



*The two nations have long collaborated as amicable friends, beginning with the treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1833. The US was one of the powers that Thailand leveraged against colonial powers. The two countries also collaborated during and after World War II. Later, military cooperation was established through defense pacts. During the Cold War, Thailand became the domino that did not fall, and escaped major regional conflicts. When terrorism emerged as a global threat, the two countries supported one another. Security cooperation continues today with many programs including the annual Cobra Gold joint military exercise and humanitarian response drills, Hanuman Guardian, and Cope Tiger.*

*Last year, Thailand and the US signed two landmark documents, the Communiqué on Strategic Alliance and Partnership, and the MOU on Promoting Supply Chain Resilience. Both sides are intensifying cooperation in areas including defense and weapons procurement, energy and food security, and the digital economy and related supply chains. This year and beyond is the time to translate further the aspirations stipulated into concrete progress. As the US hosts the eight APEC ministerial meetings this year, both Thailand and the US should find considerable interests in also having bilateral visits or discussions to enhance cooperation after the APEC ministerial meetings, while both countries expect to hold the 2+2 Strategic Dialogue and high level bilateral engagements.*

*The alliance should also be expanded to encompass and strengthen other areas of cooperation, such as the creative economy and innovation, science and technology, telecommunications, space technology, education particularly STEAM, and the environment, among others. The Royal Thai Embassy in Washington, D.C. has founded the Global Innovation Club to forge collaboration between startups, venture capitalists, and related entities of the two countries.*

*Beyond bilateral relations and cooperation, Thailand is also well-positioned to support sustainable development in the Mekong sub-region through a trilateral forum or multilateral frameworks such as the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and the Mekong-US Partnership (MUSP). Thailand has focused on education, health care, and agriculture in development partnerships with Mekong sub-regional neighbors and other partners, but these efforts can be further strengthened with the US in areas of the latter's strengths such as renewable energy, cyber and food security, to name a few.*

