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# ASEAN-Korea Standards Cooperation

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# Outline

- 1. Why Standards Cooperation?**
- 2. Standards Cooperation in ASEAN**
- 3. A Way Forward**

# 1. Why standards cooperation?

- 'Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025'
  - A vision "a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN"
  - Regional integration, single market
  - Standards: the foundation for realizing the vision
- Leverage for economic development
  - To participate in the global supply chain: A tool for innovation & learning
  - To innovate and catch-up (Wang et al., 2014)
- Increasing need for data and digital standardization across ASEAN
  - Digital transformation and Smartization (smart city, smart factory, etc.)

# Why standards cooperation?

- Enhanced 'interoperability' and reduced 'trade barriers'
    - Contribute to growing trade and investment between ASEAN and Korea
  - International cooperation
    - The issue of technical standards upgraded to strategic 'Geopolitics'
      - ← U.S.-China technology rivalry, with standards competition being a pillar (e.g. 5G and Open RAN)
    - Developing countries (Global South) would be 'digital deciders' in digital standards and digital trade (Chatham House, 2022).
    - Cooperation between ASEAN and Korea → High voice
- ➔ 'ASEAN-Korea Standardization Joint Research Center' in the Co-Chairs'  
Statement of the 2019 ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit

## 2. Standards cooperation in ASEAN

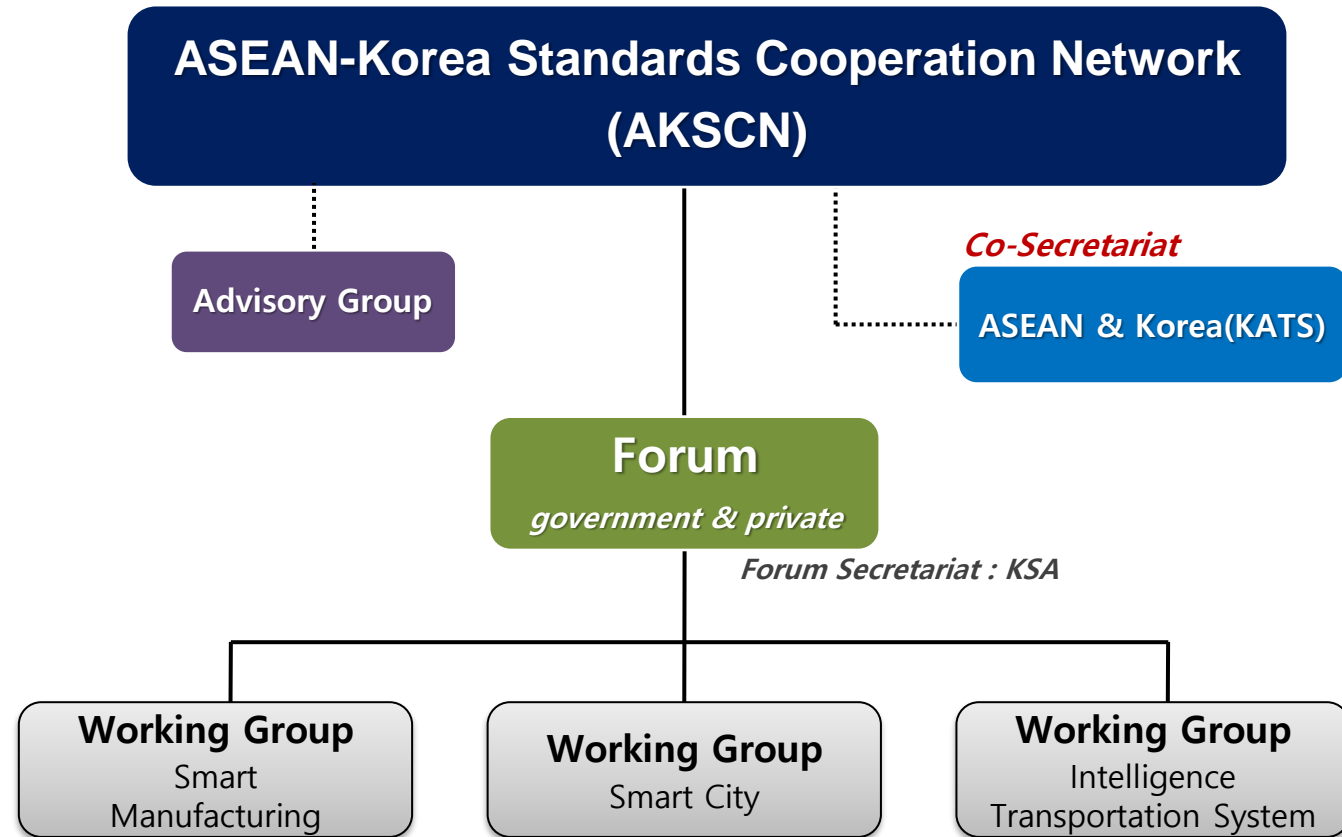
- ARISE Plus (EU)
  - 'ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU' (2017-2022).
  - Long-term projects (APRIS I & II 2003~2010; ARISE 2013-2017): Continuity in content and goals
  - ASEAN's economic integration through trade facilitation and removal of non-tariff barriers
  - European Commission (EuropeAid) from the European Development Fund: 22.5 million euros
- ASEAN-USAID IGNITE
  - 'ASEAN-USAID Inclusive Growth in ASEAN through Innovation, Trade and E-Commerce'
  - 'ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI)' until 2018
  - Joint project of USAID, U.S. Department of State & ASEAN (2018-2023) with \$15 million
  - Aim to implement standards, rules, and procedures that are harmonized with international standards
  - Aim promote digital services that are aligned with international standards

# Standards Cooperation in ASEAN

- ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards Initiative
  - Announced at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in 2018
  - Collaboration between the ACCSQ, ACCEC, Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and Standards Australia
  - To promote standards harmonization, technical alignment and regulatory cooperation
  - To reduce the costs of exporting and importing for domestic businesses
- ISCP (Korea)
  - 'International Standards Infrastructure Cooperation Program'
  - Technical assistance and capacity building program from 2011 by Korea Agency for Technology and Standards
  - To enhance standards capacities and strengthen cooperative relationships with standards organizations of partner countries (including ASEAN)
  - Bilateral projects with a partner country; about 1 billion Korean won per year (approximately \$800,000/year) for about 10 projects yearly

# 3. A way forward

- Since the inclusion of 'ASEAN-Korea Standardization Joint Research Center' in the 2019 ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit
  - Feasibility study conducted
  - AKSCN proposed, discussed
- New initiatives in preparation
  - ASEAN-Korea standards community
  - Digital standards/trade AMP
  - Future generation



# References

- Chatham House. (2022). Digital Trade and Digital Technical Standards: Opportunities for strengthening US, EU and UK cooperation on digital technology governance.
- Wang, P, J. Kwak and H. Lee (2014). "The latecomer strategy for global ICT standardization: Indigenous innovation and its dilemma." Telecommunications Policy. Vol. 38. No. 10, pp. 933-943.