# Asia and Australia’s Engagement with Asia glossary

ASEAN

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) includes nations that are part of a regional intergovernmental organisation comprising the 11 South-East Asian nations, with Australia included as an ASEAN partner.

Asia

Geographically, the largest continent, bounded by Europe and the Pacific, Arctic and Indian oceans. It can be described in terms of cultural, religious, historical and language boundaries or commonalities.

Different geographical definitions can be applied to Asia to identify subregions. The United Nations’ geoscheme for Asia identifies the following subregions:

* Central Asia, which includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
* East Asia, which includes China, Taiwan, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea
* North Asia, which covers the entire geographical region of Siberia
* South-East Asia, which includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam
* South Asia, which includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
* West Asia, which includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Note: Short names rather than official names have been used for the above geopolitical entities.

Asia–Australia engagement

A range of social, cultural, political, historical or economic relationships or technological connections supporting engagement between Australia and the peoples of Asia.

Asia-Pacific

Describes countries across Asia, including Australasia and the Pacific Island nations.

Asia’s global significance

The importance that is assigned to Asia in the global economy, Asia’s population as a proportion of the global population, and the maturing and unifying relationships between countries within Asia.

country

A political entity that may be a sovereign state or part of a larger state.

diversity

The mix of people in a group or society, i.e. differences in factors such as age, ability, culture and religion and/or in how people identify such as gender and sexuality.

global citizen

A citizen of the world who sees themself as part of the global community. They respect cultural diversity, understand that local action can create global change and understand the implications of the choices they make.

imperialism

A policy of extending one country’s power and influence through economic, political, social, military or other ways.

Indo-Pacific

Describes the combined Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean, and the landmasses that surround them.

interdependent

A condition or connection in which social, cultural, economic, technological, environmental or other systems impact each other or affect how people live.

interrelationship

A shared history or connections between people, countries, economies, systems and/or environments that may have developed over time and that influences contemporary relationships.

nation

A group of people who share a common identity, which could be rooted in history, traditions, culture and/or language.

political system

A set of structures and processes influencing how laws are made and how public resources are allocated in a society.

region

An area of the world sharing common characteristics, for example a geographical region such as Gippsland or a regional intergovernmental organisation such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

sovereignty

The authority of a state to govern itself or another state.