

FACTSHEET

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DEEPENING CONNECTIVITY IN ASEAN

Greater regional connectivity is critical in the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community. It enhances trade, investment, tourism, and development, and it helps boost growth and competitiveness across all ASEAN Member States (AMS).

The ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II (AADCP II) is a partnership between the Australian Government and ASEAN. With a strong focus on connectivity, alongside a number of ASEAN economic sectors, it is advancing the implementation of Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 in areas including infrastructure, telecommunications, and energy, through evidence-based strategy development, planning, monitoring, and promotion.

Through our work, we have contributed to:

- ◇ (Under the previous MPAC) Improvements to the ASEAN Connectivity Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism and a [comprehensive review of Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2010 implementation](#). This helped set the post 2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity in 2016.
- ◇ Setting the [Post-2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity supported the development of MPAC 2025](#). ASEAN Leaders adopted it in September 2016 as an integral part of ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.
- ◇ The formulation of the [ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy](#), a framework to assist city governments in ASEAN to advance sustainable urbanisation. The Strategy focuses on a set of sub-areas and actions including inclusive and equitable growth; housing and home; personal safety and security; water, waste, and sanitation; mobility; urban resilience; and education.
- ◇ The [Project briefs of eight ASEAN projects](#), a guide published in 2016 for potential investors and interested parties to better understand priority infrastructure pipeline projects in ASEAN for possible public-private partnerships (PPP) implementation.
- ◇ [Development Prospects of the ASEAN Power Sector – Towards an Integrated Electricity Market](#). This report provided policy recommendations aimed at progressing the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), a major initiative under the energy infrastructure connectivity strategy of MPAC 2010 aiming to deliver sufficient power within AMS. The recommendations led to a subsequent project to accelerate the establishment of the APG.



- ◇ **Potential for an ASEAN Single Telecommunications Market.** This report examined the economic benefits and costs of a single telecommunication market and AMS readiness for it. The key recommendations of the study were considered by Telecommunications Senior Officers at the 18th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM) in November 2017.

Our Ongoing Work

AADCP II is committed to furthering the implementation of MPAC 2025, including through the following ongoing activities:

- ◇ **Establishing the Initial Rolling Priority Pipeline of Potential ASEAN Infrastructure Projects:** The project is developing a pipeline of well-structured and economically viable physical infrastructure projects that enhance the movement of people, services, goods, and innovations within ASEAN. This pipeline will be critical for attracting public and private sector investments and thereby contributing to sustained economic growth of the region. The pipeline, being developed by the World Bank and ASEAN with the support of AADCP II, is being prepared for launch later this year.
- ◇ **Study to Advance Sustainable Urbanisation in ASEAN:** The project has already delivered the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS), launched at the 22nd ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) in Singapore in 2018, and will be supporting further activities this year to promote implementation of the strategy.
- ◇ **Feasibility Study for ASEAN Multilateral Power Trade:** This project is supporting the Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities/Authorities (HAPUA) to progress a major project under the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2016-2025 Phase I: the ASEAN Power Grid (APG). Through a feasibility study for an ASEAN Multilateral Power Trade, AADCP II is working with ASEAN Secretariat and the International Energy Agency to help ASEAN identify possible frameworks and relevant approaches to advance multilateral trading. Experience elsewhere in the world suggests that integrated power markets can lead to better utilisation of both local and regional national resources. The work builds on the findings and recommendations of a 2015 study supported by AADCP II: Development Prospects of the ASEAN Power Sector: Towards an Integrated Electricity Market.
- ◇ **Framework for Assessing ASEAN Infrastructure Productivity:** The framework being developed under this project will help AMS in assessing and improving the productivity of existing and new ASEAN infrastructure projects in different stages of project implementation. A set of recommendations and toolkits will also be produced to implement the framework.
- ◇ **Development of ASEAN Connectivity Digital Content** aims to raise public awareness about ASEAN Connectivity, by developing digital content related to ASEAN Connectivity, particularly MPAC 2025. A set of six videos has been produced and posted on ASEAN's social media channels such as YouTube channel, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The project also supported the development of ASEAN Connectivity microsite, launched at the 2018 ASEAN Summit week in Singapore. The project is now supporting the development of content and promotion of the microsite through social media.

Upcoming Work

Developing an Operational Guide for Monitoring, Review, and Evaluation (MRE) of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025: This project will produce a robust framework, to support the AMS and ASEAN Secretariat to review and report the progress and contribution of MPAC 2025. The Operational Guide is envisaged to contain MRE plan and mechanisms that will consist of processes, tools, and templates. The project will also undertake the first MPAC 2025 MRE reporting.

To find out more about our work in ASEAN Connectivity and MPAC 2025, visit www.aadcp2.org.