

**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE**

**Development co-operation systems in Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam**

This paper examines key characteristics of six particularly active Southeast Asian providers of development co-operation – Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam – and outlines development co-operation trends in the Southeast Asian region.

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# Abstract

This paper examines key characteristics of six particularly active Southeast Asian providers of development co-operation – Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam – and outlines development co-operation trends in the Southeast Asian region.

# Foreword

As the target year for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development approaches and more official providers of development co-operation join the global community, new methods and approaches arise. This paper brings evidence from South East Asia to the attention of members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), so as to increase mutual understanding and maximise the total benefit of development co-operation. It supports the implementation of the DAC's Global Relations Strategy and especially the commitment to engage with Asian official providers of development co-operation.

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# Abbreviations and acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEC	ASEAN Economic Community
AIPD	Asia Infrastructure Project Development Private Limited
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
BAPA	Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries
BAPA+40	Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Co-operation
Bappenas	Ministry of National Development Planning of Indonesia
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Co-operation
CHOGM	First Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CLMV	Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines
FAO	United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation
FEP	Foreign Economic Relations Department of Viet Nam
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	German Agency for International Co-operation <i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</i>
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
IAI	Initiative for ASEAN Integration
Indo-AID	Agency for International Development Co-operation of Indonesia
IPA	Investment Protect Agreement
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment of Viet Nam
MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Partnership
MTCP	Malaysia Technical Co-operation Programme

NEDA	Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Co-operation Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMTDP	National Medium-Term Development Plans of Indonesia's Government
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RPJPN	National Long-Term Development Plan 2005-2025 of Indonesia
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SCE	Singapore Cooperation Enterprise
SCP	Singapore Cooperation Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIF	Singapore International Foundation
SIRIM	Standard and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia
SSC	South-South Co-operation
SSTC	South-South and Triangular Co-operation
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
TCDC	Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries
TICA	Thailand International Cooperation Agency
TICP	Thailand International Cooperation Programme
TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership

# Executive summary

Southeast Asia is one of the most dynamic regions in the world, with a growing influence on the global economy and an ambitious regional integration roadmap. Over the past decades, several countries in the region have expanded their co-operation with other countries. Six of them – Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam – are particularly active and have become providers of development co-operation in their own way. They are all members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and their development co-operation strategies focus on the benefit of fellow ASEAN member countries, in an attempt to narrow the development gap between them and alleviate poverty in the region.

Indonesia is a champion of South-South and Triangular co-operation and of blended finance approaches, and is actively working with non-governmental partners and the private sector in its development co-operation. The country set up a dedicated development co-operation agency in 2019. Malaysia has established a robust programme of South-South Co-operation, the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), focuses on training in areas such as public administration, agriculture, poverty alleviation, and investment promotion. The Philippines has two governmental entities working on development co-operation – the Department of Foreign Affairs and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) – advancing training, technical and economic co-operation programmes, and research on technical requirements of developing countries and LDCs. Singapore works through the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), which focuses on capacity-building programmes for developing countries in support of the 2030 Agenda. Thailand has since 2004 a dedicated agency, the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) which has transformed itself from dealing with incoming aid to providing development co-operation through trainings, scholarships, and programmes to dispatch national experts to partner countries. Viet Nam's development co-operation is nascent. The Foreign Economic Relations Department in the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) deals with co-ordination of incoming ODA to Viet Nam, but has over time started to also provide development co-operation, in the form of evaluation and monitoring and through dispatching Vietnamese experts and technicians to Africa and neighbouring countries.

At regional level, there are also trends pointing towards enhanced regional co-operation, especially as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. ASEAN has intensely discussed responses to COVID-19 and agreed in 2020 to an ASEAN COVID-19 Response Fund and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF). This could lead to a more regional approach to development co-operation, in parallel to the advances of bilateral approaches described in this report.

The analysis here points to three major recommendations for Southeast Asian providers of development co-operation:

- At bilateral level, more data on development co-operation could be made public, in anticipation of growing demands for transparency of activities and accountability.
- At regional level, increasing coordination – possibly within the ASEAN framework – could help improve information sharing, mutual accountability, and possibly lead to joint programming. A first

step towards such regional approach to development co-operation could be the setting up of a regular exchange of information on projects, priorities and programmes.

- Finally, engagement with the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) could be mutually beneficial on triangular co-operation, the impact of development co-operation policies, climate action, and finance for sustainable development – including to discuss the “concessional character” of development co-operation modalities and the use of blended finance approaches.

# 1 Development co-operation in Southeast Asia

## The history of development co-operation in Southeast Asia

The role of Southeast Asian countries as development co-operation partners can be traced back to the 1950s. The Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955 was one of the first opportunities for developing countries in Southeast Asia to become aware of their role in global economic development. The final communiqué of the Bandung Conference provided the basis for South-South Co-operation (SSC), with concrete proposals made for promoting technical co-operation in the economic, political, technological and cultural spheres. (Timossi, 2015<sup>[1]</sup>)

The Southeast Asian region is composed of ten countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. All of these countries have once been recipients of development co-operation, while some have developed into dual provider-recipients. (OECD, 2022<sup>[2]</sup>)

*“There was general desire for economic co-operation among the participating countries on the basis of mutual interest and respect for national sovereignty. The proposals with regard to economic co-operation within the participating countries do not preclude either the desirability or the need for co-operation with countries outside the region, including the investment of foreign capital.*

*The participating countries agreed to provide technical assistance to one another, to the maximum extent practicable, in the form of: experts, trainees, pilot projects and equipment for demonstration purposes; exchange of know-how and establishment of national, and where possible, regional training and research institutes for imparting technical knowledge and skills in co-operation with the existing international agencies.”*

*Final Communiqué of the Asian-African conference of Bandung, 24 April 1955 (Bandung, 1955<sup>[3]</sup>)*

The importance of international development co-operation between and among developing countries has been recognised since 1955 and has been encapsulated in the notion of South-South Co-operation. In 1978, the United Nations organised the first United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. In its concluding document – the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (BAPA) – signatories encouraged greater South-South Co-operation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2010<sup>[4]</sup>). Around this time, several countries in Southeast Asia started development co-operation systems as aid providers. They began to formalise bilateral co-operation and collaborated on knowledge exchanges, technical co-operation in a number of fields.

*“In this historic new stage of progress towards the attainment of the new international economic order, technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) is becoming a critically important dimension. It is a means of building communication and of promoting wider and more effective co-operation among developing countries. It is a vital force for initiating, designing, organising and promoting co-operation among developing countries so that they can create, acquire, adapt, transfer and pool knowledge and experience for their mutual*

*benefit and for achieving national and collective self-reliance, which are essential for their social and economic development.”*

*The BAPA Final Document, 12 September 1978 (UNOSSC, 1978<sup>[5]</sup>)*

**Table 1.1. Timeline of development co-operation in Southeast Asia**

Country	Year	Events
Indonesia	1981	Started technical co-operation projects in agriculture, health and disaster-management sectors
	2019	Announced the launch of the Indonesian Agency for International Development (Indo-AID)
Malaysia	1980	Launched the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP)
The Philippines	1970s	Started triangular co-operation projects with countries in Asia/Africa and UN agencies
Thailand	1973	Started bilateral development co-operation with neighbouring CLMV countries
	2004	Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) started to implement development co-operation
Singapore	1992	Established the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP)
Viet Nam	Early 2000s	Started implementation of triangular co-operation projects

Source: Authors' own compilation.

# 2 Profiles of development co-operation providers in Southeast Asia

## Indonesia

### *Policies and strategies*

The inception of Indonesia's development co-operation dates back to the country hosting the Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung in 1955. Indonesia institutionalised its development co-operation in 1981, with the implementation of technical co-operation projects in the agriculture, health and disaster-management sectors. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2010<sup>[4]</sup>) The [National Long-Term Development Plan \(RPJPN\) 2005-2025](#) is the first governmental document officially stating its commitment to development co-operation.

*“Actualizing Indonesia’s increasing role in international level is defined as strengthening Indonesia’s diplomacy to fight for her national interest; keeping on the sustainability of Indonesia’s commitment on identity development, regional and international integration; and supporting the cooperation in international, regional, and bilateral level, between societies, between groups, and also between institutions, in any fields.”*

Source: *National Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN) 2005-2025* (Center for East Asian Cooperation Studies, 2010<sup>[6]</sup>)<sup>1</sup>

The Government of Indonesia divides the RPJPN 2005-2025 into three National Medium-Term Development Plans (NMTDP). The current [NMTDP 2020-2024](#) mentions development co-operation focusing on improvement in trade and investment to encourage economic growth quality. (The Government of Indonesia, 2020<sup>[7]</sup>) The NMTDP also states that Indonesia is enhancing South-South and Triangular Co-operation to exchange knowledge and expertise in the industrial sector, and strengthening the funding mechanisms such as export financing. Furthermore, the NMTDP emphasises the importance of involving non-governmental stakeholders and the private sector, which aligns with Indonesia's proactive stance on promoting blended finance in development co-operation. In fact, having a policy for multi-stakeholder engagement, Indonesia has enhanced its focus beyond the region and increasingly works with Africa. Indonesia implements, for instance, technical co-operation projects under the *Reverse Linkage*

<sup>1</sup> The original RPJPN exists only in Indonesian. The quotation here is taken from the report of the Center for East Asian Cooperation Studies.

*programme*<sup>2</sup> of the Islamic Development Bank and through private sector engagement in several African countries. (Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), 2018<sup>[8]</sup>)

The Government of Indonesia also works closely with the OECD on development co-operation issues. For instance, the President of Indonesia and the OECD Secretary-General launched in 2018 the *Tri Hita Karana Roadmap for Blended Finance*, a multi-stakeholder initiative aiming to advance principles and shared values for effective blended finance. (OECD, 2018<sup>[9]</sup>)<sup>3</sup> Indonesia and the OECD also work together on triangular co-operation (Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Co-operation, 2019<sup>[10]</sup>), on the ocean's economy (OECD, 2021<sup>[11]</sup>) and on development finance statistics, where Indonesia became the first G20 country to conduct a pilot study on Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (Delalande et al., 2020<sup>[12]</sup>) and has been an active member of the International Task Force developing the TOSSD framework. The OECD Development Centre (DEV) has collaborated with Indonesia on social protection policies (OECD, 2019<sup>[13]</sup>) which Indonesia has fed into its own development co-operation programmes.

### ***Institutions***

Indonesia's National Coordination Team for South-South and Triangular Co-operation (NCT) is comprised of the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the State Secretariat, and leads the country's development co-operation system. While the NCT co-ordinates Indonesia's development co-operation, the implementation is done by line ministries specialised in each sector. Furthermore, the NCT continues to strengthen the governance of south-south and triangular co-operation, outreach, and promotion to increase domestic and international awareness of Indonesia's contribution to south-south and triangular co-operation activities.

In 2019, the Indonesian government announced the creation of an Agency for International Development co-operation (Indo-AID). The new agency has been described as a diplomatic tool and as a way of making a more significant contribution to international development co-operation, as well as to ensure global partnership in development. Details are still being worked out as to the exact mandate of the Agency, including an update of the regulations on the aid management (the Government Regulation on Aid Management date from 2018 and 2019; PP Pemberian Hibah no. 48/2018 & no. 57/2019), and its relations with other ministries and bodies in Indonesia. (OECD, 2020<sup>[14]</sup>) The sectorial focuses will be the prevention and relief of natural disasters and humanitarian crises, through which the Agency aims to enhance Indonesia's participation in fulfilling the global 2030 Agenda. (Yasmin, 2019<sup>[15]</sup>)

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<sup>2</sup> Reverse Linkage is a technical co-operation mechanism enabled by the Islamic Development Bank whereby member countries and Muslim communities in non-member countries exchange their knowledge, expertise, technology and resources to develop their capacities and devise solutions for their autonomous development.

<sup>3</sup> The objectives of the roadmap are: 1) to anchor blended finance into the SDGs; 2) to commit to using blended finance to mobilise commercial finance; 3) to design blended finance to move towards commercial sustainability; 4) to structure blended finance to build inclusive markets; and 5) to promote transparency when engaging in blended finance.

**Table 2.1. Indonesia's development co-operation by implementing body (2016)**

Implementing body	Budget in 2016 (USD)	Budgetary Share	Target countries
State Secretariat	354,726	4%	Colombo Plan countries, Kenya, Cameroon, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Myanmar, Timor-Leste
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2,231,859	22%	Madagascar, Gambia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Island, Mexico, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Palestine
Ministry of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources	58,027	1%	ASEAN countries, South Asia, Africa
Ministry of Industry	49,118	0%	Lao PDR, Myanmar
Ministry of Transport	640,875	6%	Bhutan, Lao PDR, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mexico, Kenya, Mongolia, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Thailand, Viet Nam, the Philippines
Ministry of Marine and Fishery	140,850	1%	Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island, New Caledonia, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Palestine, Pakistan, Timor-Leste
Ministry of Culture and Primary Secondary Education	4,940,762	50%	N/A
Ministry of Public Works and Human Settlements	35,625	0%	Timor-Leste
Bappenas	327,062	3%	N/A
Ministry of Agriculture	1,046,517	11%	Kyrgyzstan, Vanuatu, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island, New Caledonia, Tanzania, Gambia, Pacific region
National Agency for Population and Family Planning	103,916	1%	N/A

Note: 1 Indonesian Rupiah = USD 0.000075 (exchange rate on 31 December 2016)

Source: Integrated study of international development cooperation policy (Bappenas, 2016<sup>[16]</sup>).

### **Modalities and financial resources**

The three main themes of Indonesia's development co-operation are development (poverty eradication, agriculture, disaster risk management, infrastructure planning and budgeting, education), economic issues (macroeconomic management, public finance management, micro finance for MSMEs) and good governance and peacebuilding (democracy, peace, conflict resolution, law enforcement, central and local government engagement). They are implemented through technical co-operation programmes, training and workshops, and seminars and knowledge-sharing.

Indonesia also channels funds through multilateral organisations and collaborates with several bilateral donors, United Nations (UN) agencies and multilateral development banks under a triangular co-operation framework to provide technical assistance and knowledge transfer to developing countries.

Indonesia estimates that in the period of 2016 to 2019, its development co-operation financing reached approximately USD 989.27 million. The funds were channelled as capital contributions to multilateral organisations (77%), mainly the AIIB, which received the largest share (83%); the Islamic Development Bank; the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector; the International Fund for

Agricultural Development and the International Development Association. The remaining 23% was channelled through international organisations and South-South and triangular co-operation

According to OECD estimates, Indonesia’s international development co-operation reached USD 157 million in 2019, up from 139 million in 2017. The OECD estimates include information that Indonesia provided to the OECD in 2019 for the pilot on Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) (Delalande et al., 2020<sub>[12]</sub>). Indonesia’s contributions to multilateral organisations totalled USD 141.4 million. These were primarily channelled through Regional Development Banks (83%) – mainly the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) – and through the United Nations (17%).

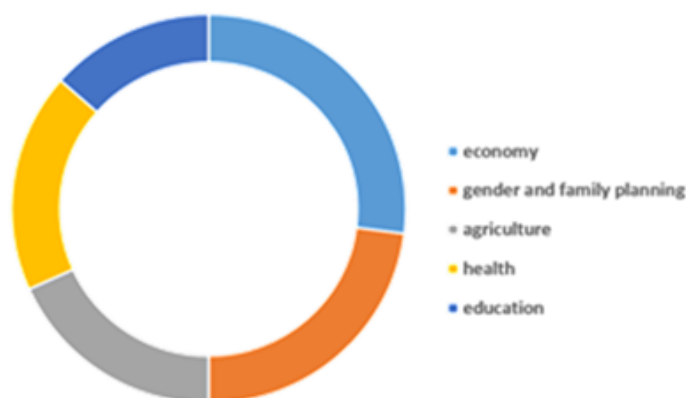
**Figure 2.1. Indonesia’s contribution to international development co-operation, 2016-19**



Source: Government of Indonesia (2021<sub>[17]</sub>; 2019<sub>[18]</sub>)

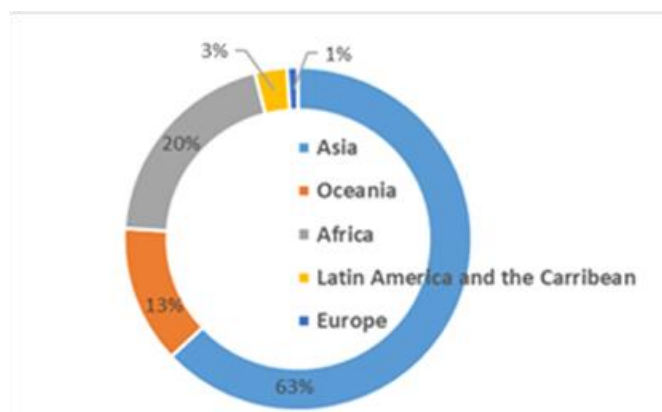
In terms of distribution by sector and by region, the following tables provide an overview of Indonesia’s development co-operation activities.

**Figure 2.2. Indonesia’s development co-operation by sector (2016)**



Source: OECD Development Co-operation Profiles (2021<sub>[19]</sub>), <https://doi.org/10.1787/2dcf1367-en>.

**Figure 2.3. Regional distribution of Indonesia's development co-operation (2016)**

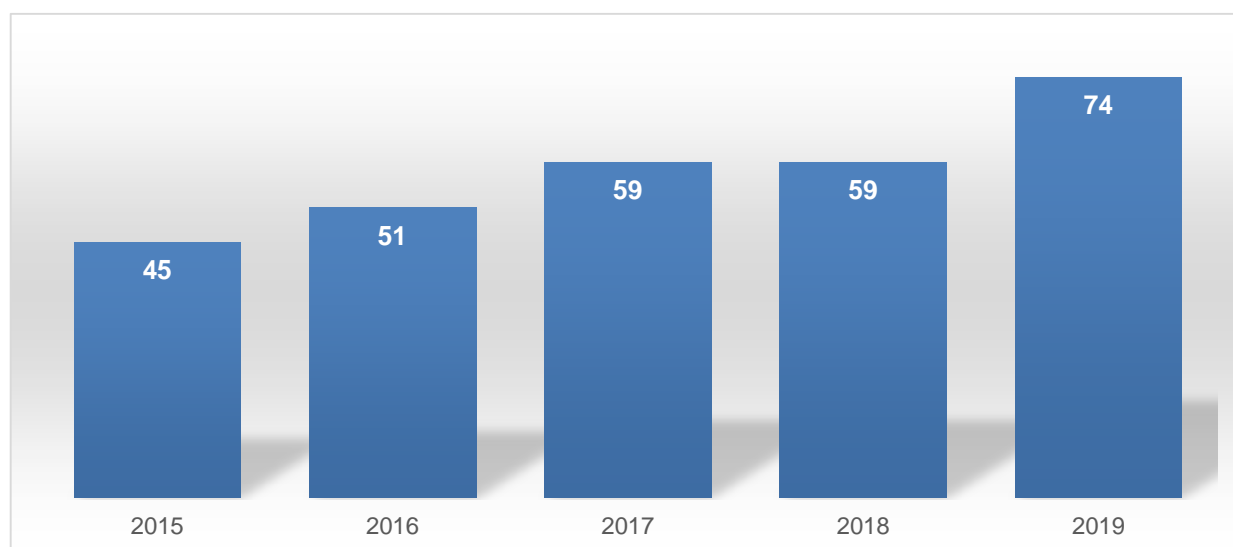


Source: Annual report of Indonesia's South-South and Triangular Co-operation (2016)<sup>[20]</sup>

In terms of financing South-South and triangular co-operation activities, Indonesia's development co-operation efforts dropped in 2016 (standing at USD 5.3 million), but have since risen consistently over the last four years (reaching USD 54.6 million in 2019). (Republic of Indonesia, 2019)<sup>[21]</sup> In addition, Indonesia is a member of the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Co-operation (GPI), a global platform for exchange and joint learning on triangular co-operation.

In 2019, Indonesia implemented 74 South-South and triangular co-operation activities, the most in the last 5 years. These 74 activities were conducted mostly in the Asia-Pacific region, Africa and Europe and involved 1 305 participants from 134 countries. The activities focused on the following sectors: forestry and environment (12%), health (11%), maritime affairs and fisheries (10%), gender and family planning (10%), agriculture (10%), economy (10%), and anti-corruption and law enforcement (10%).

**Figure 2.4. Technical Co-operation Programmes, 2014-19, Indonesia, South-South and Triangular Co-operation**



Source: (Indonesia South-South Cooperation Annual Report, 2020)<sup>[22]</sup>

### **Partnership with OECD DAC members**

Indonesia partners in triangular co-operation with several DAC members. The OECD triangular co-operation repository of projects lists several projects with DAC countries, including Germany, Japan, Korea, and the United States. (OECD, 2022<sup>[23]</sup>) For instance, one of Indonesia's first triangular co-operation projects was in 1981 and involved Japan, through Japan's International Co-operation Agency (JICA), when they provided supplemental training for Low-Cost Housing training in Japan (JICA Research Institute, 2012<sup>[24]</sup>) Germany's recent co-operation with Indonesia covers a wide range of activities, including elaborating the first Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) Guidelines in order to advance meaningful engagements with partners from all sectors of society and to ensure the principle of "leaving no one behind" in 2019. (OECD, 2020<sup>[25]</sup>) Indonesia's co-operation with Germany is extended to Germany's support of the establishment of Indo-AID. The United States have established a partnership with the Government of Indonesia for South-South and triangular co-operation in view of strengthening Indonesia's capacity to provide development co-operation that is strategic, effective, and that delivers results in third countries. (Development Aid, 2016<sup>[26]</sup>) Australia has announced its will to enhance triangular co-operation with Indonesia, especially for countries in the Pacific, in its Plan of Action for the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2020-2024). (Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2019<sup>[27]</sup>) In addition, as a member of the G20, Indonesia has actively advanced developing countries' perspectives in this framework<sup>4</sup>, and especially since it took the G20 Presidency on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.<sup>5</sup> As the only member of the G20 from the ASEAN region, Indonesia plays an important role in bringing the voices of ASEAN members and moreover, developing countries, to this global forum and to advance the notion of equal partners for global development co-operation. (Zamroni, 2010<sup>[28]</sup>) Indonesia is also one of five Key Partners of the OECD, as well as the first co-chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC).<sup>6</sup> (OECD, 2021<sup>[29]</sup>)

## **Malaysia**

### **Policies and strategies**

Malaysia first initiated its development co-operation programme, the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) at the First Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Sydney in 1978. The purpose of MTCP is to share Malaysia's development experiences and expertise with other developing countries through technical co-operation programmes and to enhance regional and sub-regional co-operation, as well as to raise collective self-reliance among developing countries. (Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, 2022<sup>[30]</sup>) Malaysia itself has indeed achieved economic development based on its long-term national strategy, "The Way Forward (Vision 2020)"<sup>7</sup>. In this long-term vision, Malaysia recognises the importance of international co-operation, the Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010) particularly emphasising its importance (Economic Planning Unit, 2006<sup>[31]</sup>). The subsequent Tenth

<sup>4</sup> The G20 Development Working Group (DWG) Key Elements of Quality Infrastructure for Connectivity Enhancement towards Sustainable Development (2019/Japanese presidency) notes.

<sup>5</sup> Under its G20 Presidency in 2022, Indonesia confirmed its plans in the G20 Development Working Group (DWG) to focus on three topics: strengthening recovery; innovative instruments & blended finance, and renewed multilateralism.

<sup>6</sup> For further information, refer to the website of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC): <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/>

<sup>7</sup> See <https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/vision%202020.pdf>

(2011-2015)<sup>8</sup> and Eleventh Mid-term National Plans (2016-2020)<sup>9</sup> do not have a dedicated clause on development co-operation which is only touched upon in the sectorial programmes written in each chapter of the Plan.

*“Malaysia will continue to intensify efforts to strengthen international co-operation towards the formulation of appropriate policy options and strategies to enable developing countries to harness the benefits of globalisation on a more equitable basis. (...) To further strengthen the MTCP, new strategies will be undertaken to enhance co-operation with the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). While the MTCP will continue to focus on building human capital in co-operation with other developing countries, it will also support initiatives that will further enhance bilateral relations.”*

Source: Chapter 27, the Ninth Mid-Term National Plan 2006-2010 (Malaysia Economic Planning Unit, 2006)<sup>[32]</sup>

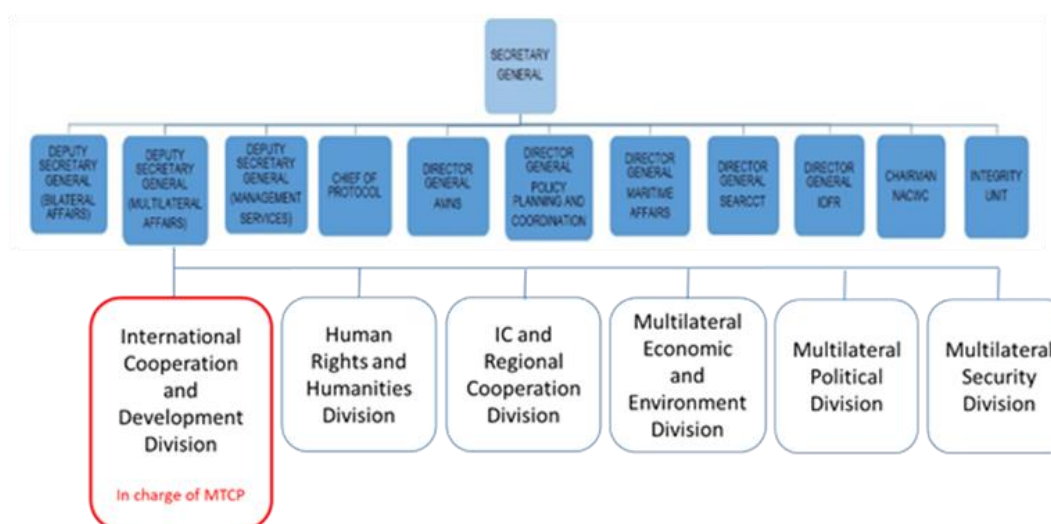
### **Institutions**

Since 2010, the International Co-operation and Development Division in the Department of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the MTCP, superseding the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) in the Prime Minister’s Office. The four main objectives of the MTCP are:

- To share experiences with other developing countries;
- To strengthen bilateral ties with developing countries;
- To encourage and promote South-South co-operation;
- To encourage and promote technical co-operation within developing countries.

Practical information, such as training programmes or application processes, is included in the MTCP’s webpage<sup>10</sup>, however it is not known how co-operation results are monitored and evaluated. (Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), 2013)<sup>[33]</sup>

**Figure 2.5. Organisational Chart of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia**



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Organisational Chart (2021)<sup>[34]</sup>, <https://www.kln.gov.my/web/guest/organisational-structure>.

<sup>8</sup> See [https://www.pmo.gov.my/dokumenattached/RMK/RMK10\\_E.pdf](https://www.pmo.gov.my/dokumenattached/RMK/RMK10_E.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> See [https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/11th\\_Malaysia\\_plan.pdf](https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/11th_Malaysia_plan.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> See <https://biasiswa.mohe.gov.my/INTER/nyroModalDoc/mtcp.php>

### **Modalities and financial resources**

The MTCP gives attention to the following sectors: public administration, agriculture, poverty alleviation, investment promotion, ICT, banking and English language training. (United Nations Economic and Social Council, 2008<sup>[35]</sup>) The training participants come mainly from Asian countries, including CLMV countries, as well as member countries of the South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), and African countries. Countries who have a GDP per capita of USD 5 000 or above are not eligible to MTCP development co-operation programmes. The MTCP collaborates with its leading training institutions and governmental agencies registered in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to conduct capacity building programmes in various key areas of development. As of 2018, more than 32,800 participants from 143 recipient countries have benefited from the various programmes offered by the MTCP.<sup>11</sup> (Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), 2018<sup>[36]</sup>)

### **Partnership with DAC members**

Although MTCP is a robust structure for South-South co-operation, triangular co-operation with DAC members is not as common as it is with Thailand or Indonesia. Australia, Germany and Japan are the principal partners of triangular co-operation programmes with Malaysia. (OECD, 2022<sup>[23]</sup>) Japan has been one of the largest co-operation partner for Malaysia, and has been actively supporting Malaysia's South-South co-operation, including by focusing on sharing expertise on trade promotion and the developing SMEs. (MTCP, 2021<sup>[37]</sup>) (Japan International Cooperation Agency, 2017<sup>[38]</sup>) The Standard and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM) currently functions as one of the largest partner agencies for triangular co-operation in Malaysia, which has been receiving development co-operation support from Japan for over 20 years. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2010<sup>[4]</sup>) Germany conducted triangular co-operation programmes with Malaysia from 2012 to 2016 for beneficiaries in Southeast Asia, with a view to enhance Malaysia's implementation capacity of development co-operation. Germany advised Malaysia for instance on the systematic development of both its structures and resources, and on shaping the processes necessary for triangular co-operation projects in close collaboration with target countries. (GIZ, 2016<sup>[39]</sup>) Additionally, a pilot project on corporate social responsibility in Cambodia's port was completed, as well as a project on the fisheries sector of Timor-Leste.

## **The Philippines**

### **Policies and strategies**

The Philippines' development co-operation commenced in the 1970s, through South-South and triangular co-operation. With a rapid economic growth in the 1990s, the Philippines also established a bilateral technical co-operation structure. The current national development plan, Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, mentions international co-operation in terms of financial management; science, technology and innovation (STI); and public security (Government of Philippines, 2016<sup>[40]</sup>). It is principally addressed at the national development of the Philippines itself and only implicitly extended to the country's development co-operation efforts.

The Philippines's development co-operation programme has advanced over the past decades, although the country does not yet have an integrated development co-operation strategy. The statement of The Philippines during the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Co-operation (BAPA+40) exemplifies this. The government announced that it will share its knowledge and best practices in agriculture, science and technology, education, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), climate

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<sup>11</sup> Figures by sectors and/or recipients are not available in the report.

change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction through the Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines and other governmental agencies.

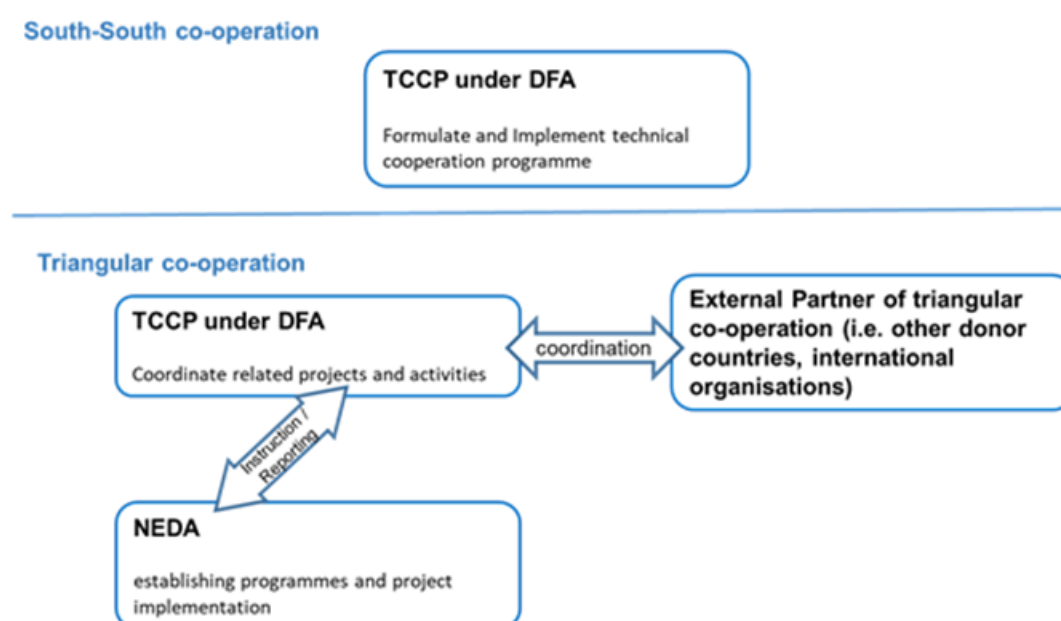
*“We will continue to provide assistance to our friends in the ASEAN and the larger Asia Pacific region. Moving forward, we will also enhance engagements with Latin America and Africa as much as our resources allow.”*

*BAPA+40 National Statement of the Philippines, 22 March 2019 (Republic of The Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs, 2019<sup>[41]</sup>)*

### ***Institutional set-up***

The Philippines does not have a dedicated institution that supervises development co-operation. Rather, development co-operation falls under the responsibility of two governmental entities: the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)<sup>12</sup>. Under the DFA, the Technical Co-operation Council of the Philippines (TCCP) is in charge of formulating and implementing South-South co-operation programmes. The Council’s mandate focuses on offering non-degree training courses, coordinating projects and activities focusing on technical and economic co-operation among developing countries and undertaking research on technical assistance needs of the Philippines and developing countries. Beyond being in charge of co-ordinating and administrating triangular co-operation activities with representatives from local governments and with NGOs, the TCCP is also mandated to undertake research on the technical requirements of developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs). (Republic of The Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs, 2018<sup>[42]</sup>) The NEDA takes the main responsibility for establishing programmes and project implementation.

**Figure 2.6. Development co-operation structure of the Philippines**



Source: Authors' compilation.

<sup>12</sup> The NEDA is in its origin a recipient agency of development co-operation by foreign donors to The Philippines.

### ***Modalities and financial resources***

The sectorial focuses of the Philippines' development co-operation are diverse, namely including agriculture, health, education, foreign investment promotion, disaster risk management, transport and governance. In addition, current issues related to the resettlement of immigrants and refugees are of increasing importance. Although the main recipients are CLMV countries, some beneficiaries of triangular co-operation are evident also in Africa, including Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, Sierra Leone, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Mali, Liberia and Burkina Faso.

### ***Partnerships with DAC members***

The Philippines implements its triangular co-operation with several DAC countries and international organisations. Germany and Japan are the largest development partners for the Philippines and support the Philippines in the execution of technical training programmes targeting CLMV countries and African countries. For example, the German Agency for International Co-operation (GIZ) has been active in the Philippines since the 1970s, and is working on several projects with the Government to make the country less vulnerable to the effects of climate change; through enhancing capabilities to conserve natural resources, strengthening ecosystem services, and taking measures to reduce carbon emissions. (GIZ, 2020<sup>[43]</sup>) The Philippines conducted a TOSSD Pilot in 2018 (Delalande, 2018<sup>[44]</sup>), having been co-Chair of the TOSSD Task Force from 2017-2019.

## **Singapore**

### ***Policies and strategies***

Singapore has been contributing to South-South and Triangular Co-operation since the 1960s. Having benefited from assistance from other countries and international organisations in their early years of independence, Singapore now pays it forward through the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), which was established in 1992 and is administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As a country with people as their main resource, human capital development is critical for Singapore's sustainable development. Through the SCP, Singapore shares its development experiences with fellow developing countries through capacity-building programmes. To date, more than 137,000 officials from over 180 countries, territories, and intergovernmental organisations (IO) have participated in SCP programmes.

SCP programmes cover a wide range of topics such as sustainability, resilience building, trade and economy, and connectivity, to support developing countries in their implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The country reviews its programmes annually to ensure that they continue to meet the evolving needs of developing countries.

The SCP adheres to the principles of South-South Co-operation, such as the respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference with domestic affairs and mutual benefit. It recognises that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to development solutions, and participants are encouraged to share their own experiences to enrich others' learning experiences, and to adapt what they have learned to suit their own national circumstances.

On average, the SCP runs about 300 programmes for about 6,000 participants per year. With the outbreak of COVID-19, it transitioned from in-person courses to virtual courses in August 2020.<sup>13</sup> (Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), 2021<sup>[45]</sup>)

### **Focus Areas**

The majority of SCP's participants are from Asia-Pacific. The SCP supports ASEAN-wide initiatives such as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and the ASEAN Smart Cities Network. It also offers special technical assistance packages for small states, in particular, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as follows:

1. Singapore Partnership for the SAMOA Pathway (SPa): Launched in 2018, the package offers SIDS: i) priority placement in SCP courses; ii) regional and bilateral customised programmes; and iii) civil aviation and maritime fellowships.
2. Climate Action Package (CAP): Established in 2018, the CAP aims to build the capacities of fellow developing countries, especially SIDS and Least Developed Countries, in building climate resilience.
3. "FOSS for Good" Technical Assistance Package: Run from 2022 to 2023, the package aims to provide all Forum of Small States (FOSS) members with a platform to share experiences on common development challenges, including COVID-19 recovery and digital transformation.

### **Partnerships with DAC members**

Singapore works with like-minded partners, both international and local, to deliver capacity-building programmes. The country also invites private sector and civil society organisations to participate in its programmes to share their perspectives. It aims to help the participants benefit from a wide variety of perspectives for a more well-rounded learning experience.

Singapore has established Third Country Training Partnerships with other countries and IOs. This includes several DAC members, namely Australia, Japan and the US. The country also has partnerships with DAC observers. For example, it jointly established the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Singapore Regional Training Institute (STI) with the IMF in 1998 to provide capacity-building programmes to government officials from the Asia-Pacific region. STI's suite of programmes focusses on economic and financial management issues, with 30 courses run annually. More than 15,000 officials have participated in SCP-supported programmes at the STI. Singapore also works with development partners like the World Bank Group, the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to enhance knowledge sharing as well as mobilise private resources for infrastructure projects in Asia.

## **Thailand**

### **Policies and Strategies**

Thailand has implemented development co-operation from a relatively early time. Officially, Thailand started its development co-operation in 1955 when the country presented the "Thailand International

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<sup>13</sup> In addition to the SCP, the Ministry of Trade and Industry together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established the Singapore Co-operation Enterprise (SCE) in 2006, to respond to interest in Singapore's unique economic development experience. The SCE was integrated in the Enterprise Singapore in 2012, which is now Singapore's official agency championing enterprise development.

Cooperation Programme (TICP)”, which is mainly composed of technical co-operation programmes and provides the strategic framework for the country’s international development co-operation. Thailand engaged already in the 1970s in regional co-operation within the ASEAN region. This “early” development co-operation was still on an ad-hoc basis, and it was with the increase of the budget for TICP in 1992 when the country obtained an overall strategy for its development co-operation activities. The current development co-operation priorities of Thailand are based on the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan 2017-2021<sup>14</sup>. Strategy 10 of the Plan is dedicated to international co-operation for development.

*“Thailand’s strategy to advance international co-operation under the Twelfth Plan is based on the principles of free thinking, liberalization, and opportunity creation to expand and intensify cooperation with partner countries on the economy, society, security, and in other fields.*

*The next five-year period will be fundamentally crucial in pushing forward institutional connectivity at the sub-regional and regional levels to implementation, extending linkages across borders under various sub-regional and regional frameworks, and reducing Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), while also improving physical infrastructure both domestically and internationally with respect to infrastructure investment schemes.”*

*12th National Economic and Social Development Plan 2017-2021, Strategy 10 (Thailand Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, 2016<sub>(46)</sub>)*

### **The 20-year “5S” Foreign Affairs Masterplan**

*“Thailand’s newly minted 20-year Foreign Affairs Masterplan reveals dynamic and integrated vision that is set to propel the nation into a developed, stable, prosperous and sustainable country in supportive of the 20-Year National Strategy. Named the “5S Strategy”, the Plan calls for diplomacy and partnership efforts that will lead the country to achieve substantial gains in 20 years’ time in **five key strategic priorities: Security, Sustainability, Standard, Status and Synergy.**”*

#### **Security**

*“The Masterplan aims to keep Thailand safe and secure from all forms of external security challenges with both traditional and non-traditional threats, including transnational organised crime, terrorism, epidemics and disasters.”*

#### **Sustainability**

*“The Masterplan underlines the commitment to strengthen the economy through enhancing competitiveness while ensuring green growth. As the world reaches the 4th Industrial Revolution, innovation-based development will be the game changer for the Thai economy.”*

*“The Plan seeks to enhance Thailand’s role as an international partner for sustainable development, as shared prosperity is an important principle of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”*

#### **Standard**

*“As Thailand strives to become a developed country, the government has made concerted efforts to enhance all facets of the country’s development to be in-line with international standards. This includes effective implementation of international obligations, which are crucial to sustainable development such as the protection of human rights, eradication of human trafficking and forced labour in supply chains.”*

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See [https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/thailand\\_national\\_economic\\_and\\_social\\_development\\_plan\\_nes\\_dp.pdf](https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/thailand_national_economic_and_social_development_plan_nes_dp.pdf)

### Status

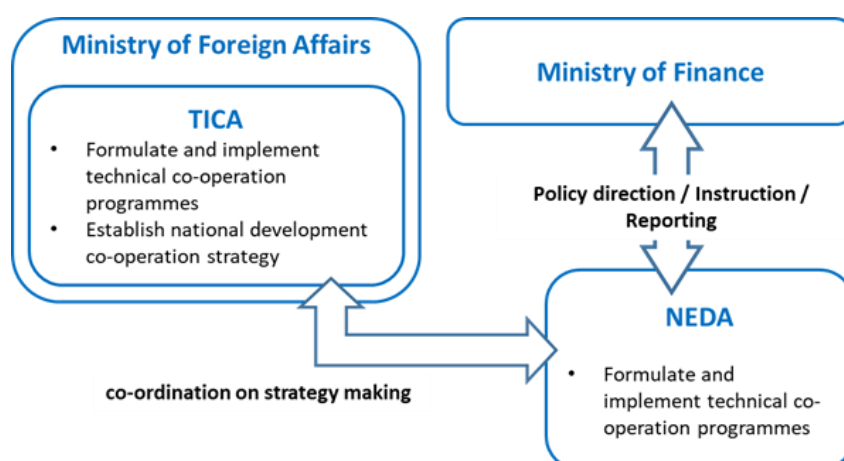
*“Another key aspect of the “5S” Masterplan is a focus on enhancing Thailand’s status in the international community through its soft power diplomacy. Thailand’s standing will be achieved through worldwide promotion of the unique and legendary Thai culture and gastronomy as well as through development diplomacy.”<sup>15</sup>*

### Institutions

Thailand International Co-operation Agency (TICA) is the main department in charge of development co-operation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for technical co-operation with all countries. TICA’s initial responsibility was the management of incoming aid to Thailand, but it started treating also outgoing aid in 2004. It provides a number of trainings, post-graduate scholarships, fellowships and study visits as well as programmes to dispatch national experts and volunteers to partner countries. In its establishment, TICA received support from international communities to strengthen its administrative capacities. TICA has overseas representatives, in Thai embassies in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

The Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA) also implements international co-operation, with the aim to improve infrastructure in Mekong Region in order to accelerate trade and investment opportunities between Thailand and its neighbouring countries. NEDA is an independent agency, placed under the Ministry of Finance and is in charge of financial and technical co-operation linked to the provision of goods and services from Thai companies. Embassies of Thailand in recipient countries coordinate the concerned agencies for the NEDA, as the agency does not have its own dedicated staff or offices overseas. NEDA’s Department of International Organisations makes contributions to international organisations, such as the United Nations and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Some 17 other line ministries, including education, health, agriculture and transport, also provide grants for bilateral projects and make contributions to some multilateral organisations. NEDA’s overall contributions are worth USD 634.48 and cover 87 projects ranging from trainings to technical assistance (through project preparation and capacity building) and financial assistance (through concessional loans and grants). (NEDA, 2021<sup>[47]</sup>) These projects are mostly implemented in Lao PDR and Cambodia, but also in Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam. Coordination between TICA and NEDA could be enhanced to further increase the effectiveness of Thailand’s development co-operation.

**Figure 2.7. Organigram of development co-operation system of Thailand**



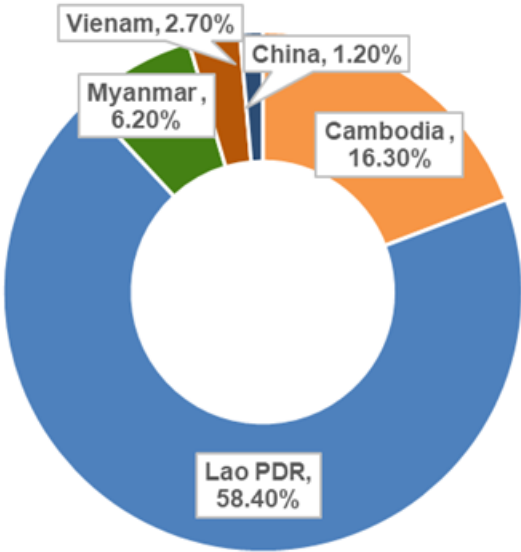
Source: Authors' compilation.

<sup>15</sup> Thai MFA's Website : <https://www.mfa.go.th/en/page/mfa-s-strategy?menu=5e1fd19757b01e005362c5f2>

**Modalities and financial resources**

In 2020, the total amount of Thailand’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) counted up USD 55.3 million, with 69% of it being provided bilaterally and the rest being international organisations contributions. Within the bilateral co-operation, about 13.4% of it, that is, about USD 5.1 million, was disbursed with loan modality, and 86.6% of it, about USD 33 million, was with grant assistance including technical co-operation (OECD, 2020<sup>[14]</sup>) Although Thailand’s bilateral ODA was primarily focused on neighbouring CLMV countries (58%), almost 95 countries from all over the world benefitted from Thailand’s international co-operation.

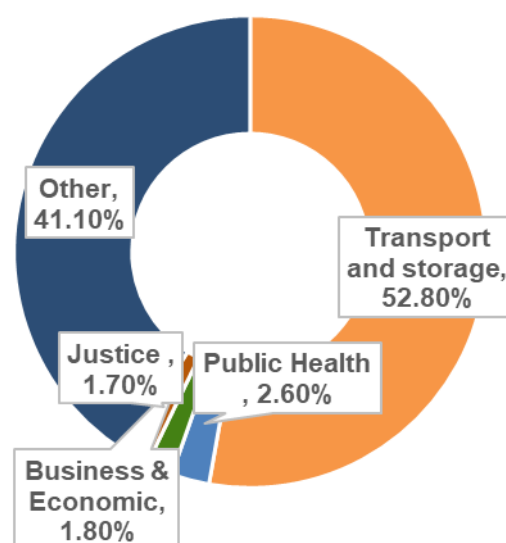
**Figure 2.8. Recipients of Thailand’s bilateral co-operation**



Source: Thailand International Cooperation Agency website (2022<sup>[48]</sup>), <https://tica-thaigov.mfa.go.th/en/page/overview-on-oda-2018?menu=5f477253fddf6e10407062d2>.

In terms of thematic focus, Thailand implements development co-operation in a variety of sectors, including infrastructure construction, economic development, climate change adaptation, public health, and agriculture and food security. Infrastructure – in the below table “Transport and storage” – accounts for 36.4% of the whole value of Thailand’s development co-operation in 2020, as 60% of the finance allocated to this sector is disbursed by both the Ministry of Transport and NEDA (25.3%) with its concessional loan scheme.

Figure 2.9. Thailand's bilateral development co-operation by sector



Source: Thailand International Cooperation Agency website (2022<sup>[48]</sup>), <https://tica-thaigov.mfa.go.th/en/page/overview-on-oda-2018?menu=5f477253fddf6e10407062d2>.

Thailand provides concessional loans to its neighbouring countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam) through NEDA. (NEDA, 2020<sup>[49]</sup>) The conditions for these loans are not publicly known. In 2018, for instance, a road construction project in Lao PDR was signed with an interest rate of 1.25%, and a repayment period of 25 years and a grace period of 7 years. (Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA), 2015<sup>[50]</sup>) This is broadly similar to the loan condition offered by most DAC providers. At the same time, Thailand's aid seems to have a high ratio of tied aid<sup>16</sup>, at times with 50% of products and services procured from Thailand. (Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA), 2015<sup>[51]</sup>)

### **Partnerships with DAC members**

According to the OECD triangular co-operation repository of projects, Thailand implements triangular co-operation with the DAC countries, especially Germany, Japan, Korea and Luxembourg. (Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), 2021<sup>[52]</sup>) In addition to these countries, TICA has established partnerships for development co-operation with several DAC countries and international organisations such as Australia, France, Singapore, Sweden, United States UNICEF and UNFPA. TICA is also seeking to forge partnership with other potential partners, including Brazil, Egypt, Turkey and Morocco. (Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), 2022<sup>[53]</sup>) Through building partnerships with these countries, Thailand seeks to establish a synergy and to pursue mutual interests in implementing development co-operation and in executing efficient triangular co-operation.

<sup>16</sup> Tied aid describes official grants or loans that limit procurement to companies in the donor country or in a small group of countries. Tied aid therefore often prevents recipient countries from receiving good value for money for services, goods, or works. (OECD, n.d.<sup>[100]</sup>)

## Viet Nam

### ***Policies and strategies***

Taking advantage of its experience and expertise in receiving foreign aid in a variety of sectors, Viet Nam has started to provide development co-operation to neighbouring countries in the early 2000s by participating in triangular co-operation. Recently, Viet Nam expanded its development co-operation activities by enhancing bilateral co-operation with Cambodia and Lao PDR, as well as with regional co-operation in the framework of the Greater Mekong Sub-Region. The foreign policy priorities of Viet Nam stress amongst others 'co-operation' and 'development' and are reflected in all guidelines and policies of the party and the state. The *Five Year Socio-Economic Development Plan for 2016-2020* stressed that Viet Nam will expand its development co-operation as part of its collaboration with the international community. (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 2020<sup>[54]</sup>)

*“(Viet Nam) deepen(s) relations with partners in a practical and effective manner;*

*(Viet Nam) improve(s) the efficiency of multilateral diplomatic activities;*

*(Viet Nam) closely co-ordinate(s) with ASEAN member states and United Nations organisations for the protection of national sovereignty and territorial integrity.”*

*Source: The Socio-Economic Plan for 2016-2020 (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 2020<sup>[54]</sup>)*

### ***Institutions***

The Foreign Economic Relations Department (FEP) in the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) leads Viet Nam's development co-operation. This department is in charge of all the co-ordination related to the incoming ODA to Viet Nam, such agreements with aid providers, coordination with line ministries, and establishing standards for monitoring and evaluation of development co-operation projects. With an accumulated knowledge and experience of incoming development co-operation, the Department also acts as focal point for Viet Nam's co-operation with Cambodia, Lao PDR and the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The Department is composed of regional divisions, divisions in charge of multilateral international organisations, and dedicated units for the co-operation with Lao PDR and Cambodia. The intention to enhance co-operation with these two neighbouring countries, is reflected in the organigram below. Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has also stressed the importance of enhanced multilateral diplomacy to advance effective development co-operation, which would mean a greater role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in development co-operation. (Viet Nam Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021<sup>[55]</sup>)

Figure 2.10. Organisation for development co-operation of Viet Nam



Source: Viet Nam Ministry of Planning and Investment (2022<sup>[56]</sup>), <https://www.mpi.gov.vn/en/Pages/cctcbkhdtd.aspx>.

### Modalities and financial resources

Statistics on development co-operation are not officially shared by MPI or by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Evidence suggests that Viet Nam is not only working with partners in the region (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar), but also with African partners. In terms of the thematic focus, agriculture as well as investment and trade promotion are top priorities. For example, Viet Nam has been engaged with the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) South-South co-operation programme since 2000. Vietnamese experts and technicians have been fielded in Benin, Chad, Republic of Congo, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mali, Namibia and Senegal, focusing on aquaculture and rice production.

Viet Nam prioritises equity in its development co-operation. Viet Nam explicitly confirms its support to South-South co-operation and its willingness to share its positive experience in socio-economic development, as reflected in statements by Viet Nam's Deputy Foreign Minister, Pham Binh Minh, at BAPA+40. One of Viet Nam's first development co-operation project with Africa is a triangular co-operation project between Mozambique, Japan and Viet Nam on rice production. In this project, Viet Nam works as a pivotal partner, dispatching its experts to Mozambique and offering vocational training to the beneficiaries.

*[Viet Nam is] "strengthening cooperation with other developing countries via expanding trade and investment and sharing knowledge and technological co-operation".*

*BAPA+40 National Statement of Viet Nam, 22 March 2019 (The Voice of Viet Nam, 2019<sup>[57]</sup>)*

The main modality of Viet Nam's development co-operation is triangular co-operation. Viet Nam is also actively engaging in bilateral development co-operation with neighbouring countries, especially Cambodia and Lao PDR. The website of the FEP states that there exists separate units and committees for these two countries to prepare governmental treaties on economic, cultural, scientific and technical co-operation, and to organise the implementation of co-operation programmes. This supports the political initiative of "CLV (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam) Development Triangle", which was established in 2004. This regional framework is one of the frameworks under which Viet Nam provides development co-operation to these two countries. For instance, in 2017, Viet Nam pledged its support to enhance transport infrastructure and industrial development in Lao PDR, related to the Vung Ang port in Viet Nam. (Viet Nam News, 2017<sup>[58]</sup>)

***Partnerships with DAC members***

Viet Nam conducts some activities in development co-operation in collaboration with DAC members. For example, Viet Nam and Japan work in the agriculture sector in Mozambique to enhance the country's rice production, and Vietnamese agricultural experts offer support to increase the agricultural yields. (OECD, 2010<sup>[59]</sup>) In the Asia Pacific region, Viet Nam participates in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), effectuated on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2019. (Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, n.d.<sup>[60]</sup>) Viet Nam also acted as Chair twice in the APEC. Furthermore, the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the Investment Protect Agreement (IPA) between the EU and Viet Nam entered into force on the 1 August 2020. (European Commission, 2020<sup>[61]</sup>) In November 2021, the OECD and the Government of Viet Nam signed a Country Programme to strengthen co-operation over the next five years, with a particular focus on competition, investment and tax policy reform. In addition, the OECD will support country specific reports such as the OECD Economic Survey of Viet Nam (to be published in 2022) and the OECD Clean Energy Finance and Investment Policy Review of Viet Nam (published in 2021). (OECD, 2021<sup>[62]</sup>)

# 3 Development co-operation in Southeast Asia

## Engagement with the private sector in development co-operation

Involving non-state actors is a common trend in today's development co-operation. The DAC is developing approaches to increase private sector participation in development outcomes. The financial flows and innovation provided by the private sector are expected to contribute to the 2030 Agenda, especially under the present situation where conventional inter-governmental official development assistance is not expected to increase drastically. (OECD, 2022<sup>[63]</sup>) How do public actors leading development co-operation in these six Southeast Asian countries engage with the private sector to be able to achieve the agreed goals?

Development co-operation providers in Southeast Asia are engaging with actors in the private sector. For example, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand all involve private companies, financial institutions, and capacity training institutions in their development co-operation, either as hosting organisations for programmes executed under the framework of development co-operation or in other capacities. In terms of financial co-operation, all six countries in question have export-import banks and provide export finance to their private sector in executing the projects. The concessional sovereign loan scheme, on the other hand, is not yet widely used by providers in the region, except for Thailand's Neighbouring Countries Economic Co-operation Agency (NEDA). There is nevertheless a general interest to involve the private sector more in development co-operation activities, including through blended finance approaches.

Among the six countries, Singapore and Indonesia are especially active in promoting public private partnerships. For example, Singapore made considerable investments to construct industrial zones in Asia and advance trade liberalisation. (Yeoh and Wong, 2006<sup>[64]</sup>) Singapore has enhanced its own industrial competitiveness through public private partnerships, and is sharing its expertise and technical knowledge through various programmes. Indonesia is working proactively to achieve the SDGs by engaging financing and innovation brought by the private sector and by promoting blended finance principles. In 2018, the Government of Indonesia launched the *Tri Hita Karana Roadmap of Blended Finance*<sup>17</sup>, together with the OECD. In 2018, the Government of Indonesia also established the "SDGs Financing Hub" in Bappenas, in view of coordinating, facilitating and aligning SDGs innovative financing. (Budiantoro, 2019<sup>[65]</sup>) The Hub is expected to improve the enabling environment for innovative financing, to match SDG project holders with various financial schemes, to develop models, instruments and technology, and to build capacity as well as to share knowledge. The Hub selects projects to be funded based on at least two considerations: the alignment with SDG targets and indicators, in which the most urgent problems are poverty, inequality and hunger, and the multiple effects on other SDG indicators that are prioritised by Bappenas. (Budiantoro, 2019<sup>[65]</sup>) In 2021, Indonesia announced its intention to develop G20 Blended Finance Principles and to

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<sup>17</sup> See <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/tri-hita-karana-roadmap-for-blended-finance.htm>

advance related guidance and implementation, so that developing countries, LDCs and SIDS can seize the opportunities presented by blended finance approaches and through the development of local capital markets. (Schütte and Siliwanti, 2021<sup>[66]</sup>)

## Engagement of civil society organisations in development co-operation

Civil society organisations (CSOs) play a crucial role in reducing poverty, upholding democratic development and ensuring the fulfilment of human rights. CSOs' work with people on the frontlines of poverty, inequality and vulnerability is integral to meet the 2030 Agenda pledge to leave no one behind. (OECD, 2018<sup>[67]</sup>) They are valued not only for their knowledge, their experience, and their ability to respond quickly to new development challenges or changing contexts, but also for channelling ODA and for implementing development co-operation programmes closely meeting the demands of local beneficiaries. (OECD, 2020<sup>[68]</sup>) CSOs are therefore essential partners of public and private actors in their pursuit of the 2030 Agenda.

In terms of the engagement of CSOs in development co-operation of Southeast Asian countries, however, the information is limited. As CSOs tend to operate independently from the government in this region, information flow, impact assessment and aid coordination are barely implemented between the government and CSOs. (The Asia Foundation, 2018<sup>[69]</sup>) CSOs in the region are more active in service provision than they are in policy and advocacy related to their countries' development co-operation. This may be due to a variety of reasons, including a history of gaps in government service provision, and a reluctance to strain relationships with highly centralised governments. In addition, public awareness of development co-operation is still low in these countries and the demand for CSOs to speak up on the government's development co-operation does not sufficiently exist. However, viewing the presence of significant number of UN agencies, international consulting industry and international CSOs in the region, there is potential for governments to reach out to existing CSOs and to include them in certain aspects of their development co-operation. (UNDP, 2013<sup>[70]</sup>)

Singapore is most active in engagement with CSOs in development co-operation. In Singapore's development co-operation, dispatching volunteers or exchange programmes for the private sectors are in its large part facilitated by CSOs. (Sato, 2007<sup>[71]</sup>) For example, the Singapore International Foundation (SIF), established in 1991 and funded by private companies, is one of the major agencies to provide Singaporean volunteers. Other than SIF, international CSOs, such as World Vision or Red Cross, also facilitate volunteer activities in the framework of development co-operation. Although the government of Singapore executes development co-operation by utilising the expertise and resources of CSOs, in Singapore's development co-operation, the division of labour is set clearly – the government is in charge of inter-governmental technical co-operation whereas CSOs are in charge of volunteer operations. Other than Singapore, there is a record that Thailand disbursed USD 582 000 million to CSOs in 2016. (OECD, 2021<sup>[19]</sup>)

Indonesia is also actively involving CSOs in an effort to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2019, the government of Indonesia launched the first Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Guidelines to ensure meaningful engagement with partners from across all sectors of society and implement the pledge of leaving no one behind. Germany's Agency of Development Co-operation, GIZ, the NGO Forum on Indonesia Development, the UN Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific, and the United Nations Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, collaborated in the guidelines elaboration. (OECD, 2021<sup>[19]</sup>)

## Debates on development effectiveness

Debates on effectiveness of South-South co-operation remain still nascent. (Besharati, 2019<sup>[72]</sup>) There are indications that the six Southeast Asian providers pay increasingly attention to development effectiveness. Thailand, for instance, has adopted the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness as the guideline of their ODA operation. (Agarwal, 2011<sup>[73]</sup>) Indonesia has started initiatives to advance effective development assistance coordination. One example is the *Jakarta Commitment* of 2009, which was signed by 19 countries and represents a roadmap to improve effectiveness. The roadmap mentions the importance of responsiveness of aid in view of securing aid effectiveness. In addition, Indonesia acted as the first co-chair of the GPEDC, underlining its commitment to enhance aid effectiveness.

*Using its experience and its active participation in the governance of international aid organizations, global foundations and funds, as well as its strong network of relationships with other countries in the region and globally, the Government commits to work to strengthen the international aid architecture in ways that enhance its responsiveness to Indonesia's needs as well as to those of other developing countries. Development partners will support the Government in this endeavour.*

*Jakarta commitment b) Improving the international governance of aid and strengthening South-South cooperation (Government of Indonesia and Development Partners, 2014<sup>[74]</sup>)*

The GPEDC monitors the progress of the Philippines and Viet Nam in achieving more effective development co-operation. (Global Partnership, 2019<sup>[75]</sup>) Both countries are rated above average in terms of national development planning, quality of public finance management, and mutual accountability mechanism. The exercise looks at how effectively these countries make use of the development co-operation they receive, not necessarily measuring the effectiveness of development co-operation outgoing from them but ensuring that they are at least aware of the importance of effectiveness.

**Table 3.1. Country and territory monitoring profiles – The Philippines and Viet Nam**

	<b>The Philippines (2018)</b>	<b>Viet Nam (2018)</b>
Overall quality of national results framework	High (98%)	High (93%)
Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks by development partners	Medium extent (68%)	Medium extent (66%)
Quality and use of public financial management systems	Medium (79%)	High (93%)
Predictability and forward planning (scheduled disbursement)	High (98%)	Medium (85%)
Predictability and forward planning (medium term predictability)	Medium (62%)	High (98%)

Source: Global Partnership (2019<sup>[75]</sup>), GPEDC country profiles, <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/landing-page/gpedc-country-profiles>.

## Monitoring and evaluation in development co-operation

Although monitoring and evaluation practices of the six countries are not explicit, evidence suggest that they are pay increasing attention to the necessity of monitoring and evaluation in development co-operation. For example, TICA has a Monitoring Branch in its organisation.<sup>18</sup> Likewise, Thailand received a technical co-operation of Germany for developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Thai National Adaptation Plan (NAP) from 2015 to 2021. (GmbH, 2020<sup>[76]</sup>) This project indicates Thailand's intention to enhance their monitoring and evaluation capacity in general. The MPI of Viet Nam also received several technical co-operation from international partners to effectively manage incoming ODA, including

<sup>18</sup> For further information, see organisational chart of TICA: <http://tica.thaigov.net/main/en/organize/38437-Organization-Chart.html>

the “Comprehensive Capacity Building Program to Strengthen ODA Management”, with Japan, or the “Viet Nam-Australia Monitoring and Evaluation Strengthening Programme”, with Australia. (Japan International Cooperation Agency, 2008<sup>[77]</sup>) (The Government of Australia, 2015<sup>[78]</sup>) These technical co-operation projects have advanced expertise and knowledge about monitoring and evaluation.

Opportunities of capacity building in monitoring and evaluation are not limited to technical co-operation. Countries in Southeast Asia have been involved in monitoring and evaluation as recipients of development co-operation, or as one of the partners in triangular co-operation. Regardless of the modality, two DAC members, Germany and Japan, who are particularly active in the region, execute evaluations ex-ante and ex-post utilising the DAC criteria. This has involved recipient countries which have thereby increased their familiarity and knowledge of international monitoring and evaluation practices. The same is true for triangular co-operation projects. The transaction cost of triangular co-operation partly stems from the elevated number of co-operation partners involved in the projects. (Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Co-operation, 2019<sup>[10]</sup>) If the standards of monitoring and evaluation are not integrated between the financial partner and the pivotal partner, they result in higher transaction costs for the beneficiary partner. In fact, the Voluntary Guidelines for effective triangular co-operation state that it is important for financial and pivotal partners to share the commitment in implementing triangular co-operation for maximising the benefit of the beneficiary partner. Participating in triangular co-operation as a pivotal partner, which is often the case for Southeast Asian countries, offers the opportunity to be exposed to the standard of monitoring and evaluation.

*“Shared commitment: Partners agree to participate and share responsibility with regard to identification, design, implementation, contribution, monitoring, and evaluation”*

*Voluntary Guidelines for effective triangular co-operation, 2 (Global Partnership Initiative, 2019<sup>[79]</sup>)*

## Contribution to multilateral framework

These six Southeast Asian countries prioritise bilateral or triangular co-operation in their region over multilateral development co-operation. (Gulrajani, 2017<sup>[80]</sup>) Nevertheless, their contribution to multilateral framework is also important. They are founding members of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). In terms of subscribed capital, Indonesia is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest contributor to the Bank, with a share of 5.43%, followed by Malaysia and the Philippines. On the other hand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam, still receive considerable amount of development finance from the ADB as beneficiaries.

**Table 3.2. Contributions to the ADB (2020)**

	Subscribed Capital (%)	Voting Power (%)	Commitment (USD million)
<b>Indonesia</b>	5.434 (6 <sup>th</sup> largest)	4.641	6655.2 (1 <sup>st</sup> largest)
<b>Malaysia</b>	2.717 (10 <sup>th</sup> largest)	2.468	51.3
<b>The Philippines</b>	2.377	2.196	5764.8 (3 <sup>rd</sup> largest)
<b>Thailand</b>	1.358	1.381	1616.9
<b>Viet Nam</b>	0.341	0.567	2004.8
<b>Singapore</b>	0.340	0.566	0.4
<b>Total of six countries</b>	12.567	11.819	16093.4

Source: Asian Development Bank (2021<sup>[81]</sup>), Asian Development Bank Annual Report 2020

In terms of their contributions to the United Nations, all six Southeast Asian countries steadily increased their shares in recent years. In particular, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand are collaborating with United Nations Agencies such as FAO, UNDP or UNESCO on triangular co-operation projects.

**Table 3.3. Contributions to the UN (2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022)**

	Contribution to the UN regular budget 2022 (%)	Contribution to the UN regular budget 2020 (%)	Contribution to the UN regular budget 2018 (%)	Contribution to the UN regular budget 2016 (%)
<b>Indonesia</b>	0.549	0.543	0.504	0.346
<b>Malaysia</b>	0.348	0.341	0.322	0.281
<b>The Philippines</b>	0.212	0.205	0.165	0.154
<b>Singapore</b>	0.504	0.485	0.447	0.384
<b>Thailand</b>	0.368	0.307	0.291	0.239
<b>Viet Nam</b>	0.093	0.077	0.058	0.042
<b>Total of six countries</b>	2.074	1.978	1.787	1.446

Source: General Assembly of the United Nations (2021<sup>[82]</sup>), UN documents ST/ADM/SER.B/1008, ST/ADM/SER.B/973, ST/ADM/SER.B/932, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/contributions/budget.shtml>.

## 4 Regional Frameworks

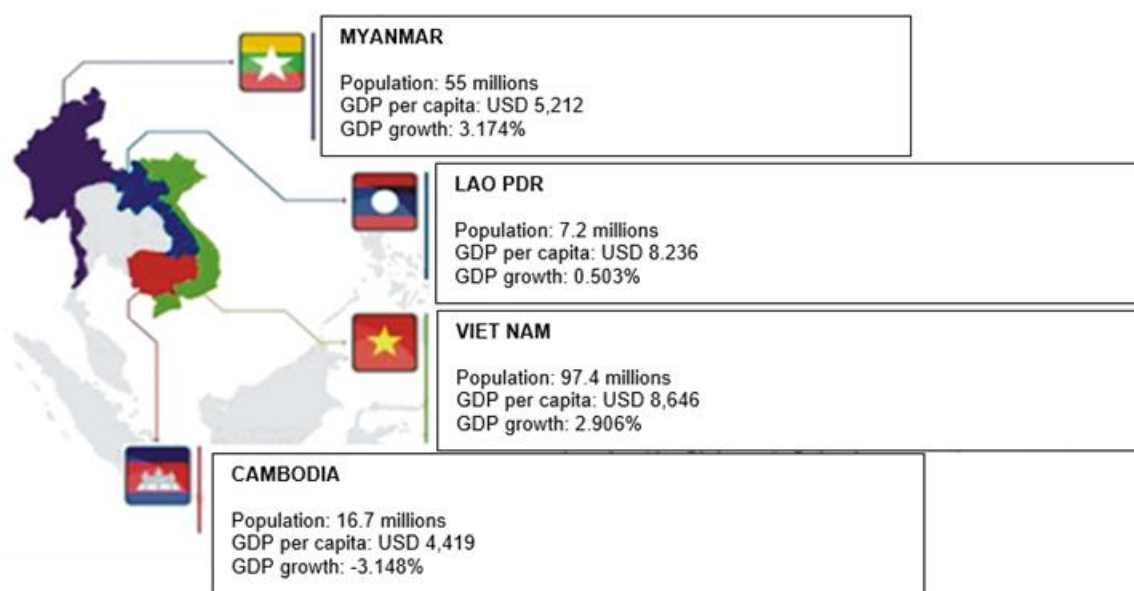
Regional frameworks can play an important role in supporting bilateral co-operation and in support of international development co-operation practices. They allow for regular dialogue and information exchange and can help advance accountability, common monitoring and evaluation, and possibly also decentralised co-operation or even joint programming. In Southeast Asia several regional frameworks exist. These could support further advances in development co-operation at regional level, such as information exchange, the sharing of lessons, and, in the future, possibly even joint programming.

**ASEAN:** The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), headquartered in Jakarta, was established in 1967 with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand being its founding members. Brunei joined ASEAN in 1984, followed by Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV nations) in the late 1990s. Although ASEAN originally aimed at enhancing regional co-operation among member countries, the high economic disparities between the first six members (the so-called “ASEAN-6”) and the CLMV nations slowed the advancement of this initial objective. Addressing these disparities became one of the priorities of ASEAN and its member states. To that end, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), which encourages ASEAN members to support each other, under the principle of “prosper thy neighbour”<sup>19</sup>, was established in November 2000. Economic disparities between the two groups of the ASEAN member countries still exist, and have actually increased since the 1990s (Engel, 2019<sup>[83]</sup>).

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<sup>19</sup> The principle of “prosper thy neighbour” is ascribed to Dr Mahatir, former Prime Minister of Malaysia. For the initiative, see ASEAN Secretariat, 2000, “Press Statement by Chairman of the 4th ASEAN Informal Summit” (Centre for International Law, 2000<sup>[101]</sup>)

Figure 4.1. Economies of CLMV countries



Note: International Chamber for Service Industry: <https://www.icsiindia.in/clmv.php>

Source: Author's own compilation and representation

Population as of January 1, 2020, the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) estimations; (UNFP World Population Dashboard, 2022<sup>[84]</sup>)  
 GDP per capita, PPP basis (current international \$), 2020 and GDP growth in 2020; the World Bank estimation. (World Bank, 2022<sup>[85]</sup>)

Established in 2007, the ASEAN Charter was conceived as a new foundational document of the grouping to confirm the principles that ASEAN members shared. The Charter clarifies that one of its purposes is to alleviate poverty and narrow the development gap within ASEAN through mutual assistance and co-operation. (ASEAN, 2017<sup>[86]</sup>) To accomplish this task, the Association launched in 2015 the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) to promote the liberalisation of movement of people, goods and services. However, the economic gap in the region remains an obstacle for AEC. In order to promote economic integration within the region, accelerating economic development of CLMV countries has become a high priority for all ASEAN members.

In this vein, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand have all put emphasis on the ASEAN regional framework in their national programmes or diplomatic strategies. Development co-operation focuses on mainly on CLMV countries, and thus complements well development co-operation activities of DAC members in support of development of Southeast Asian countries.

**Table 4.1. Official Development Assistance (ODA) from DAC Members and International Organisations to CLMV countries**

Beneficiary country	Top five aid providers
Cambodia	Japan, France, Asia Development Bank, United States, EU institutions
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Asian Development Bank, Japan, International Development Association, Korea, United States
Myanmar	Japan, International Development Association, United States, United Kingdom, EU institutions
Viet Nam	International Development Association, Japan, Asian Development Bank, Germany, France

Source: OECD (2019<sup>[87]</sup>), OECD Aid at a Glance Charts 2018-2019, <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/Asia-Development-Aid-at-a-Glance-2021.pdf>.

Two of the key motivations behind the establishment of the ASEAN framework were to enhance regional co-operation and to strengthen member countries' influence at the global level and in international fora. (Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), 2008<sup>[88]</sup>)

*"6. To alleviate poverty and narrow the development gap within ASEAN through mutual assistance and cooperation."*

*"15. To maintain the centrality and proactive role of ASEAN as the primary driving force in its relations and cooperation with its external partners in a regional architecture that is open, transparent and inclusive. "*

*The ASEAN Charter, Purposes (Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), 2008<sup>[88]</sup>)*

ASEAN has enhanced regional co-operation to counter the COVID-19 pandemic. The Association has intensely discussed possible COVID-19 responses in the summit of ASEAN Economic Ministers in March 2020 and agreed on a joint statement, "Strengthening ASEAN's Economic Resilience in Response to the Outbreak of the Covid-19". Following this agreement, the ASEAN COVID-19 Response Fund was established in the Summit in June 2020. Thailand has pledged USD 100,000 to the Fund, together with several DAC members. (Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS), 2020<sup>[89]</sup>) ASEAN has also launched the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) in 2020. (ASEAN, 2020<sup>[90]</sup>)

*(The ASEAN Economic Ministers) AGREE to take a collective course of action to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19*

*Strengthening ASEAN's Economic Resilience in Response to the Outbreak of the Covid-19 (Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), 2020<sup>[91]</sup>)*

It remains to be seen whether this indicates a push for more regional approach to development co-operation, complementing the increasing bilateral programmes. Further analytical work would be needed to understand whether, for instance ASEAN, as a regional body and organisation, could develop a regional approach to development co-operation, in parallel to the advances of bilateral approaches described in this paper, akin to the role played by the European Union Commission in development co-operation.

### Box 4.1. Other regional associations in South Asia

#### Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

BIMSTEC is a regional organisation which came into being in 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration. It comprises seven states (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand). The BIMSTEC region is home to around 1.5 billion people (around 22% of the global population) with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of USD 2.7 trillion (around 4% of the global GDP). The principal objective of the initiative is to harness shared and accelerated growth through mutual co-operation in different areas of common interests. This initiative is sector-driven and focuses on 14 topics – trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries, agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counterterrorism, environment, culture, people to people contact and climate change. (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), n.d.<sup>[92]</sup>) Each topic is initiated by one of the member nations. Although the BIMSTEC does not engage in development co-operation, there are some international organisations expecting it to function as a unique inter-regional framework connecting Southeast Asia and South Asia. (Institute of Developing Economics, 2017<sup>[93]</sup>) For example, the Asian Development Bank executed “Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study” to help promote interregional integration by increasing trade and travels among the BIMSTEC countries. (Asian Development Bank (ADB), 2008<sup>[94]</sup>) Recently, BIMSTEC members reaffirmed their commitment to building co-operation and increasing resilience against the COVID-19 pandemic. (South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC), 2020<sup>[95]</sup>)

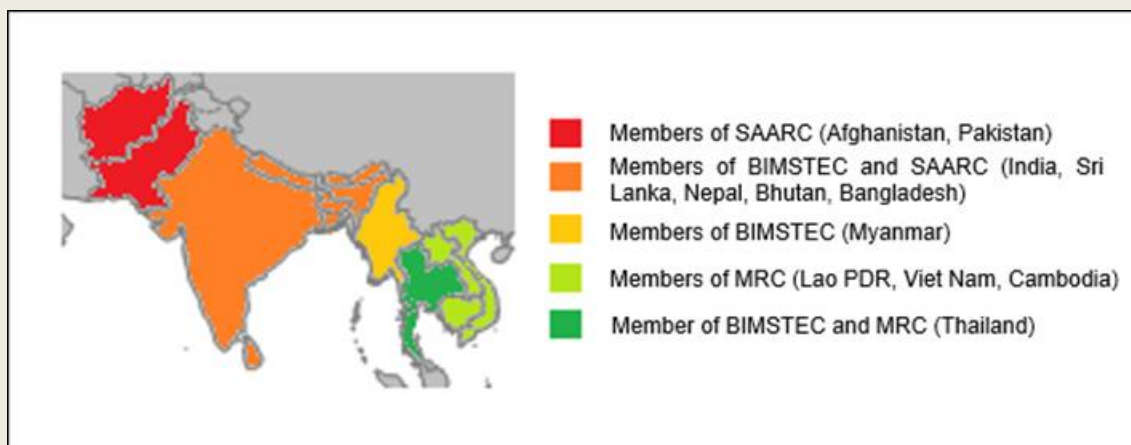
#### Mekong River Commission (MRC)

Established in 1995 and based on the Mekong Agreement, the Mekong River Commission (MRC) is an inter-governmental organisation for regional dialogue and co-operation in the Lower Mekong River Basin. The MRC works with the governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam and supports a basin-wide planning process based on the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to manage the shared water sources and ensure the sustainable development of the Mekong River. Its mission is to promote and coordinate the sustainable management and development of water and related resources for the countries’ mutual benefit and the communities’ health and wellbeing. (Mekong River Commission (MRC) for Sustainable Development, 2022<sup>[96]</sup>) The MRC provides a wide range of technical assistance, strategic advice, and innovative knowledge, and solutions to help the lower Mekong countries promote fisheries’ sustainability, opportunities for agriculture, freedom of navigation, sustainable hydropower, flood and drought management, and preservation of important ecosystems.

#### South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

SAARC is a regional association which was established by eight member states (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) in 1985. The objectives of the association include the economic and social development of the region through mutual assistance, as well as the enhancement of co-operation with other developing countries and international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes. (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), 2020<sup>[97]</sup>) SAARC does not have a scheme of development co-operation but there are sectorial co-operations among its member countries to accomplish common tasks. For example, the association has established the COVID-19 Emergency Fund to rein collectively in the thread of the pandemic. The Fund was established by the initiative of India with a total pledged amount of USD 21.8 million. (DAWN, 2022<sup>[98]</sup>) The Fund is expected to be a motor to revitalise the regional association which has been in a difficult situation since 2014 because of the geopolitical tensions among members.

**Figure 4.2. South Asian countries' members of SAARC, BIMSTEC and MRC**



Source: Author's own compilation and representation

#### **Box 4.2. ODA and Southeast Asian providers**

Official development assistance (ODA) is defined by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as government aid that is concessional and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries. The OECD has been collecting ODA data since 1961. Beyond the thirty members of the DAC, twenty other official providers report on their ODA statistics to the OECD, as well as about 70 multilateral organisations and philanthropic foundations. Amongst Southeast Asian providers, Thailand has been reporting ODA to the OECD since 1988 for the period 1988-98 and since 2006 to date, and the Asian Development Bank also reports on its concessional and non-concessional activities in the region.

### Box 4.3. Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)

Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD), provides an example of how the international community is working closely to develop a new international statistical framework for monitoring official resources and private finance mobilised by official interventions in support of sustainable development. TOSSD aims to measure the full array of resources in support of sustainable development, including South-South co-operation and triangular co-operation, as well as blended finance operations and the resources they mobilise from the private sector. The International TOSSD Task Force is made of an inclusive group of experts, ranging from provider countries (including DAC members and dual providers-recipients), recipient countries and multilateral organisations, which have been collectively developing TOSSD since 2017. The Task force is chaired by South Africa and the European Union, and several Asian countries are members, including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste.<sup>20</sup> The Philippines conducted a TOSSD Pilot in 2018, and co-chaired the TOSSD Task Force from 2017-19. Indonesia conducted a TOSSD Pilot in 2020 and reports TOSSD data to the OECD.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> For the full list of members of the Task Force, see: <https://tossd.org/task-force/>

<sup>21</sup> For more information on the TOSSD pilot studies, see: <https://tossd.org/pilot-studies-and-analyses/>

# 5 Three ways forward for Southeast Asian providers

Our analysis of six Southeast Asian providers has shown that they have moved from recipients of aid to providers of development co-operation. Each of the six has its unique features and priorities, as described in detail above. Nevertheless, they have in common a commitment to enhance development co-operation in support of the 2030 Agenda and to work with international partners, including with DAC Members, to advance innovative modalities of South-South and Triangular Co-operation. At regional level, there is also a growing awareness of the need to take a more regional approach to development co-operation, especially as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, our analysis points to three areas for further work and engagement.

**At a bilateral level**, more data on development co-operation of Southeast Asian providers could be made available publicly. Despite increase development co-operation efforts, information about Southeast Asian providers' programmes, and data and statistics remains scarce. Communication on data and activities will become increasingly important as the volume of development co-operation of providers in the region grows and demands for transparency of activities and accountability of governments increase.

**At a regional level**, increasing coordination could help improve information sharing, mutual accountability, and possibly lead to joint programming. ASEAN, whose charter commits members to sustainable development and regional solidarity, could provide a framework for such coordination, either as an implementing body, or by requesting some development co-operation activities to be executed by one of its members. A first step towards such regional approach to development co-operation could be the setting up of a regular exchange of information on projects, priorities and programmes.

Finally, in terms of **collaboration with the Development Assistance Committee (DAC)**, there are opportunities to work together on triangular co-operation, finance for sustainable development, the impact of development co-operation policies, and climate action. In particular, as some Southeast Asian countries have started to use loan operations and to work with the private sector, there are opportunities to engage with the DAC on blended finance approaches and how to scale them up. (OECD, 2022<sup>[99]</sup>) Another area to be considered, could be dialogue amongst providers and donor co-ordination in country. This could lead to more exchanges, mutual learning, and enhanced coordination, including on topics such as development statistics, TOSSD, climate action, engagement with non-state actors, development effectiveness, and monitoring and evaluation.

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