

ASEAN CHARTS STRATEGIC COURSE FOR DEEPER REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AT THE 25TH ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY COUNCIL (AECC) MEETING

ASEAN Member States endorsed the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan (2026-2030), charting out the first five-year plan towards the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

1. At the 25th ASEAN Economic Community Council (AECC) Meeting at Kuala Lumpur on 25 May 2025, ASEAN Member States endorsed the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan (2026-2030), laying the foundation for the region's next phase of economic integration under the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.
2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong represented Singapore at the meeting ahead of the 46th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits.
3. Against a backdrop of global uncertainty, ASEAN reaffirmed its commitment to open, rules-based trade, focused on deeper regional economic integration, region-to-region partnerships, as well as digital transformation and sustainable growth.
4. Key highlights include:
 - **Successfully concluded negotiations for the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) Upgrade chaired by Singapore:** ASEAN concluded the ATIGA upgrade negotiations. Businesses stand to benefit from an improved regional ecosystem for flows of goods within ASEAN, when the upgraded ATIGA enters into force. As next steps, ASEAN Member States agreed to sign the upgraded ATIGA at the 47th ASEAN Summit in October 2025.
 - **Advancing the Digital Economy:** Good discussions to progress the ongoing negotiations of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA), with ASEAN aiming for substantial conclusion by end-2025. The ASEAN DEFA signals ASEAN's collective intent to harness the potential of the digital economy to shape the future of trade and digital cooperation. ASEAN also welcomed good progress in implementing the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap (BSBR) on ASEAN Digital Transformation which continues to drive ASEAN's ambition for an inclusive digital economy. ASEAN welcomed the completion of the Roadmap on Digital Trade Standards in ASEAN and the Study on the New Generation ASEAN Single Window (ASW). This sets out next steps for both initiatives which seek an interoperable

regional digital trade ecosystem through standards harmonisation and facilitating region-wide trade.

- **Sustainability and Finance:** ASEAN advanced efforts to catalyse energy resilience, green finance and accelerate its climate transition through clear milestones to realise the ASEAN Power Grid and move ahead to implement ASEAN's Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, including looking into developing an ASEAN carbon market and carbon capture and storage, amongst others.
- **Deepening Region-to-Region Cooperation:** Endorsed the Joint Declaration on Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), reinforcing region-to-region collaboration in trade, digital economy, food security, and private sector partnerships. Both sides also agreed to study and discuss a possible FTA. Further, ASEAN recognised the value of closer collaboration with Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) members through dialogue.
- **Strategic Engagements:** Welcomed the inaugural ASEAN Geoeconomic Task Force meeting aimed at anticipating global shifts and delivering policy foresight for long-term competitiveness and resilience.

5. Deputy Prime Minister Gan said, "Singapore was pleased to Chair and work with our ASEAN partners to successfully conclude the ATIGA Upgrade negotiations. This demonstrates ASEAN's commitment to building a more seamless and resilient economic region, as well as to preserve a rules-based trading environment to better support businesses' operations in the ASEAN region amidst an uncertain global economic climate. ASEAN's focus on digitalisation, sustainability and expanding global cooperation ensures our region remains open, connected, and future-ready. As we deepen region-to-region cooperation and harness opportunities in digitalisation and sustainability, Singapore will continue to work with our ASEAN and global partners to secure long-term growth, competitiveness, and shared prosperity."

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