

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility

Project Objectives:

Support ASEAN regional integration through the implementation of the Vientiane Action Program and the three Blueprints for the ASEAN Community.

Support the implementation of the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership Plan of Action and the ASEAN-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement.

Strengthening the ability of the ASEAN Secretariat to support regional integration.

Key Work Areas:

Political-Security Pillar:

- Seminars in how to combat trade-based money laundering.
- Support for the development of the ASEAN Regional Forum

Economic Pillar:

- Measuring ASEAN's progress in implementing the economic community.
- Supporting universal access to information communication technologies.
- Assisting Member States as they reduce barriers to trade in services.
- Supporting dispute settlement among Member States.

(continued)

Established in 2004 and housed in the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility is central to United States support of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The Facility promotes the goals of the U.S. ASEAN Cooperation Plan; the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership Plan of Action; and the Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement; and supports ASEAN's vision for a stable, peaceful, and prosperous ASEAN community. The Facility endeavors to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat's role in regional economic integration, transnational issues, and regional security; enhance economic integration and cooperation; and improve regional responses to transnational issues.

The Facility is managed by the U.S. Agency for International Development with funding from the U.S. Department of State. The Facility has developed through two phases and is now in its second phase as the centerpiece of the ASEAN Development Vision to Advance National Cooperation and Economic Integration (ADVANCE) program.

Phase I – Meeting Urgent Needs

From October 2004 to December 2007, the \$6 million Facility helped the ASEAN Secretariat address immediate obstacles to integration. It provided technical assistance, training, time-sensitive policy assessments, and day-to-day technical advice to support ASEAN's goals for integration and goals it shared with the U.S. Government. Activities were clustered in nine areas: trade negotiations, investment, trade in services, customs and trade facilitation, integration of ASEAN's priority sectors, public health, natural resource management, policy coordination and dialogue, and strengthened secretariat resources.

Phase II – Sharpening Focus on 2015

To build on the momentum generated by Phase I, the U.S. Government made the Facility the centerpiece of the ADVANCE program awarded in September 2007, and provided a budget of approximately \$20 million. The Facility will operate for five to eight years, guided by a long-term strategy aligned directly with ASEAN's own blueprints for achieving the ASEAN Community by 2015. The Facility continues to provide fast response technical assistance, training, assessments, and policy advice, but also focuses on tasks essential to building the envisioned community.

Key Work Areas, cont'd:

Socio-Cultural Pillar:

- Training post-disaster damage and needs assessment teams.
- Preparing non-health sectors for a possible avian influenza pandemic.

Support for the Secretariat

- Supporting the implementation of the AEC communications plan.
- Supporting upgrades to ASEAN's presence on the Internet.

Contacts

USAID Cognizant Technical Officer

Geoffrey Parish
Deputy Director, Office of General Development
USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia
GPF Witthayu Tower A, 10th Floor
93/1 Wireless Road
Bangkok, Thailand 10330
(66-2) 263-7457
gparish@usaid.gov

Facility Chief of Party

Timothy Buehrer
ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility Phase II
ASEAN Secretariat
Jl. Sisingamangaraja 70A
Jakarta, Indonesia
(62-21) 722-5215
tbuehrer@nathaninc.com