What's different about the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program II?

The program is a genuine partnership between Australia and the ASEAN Secretariat with three shared objectives.

- ASEAN Member States are able to establish the AEC and implement its Post-2015 agenda.
- The ASEAN Secretariat has the skills and ability to manage its work programs through sound strategic planning and effective project management.
- Development effectiveness is increased, along with greater trust, deeper relationships, mutual accountability and joint management.

What activities are funded?

The program funds a range of activities including needs assessment, implementation reviews, research-based policy papers, development of standards and educational materials, promotion and outreach activities, improvement of tools and processes, etc.

How do activities get programmed?

Activities are identified and programmed on a rolling basis in consultation with the ASEAN Working Groups and the ASEAN Secretariat. Projects are approved by the Joint Planning and Review Committee (JPRC), consisting of the Australian Government, ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Member States.

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Supporting the ASEAN Economic Community

In 1997, leaders of the 10 ASEAN countries took the decision to integrate their economies and develop one stable, prosperous, and highly competitive region—the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)—by 2015. Since then, notable achievements towards this goal have been accomplished, and the leaders have recognized the need for continuing efforts to work towards a deeper, broader economic integration post-2015.

1. Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat Institutional Capacity

The program is helping the ASEAN Secretariat improve its corporate planning, human resources management, general operations, and its monitoring and evaluation systems. It also funds some ASEAN technical specialists who are helping to develop economic project management skills and processes within the Secretariat.

2. Supporting Achievement of the AEC and the post-2015 Vision of the AEC

The program’s current priority areas include services, investment, agriculture, consumer protection, connectivity, financial integration and cross-cutting issues such as narrowing the development gap and regulatory reform. The program is flexible and provides support to many efforts requiring long-term strategic support.

Economic Research and Policy Advice

The program supports research and policy advice on economic integration issues. The activities being supported include identifying issues and obstacles to regional economic integration, addressing the specific needs of the less developed ASEAN members, studying economic policy strategies, and developing policy recommendations and implementation options.

AEC Implementation Support

The program supports regional capacity for implementing high priority AEC blueprint and post-2015 activities at the national level, from identification and design, through to implementation and evaluation.

Through the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program II, Australia is working with the ASEAN community to help move towards the AEC and the post-2015 vision. The program is helping to build the skills and capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat, supporting research and policy advice and helping integrate various economic sectors. The program will provide up to AUD$57 million from 2008 to 2019.

“ASEAN’s efforts to build such a truly ASEAN Community have underpinned the peace and stability of the region, allowing our regional and national economies to flourish and remain resilient. All these have not only benefited the ASEAN region as a whole but also presented significant contributions to the Asia Pacific region and the international community at large.”

H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN
(ASEAN Insights Conference, London, 11 September 2014)