



# Australia-ASEAN Business Council

Advancing Australia-ASEAN Business

## CONTACT

FOR ENQUIRIES, MEMBERSHIP AND SPONSORSHIP

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### Australia-ASEAN Ties

The dynamic economic cooperation and integration between Australia and ASEAN is driving an increasing regional approach by Australian and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Nations) companies to trade, investment and 'doing business'.

This regional approach creates opportunities and challenges for Australian and ASEAN companies, and demands a strong, coordinated voice for business at the regional level representing:

- Australian companies doing business in and across ASEAN
- ASEAN companies doing business in and across Australia.

This voice must be 2-way at the regional level, advancing strong, resilient trade and investment outcomes between Australia and ASEAN.

### Revitalised AABC

The Australia-ASEAN Business Council (AABC) is revitalising as the premier regional voice representing the interests of Australian and ASEAN companies operating in Australia and across more than one ASEAN country.

Our purpose is 'Advancing Australia-ASEAN Business' – trade, investment and 'doing business' – by promoting the importance of Australia-ASEAN business relations, and advocating the need for easier, more effective ways of doing business to Australian and ASEAN business leaders and policy makers. We have a regional approach to representing our members whilst respecting the unique differences of individual countries.

We do this by working with our member companies operating in Australia and across ASEAN, and drawing on our key relationships with Australian and ASEAN governments, ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Business Advisory Council, as well as industry bodies, research institutions and community across the region.

We act to support the needs and ambitions of our members through regional advocacy, network, intelligence and promotion activities. Our members and executive are both Australian and ASEAN, with a focus on present and next generation businesses and leaders.

### Background

The AABC was established in 1980 and incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory in 2007. The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI – Canberra Office) provides the Secretariat, with AABC remaining separate and independent as a non-profit organisation.

Today, the AABC recognises that the regional economic architecture involving Australia and ASEAN is changing significantly. In addition to ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement and other bilateral agreements between Australia and ASEAN countries, the ASEAN Economic Community was launched in 2015 and other regional agreements are likely to be finalised soon, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

ASEAN	Australia
<p><b>Attractiveness – diversity and growth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 member countries - Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world - fast growing</li> <li>• 600 million people, fast expanding middle class</li> <li>• GDP more then US\$ 2 trillion, economic growth around 5%</li> </ul>	<p><b>Attractiveness - innovation and resilience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12th largest economy in the world –over 25 years of uninterrupted economic growth</li> <li>• 23 million people,</li> <li>• AAA sovereign risk profile</li> <li>• GDP more than US\$ 1.2 trillion, economic growth around 3%</li> </ul>

### Executive Committee

Our new executive team leading this revitalisation are:

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| President                | Eleanor Mak (Venturenauts)                                |
| Vice President           | Bryan Clark (Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry) |
| Vice President           | Peter McKenna (Venturenauts)                              |
| Immediate Past President | John Connor   |