

What does ASEAN mean to Australia?

HE Mr Will Nankervis, Australian Ambassador to ASEAN

Wednesday 8 February 2023: 5.30pm for 6-7pm at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Please note that this event will be held under the Chatham House Rule and is in-person only.

ASEAN's ten member states cover a strategically significant region for Australia's Indo-Pacific priorities. With its unmatched convening power, each year ASEAN brings together intrinsically diverse states from across the Indo-Pacific to discuss political, security and economic challenges facing the region. ASEAN-led regional architecture is essential in maintaining order, security and prosperity during an increasingly turbulent time for our region.



Australia became ASEAN's first Dialogue Partner in 1974. Since then, our partnership has gone from strength to strength, including regular leader-level engagement, a comprehensive free trade agreement, and culminating in the announcement of the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) at the first annual ASEAN-Australia Summit in October 2021.

Under the CSP, the 'Australia for ASEAN Initiatives' represent the largest-ever increase in Australia's development cooperation with ASEAN. These important initiatives will enable us to address shared challenges, including health security and pandemic recovery, combatting transnational crime and terrorism, supporting our region's future skills needs as our economies evolve, ensuring energy security, protecting oceans and building circular economies.

With all the right tools in place, and our shared priorities agreed, what are the next steps in implementing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership? What further role can Australia play in Southeast Asia's trade, economic and security agenda?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Ambassador Nankervis to discuss Australia's diplomatic relations with ASEAN.



HE Mr Will Nankervis has been Ambassador of the Australian Mission to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta since 2020. Previously, he was Assistant Secretary of the Indo-Pacific Strategy and Regional Maritime Branch in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), where his responsibilities included implementation of Australia's Indo-Pacific Strategy as well as regional maritime security issues. Mr Nankervis was a member of the Taskforce that developed Australia's 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper. Prior to that he headed the DFAT Iraq and Syria Taskforce. He was Political Counsellor in Australia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York during Australia's term on the UN Security Council (2013-14). A career DFAT officer, Mr Nankervis has also undertaken postings and short-term missions in Sri Lanka and Solomon Islands.

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