

ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA)

ASEAN aims to enhance its attractiveness as an investment destination as it moves towards regional integration by 2015. ASEAN Ministers signed the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA) with a view to creating a free, open, and transparent investment environment in line with ASEAN's economic integration goals. The ACIA, together with its schedule (Reservation Lists) took effect on 29 March 2012.

ACIA, as its name suggests, is a comprehensive investment Agreement. It builds upon and improves on precursor ASEAN Investment Agreements – the 1987 ASEAN Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments, also known as the ASEAN Investment Guarantee Agreement (IGA) and the 1998 Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA).

ACIA:

- Reaffirms the IGA and AIA provisions on national treatment and most favoured-nation treatment;
- Has a balanced focus covering the four pillars of liberalization, protection, promotion and facilitation;
- Is based on international best practices with its comparable provisions on liberalization and protection, and
- Adopts a negative list approach to listing of reservations and provides for further liberalization within set timelines in accordance with the AEC phases.

The Agreement also contains new provisions on Investor-State Dispute Settlement, Transfers, Treatment of Investments and new articles on Prohibition of Performance Requirements and Senior Management and Board of Directors.

ACIA is expected to provide greater confidence to investors, to invest and maintain their investment in ASEAN, as it creates more conducive investment environment. It aims to increase intra-ASEAN investments, especially by multinational companies, and encourage expansion by small and medium enterprises, to contribute to the economic growth and integration of the ASEAN region.

The ACIA and its Schedule can be accessed [here](#)

For more information:

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