free Trade Agreement	16 Dec 2018	01 Nov 2021
Chile	Indonesia–Chile Free Trade Agreement	14 Dec 2017	08 Oct 2019
Pakistan	Indonesia–Pakistan Free Trade Agreement	03 Feb 2012	13 Sep 2013

Table 17A.5. Thailand's Free Trade Agreements in Effect

Partner	Name of Free Trade Agreement	Date Signed	In Effect
Japan	Japan–Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement	03 Apr 2007	01 Nov 2007
Australia	Australia–Thailand Free Trade Agreement	05 Jul 2004	01 Jan 2005
New Zealand	New Zealand–Thailand Closer Economic Partnership Agreement	19 Apr 2005	01 Jul 2005
Peru	Thailand–Peru Free Trade Agreement	18 Nov 2010	31 Dec 2011
Chile	Thailand–Chile Free Trade Agreement	04 Oct 2013	05 Nov 2015

Table 17A.6. Brunei Darussalam's Free Trade Agreements in Effect

Partner	Name of Free Trade Agreement	Date Signed	In Effect
Japan	Brunei Darussalam–Japan Free Trade Agreement	18 Jun 2007	31 Jul 2008

Table 17A.7. Cambodia's Free Trade Agreements in Effect

Partner	Name of Free Trade Agreement	Date Signed	In Effect
China	Cambodia–China Free Trade Agreement	01 Jan 2022	12 Oct 2020

Table 17A.8. Philippines Free Trade Agreements in Effect

Partner	Name of Free Trade Agreement	Date Signed	In Effect
European Free Trade Association	Philippines–European Free Trade Association Free Trade Agreement	28 Apr 2016	01 Jun 2018