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UKRAINE – ASEAN: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP

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Abstract

The article provides a comprehensive scientific analysis of the current state of relations between Ukraine and ASEAN. The article considers promising areas of cooperation between them in the areas of food, agriculture, digitalisation, trade, energy, disaster management, demining, and socio-cultural cooperation. The author outlines Ukraine's advantages in the field of agriculture and its ability to make a significant contribution to the sustainable supply of products to the ASEAN markets, given the production potential that far exceeds the needs of the domestic market.

The article considers Ukraine's readiness to share its experience in the field of digitalisation, given the existence of successful projects, such as the Diia mobile application developed by the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine in 2019; the 'Trembita' system for electronic interaction of state electronic information resources; and experience in disaster prevention. And to learn from the experience of ASEAN member states in demining agricultural land in de-occupied communities, given their unique experience in demining in Cambodia, where years of war left a significant number of mines.

It is proposed to develop and strengthen partnerships between the parties in the socio-cultural sphere to promote contemporary Ukrainian cinema, music, theatre, performance, literature, classical and contemporary fine arts. A separate area of this sphere is the promotion of the Ukrainian language among ASEAN countries, as well as the promotion of Ukrainian cultural heritage and projects in the field of culture and art of indigenous peoples and national minorities, including the promotion of Crimean Tatar culture in ASEAN countries.

Keywords: ASEAN, bilateral cooperation, diplomacy, foreign policy, position, pragmatism, Russian-Ukrainian war, Southeast Asia (SEA), Ukraine, war

УКРАЇНА – АСЕАН: НОВІ МОЖЛИВОСТІ ДЛЯ ЗМІЦНЕННЯ ПАРТНЕРСТВА

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Анотація

У статті здійснено комплексний науковий аналіз поточного стану відносин між Україною та АСЕАН. Розглянуто перспективні напрямки співпраці між ними у сферах продовольства, сільського господарства, цифровізації, торгівлі, енергетики, попередження надзвичайних ситуацій, розмінування, соціально-культурного співробітництва. Окреслено переваги України у сфері сільського господарства та спроможність зробити вагомий внесок у сталому постачанні продукції на ринки країн АСЕАН з огляду на потенціал виробництва, який значно перевищує потреби внутрішнього ринку.

Розглянуто готовність України поділитися власним досвідом у сфері цифровізації з огляду на наявність успішних проєктів, таких, як мобільний застосунок «Дія», розроблений Міністерством цифрової трансформації України у 2019 році; системи електронної взаємодії державних електронних інформаційних ресурсів «Трембіта»; досвідом щодо попередження надзвичайних ситуацій. І перейняти досвід від країн-членів АСЕАН щодо розмінування сільськогосподарських земель на території деокупованих громад з огляду на наявність у них унікального досвіду з розмінувань в Камбоджі, де роки війни залишили значну кількість мін.

Запропоновано розвивати та зміцнювати партнерство між сторонами у соціально-культурній сфері задля популяризації сучасного українського кіно, музики, театру, перформенсу, літератури, класичного та сучасного образотворчого мистецтва. Окремим напрямком цієї сфери є популяризація української мови серед країн АСЕАН, а також просування української культурної спадщини та проєктів у сфері культури та мистецтва представників корінних народів і національних меншин, зокрема просування кримськотатарської культури в країнах АСЕАН.

Ключові слова: АСЕАН, війна, двостороння співпраця, дипломатія, зовнішня політика, Південно-Східна Азія (ПСА), позиція, прагматизм, російсько-українська війна, Україна

“For Ukraine it is extremely important to have meaningful relations with the entire Southeast Asian region and every country in the region. We move on in this direction”.
Volodymyr Zelenskyi, President of Ukraine (Every new result..., 2023)

Formulation of the problem. On February 29, 2024, the event ‘Ukraine-ASEAN: vision of cooperation’ was held in Kyiv on the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. The event in a hybrid format was held with the participation of representatives of

the diplomatic corps accredited in Ukraine, the ASEAN Secretariat, scientific and expert circles of Ukraine and the Southeast Asian region.

According to the results of the event, the document 'Ukraine–ASEAN: vision of cooperation' was presented, which outlines the current state and prospects for the development of relations between Ukraine and ASEAN, as well as demonstrates promising areas of cooperation in the fields of food and agriculture, digitalization, trade, energy, prevention of emergency situations, demining, social and cultural cooperation (The event Ukraine-ASEAN..., 2024).

The prerequisite for the current state of cooperation with the ASEAN countries was the announcement in March 2020 of 'Asia Week at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' (Asia Week at the Ministry..., 2020); approval by Decree of the President of Ukraine of August 26, 2021 № 448/2021 of the Strategy of Ukraine's foreign policy activity (Ukraine's Foreign Policy..., 2021); opening on October 19, 2021 of the first Center for ASEAN Studies in Ukraine at the Institute of International Relations of KNU named after Taras Shevchenko (Dmytro Kuleba opened the first ASEAN..., 2021); approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in November 2022 of the Asian strategy (The Asian strategy..., 2022); the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine D. Kuleba in November 2022 to Cambodia, which presided over ASEAN, and the signing of the Instrument of Accession to the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (Dmytro Kuleba will visit Cambodia..., 2022); ratification by the Parliament of Ukraine the accession of Ukraine to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia on 21 December 2023 (Law of Ukraine..., 2023); visit of the President of Ukraine V. Zelenskyi on June 2, 2024 to Singapore (Volodymyr Zelenskyi discussed..., 2024) and on June 3, 2024 the Republic of the Philippines (In Manila, the President..., 2024). During a visit to Singapore, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy emphasized Ukraine's interest in bringing cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to a new level (Volodymyr Zelenskyi discussed..., 2024).

Thereby, we now observe that the state leadership pays a lot of attention to relations with ASEAN countries which makes it interesting for detailed research and study.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The outlined research topic is relevant for Ukraine because it is extremely important to have meaningful relations with the entire Southeast Asian subregion and ASEAN countries, according to Ukrainian President and Minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine. Most of the ASEAN countries have made a powerful economic breakthrough in a short period of time and turned from poor colonial countries into prosperous states with a high standard of living of the population.

Among the leading domestic researchers who study both the institutional development in the Southeast Asian subregion and the politics of the ASEAN countries, the following scientists should be singled out: N. Horodnia (Horodnia, 2015), I. Krupenya (Krupenya, 2022; 2023), M. Kulinich, V. Konstantinov, I. Lossovskiy (Lossovskiy, 2010; 2019; 2023), I. Kholod, Ye. Prypik (Prypik, 2022), O. Shved, S. Shergin (Shergin, 2017).

N. Horodnia highlighted the principles of the functioning of ASEAN as a regional organization and the model of interaction of the states of the Southeast Asian subregion in a complex regional environment (Horodnia, 2015). The foundations of Asia-Pacific Regionalism, conceptual models and modern practice were studied by S.O. Shergin (Shergin, 2017).

For the first time in Ukraine, I. Krupenya began to investigate the evolution of foreign policy priorities of Malaysia as one of the leaders of the countries of the Southeast Asian subregion and the Islamic world (Krupenya, 2022; 2023). Lossovskiy I., First-Class Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine highlighted the Malaysian foreign policy from colonial dependence to regional leadership (Lossovskiy, 2010a; 2010b; 2019).

Iryna Krupenya in her recent article highlighted also about the new horizons policy in relation to the Asian continent, which was announced by the President of Ukraine at the annual Conference of Ambassadors of Ukraine at the end of December 2022 and stated that the policy of Asian countries regarding Putin's war against Ukraine is the policy of a «toothless tiger» (Krupenya, 2023).

Ye. Prypik studied the position of ASEAN member states regarding Russian aggression in Ukraine in his scientific work 'The position of ASEAN member states regarding Russian aggression in Ukraine and its economic consequences for the countries of the region' (Prypik, 2022).

In a recent joint study, I. Lossovskiy and I. Krupenya analysed the reasons for Asian neutrality regarding the Russian-Ukrainian war and explained the historically neutral foreign policy course of the ASEAN states. Separately researched the position of Asian countries during the vote at the UN on March 2, 2022 for UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/1 regarding the condemnation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the demand for the complete withdrawal of Russian troops and the cancellation of the decision to recognize the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics was studied; October 12, 2022 for the Resolution of the UN General Assembly condemning illegal 'referendums' in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson regions; November 14, 2022 for the draft resolution entitled 'Provision of legal remedies and reparations in connection with aggression against Ukraine'. It was recommended in article to the specialists of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine to strengthen the coordination of efforts between the member states of ASEAN, Central Asia, India, and China, in order to expand the International Contact Group for ensuring the defense of Ukraine (the Ramstein coalition) at the expense of these countries in order to defeat the Russian occupier (Krupenya & Lossovskiy, 2023).

The purpose of research is to investigate new opportunities for strengthening cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN towards Sectoral Dialogue Partnership in such domains as food and agriculture, digital sector, trade, energy, disasters management, demining, social and cultural cooperation.

The results and discussions. On 20 May 2013, ASEAN acknowledged the first Ambassador of Ukraine to ASEAN, and starting from that time, Ukraine has always been represented within the ASEAN. It means that Ukraine is willing to achieve a longstanding, dynamic and broad-based relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. In 2024 the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba emphasized that for the past few years, we have observed a significant increase in the level of cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN member states. The dialogue between our highest officials, strong bilateral parliamentary ties and direct communication between the authorities demonstrate the significance of these relations for both sides. Therefore, Ukraine would like to make a new step forward in order to develop strong sectoral ties in such domains as food and agriculture, digital sector, trade, energy, disasters management, demining, social and cultural cooperation (Nechytaylo, 2024: 5).

Cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN in the domain of food and agriculture. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional grouping that aims to promote economic and security cooperation among its ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. ASEAN countries have a total population of 662 million people (Hong, Maizland, Galina, Albert & Fong, 2023). A large population requires the need to secure food and agriculture for ASEAN countries. Ukraine can be a reliable long-term partner in this domain. Moreover, endowed with fertile land, advanced agricultural practices, and competitive production costs, Ukraine is a global supplier of food products for more than 600 million people around the world. It boasts vast expanses of arable land and a favorable climate, making it a reliable source of agricultural products. This abundance allows for a consistent supply of crops, such as grains, cereals, and oil seeds. Ukraine's comparatively low production costs enable it to offer agriproducts at competitive prices, making them an attractive option for ASEAN nations looking to diversify their sources of agricultural imports (Nechytaylo, 2024: 19-20).

Ukraine plans to partner with ASEAN in food and agriculture through: food trade facilitation; gathering and analyzing data regarding food trade and agriculture; elimination of technical barriers for food and agriculture trade, as well as promotion of goods sea

movement; preparation of roadmap for securing food and agriculture supply chains from Ukraine to ASEAN member states; conducting consultations on food and agriculture at the state level of Ukraine and the intergovernmental level of ASEAN; advocating and coordinating for global food security; studying and researching suitable mechanisms for strengthening ties between Ukraine and ASEAN in food and agriculture; arrangement of consultative meetings/forums among non-state stakeholders (i.e. partners, private sector, academics, etc.); capacity building efforts between Ukraine and ASEAN, work-shops, training programs, technical assistance, institutional strengthening, and events for sharing knowledge and expertise (Nechytaylo, 2024: 22).

The Ukrainian diplomat-researcher Dmytro Deineko also recommends in his research to concentrate on the development of agriculture and cooperation on mutually beneficial terms with foreign partners of ASEAN to restore the destroyed agricultural infrastructure and create safe conditions for the development of farming (Deineko, 2023: 122).

Cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN in the domain of digital sector. Over the last decade, ASEAN has undergone significant development in digitalisation. The rapid digital transformation in ASEAN, however, has brought forth risks and challenges encompassing data security, cybersecurity, competition, and the digital divide. To effectively address these challenges and leverage the potential of the digital realm, ASEAN developed nine frameworks during 2016-2023. At the time ASEAN embrace digital transformation by establishing the ASEAN Digital Community (ADC) 2045. This vision could provide guidance to Member States, enabling them to overcome regional challenges and unlock their digital potential. It is crucial for ASEAN to nurture digital development across the three key pillars: political-security, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions. The three pillars should be built on four fundamental elements: data governance, value-added enhancement, improved digital connectivity, and digital inclusivity (Yan Ing..., 2023: 487). As Ukraine has experience on above mentioned four fundamental elements that is why can combines in the domain of digital sector. Moreover, ASEAN develops its digital platforms that contribute to regional economic growth and cooperation. The ASEAN Single Window (ASW) is planned to be developed as a vast window of opportunities for ASEAN, as a step toward the realisation of an ASEAN Economic Community, including the exchange of more trade-related documents, such as the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document, electronic Phytosanitary Certificate, and electronic Animal Health Certificate, through the ASW in the future, so Ukraine is ready to share its own successful experience in development of digital platforms (ASEAN Single..., 2003).

The Ukrainian platform Diia combines a mobile application with access to citizens' digital documents and a single portal of public services for the population and businesses. The main goal is to make 100% of public services available online. As of December 2022, almost 18,5 million Ukrainians have updated the Diia application. There are more than 21,7 million users of the 'Diia' portal by now – over 70 government services are available online. Mobile application 'Diia' allows Ukrainians to access 14 digital documents (ID card, foreign biometric passport, student card, driver's license, vehicle registration certificate, vehicle insurance policy, tax number, birth certificate, IDP certificate) and 21 services in total. Recently, Ukraine has become the first country with a digital ID that is valid and can be used everywhere within the country and the fourth in Europe to launch a digital driving licence. All digital documents in 'Diia' now have the same legal force as their plastic or paper counterparts. Using the 'Diia' app, Ukrainians can also share digital copies of the documents, and pay debts or fines (Digital..., 2022).

Another system 'Trembita' is the information and communication system for electronic interaction of state electronic information resources designed to automate and technologically support data exchange between electronic information resources based on exchange rules and protocols in the provision of public services. The 'Trembita' system is decentralised. It is a completely distributed fault-tolerant system, the use of which does not

involve the centralization of data and the change of its owner. The system has a high level of security due to digital signature and encryption of all transmitted data, as well as event logging, access control to web services and measures to counter denial of service attacks (About the system..., 2024).

Taking into account the successful Ukrainian experience in this domain the Ukraine plans to contribute to the digitalization of ASEAN and intends to participate in the events of ASEAN following the ADM2025 concerning: enhancement of cooperation to promote cyber resilience, security and interoperability in the digital environment; cooperation in the field of electronic service development; joint efforts in the field of digital literacy development; initiation of joint projects aimed at the development of digital infrastructure; exchange of experience regarding digital strategies, development plans of relevant authorities, and their responsibilities in the field of digital transformation; dialogue and knowledge sharing on approaches to international law, cybersecurity policy and regulation aiming to harmonize practices and promote international cybersecurity standards; promotion of information sharing and collaboration on cyber matters, including the exchange of information on cyber threats, best practices, and emerging technologies; joint research and development projects related to cybersecurity to advance innovation in the field; exchange of best practices and skills regarding the development of next-generation (5G) mobile networks (Nechytaylo, 2024: 32).

Cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN in the domain of trade.

Ukraine has 57 trade agreements with ASEAN member states as of today. The turnover of goods between Ukraine and ASEAN member states in 2023 constitutes \$1,846 billion. Total exports from Ukraine to ASEAN member states from January to November 2023 amount to \$0,445 billion. Main categories of goods: agricultural raw materials, food products technical instruments and equipment, electronics, and packaged medicaments. Total imports from ASEAN member states to Ukraine in 2023 amount to \$1,401 billion. Main categories of goods: textile products and footwear, agricultural raw materials, food products, electronics and computer equipment, metal products. In the domain of trade Ukraine has an ambition to achieve a milestone of \$5 billion in trade with ASEAN by 2025 via promoting trade, increasing investments through joint mutually beneficial projects (Nechytaylo, 2024: 35-41).

Cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN in the domain of energy. On 19 November 2020 was adopted the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2016-2025 (APAEC). According to this Plan 'energy' is defined as a key component in advancing the ASEAN Economic Community's pursuit of an inclusive and dynamic regional economic integration towards 2025 and beyond (ASEAN Plan, 2020). In the domain of energy Ukraine intends to partner with ASEAN in Energy through: exchange knowledge and experience of keeping the energy resilient and secured in uncertain time; sharing knowledge and experience with regards to security standards and development of safety measures for nuclear facilities; exploring avenues for future collaboration in the area of energy security, including the safe and sustainable development of low-carbon energy sources and technologies; promotion of energy efficiency and conservation practices; exploring opportunities for cooperation to support the efforts of ASEAN member states to strengthen their capacity in the areas of energy security and the safe, sustainable development of renewable and alternative energy sources; supporting the efforts to promote energy technologies, energy efficiency, and conservation practices (Nechytaylo, 2024: 47).

Cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN in the domain of disasters management. In the domain of disasters management Ukraine has experience in dealing with natural and man-made disasters and can sharing knowledge and experience of maintaining resilient and secured disaster management in uncertain times. For example, Ukraine has managed to demonstrate a high level of disaster management during the flooding of the Kherson region as a result of Russia's bombing of the Kakhovka

hydroelectric dam on 6 June 2023. Houses, fields and settlements were under water, especially on the low left bank of the Dnieper in the Kherson region (The event..., 2023).

We can also remember the successful cases of cooperation between Ukraine and some ASEAN member states on the people-to-people level. The famous example of the rescue of a junior football team and their coach from the Tam Luang Cave in Thailand in 2018 illustrated the effective cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN member states when Ukrainian rescuers played an important role in saving people in extremely difficult conditions. In 2013, Ukraine sent 38 tons of humanitarian support in the form of a cargo of essential goods to the Philippines, whose population and territory were affected by Typhoon Haiyan. Another example, among others, is granting humanitarian aid to Indonesia for the total amount of \$ 665,9 thousand back in June 2006 after a series of powerful earthquakes with a magnitude of 6.3 on the Richter scale on the island of Java.

At the same time ASEAN has unique experience in managing natural and man-made disasters. ASEAN works in this domain on principal of following slogan 'One ASEAN, One Response'. This slogan is an ASEAN declaration responding to disasters as one in and outside the region to achieve a faster response, mobilise greater resources and establish stronger coordination to ensure ASEAN's collective response to disasters.

ASEAN member-states have developed numerous platforms for discussing and coordinating actions in the event of natural and man-made disasters. One of them is the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, established in 2003, which developed the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) in 2005, which is a regional legally binding agreement that binds ASEAN member states together to promote regional cooperation and collaboration in reducing disaster losses and intensifying joint emergency response to disasters in the ASEAN region.

Ukraine plans to partner with ASEAN in disaster management through: sharing knowledge and experience of maintaining resilient and secured disaster management in uncertain times; capacity-building activities and sharing best practices and experiences on disaster prevention and mitigation, risk assessment and monitoring, preparedness and response; supporting disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction and knowledge and innovation management, as well as disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and ecosystem-based adaptation; exploring the possibility of cooperation with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management; promotion of science, technology and innovation cooperation on prevention, mitigation and risk reduction of natural disasters; exchange of experts for skills training and other initiatives (Nechytaylo, 2024: 49-54).

Cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN in the domain of demining. In the domain of demining ASEAN countries have a unique experience. ASEAN countries have actively cooperated in a mine clearance program in Cambodia, where years of war have left behind a significant number of mines. ASEAN is also an active participant in international demining efforts. In January 2023, the Japanese government, invited eight Ukrainian demining experts to Cambodia for training in the use of the latest Japanese landmine detectors. Later, Cambodians conducted training for Ukrainian deminers in Poland (Japanese Technology..., 2023).

Ukraine intends to partner with ASEAN in demining through: exploration of the possibility of cooperation between relevant Ukrainian authorities and ARMAC; cooperation with regards to demining of marine areas, areas affected by natural disasters and/or conflicts; promotion of science technology and innovation cooperation on demining; performing consultations and workshops regarding demining best practices; promotion of the exchange of demining experts for skills training and other initiatives (Nechytaylo, 2024: 59).

Cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN in the domain of social and cultural cooperation. The ASEAN Socio Cultural Community was established at the 27th ASEAN Summit on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (27th ASEAN..., 2015). One year later the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community adopted Blueprint 2025.

According to the Blueprint 2025 the ASEAN Community it focuses on multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagements, including Dialogue and Development Partners, sub-regional organisations, academia, local governments in provinces, townships, municipalities and cities, private-public partnerships, community engagement, tripartite engagement with the labour sector, social enterprises, government organisation, non-governmental organisation, civil society organisation (GO-NGO/CSO) engagement, corporate social responsibility (CSR), inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue, with emphasis on raising and sustaining awareness and caring societies of ASEAN, as well as deepening the sense of ASEAN identity.

According to Clause 33 of the Blueprint 2025 “to ensure sustainability of projects and established mechanisms, resources in the form of funds, technical expertise and knowledge assets from Dialogue Partners, International Organisations and other partners, will be mobilised by the ASEAN Member States and respective ASEAN Organs and Bodies” (ASEAN Socio-Cultural..., 2025). In this regard, an important role is devoted to foreign partners of ASEAN. Ukraine intends to support ASEAN with the above as well as the provisions stated in The ASEAN Socio Cultural Community. In 2023, Ukraine held several events aimed at promoting ASEAN. On 3 July 2023, the Centre for ASEAN Countries Studies (Kyiv) organized the Roundtable ‘ASEAN-Ukraine: New Opportunities for Stronger Partnership’. From 1 to 4 August 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine held the Quiz dedicated to ASEAN Day, where participants had to answer 32 multiple-choice questions covering key aspects of ASEAN, its political structure, economic cooperation, social issues, and cultural heritage.

The Strategy of Public Diplomacy of Ukraine 2021-2025 aim to popularize and share of national achievements and experience in the field of culture with citizens of other countries for better understanding and trust. The above includes the promotion of modern Ukrainian cinema, music, theatre, performance art, literature, classical and modern visual art, creative industries, and international research projects in the field of culture and art. Furthermore, it includes the popularization of the Ukrainian language in the world as well as the promotion of Ukrainian cultural heritage and projects in the field of culture and art of representative indigenous peoples and national minorities.

Crimean Tatars are Muslims from Ukraine with a long history and culture. Promoting Crimean Tatar culture in ASEAN will help enrich the region’s cultural diversity and raise awareness of Crimean Tatar culture and history. The exchange of Crimean artists and performers, Crimean Tatar art, and film festivals of Crimean Tatar films shall be beneficial for the cultural diversity of all Parties involved.

Ukraine plans to partner with ASEAN in Social and Cultural Cooperation through: promotion of greater awareness of each other’s traditions, heritage, and cultures through industries, cultural exchanges, events, festivals, and art exhibitions; exploring parliamentary cooperation through the framework of the AIPA and on a bilateral basis; exploring the ways of intercultural cooperation between Crimean Tatar and citizens of ASEAN member states; promoting autonomous and direct collaboration between universities of Ukraine and ASEAN member states; supporting human capital development and cooperation in education and training through information sharing, exchange programmes, capacity building, and skills development; promotion of creative industry cooperation in areas such as music, craft, cuisine, etc.; promotion of people-to-people contacts, networking, and exchange of visits between government officials, artists, students, youth, academicians, scholars, librarians, media, community representatives, as well as diplomats; encouraging collaboration and direct contacts between public libraries for the purpose of exchanging information materials and publications (Nechytaylo, 2024: 61-63).

Conclusions. Therefore, bilateral relations between Ukraine and ASEAN countries have the potential for further cooperation and strengthening of partnership through the sectoral dialogue partnership and the possible areas of cooperation include food and agriculture, digital sector, trade, energy, disasters management, demining, social and

cultural cooperation. The main document which regulates the sectoral dialogue is 'Ukraine–ASEAN: vision of cooperation'.

Given the Russian-Ukrainian war and the state Ukraine is in, the following should be the main priorities of Ukrainian foreign policy within the framework of relations with the ASEAN countries: take measures to prevent the spread of Russian propaganda and the involvement of humanitarian aid for the needs of Ukraine; support Volodymyr Zelenskyi's 10-point Peace formula, which was first voiced at the G20 summit, held in Indonesia in November 2022 to restore of territorial integrity of Ukraine; strengthen bilateral cooperation in the military-technical sphere; the inclusion of the ASEAN countries in the International Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine ('Ramstein' coalition) for the joint victory of the aggressor; the importance of representation of all ASEAN countries in the first inaugural Global Peace Summit on 15-16 June, 2024 in Switzerland and thereby demonstrating respect for international law; encourage academic exchanges, strengthen scientific cooperation in order to inform the scientific circles of the ASEAN countries about the situation in Ukraine and about the consequences of Putin's war.

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