Chronology

1945 Declaration of independent Republic of Indonesia (August); after armed struggle against Dutch forces, sovereignty is transferred formally in December 1949

1945 Declaration of independent Democratic Republic of Vietnam (September); armed struggle against French forces pursued until 1954

1946 The Philippines independent from the US (July)

1948 Burma independent from Britain (January)

1953 Cambodia and Laos independent from France (October–November)

1954 Geneva Accords end French involvement in Vietnam (July); the Democratic Republic of Vietnam governs north of the Demilitarised Zone and the State (later Republic) of Vietnam in the south

1954 Manila Treaty establishes the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, SEATO (September)

1955 Asian–African Conference, Bandung (April)

1957 Malaya independent from Britain (August)

1959 Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman of Malaya proposes a Southeast Asian Friendship and Economic Treaty, SEAFET (February)

1961 Association of Southeast Asia (ASA) formed by Malaya, the Philippines and Thailand (July)

1963 Indonesia declares policy of Konfrontasi (Confrontation) of proposed Federation of Malaysia (January)
1963 Indonesia, Malaya and the Philippines initiate dialogue under the banner of ‘Maphilindo’ (June); the effort is abandoned amid tensions over the formation of the Federation of Malaysia

1963 Federation of Malaysia incorporating Malaya, North Borneo (Sabah), Sarawak and Singapore inaugurated (September)

1965 Singapore expelled from Malaysia and becomes independent state (August)

1966 Konfrontasi ends formally between Indonesia and Malaysia (August)

1967 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) established by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, Bangkok (August)

1971 ASEAN members issue declaration on Southeast Asian Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality, ZOPFAN (November)

1974 Australia and ASEAN initiate multilateral relations, Canberra (April)

1975 Communist forces assume control of southern Vietnam and Cambodia (April) and Laos (December)

1975 Indonesian forces invade East Timor (December)

1976 ASEAN holds first heads of government meeting, the ‘Bali Summit’; ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation signed (February)

1976 Vietnam reunified as Socialist Republic of Vietnam (July)

1977 SEATO dissolved (June)

1977 First meeting between Australian and ASEAN heads of government, Kuala Lumpur (August)

1978 Vietnam invades Cambodia; Khmer Rouge (Democratic Kampuchea) regime ejected (December)

1979 People’s Republic of Kampuchea inaugurated in Cambodia, aligned with Soviet Union and Vietnam (January)

1979 Chinese invasion of northern Vietnam (February–March)

1980 Australia announces withdrawal of diplomatic recognition from ousted Democratic Kampuchea regime (October)

1984 Brunei independent from Britain; joins ASEAN (January)
1989  Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group inaugurated in Canberra (November)
1990  Australia releases proposals to facilitate a peace agreement for Cambodia, the ‘Red Book’ (February)
1991  Paris Agreements on Cambodia concluded (October)
1992  ASEAN commitment to develop the ASEAN Free Trade Area (January)
1992  United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, UNTAC, deployed (February)
1992  ASEAN joint declaration on the South China Sea (July)
1993  Elections in Cambodia followed by inauguration of Royal Government of Cambodia (May)
1994  ASEAN Regional Forum established (July)
1995  Vietnam joins ASEAN (July)
1997  Laos and Myanmar join ASEAN (July)
1997  Asian financial crisis adversely affects a number of regional economies (from July)
1997  ASEAN Plus Three cooperation inaugurated by ASEAN and China, Japan and South Korea (December)
1999  Cambodia joins ASEAN (April)
1999  Ballot in East Timor results in vote for independence from Indonesia (August)
1999  International Force for East Timor, INTERFET, deployed after substantial violence in the territory (September)
2002  East Timor independent (May)
2002  ASEAN and China sign Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (November)
2003  ASEAN Summit in Bali issues commitment to establish an ASEAN Community (October)
2004  Heads of government meeting between ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand, Vientiane (November)
2005  Australia accedes to ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (December)
2005  East Asia Summit inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur with Australia as a member (December)
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>ASEAN adopts a Charter that provides a legal identity and reaffirms the Association’s values and goals (November)</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Agreement reached on ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, AANZFTA (August)</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Australia appoints non-resident ambassador to ASEAN (September)</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) Plus process initiated, Hanoi (October)</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>ASEAN–Australia heads of government summit, Hanoi (October)</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Russia and the US join the East Asia Summit (November)</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>ASEAN foreign ministers unable to agree to a communiqué because of divisions over South China Sea issues, Phnom Penh (July)</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>ASEAN commences negotiations with six major trading partners to develop the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, RCEP (November)</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Australia appoints resident ambassador to ASEAN, based in Jakarta (September)</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>ASEAN–Australia fortieth anniversary Commemorative Summit, Nay Pyi Taw (November)</td>
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