ICDT INSIGHTS

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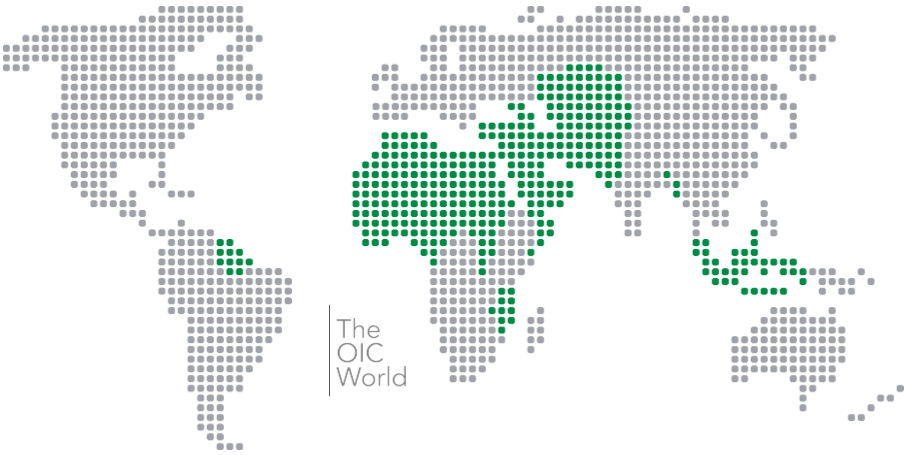

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NEWS ANALYSIS

ASEAN 2025: MALAYSIA PAVES THE WAY FOR A NEW ERA OF TRILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

As host of the 46th ASEAN Summit, Malaysia is championing a renewed commitment to open and fair trade, while promoting a deeper economic partnership between ASEAN, the GCC, and China. In the face of rising global trade tensions, the summit offers a timely opportunity to strengthen regional ties, unlock new markets, and boost inclusive growth through increased investment, regulatory harmonization, and support for SMEs.

By chairing the 46th summit of the ASEAN 2025, Malaysia is demonstrating its firm commitment to the multilateral trading system, stressing that an open, transparent and fair trading system is essential to regional and global economic stability.

The sharp increase in US tariffs on Southeast Asian exports has further underlined the urgency for the region to diversify beyond its traditional markets.

As such, the summit will provide a platform for ASEAN, the GCC and China to explore the promise of deeper economic collaboration in a trilateral framework, beyond their existing bilateral ties.

According to the World Bank, the combined annual GDP of ASEAN, the GCC and China would amount to $23.70 trillion in 2023, or 22.3% of total world GDP in the same year. ASEAN, the GCC and China also constitute a vast market, with the combined population of ASEAN, the GCC and China amounting to some 2.15 billion people.

Furthermore, Malaysia sees the summit as a unique platform to improve the economic future of ASEAN member countries, provided they agree to deepen intra-ASEAN trade, harmonize regulations and reduce trade barriers.

In this respect, Malaysia's chairmanship of the 46th ASEAN 2025 Summit this year could bring a number of benefits to the Malaysian economy.

Closer integration projects, such as the ASEAN-wide Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JSSEZ), could significantly boost the country's total trade volume to around $914 billion by 2027, resulting in more jobs and higher wages in Malaysia.
Foreign direct investment (FDI) is also expected to exceed $71 billion over the next three years, targeting innovation, infrastructure, employment and local real estate.
As such, over $3.55 billion will be injected into new real estate activities, including industrial parks, shopping malls, logistics centers and housing developments, if we consider a conservative ratio of 5% channeled into the real estate sector.

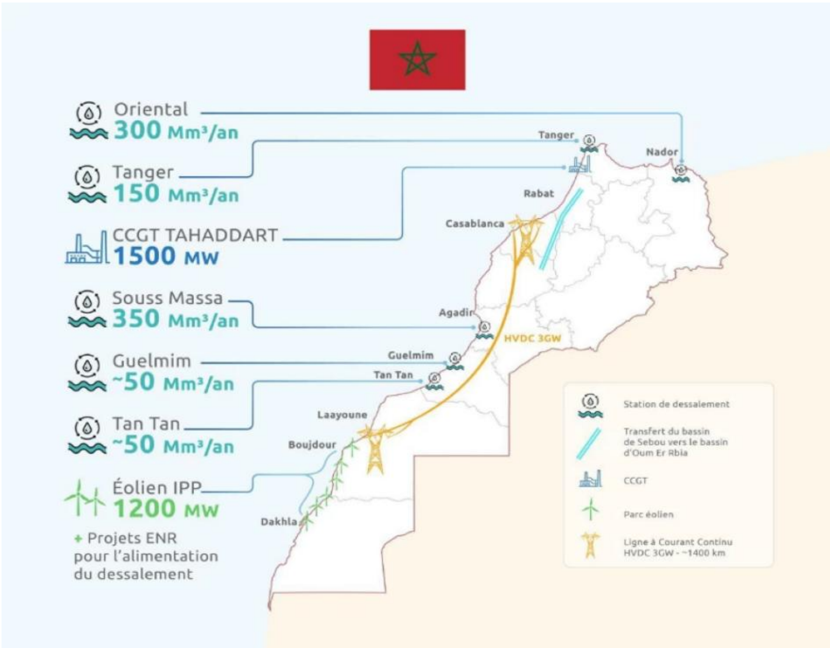
Inclusivity is also one of the spearheads of this Malaysian presidency of the ASEAN Summit, according to which capacity-building efforts must be stepped up, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises in areas such as the circular economy, carbon accounting and smart agriculture.

Source: The Malaysia Reserve.

MOROCCO AND THE EMIRATES ARE SETTING UP A VAST PROJECT TO PRODUCE AND TRANSPORT WATER AND ELECTRICITY.

A consortium comprising Fonds Mohammed VI for investment, TAQA Morocco and NAREVA has signed three agreements with the Moroccan government and ONEE to develop new infrastructure for water and electricity transmission, as well as to increase capacity for seawater desalination and power generation from renewable sources and natural gas.

This strategic plan, which follows joint declarations by His Majesty King Mohammed VI and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, aims to address national water and electricity emergencies through significant investment in innovative initiatives between now and 2030.



This major project encompasses several key aspects with a common goal: to increase the Kingdom's energy autonomy and water resilience. One of the main actions concerns water transport, with the establishment of transfer infrastructures linking the Oued Sebou basin to the Oued Oum Rabia basin, for an annual capacity of 800 million m³.

At the same time, a major effort will be made to increase the country's seawater desalination capacity. The project calls for the construction of desalination plants capable of producing a total of 900 million m³ per year, powered entirely by renewable energy sources.

Regarding power transmission, the initiative includes the installation of a 1,400 km high-voltage direct current (HVDC) line linking the south to the center of the country, with a capacity of 3,000 MW. This energy corridor will help reduce congestion on the national grid.

In terms of power generation, the consortium is aiming to develop an additional 1,200 MW of renewable capacity, while enhancing system flexibility through the implementation of natural gas-fired combined-cycle power plants at Tahaddart, with a combined capacity of around 1,500 MW. This technological mix is designed to ensure security of supply, grid stability and the transition to cleaner energy.

In addition to its technical ambitions, this infrastructure program will also deliver significant economic and social benefits. It is expected to create more than 25,000 jobs, including 10,000 permanent positions once the facilities are completed. It will also encourage technology transfer, foster the development of local industry, particularly in the fields of desalination and renewable energies, and help to establish specialized training courses.

Source: Le Matin

MALI AIMS TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BY 2025 FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S ENCOURAGING RESULTS

At the last session of the Conseil Supérieur de l'Agriculture (CSA), General Assimi Goita - Mali's Head of State - welcomed the encouraging results achieved by the agricultural sector in 2024. Last year, despite devastating floods, drought conditions in the south, soaring input prices and the sub-regional geopolitical crisis, the country produced 11,010,851 tons of cereals, 640,000 tons of seed cotton, 234,244 tons of potatoes, 846,668 tons of onions and shallots, 636,436 tons of mangoes, 113,218 tons of fresh fish and 97,000 tons of beef.

Mali's agricultural sector, which accounts for 40% of GDP and employs 80% of the working population, is a key strategic sector for the country, which is why the Malian government is aiming to increase cereal production by 700,000 tons and to support the country in the development of integrated value chains to improve the structuring of sectors from field to plate. The development of agro-industrial platforms and regional logistics hubs is also envisaged by the authorities.

To help farmers meet these ambitious targets, the Malian government has already announced subsidized prices for agricultural inputs. These subsidies, combined with mechanization programs, support for fish farming, livestock breeding, promotion of local produce and direct access to agricultural credit, form the pillars of the strategy to modernize and secure family farming in the country.

Through this ambitious project, Mali aims to make the agricultural sector the strategic driver of its national sovereignty and economic development.

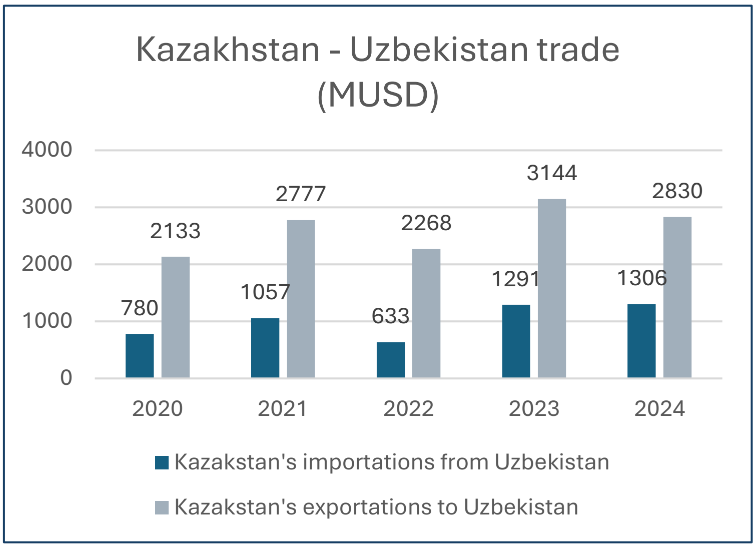
Source: Agence Ecofin, Sahel Tribune

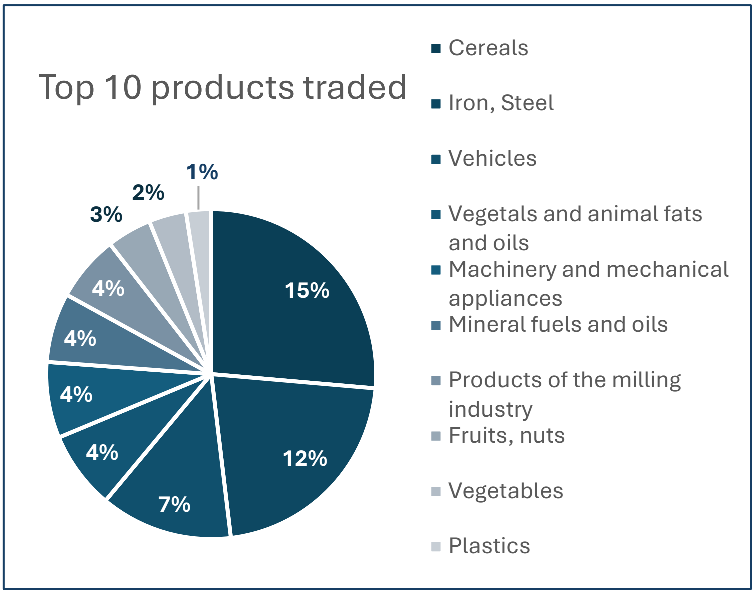

Utalii Africa Tourism Expo
2025
23 – 25 October 2025 | Kampala, Republic of Uganda


SAVE THE DATE
ICDT INVEST DAY IN COMORES
INVEST IN THE ARCHIPELAGO OF OPPORTUNITIES
DATE
26 – 29
AUGUST 2025
LOCATION
Moroni

KAZAKHSTAN RANKS AMONG THE TOP THREE TRADING PARTNERS OF UZBEKISTAN

Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are entering a new era of economic cooperation. With streamlined customs procedures, innovative digital tools, and enhanced trade facilitation measures, both nations are laying the groundwork for a significant boost in bilateral trade — targeting $10 billion by 2030.





Economic relations between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan reach a new stage. Recently, at an important meeting between the heads of the two countries' customs services, a number of agreements were reached. These agreements will ease border congestion, increase the volume of trade and create new opportunities for the economies of both countries.

New tasks will be entrusted to the customs authorities of both countries. These include organizing the efficient management of vehicle traffic at border crossings, in particular regulating the queuing system for goods vehicles, and introducing a simplified “green corridor” regime to facilitate the export and import of agricultural products.

Starting in June, Uzbekistan will gradually implement the “electronic queuing” system. This innovative system will be launched for the first time at the Navoi customs post on the border between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. This innovation will reduce waiting times in queues, speed up the process of transporting goods and offer great convenience to entrepreneurs.

Agreements have also been reached on cooperation between the two countries' customs laboratories and on staff training. The aim is to exchange advanced experiences, organize training sessions and introduce new methodologies.

These trade facilitation measures are expected to boost mutual turnover between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, with the aim of achieving a foreign trade volume of US$10 billion by 2030.

an attainable goal as the bilateral trade volume between the two nations surpassed the $1 billion threshold in the first quarter of 2025, indicating a robust 10 percent year-over-year growth trajectory.

To date, trade between the two countries has reached US$4.1 billion in 2024, mainly centered on cereals, iron, vehicles, vegetable oils, machinery and mineral fuels.

Source : International Trade Center, Zamin" - News of Uzbekistan.

BRIEFS

Ukraine approves free trade agreement with UAE

Ukraine's Cabinet approved a bill to ratify a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the United Arab Emirates, establishing a free trade regime to boost Ukrainian exports, the Economy Ministry announced on April 29, 2025.

The agreement liberalizes access to markets for goods and services, ensuring full access for Ukrainian products to the UAE market.

The agreement, covering nearly all bilateral trade goods, will drive Ukrainian production and exports by reducing tariff barriers.

Key sectors expected to benefit include metallurgy, food processing, flour milling, and oil production, according to the ministry. The UAE also lifted restrictions on foreign capital ownership for Ukraine, allowing Ukrainian entrepreneurs to register companies with up to 70% foreign capital, and in some sectors, gradually up to 100%.

The agreement facilitates digital trade by eliminating duties on digital and electronic data transfers, including electronic content.

Source: The New Voice of Ukraine

Indonesia to evaluate CEPA with Australia

The Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto has said that on May 15th, 2025 the central government will evaluate its Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Australia.

During the evaluation, Indonesia plans to include new strategic issues, such as cooperation in the field of critical minerals, he informed.

Source: Antara News

UAE-Jordan Cepa came into effect

The comprehensive economic partnership agreement between the UAE and Jordan came into effect on May 14th, 2025, with the deal expected to boost bilateral trade between the nations to more than $8 billion by 2032.

The Cepa with Jordan follows the signing of agreements between the two countries for a $2.3 billion railway investment project to link the port of Aqaba with the mining regions of Al Shidiya and Ghor es-Safi.

Source: The National

Thailand, Bangladesh to launch formal FTA talks by year-end

Thai Commerce Minister Pichai Naripthaphan has announced on May 13th, 2025 that Bangladesh and Thailand will formally begin free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations towards the end of the year.

This meeting would mark the official start of the FTA negotiation process between the two nations.

The proposal was made during a meeting between the two at the Commerce Ministry on Thursday, 8 May, 2025.

Source: TBS News

- Encouraging the development of regular trade exchanges among Member States.
- Promoting investments aimed at trade development.
- Contributing to the promotion of productions from Member States and facilitating access to foreign

- Promoting commercial information.
- Assisting Member States in the field of trade promotion and international trade negotiations.
- Assisting businesses and economic operators.

- Encouraging contacts between businessmen from Member States.
- Promoting the products of Member States, including through regular Islamic Fairs and specialized

- Assisting Member States in establishing and organizing Export Promotion Centers.
- Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States in trade promotion matters.

- Collecting and disseminating trade data.
- Developing remotely accessible trade databases.
- Assisting Member States in establishing Documentation Centers and Commercial Information

- Encouraging intra-OIC investments.
- Promoting foreign investments in OIC Member States.
- Encouraging partnerships among economic operators from Member States.
- Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States, particularly in export-oriented investment

- Publishing an Annual Report on intra-Islamic trade.
- Conducting sectoral studies on products and markets.
- Studying ways and means to alleviate trade barriers among Member States.

- Organizing seminars and training programs.
- Assisting Member States in creating a pool of experts in various fields of trade development.

- Assisting Member States in trade negotiations.
- Preparing and organizing intra-OIC trade negotiations.

agenda

- **51ST SESSION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL**
  20-21 June 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye

- **5th OIC Regional Cooperation Organizations**
  02-03 October 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye

- **ICDT INVEST DAYS - MORONI**
  26-29 August 2025 • Moroni, Comoros

- **Workshop on TIR /eTIR and CMR/eCMR of the OIC African Member States**
  16-17 September 2025 • Casablanca, Morocco

- **OIC TOURISM FAIR / AFRICA TOURISM EXPO,**
  23-25 October 2025 • Kampala, Uganda

- **42ND SESSION OF COMCEC**
  01-04 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye

- **HALAL EXPO & WORLD HALAL SUMMIT**
  26-29 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye

- **OIC INVESTMENT FORUM IN AFRICA**
  02-04 December 2025 • Bamako, Mali

- **9TH ACMOI 1**0-11 December 2025 • Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

- **OIC Invest Days N'Djamena,** 16-17 December 2025, • N'Djaména, Tchad

Islamic Center
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