

The Green–Blue Nexus

Connecting sustainable aquatic-sector opportunities with investment, innovation, skilled people, decent employment and resilient national development.

01 / CORE DISTINCTION

ASEAN's blue economy is an integrated, inclusive and sustainable approach to creating value from oceans, seas and freshwater resources. Under ILO definitions, green jobs are **decent jobs** that contribute to preserving or restoring the environment. A job in aquaculture, maritime transport or marine tourism is therefore **not automatically a green job**.

02 / DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY · PROPOSED

Blue opportunity → Investment and enterprise → Technology adoption → Occupational demand → HE / TVET capabilities → Decent green–blue jobs → Sustainable development

Innovation and ocean science enable the chain; ecosystem health and worker protection constrain it; monitoring should feed back into future decisions. These arrows represent a policy hypothesis to test—not an official ASEAN causal model.

03 / GREEN JOBS FORUM · 19–20 OCT

The forum foregrounded the need to link green investment with occupational demand, green and digital skills, employment, worker protection, social dialogue and implementation. Training by itself does not guarantee job creation.

04 / UPCOMING BLUE DIALOGUE · 27–28 OCT

The ASEAN–EU dialogue will consider higher education, TVET, blue/green talent, applied research, innovation, institutional partnerships and proposals informing a Manila Policy Brief. Outcomes have not yet been agreed.

05 / BRUNEI APPLICATION

Wawasan Brunei 2035 connects skilled people, high quality of life and a dynamic and resilient economy. For JPT and higher education, the practical role is to **verify economic and employer demand**, map current HEI/TVET research and training capacity, identify focused cooperation gaps, and track measurable outcomes. Sector priorities and ownership arrangements still require inter-agency validation.

Suggested Manila intervention

How can ASEAN–EU higher education cooperation link sustainable blue-economy investment with applied research, future workforce capability and decent green employment, while protecting aquatic ecosystems?

06 / DECISION DISCIPLINE

Before proposing a new programme or pilot, establish: (i) sector and enterprise viability; (ii) credible occupational demand; (iii) existing institutional capability; (iv) ecological and decent-work criteria; and (v) baseline indicators and accountable partners.

Source foundation: ASEAN Blue Economy Framework (2023); ASEAN Blue Economy Implementation Plan (2026–2030); ILO Green Jobs and Just Transition; UNESCO-IOC Ocean Decade; Wawasan Brunei 2035; supplied 2026 Forum and ASEAN–EU Dialogue materials.

Evidence boundary: This is a proposed Green–Blue Futures analytical synthesis, not an adopted ASEAN or Brunei framework.