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Call for Deeper ASEAN Integration

ASEAN Foreign Minister's Re- treat

At the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat, held on January 18-19, 2025, in Langkawi, Singapore's Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan highlighted the importance of deeper regional integration in Southeast Asia. Addressing policymakers and industry leaders, Dr. Balakrishnan underscored the region's immense potential for economic growth and stability through strengthened cooperation.

"[...] ASEAN needs to double down on ASEAN integration, because ASEAN cannot control the agendas of the superpowers, or indeed the larger powers. But we can, and we should focus on integrating ourselves, strengthening our economies, and our connectivity.", he said during a press briefing following his attendance at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat.

SGC Publica- tion on Busi- ness Location Factors

These views align closely with the findings of a recent location factors analysis published by the Singaporean-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SGC). The report, launched on January 15, 2025, is based on a survey conducted by the SGC and identifies crucial business location factors for both countries, introducing relevant best practices from Singapore and Germany. Here, German companies in Singapore expressed a strong desire for greater ASEAN integration. The alignment between government and business priorities underscores the strategic importance of deeper regional cooperation for economic growth.

The full report can be downloaded here: [Location Factors and their Importance – Germany and Singapore's Joint Path to Enhanced Competitiveness](#)

If you have any questions about this publication or the usage of Free Trade Agreements in the Asia-Pacific region, please contact Mr Kai Neuber.
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Sources

- <https://www.sgc.org.sg/publications/sgc-publications>
- <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/Newsroom/Press-Statements-Transcripts-and-Photos/2025/01/ASEAN-Foreign-Ministers-Retreat-Post-Visit>