

Framework for the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund 2021-2025

Objective

1. The Framework for the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund 2021-2025 (hereinafter referred to as the “Framework”) is aimed at providing a strategic direction and enhancing the effectiveness of the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund (hereinafter referred to as the “AKCF”) by laying out its principles, priority sectors, and implementation modalities.
2. The Framework is a revision of the previous framework for 2017-2020, reflecting the changes in the global and regional environment, and emerging priorities for cooperation.
3. The Framework clarifies that AKCF should be utilized to advance the strategic partnership between ASEAN and ROK, and stand in accordance with the objectives laid out in ‘ASEAN-ROK Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership,’ ‘ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action 2021-2025’, ‘ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework’ and the ROK’s ‘New Southern Policy’ towards the goal of realizing the ‘ASEAN Community Vision 2025’ and achieving a ‘People-centered Community of Peace and Prosperity.’

Principles

4. To meet the above-mentioned objectives, programmes/projects funded by the AKCF should be based on the following principles.
 - i. Programmes/projects should contribute to enhancing the strategic partnership, friendly relations, and mutually beneficial cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK by engaging people and institutions of both sides in the implementation process.
 - ii. In principle, programmes/projects should engage all ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ROK. However, exceptions can be made upon written agreement between ASEAN and the ROK, for programmes/projects including those for the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), on pilot projects, and/or programmes/projects of to address urgent needs such as disaster management or public health emergency related issues.
 - iii. Rather than one-time or isolated events or activities, programmes/projects are encouraged to take an integrated and cross-sectoral approach focusing on building system, policies, and human and institutional capacity that will make a meaningful and synergetic impact on ASEAN and the ROK lasting for mid to long term.
 - iv. Programmes/projects should promote effective and inclusive platforms, preferably involving multiple governmental and non-governmental stakeholders that can help identify new challenges, foster collaboration, and develop innovative approaches, such as employing the usage of digital technologies.

Priority Sectors

5. The priority areas of cooperation have been reclassified to better meet the emerging priorities for cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK, including, but not limited to, initiatives from the ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action 2021-2025, the ROK's New Southern Policy Plus and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework.
6. The Framework identifies five priority sectors which are (a) public health, (b) education and training, (c) culture and tourism, (d) economic resilience, and (e) environment, safety and peace. However, programmes/projects of other sectors in line with the objectives of the Framework can also be suggested by ASEAN and the ROK.

(a) Public health

- To support the control of infectious diseases including COVID-19; to enhance cooperation in developing healthcare capacities; to establish and strengthen networks for public health cooperation in the region; to address future public health emergencies

(b) Education and training

- To promote inclusive and equitable quality education; to develop human capacity through more opportunities to higher education and lifelong learning in areas such as Science, Technology, and Engineering and Math (STEM); to improve the relevance, quality, and access of technical and vocational education and training (TVET); to expand ASEAN-ROK educational exchanges; to support and cooperate in improving and innovating distance learning systems; to promote the advancement of public administration

(c) Culture and tourism

- To expand two-way cultural exchanges; to increase support for the development of cultural and creative industries and MSMEs; to strengthen active cooperation in tourism and sports; to enhance multicultural inclusion; to continue people-to-people exchange initiatives by utilizing virtual and digital technologies

(d) Economic resilience

- To strengthen supply chain connectivity, diversification and resilience; to promote digital economy through e-commerce, e-government and e-services; to provide support to MSMEs and smart infrastructure-development

(e) Environment, safety and peace

- To strengthen cooperation to cope with climate change issues and reduce carbon footprints; to expand cooperation to protect the oceans, biodiversity, and the environment; to provide support to strengthen disaster management capacity; to promote cooperation to combat terrorism, violent extremism, and other transnational crimes and non-traditional security

Goal	
Realizing ASEAN Community Vision 2025	Achieving a People-centered Community of Peace and Prosperity

Priority Sectors				
Public Health	Education and Training	Culture and Tourism	Economic Resilience	Environment, Safety and Peace
<p>Support control of infectious diseases including COVID-19</p> <p>Enhance cooperation in developing healthcare capacities</p> <p>Establish and strengthen networks for public health cooperation in the region</p> <p>Address future public health emergencies</p>	<p>Promote inclusive and equitable quality education</p> <p>Develop human capacity through more opportunities to higher education and lifelong learning in areas such as STEM</p> <p>Improve the relevance, quality, and access of TVET</p> <p>Expand ASEAN-ROK educational exchanges</p> <p>Support and cooperate in improving and innovating distance learning systems</p> <p>Promote the advancement of public administration</p>	<p>Expand two-way cultural exchanges</p> <p>Increase support for the development of cultural and creative industries and MSMEs</p> <p>Strengthen active cooperation in tourism and sports</p> <p>Enhance multicultural inclusion</p> <p>Continue people-to-people exchanges by utilizing virtual and digital technologies</p>	<p>Strengthen supply chain connectivity, diversification and resilience</p> <p>Promote digital economy through e-commerce, e-government and e-services</p> <p>Provide support to MSMEs and smart infrastructure development</p>	<p>Strengthen cooperation to cope with climate change issues and reduce carbon footprints</p> <p>Expand cooperation to protect the oceans, biodiversity, and the environment</p> <p>Provide support to strengthen disaster management capacity</p> <p>Promote cooperation to combat terrorism, violent extremism, and other transnational crimes and non-traditional security</p>

Implementation Modalities

7. The ASEAN-ROK Joint Cooperation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “JCC”) Working Group shall monitor the operation of the AKCF to ensure that the programmes/projects are implemented in conformity with the Framework.
8. The ASEAN-ROK Project Management Team (hereinafter referred to as the “AKPMT”) shall ensure the effective utilization, management and execution of the AKCF by managing the entire cycle of programmes/projects including monitoring, evaluation, and consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat, AMS, the ROK, project proponents and partners.
9. To ensure accountability and transparency, the key process and the outcome of the programmes/projects, including its interim and completion reports will be shared to the above-mentioned stakeholders, and relevant information shall be posted on the AKCF website, on a timely basis.

10. In order to enhance the impact and visibility of programmes/projects, project proponents/implementing agencies shall include plans for public relations/information sharing when submitting their proposals, and ensure that the above mentioned stakeholders are informed of these plans in advance and invited to participate.
11. Further information about operational rules and practices, including administration and disbursement of the fund, applied to the AKCF programmes/projects is provided in the AKCF Manual posted on the AKCF website.

Entry into Force

12. The Framework is reviewed and adopted every five years at the annual meeting of the JCC or when necessary, in between its annual meetings. The previous Framework shall be effective until a new Framework is agreed upon by ASEAN and the ROK. Any revision, amendment or modification will not prejudice the completion of ongoing programmes/projects.

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