



## ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific Mechanism in Achieving Regional Stability in Aus4ASEAN Cooperation

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### **Abstract**

The Indo-Pacific is a dynamic region with various opportunities for cooperation. However, there are also challenges and threats. Various influences from countries compete in this region, which can disrupt regional stability. Southeast Asia is located in the middle of the Indo-Pacific region, so ASEAN has an interest in ensuring the regional dynamics are stable, safe, and peaceful by leading the formation of the regional economic and security architecture. The development of this regional architecture is intended to maintain ASEAN's centrality with the creation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. Under this outlook, ASEAN is establishing ASEAN+1 cooperation with Australia in the Aus4ASEAN cooperation program. This study aims to determine the effect of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific mechanism on achieving regional stability through the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the Aus4ASEAN cooperation program using the Regional Security Complex Theory and the concept of community security. A qualitative approach is used in this study as a guide for analysis. The results of the study explain that regional stability can be achieved through various collaborations with neighboring countries in the region. This is based on the explanation of the Regional Security Complex Theory. With the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific Mechanism, Australia emphasizes the importance of ASEAN's priorities, namely regional stability. Thus, this affects the stability of the region in Aus4ASEAN cooperation because Australia's main focus is supporting ASEAN's centrality. A stable area is able to fulfill community security needs for the community in the area.

**Keywords:** *Indo-Pacific; Aus4ASEAN; Regional Stability*

### **Introduction**

The Indo-Pacific is an imaginary space that connects the Indian Ocean with the Asia-Pacific. The term 'Indo-Pacific' is not new, but countries in the region have become more invested in the concept amid the geopolitical shifts in the Asia-Pacific region. The four members of the informal Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), namely the United States, Japan, India, and Australia, have offered their own views on the Indo-Pacific. ASEAN, which is right at the heart of the Indo-Pacific, has also developed the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. However, an assessment by the Asia Strategy Initiative (ASI) shows that there are significant differences in the geographic coverage of the Indo-Pacific. The United

States maintains that the Indo-Pacific region, from the west coast of India to the west coast of the United States, is aligned with the Indo-Pacific Command's area of responsibility. Meanwhile, Japan, Australia, and India define the Indo-Pacific, covering the entire Indian Ocean from the east coast of Africa across the Pacific Ocean to America. ASEAN does not regard it as a contiguous territorial space but as an integrated and closely interconnected region. (FHUI Public Relations. (2020). Indo-Pacific: The New Buzzword for the Region.)

Influence in the Indo-Pacific region brings many benefits in the economic field. In addition, there are also threats to the stability of the Southeast Asian region in the security sector, which is included in the Indo-Pacific region and can disrupt regional peace. This can be seen in the struggle for influence between two countries that have considerable influence in the Southeast Asian region, namely the United States and China. There are ASEAN member states that are inclined to support one of the two countries, which as a result can lead to divisions in the Southeast Asian region. However, there are other countries that have influence in the Southeast Asian region, namely Australia, which is geographically close. ASEAN is working to complement Australia's substantial bilateral relationship with Southeast Asian countries. ASEAN is one of Australia's three main trading partners, representing around 15 percent of Australia's total trade. Trade between Australia and ASEAN member countries totaled AUD\$93.2 billion in 2016. (Australia Government PMC. (2018). ASEAN-Australia Relations). The region offers greater opportunities, by deepening regional integration through Free Trade Agreements and stronger ties that have significant business prospects. This influence is felt in Southeast Asia because several international trade routes also pass through the region, more precisely through the straits in Indonesia. Thus, an unstable region becomes a separate thread for every country in ASEAN.

Australia sees ASEAN as the heart of the Indo-Pacific. The organization and its members are vital to Australia's interests. Considered a bloc, ASEAN is Australia's second-largest trading partner. ASEAN-Australia is connected by deep connections between families, communities, educational institutions, and businesses. ASEAN is the main norm-setting body in the region. And it has unparalleled confluence power, bringing together all the key players in the Indo-Pacific through its architecture. Australia is a staunch supporter of the centrality of ASEAN and the regional architecture it leads. Australia has worked closely with ASEAN for decades since becoming its first dialogue partner in 1974. Australia collaborates closely on key ASEAN-led arrangements, such as the regional key leaders forum (East Asia Summit), the regional foreign and defense ministers forum (the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN-Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus), and the regional trade and economic agenda (Australia Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. (2016). ASEAN-Australia Relations). ASEAN and Australia opened a new chapter in our relationship in October 2021, when ASEAN and Australia made the historic decision to form a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). The mission is now heavily focused on working with ASEAN partners to implement the CSP, including the creation of a new package of initiatives called "Australia for ASEAN" (Aus4ASEAN) as support. This will build on Australia's cooperation with ASEAN, which includes the three pillars of ASEAN: economic, social-cultural, and political-security.

Seeing the many struggles for influence in the region that could threaten regional stability, Indonesia initiated the idea of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which was based on the potential in the region. The ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific is an affirmation of ASEAN's position in its role in maintaining stability, prosperity, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. This Outlook promotes an open and inclusive approach to dialogue and cooperation in ASEAN priority areas (ASEAN (2019, 23 Juni). ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific). In addition, this Outlook will serve as a guideline for ASEAN member countries to respond to various challenges with various other views on the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific, such as ideas from China, namely the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and from the United States, namely Free and Open Indo-Pacific. The involvement of the United States in the Indo-Pacific Region causes many other actors to also exert their influence. Two major powers that exert great influence in the Indo-Pacific Region can pose a threat to regional stability, one of which is in the

Southeast Asia Region. The existence of this superpower indirectly poses a new threat to countries in Southeast Asia. Even though economic benefits have increased rapidly, threats to security stability have also become an issue to be faced. An unstable region is certainly a threat to the sustainability of ASEAN.

In addition, quite serious problems exist in this region. The geopolitical challenges faced by countries in the region revolve around maritime issues such as unresolved maritime disputes that have the potential for open conflict. On September 17, 2021, the Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, the British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and the President of the United States, Joe Biden, agreed on a strategic partnership between the three countries, namely the Australia-UK-US trilateral defense partnership (AUKUS). The AUKUS defense pact has a main agenda of strengthening military cooperation, which aims to maintain security stability in the Indo-Pacific Region and focuses on developing military industry and technology, in this case the development of nuclear-powered submarines. The existence of AUKUS is a US reaction to China's aggressiveness in the South China Sea conflict, where China is massively expanding its territory by claiming unilateral ownership of territory in the South China Sea with a nine-dash line, which causes security instability in the Indo-Pacific Region (Sekretariat Kabinet Republik Indonesia (2021, 17 November). *Menyikapi Potensi Eskalasi Konflik di Kawasan Indo-Pasifik Sebagai Dampak dari Kesepakatan AUKUS*).

The struggle for influence threatens the stability and security of ASEAN, which has previously been a disputed territory with China. The attitude of ASEAN member countries toward responding to the AUKUS defense pact varies according to their country's national interests. The Philippines clearly supports the AUKUS deal because of its country's background as a longtime US ally. In addition, the Philippines is one of the ASEAN member countries whose territory is most claimed by China. Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia, disputing states are clearly opposed to China's nine-dash line but are also not in favor of AUKUS, while Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia show a passive attitude towards China (Sekretariat Kabinet Republik Indonesia (2021, 17 November). *Menyikapi Potensi Eskalasi Konflik di Kawasan Indo-Pasifik Sebagai Dampak dari Kesepakatan AUKUS*). This is because the two countries are economically dependent. Thus, it can be seen that ASEAN member countries do not have a common attitude toward responding to the South China Sea conflict. To maintain the stability of the ASEAN Region in the midst of the Indo-Pacific Region, ASEAN, which was initiated by Indonesia, implemented the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which was then used by Australia to build ASEAN+1 Cooperation.

ASEAN+1 cooperation with Australia has started since 1974 through the establishment of the ASEAN-Australia Consultative Meeting (AACM), which was then followed by various dialogues at various levels. ASEAN-Australia cooperation reached an important stage with Australia's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia in 2005. In 2007, ASEAN-Australia cooperation underwent significant development with the signing of the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference. For its implementation, a Plan of Action (PoA) was agreed upon for the 2008–2013 period. At the 2012 ASEAN-Australia Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting, Australia prepared a discussion paper containing strategies for enhancing development cooperation with ASEAN in the next 4 years. Australia even supports the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) through road and infrastructure development projects in Southeast Asia and also supports the trade and transportation facilities of the ASEAN Highway Network and the Greater Mekong Subregion (PTRI ASEAN. (2018). Australia). Every 4 years, ASEAN and Australia agree on a new PoA for their cooperation. This PoA provides firmness regarding the importance of ASEAN and Australia cooperation in a dynamic region. It outlines priority actions to intensify the engagement of both sides in establishing a peaceful and rules-based region with ASEAN as its center.

At the 2021 ASEAN-Australia Summit, ASEAN and Australia opened a new chapter in their relationship by forming a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). Australia is currently focusing on CSP implementation, including one of the packages to support CSP, namely Australia for ASEAN

(Aus4ASEAN). Within the framework of the Aus4ASEAN cooperation, which not only intends to address complex regional challenges such as health security and also promote a circular economy. The Aus4ASEAN Futures Initiative will also support the practical implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and enable greater support for cross-sectoral initiatives in the three ASEAN Community Pillars (ASEAN. (27 Oktober 2021). Chairman's Statement of the 1st ASEAN-Australia Summit). With this collaboration, Australia and ASEAN build relationships to support the stability of the Indo-Pacific region, which can also affect the stability of the Southeast Asian region. Aus4ASEAN cooperation promotes Indo-Pacific dialogue and cooperation instead of competition, which could pose a threat to the stability of the region. The implementation of CSP is a form of Australia's commitment to ASEAN and its central role in the Indo-Pacific Region. The purpose of the CSP is to become a framework for deepening relations between ASEAN and Australia to achieve a strategic partnership. In fact, Aus4ASEAN is implemented by prioritizing real cooperation under the control of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. This cooperation framework is deliberately aligned with this outlook to demonstrate Australia's role in supporting ASEAN priorities.

### **Theory**

Barry Buzan and Ole Waever, in their book *Regions and Powers: The Structure of International Security*, introduced the Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT) to explain and predict the dynamics of a political region in its position as an international subsystem. RSCT allows a country to explain the development of countries that are in one region. There are three main focuses in this theory: the sector, the regional security complex, and securitization. Attention to security is not far from the role of actors; therefore, threats are seen to be more likely to emerge from the region. The security of each actor in the region interacts with the security of other actors. In the RSCT, even though there is dependence between one country and another in a region, it does not mean that regional peace is only influenced by the balance of power, alliances with other countries, and the entry of external forces in the region. This theory holds that a safe and orderly area is achieved by cooperating with neighboring countries in the region.

The regional security complex is categorized under four variables to indicate its complexity. First, the boundaries that set it apart from other security complexes. Second, an anarchic structure means that there are two or more autonomous units or sovereign states in the region. Next is the polarity, indicating the distribution of power between units of the security complex. Fourth, social construction, which explains patterns of friendship and hostility between units. Dynamic changes to the structure above will cause complex security transformations. Internal transformation occurs in the form of integration-disintegration, ideological competition, and regime change due to changes in polarity structure, anarchy structure, and social construction. External transformation occurs when two or more security complexes are merged or one security complex is broken (Buzan and Weaver, 2003). The RSCT approach is considered comprehensively important because it combines the concept of distribution of neorealism capabilities with the concept of constructivism (security perception) and provides a portion of analysis to intra-regional countries of medium and small powers in explaining security dynamics in the region.

Barry Buzan and Ole Waever formulate two essential constituent variables of this theory, namely internally and externally. Each variable is supported by several indicators; for example, in the internal variable, there is an indicator of geographical location where it is explained that not all countries that are located close together can establish joint security arrangements. The second indicator is interaction between countries; this indicator looks at how often interactions between countries in a region occur. The indicator of these three variables is system similarity, where cultural, economic, social, and political factors in countries in the region can foster strong solidarity. The external variables are measured based on two indicators: the international situation and developing issues.

## **Concept**

The United Nation Development Program (UNDP) offers seven components of human security, including economic security, food security, health security, environment security, personal security, community security, and political security. The community security dimension shows the security of the community as a whole in relation to identity and practices and the security of individuals against possible threats from the community, such as structural violence.

The idea of Community Security first emerged around 1957, when Karl Deutsch and his colleagues conducted research on how wars could be prevented from occurring in the future, using historical case studies as their basis (Deutsch, 1957). The conclusion is that war can be avoided if there is a sense of togetherness or integration between countries. The security community is considered an integrated group, wherein integration is defined as the attainment of a sense of community accompanied by formal or informal institutions or practices that are strong and broad enough to ensure peaceful change among group members. The concept of a security community describes a group of states that have developed a long-standing habit of peaceful interaction and exclude the use of force in settling disputes with other members of the group. The concept of a security community consists of three key elements, according to Adler and Barnett. First, members of the security community have shared identities, values, and meanings. Secondly, they have a multifaceted and direct relationship. Third, they share long-term interests. The existence of ASEAN is based on the basic concept of Community Security because it is an integrated group of people, so the resolution of problems is not by direct violence but instead seeks a more peaceful resolution of problems.

## **Methodology**

This research uses a qualitative approach in analyzing the phenomena that occur, where qualitative research, according to Moleong (2004), is scientific research that aims to understand a phenomenon in a natural social context by prioritizing a process of in-depth communication interaction between researchers and the phenomenon being studied. In this study, a qualitative approach will be used as a guide in analyzing the impact of the initiation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which aims to achieve regional stability with its relationship with Australia through the Aus4ASEAN cooperation framework. Thus, its influence on achieving the goals can be clearly explained and described through this qualitative research.

## **ASEAN-Australia Cooperation**

ASEAN-Australia cooperation can be seen from the various programs currently being held through various programs summarized in the document Australia's ASEAN programs. The program summary of existing cooperation is divided into three ASEAN pillars: economic, socio-cultural, and political-security. These various programs were carried out prior to the existence of the new ASEAN strategic initiative framework and were later added to the latest cooperation between Australia and ASEAN, namely Aus4ASEAN (PTRI ASEAN. (2022). Update on new ASEAN-Australia Programs: Attachment B - summary of all of Australia's ASEAN programs).

In the economic pillar, there are several programs, namely the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II (AADCP II), which responds to ASEAN's priorities for further economic integration and connectivity. Then, support major ASEAN initiatives, including the master plan on ASEAN connectivity, initiatives for ASEAN integration, and the fourth industrial revolution strategy. The next program is the regional trade for development initiative, which supports the implementation of RCEP and AANZFTA through economic cooperation programs to expand benefits for ASEAN. Australia also supports the implementation of economic priorities under ASEAN's Comprehensive Recovery Framework and contributes to the greater adoption of digital trade standards by ASEAN members to

enhance digital trade for the region's prosperity and security. The implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Strategy and the development of sustainable and livable cities for ASEAN member countries are supported and assisted by Australia. To support regional economic integration, Australia is providing support to the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). Even in relation to reducing crop losses due to armyworms, Australia is showing its role by providing support assistance with the ASEAN Fall Armyworm Action Plan (PTRI ASEAN. (2022). Update on new ASEAN-Australia Programs: Attachment B summary of all of Australia's ASEAN programs – economic pillar).

On the socio-cultural pillars, Australia provides scholarships to support ASEAN children to study in Australia in fields that advance the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, as well as scholarships related to vocational education and training. In order to reduce the risk of a pandemic, Australia is providing fellowships to ASEAN health officers within the framework of the ASEAN-Australia Health Security Initiative. In addition, Australia is showing support for the AHA Center by strengthening the AHA's capabilities in responding to crises and human-caused conflicts. In enhancing the contribution of labor migration to growth and development in ASEAN, Australia promotes safe and fair migration within ASEAN by ensuring the benefits are felt by workers, employers, and governments. Other cooperation supported by Australia is the development and implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan on Disability and supporting ASEAN members to procure vaccines in partnership with UNICEF (PTRI ASEAN. (2022). Update on new ASEAN-Australia Programs: Attachment B summary of all of Australia's ASEAN programs – socio-cultural pillar).

In the political-security pillar, ASEAN-Australia cooperation in this pillar supports the strengthening of ASEAN's capabilities in addressing security challenges, including maritime, cybersecurity, transnational crime, women's security, peace, and challenges caused by COVID-19. In the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, the program that will be implemented is to strengthen the ASEAN criminal justice system, provide fair punishment for traffickers and protect the rights of victims. As well as providing support for ASEAN member countries to implement the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, by supporting various ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to address human trafficking. The Australian Government strengthens the involvement of human rights in its bilateral relations with ASEAN members as a form of support for human rights dialogue and activities in ASEAN (PTRI ASEAN. (2022). Update on new ASEAN-Australia Programs: Attachment B summary of all of Australia's ASEAN programs – political-security pillar).

Since the announcement of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific in June 2019, Australia has initiated a large number of concrete programs and activities to directly support the four areas of cooperation under the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, namely maritime, connectivity, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and economic development (PTRI ASEAN. (2022). Update on new ASEAN-Australia Programs: Attachment C - update on Australian support for the AOIP).

## **Maritime**

- Maritime activities at the ASEAN fora include the EAS workshop on marine pollution and maritime security, and the ARF workshop for maritime law enforcement agencies on the law of the sea.
- Marine Resources (A\$65 million), which provided support to regional maritime nations to develop their marine resources and help overcome challenges through increased training, technical advice, and cooperation.
- Illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing (A\$14.7 million), a regional program for Southeast Asia to build capacity to combat IUU fishing.
- ASEAN-Australia Political-Security Partnership (A\$10.5 million), including priority areas in the

maritime field, such as marine plastics, pollution and IUU fishing and support for the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum.

### **Connectivity**

- Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) (at least A\$120 million): supports projects in energy, decarbonization, digitization, telecommunications, and transport to advance the ASEAN connectivity agenda, including piloting the use of the ASEAN Infrastructure Productivity Framework, supporting Cambodia's 2022 leadership priorities on logistics sea and containers, contributing to the improvement of National Road 2 in Laos, and being a priority in the ASEAN Infrastructure Project Pipeline.
- Support for the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, including the development of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Strategy, a framework for infrastructure productivity, an assessment of sustainable infrastructure priorities, a framework for improving supply chain efficiency, and a non-tariff action project
- Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI): support the development of IAI Work Plan IV; projects focusing on micro, small, and medium enterprises; and agriculture.

### **Sustainable Development Goals 2030**

- COVID-19 Vaccine Support for Southeast Asia (A\$400 million): sharing over 36 million vaccine doses to date with ASEAN Member States and providing comprehensive support (cold chain storage, training of healthcare workers, combating vaccine hesitancy); this includes support for ACPHEED.
- ASEAN Center for Public Health Emergencies and New Diseases (ACPHEED) (A\$21m): funding is made available in full to ASEAN, with consultations ongoing in the first round of the project.
- COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund (A\$1 million): contribution made to ASEAN for vaccine procurement through UNICEF.
- ASEAN-Australia Health Security Initiative (A\$5.3 million): supported the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Animal Health and Zoonoses and awarded 40 One Health Fellowships to ASEAN officers.

### **Economic Development**

- Regional Trade for Development (RT4D) Initiative (A\$46 million), a new program of technical assistance and capacity building to help implement RCEP and AANZFTA.
- Mekong-Australia Partnership (A\$232 million): new programs are underway across five pillars, namely human capacity, economic resilience, trade & investment, environment, and cyber and critical technology.
- ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards initiative (additional A\$2 million; total A\$4 million): supports ASEAN to adopt high-quality digital trade standards, to enhance digital trade for the region's prosperity and security.
- ASEAN-Australia Smart Cities Initiative (A\$25 million): supports the implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Strategy and assists ASEAN members to build sustainable and liveable cities.
- Cyber & Critical Tech Cooperation (A\$74 million): supports targeted capacity building across the Indo-Pacific, with a priority focus on strengthening cyber awareness, technical and incident response training, improving cyber security, online security, global crime law cyber, and training for law enforcement.
- ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (A\$1 million): projects on non-tariff measures, consumer protection, farmer productivity, digital technology adoption by MSMEs, as well as supporting monitoring & evaluation units.

## Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: Aus4ASEAN

Australia and ASEAN opened a new chapter in the cooperation that has been established so far by forming a new cooperation framework, namely the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This cooperation framework was established at the ASEAN-Australia Summit on October 27, 2021. Since the formation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Australia and ASEAN have increased cooperation by agreeing on shared priorities, increasing resources and advancing new programs. This enhanced collaboration aims to address some of the region's most pressing challenges, such as climate change, rapid digitization, and skills and development. (Australian Mission to ASEAN. (2022). The ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership – a year of progress) In fact, the struggle for influence can also be affected by the increased cooperation that is built. Regional Security Complex Theory sees that interaction with other countries through the spread of influence in the form of the entry of external forces in this region can threaten the stability of the region. However, mutual support and dependence on one another are options to maintain regional order when external influences enter the region.

On June 20, 2022, the Secretary General of ASEAN, Dato Lim Jock Hoi, and the Australian Ambassador to ASEAN, Will Nankervis, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative, which is one of the cooperation program packages in the CSP. The signing was attended by all the Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States, led by the Permanent Representative of Laos to ASEAN as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Australia dialogue relations, Ambassador Bovonethat Douangchak. (ASEAN. (2022). ASEAN and Australia sign a Memorandum of Understanding of Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative). This cooperation agreement encourages the realization of a stable region of competition. Although the Regional Security Complex Theory explains that not all countries that are located close together can establish joint security arrangements, the cooperation built by ASEAN and Australia shows their respective support for interests in the region. This economic dependence underpins the achievement of a stable region without mutually agreed-upon security arrangements. The cooperation that has been built shows that Australia fully supports the centrality of ASEAN so that there is a security guarantee through the agreement. The Aus4ASEAN Futures Initiative goes beyond addressing complex regional challenges such as post-pandemic health security and promoting a circular economy. However, Aus4ASEAN also supports the practical implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and enables greater support for cross-sectoral initiatives for the three pillars of the ASEAN Community, namely the political and security community cooperation pillar, the economic community cooperation pillar, and the social community cooperation pillar. culture. The MoU on the Aus4ASEAN Futures Initiative is prepared as a facilitator for flexible and demand-driven development cooperation activities between ASEAN and Australia by providing an overall framework within which these cooperation programs can be jointly identified, designed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated. This framework shows that the integration of the community with its dialogue partners becomes important when both parties are involved. So this, according to the idea of community security, can lead the region to a state of peace because it has key elements, namely having the same range of interests and having a direct relationship through this mutually beneficial collaboration.

The Aus4ASEAN Futures Initiative is one of the CSP programs that aims to advance the CSP itself because it is a form of Australia's commitment to provide real substance for ASEAN, Australia itself, and the Indo-Pacific region. This commitment is based on awareness of achieving a stable area because the background is to achieve integrated community security so that the collaboration that is built is wider, mutually beneficial, and advances the welfare of the people in it. These projects agreed upon between ASEAN and Australia seek to address complex challenges such as climate change, health security, transnational crime, healthy oceans, the circular economy, and the energy transition. This will provide a flexible mechanism that supports the three pillars of ASEAN. On July 26, 2022, the Lao Ambassador to ASEAN as the country coordinator of the ASEAN-Australia collaboration delivered a letter from H. E. Will Nankervis containing the progress of the new ASEAN-Australia program under the



CSP cooperation framework as information and reference for each ASEAN member country ambassador to ASEAN. Information on the progress of establishing this program was shared because, one week later, the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings will be held. The CSP is the result of the finalization of the annex ASEAN-Australia Plan of Action (2020-2024) which then produces a framework for implementing the programs. (PTRI ASEAN. (2022). Update on new ASEAN-Australia Programs).

The annex contains a summary of the new program under the CSP, namely Aus4ASEAN future initiatives, which discuss its support for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. There are also projects on climate change, health security, transnational crime, healthy oceans, circular economy, and energy transition. The second annex contains all cooperation programs between ASEAN and Australia relating to the three main pillars of ASEAN that were agreed upon by ASEAN and Australia. The third annex contains the main highlights of Australia's concrete cooperation under the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (PTRI ASEAN. (2022). Update on new ASEAN-Australia Programs). Aus4ASEAN Cooperation includes:

- Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative (A\$124m) (an additional A\$80m for Aus4ASEAN Futures ECON): a new program responding to ASEAN's request to support the Economic, Socio-Cultural and Political Security Community, and key cross-cutting issues.
- Aus4ASEAN Digital Transformation and Future Skills Initiative: 350 Vocational Education and Training scholarships, technical assistance partnerships with Australian institutions, and new skills policy dialogue.
- Aus4ASEAN Scholarships: 100 Australia for ASEAN Scholarships to support emerging ASEAN leaders to study in Australia in fields advancing AOIP.

Aus4ASEAN's collaborations include the Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative, Aus4ASEAN Scholarships, and the Aus4ASEAN Digital Transformation and Future Skills Initiative. The first phase of the project under Aus4ASEAN Futures is Aus4ASEAN Futures (ECON). It is a successor program to the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II (AADCP11), and Australia hopes to mobilize in August. ASEAN is committed to ensuring a smooth transition between AADCP II and Aus4ASEAN Futures (ECON). With this in mind, there are proposals to continue a number of multi-year projects that have been approved by the Joint Planning and Review Committee (JPRC) of AADCP II under the Futures Initiative after AADCP II is completed on December 30, 2022 (PTRI ASEAN. (2022). Update on new ASEAN-Australia Programs). These projects are basically the first phase of the project under the Futures Initiative. ASEAN welcomes the Aus4ASEAN Future Initiative's further project proposal as this project expands beyond Futures (ECON) to cover the political-security and socio-cultural communities.

There is the Aus4ASEAN Scholarship Program, launched in Vientiane in February 2023. This program supports 100 aspiring ASEAN leaders to study in fields that advance the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. Applications have been closed, and undergraduate selection is ongoing. ASEAN expects them to start their master's-level studies in Australia in early 2023. Australia invites the Committee of Permanent Representatives of each ASEAN member country to meet 100 scholarship recipients in the induction program in Jakarta at the end of 2022. In the Aus4ASEAN Digital Transformation and Future Skills Collaboration Program Initiative, Australia has consulted with the ASEAN Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council on the design of this program, which comprises 350 TVET scholarships, technical assistance partnerships, and skills policy dialogue. A draft project proposal was shared with the TVET Council and the ASEAN Secretariat in August, and the program started implementation in November 2022. Both Aus4ASEAN Scholarships and the Futures Initiative provide flexible support for AOIP implementation (PTRI ASEAN. (2022). Update on new ASEAN-Australia Programs).

### **The Influence of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific on Aus4ASEAN**

Southeast Asia is located in the middle of the dynamic Indo-Pacific region; therefore, ASEAN, with the foundation of the concept of community security in its formation, has an interest in leading the formation of the economic and security architecture of the Southeast Asian region and ensuring that this dynamic will continue to bring peace, security, stability, and prosperity to communities in Southeast Asia, the Indo-Pacific region, and even in wider Asia. As ASEAN has for decades been engaged in the development of an inclusive regional architecture, it is necessary to consistently exert its collective leadership in forging and shaping the vision for closer cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and to continue to maintain its central role in the region's evolving regional architecture in Southeast Asia and the surrounding area. Against this backdrop, the ASEAN leaders have agreed to further discuss an initiative that strengthens the ASEAN-centric regional architecture, namely the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. This Outlook was formed to achieve regional cooperation based on ASEAN's interests, namely a safe, peaceful, and stable region. This Outlook is not intended to create a new mechanism or replace an existing one but rather is a view that is intended to enhance the ASEAN community building process and to strengthen and provide new momentum for the ASEAN-led mechanism to face challenges and take advantage of opportunities emerging from the current regional and global environment and in the future. Additionally, Outlook is intended to be inclusive in terms of ideas and proposals. The ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific views ASEAN centrality as a basic principle for promoting cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region with an ASEAN-led mechanism. Other principles include openness, transparency, inclusiveness, a rules-based framework, good governance, respect for sovereignty, non-intervention, complementarity with existing cooperation frameworks, equality, mutual respect, mutual trust, mutual benefit, and respect for international law (ASEAN. (2019). ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific). With Australia's full support for ASEAN's priorities in Aus4ASEAN by using the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific mechanism, Australia also supports the stability of the region with various cooperation initiatives under this outlook.

Thus, integration between ASEAN countries as a form of the idea of community security is due to a sense of togetherness through the same identity, values, and meanings and is influenced by almost the same culture. The interest in building a stable, safe, and peaceful region is ASEAN's main goal in building comprehensive cooperation with various external actors, one of which is Australia. One of the ongoing collaborations with Australia emphasizes the adoption of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific as support for ASEAN centrality. This cooperation shows the dependence of each party on supporting the achievement of a safe and orderly area. This can be explained by the view of the Regional Security Complex Theory that cooperation built with neighboring countries in the Indo-Pacific region will bring about broader integration and achieve regional stability. The influence of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific further clarifies the role of ASEAN's centrality in its cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, especially in the new program within the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership framework, namely Aus4ASEAN. With various new collaboration breakthroughs, integration is increasing instead of competition in this dynamic region. Regional stability is influenced by the countries that are in it; this cooperation encourages the order and dependence of each country to maintain a mutually beneficial region through cooperation. In this way, a stable, safe, and peaceful region can be achieved with this dependency.

The ASEAN-Australia CSP is a fitting framework for explaining that only by working together can we address some of the region's most pressing challenges, namely climate change, rapid digitization, and knowledge and skill development. With Aus4ASEAN, there is A\$200 million worth of Australia providing in support of existing projects to make significant progress for ASEAN. The ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Australian Ambassador to ASEAN have agreed on these projects, which are now being implemented. These projects support ASEAN in developing a Digital Economy Framework Agreement to realize the potential of the digital economy and assist ASEAN member countries in developing sustainable smart cities.

Aus4ASEAN also supports the development of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology, and Innovation (2025–2035), helps narrow the development gap between ASEAN members, and supports the implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. In ensuring the realization of a digitalized future economy through Aus4ASEAN, Australia ensures that the workforce used has skills with the Aus4ASEAN Digital Transformation and Futures Skills Initiative, which will involve 350 technical and vocational education graduates in Australia starting this year. This cooperation framework initiative will also bring together Australian and ASEAN institutions to exchange experiences and advance cooperation through new partnerships and policy dialogue. This cooperation framework is built on the basis of deep partnership, since Australia became ASEAN's first dialogue partner in 1974. For decades, Australia has worked with ASEAN through the 3 Pillars of the ASEAN Community, which are priority areas of cooperation ranging from combating human trafficking to ensuring free trade agreements, and supports the establishment of an ASEAN Public Health Emergency Center and New Diseases. This year, Indonesia took over the chair of the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives, which allows Indonesia to rely on a strong partner in Australia, such as during Indonesia's presidency in the G20. (Will Nankervis. (October 27, 2022). The ASEAN-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership – a year of progress).

Australia sees the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership as an important step forward and a form of commitment to ASEAN and its central message in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia is committed to responding to ASEAN's priority to deepen Australia's engagement with Southeast Asia. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong stressed that Australia would be more ambitious in its climate action. In addition, in growing Australia's economy for the future, cooperation with neighbors is an option for helping economic growth and responding to pressing challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. In this region, a strong and cohesive ASEAN fully supports Australia's interests, as does Australia, which will encourage and be with ASEAN every step of the way. The cooperation that was built is welcomed because it is very meaningful, substantive, and provides benefits for both parties. This increasingly close cooperation shows the stability of a region that is far from competition, the use of force in interactions between countries, and the struggle for influence. The cooperation agreement confirms the Regional Security Complex Theory that a safe and orderly area is achieved by cooperating with neighboring countries in the region, not only by balancing forces, alliances with other countries, and the entry of external forces into the region. Economic cooperation is more advisable because economic dependence encourages countries to be integrated.

In the Plan of Action for Implementing the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership (2020-2024), it is stated that the forum will carry out sustainable cooperation in supporting Southeast Asia's economic recovery and regional integration through support for the implementation and monitoring of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework. Australia has shown its commitment by providing funding of A\$80 million for the Aus4ASEAN-ECON (Economic and Connectivity) cooperation framework, which is an advanced economic work program from the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II (AADCP II). AADCPII and Aus4ASEAN (ECON) will be implemented under the Aus4ASEAN Futures Initiative. This is aimed at continuing to support ASEAN connectivity priorities, regional integration, and narrowing the development gap through support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025), Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan IV (2021-2025), digital transformation, response to the revolution industry, closer sectoral integration, and involvement from the private sector. (ASEAN-Australia Forum. (2022). Co-Chairs' Summary of the 34th ASEAN-Australia Forum: Point 25). In addition, Aus4ASEAN Initiative Futures also supports the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, which is synergized and built on existing regional interests such as the Framework for Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community, ongoing initiatives under the Three Pillars of the ASEAN Community, and the national commitments of ASEAN member countries. This strategy takes into account the diverse economic and development circumstances of ASEAN member countries and provides guidance for policy makers to ensure that the region's transition to carbon neutrality is fair, safe, inclusive, and does not hinder ASEAN's progress in advancing

development goals, eliminating poverty, and reducing social inequality among ASEAN member countries so that regional stability is achieved through a safe and orderly area. The project itself is funded by Aus4ASEAN Futures (ECON). (Australia for ASEAN Futures – Economic & Connectivity. (2023). Terms of Reference for Development of the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality).

Australia is actively expanding the ASEAN cooperation program through Aus4ASEAN to include the Three Pillars of the ASEAN Community in seeking collaboration on cross-pillar issues. In addition, both parties underlined the importance of developing programs and activities that are adaptable to current challenges, adapted to regional needs, and in accordance with priority areas such as those included in the ASEAN Post-2025 Vision. (Business Today. (2023). ASEAN, Australia Take Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Forward). The encouragement of the importance of cooperation in dealing with existing challenges based on the current international situation explains that actors in the region view the importance of regional stability to maintain world order through mutually beneficial cooperation based on the pattern of community security friendship, where problem solving is not by dispute but by cooperation in building each other. The discussion on future cooperation between ASEAN and Australia highlighted the importance of increasing cooperation in the four main areas outlined in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific: maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030, the economic sector, and other possible cooperation.

## **Conclusion**

The Indo-Pacific is the most dynamic region in the world and has been a center of economic growth for decades. That way, these areas continue to experience geopolitical and geostrategic shifts. This shift presents both opportunities and challenges. On the one hand, the region's economic growth opens up the possibility of cooperation to end poverty and improve the standard of living for millions of people. On the other hand, the rise of material forces, namely the economy and the military, has led to competition and a struggle for influence, which has created regional instability. Apart from America and China, Australia is also spreading its influence in the Southeast Asian region through the Indo-Pacific cooperation process. Australia has been working with ASEAN since 1974 as ASEAN's first dialogue partner. ASEAN+1 cooperation with Australia offers great opportunities in the dynamic Indo-Pacific region. The existence of this cooperation is to create a stable, safe, and peaceful region. As explained by the Regional Security Complex Theory, cooperation built with neighboring countries in the region brings about broader integration and achieves regional stability. ASEAN and Australia are opening a new collaboration through the establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2021. One of the programs is Aus4ASEAN Future Initiatives. The cooperation that is built covers the three pillars of ASEAN, which are Economic, Socio-Cultural, and Political-Security. In addition, this collaboration also highlights the importance of the four main areas outlined in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, namely Maritime Cooperation, Connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030, Economic Sector and Other Possible Cooperation. This cooperation framework is deliberately aligned with the outlook to show Australia's role in supporting ASEAN's priorities. With Aus4ASEAN cooperation enhances both parties' integration and dependence on each other rather than competition.

The purpose of the existence of ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific is to enhance the process of building the ASEAN community to face challenges and take advantage of opportunities that arise from the regional and global environment in achieving a stable, safe, and orderly region. This outlook has the basic principle of ASEAN centrality in carrying out cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. Since the announcement of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific in June 2019, Australia has initiated a large number of concrete programs and activities. 2022 marks the signing of the Aus4ASEAN program agreement. Australia for ASEAN consists of the Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative (A\$124m) (an additional A\$80m for the Aus4ASEAN Futures ECON), the Aus4ASEAN Digital Transformation and Future Skills Initiative, and the Aus4ASEAN Scholarships. The first phase of this program is

Aus4ASEAN Futures (ECON), which is a continuation program of the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II. Then this program was expanded beyond Futures (ECON) through a scholarship program that supports 100 students to study fields capable of advancing the ASEAN outlook on the Indo-Pacific. Other agreed programs are 350 TVET scholarships, technical assistance partnerships, and skills policy dialogue to support digital transformation and future skills initiatives.

This collaboration is under the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific as a form of Australia's commitment to provide real substance for ASEAN, for Australia itself, and for the Indo-Pacific region by supporting ASEAN's centrality in the cooperation that is built. With support for this outlook through the cooperation that is built, Australia supports the achievement of regional stability. That way, a stable area creates the fulfillment of community security. The existence of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific influences the cooperation mechanism between ASEAN and Australia. This outlook was formed to achieve regional cooperation based on ASEAN's interests, namely regional stability. Thus, various collaborations through programs created by Australia for Indonesia have contributed a lot to achieving a stable region. The stability of the region is based on the interaction of the countries within it. ASEAN-Australia, as part of the Indo-Pacific region, seeks, through Aus4ASEAN, to achieve a stable region by minimizing disputes with the main focus on mutually beneficial cooperation.

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