

Joint Statement by AFBA, ASEAN-BAC, and FIA on Food-System Stability Under Potential Hormuz Disruption

The [ASEAN Food and Beverage Alliance](#) (AFBA), [ASEAN Business Advisory Council](#) (ASEAN-BAC) and [Food Industry Asia](#) (FIA) call on the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Member State governments, and key partner states to take immediate, time-bound action over the next six months to keep ASEAN's food system stable in the event of renewed or extended disruption in the Strait of Hormuz and wider energy markets.

A Hormuz shock would not remain only an energy issue. In ASEAN it would move quickly into food manufacturing and food service through fuel, electricity, freight, insurance, fertiliser, packaging, imported ingredients, cold chain and working capital. If left unmanaged, these pressures could reduce production runs, disrupt procurement from farmers and fisheries, weaken SME distributors and operators, and raise food prices for consumers.

We therefore urge five priority actions:

01 Keep Trade Open and Friction Low for Critical Food-System Goods

ASEAN governments should avoid new export bans, non-automatic licensing delays and inconsistent border treatment on food, feed, fertiliser, packaging materials, additives, sanitation chemicals and other essential processing inputs. Customs authorities should activate crisis green lanes, pre-arrival processing and risk-based clearance for perishables and priority food-system cargoes.

02 Protect Energy Continuity for Food Manufacturing, Cold Chain and Distribution

Member States should treat food factories, cold storage, warehousing, fisheries handling, reefer logistics and staple distribution as priority users for electricity and fuel continuity during acute stress. Temporary, transparent and time-bound

measures to prevent spoilage and production stoppages are justified where the alternative is physical shortage.

03 Mobilise Emergency Finance, Foreign-Exchange Access and Insurance Support

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04 Provide Temporary Regulatory Agility without Compromising Food Safety

Food safety must remain non-negotiable, but regulators should allow faster handling of low-risk administrative changes that support continuity, including approved supplier switches, origin changes, alternative packaging formats, pack-size adjustments and temporary label transition periods, provided traceability, documentation and recall readiness are maintained. The objective should be continuity inside a science-based framework, not deregulation.

05 Establish a Standing ASEAN Public-Private Resilience Mechanism for the Next Six Months

This mechanism should connect the ASEAN Secretariat, relevant economic, agriculture, energy and finance tracks, and industry bodies, with a simple operational mandate: share market intelligence, identify bottlenecks, flag emerging shortages, and coordinate fast responses before national problems become regional disruptions. It should also protect farmer-manufacturer linkages by supporting continuity of procurement and prompt payment where commercially feasible.

We also call on key partner states with leverage over energy, shipping, fertiliser, insurance, and trade finance to support safe and reliable transit of essential cargo, maintain export reliability, expand trade-credit and reinsurance support, and accelerate practical recognition of electronic certificates and other paperless trade procedures where possible.

AFBA, ASEAN-BAC, and FIA are ready to do our part. Industry will share supply-chain intelligence where feasible, identify chokepoints early, support efficient loss-reduction measures, maintain responsible sourcing from farmers and fisheries where commercially viable, and work with regulators on safe and traceable substitution when needed.

This is not a request for permanent protection or broad market intervention. It is a request for targeted, transparent and time-bound measures that keep food moving, preserve farmer-manufacturer linkages, protect consumers, and prevent an external chokepoint shock from becoming a deeper affordability and availability crisis in ASEAN.

About ASEAN Food and Beverage Alliance

ASEAN Food and Beverage Alliance (AFBA) are a group of national industry associations supporting the manufacturing, distribution, and the sale of a broad range of food and beverage products in Southeast Asia. AFBA aims to help grow a profitable and sustainable food and beverage industry by being a trusted partner and intermediary between businesses and the public sector in ASEAN.

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About ASEAN Business Advisory Council

Launched in April 2003, ASEAN-BAC was set up with the mandate to provide private sector feedback and guidance to boost ASEAN's efforts toward economic integration. Aside from providing private sector feedback on the implementation of ASEAN economic cooperation, the Council also identifies priority areas for consideration of the ASEAN Leaders. Accordingly, ASEAN-BAC's activities are primarily focused on reviewing and identifying issues to facilitate and promote economic cooperation and integration. As the APEX private sector body of ASEAN, the Council serves as the principal platform for the business leaders across the region to engage with policymakers.

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About Food Industry Asia

Food Industry Asia (FIA) was formed in 2010 to enable major food and beverage manufacturers and ingredients suppliers to speak with one voice on complex issues such as health and nutrition, food safety, sustainability, and regulations and trade. From its base in Singapore, FIA seeks to enhance the industry's role as a trusted partner and collaborator in the development of science-based policy across Asia. To do so means acting as a knowledge hub for Asia's national industry associations and affiliated groups, to support with their engagement of public bodies and other stakeholders across the region.

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Annex 1: Prioritised Action List

Priority	Action	Timing	Lead Actors
Highest	Crisis green lanes and no-new-restrictions pledge for critical food-system inputs	Day 1 to Day 30	National trade and customs authorities; ASEAN Secretariat coordination
Highest	Essential-user designation for food manufacturing, cold chain, fisheries and staple distribution	Day 1 to Day 45	Energy ministries, utilities, port authorities, local governments
High	Emergency working-capital, FX and trade-credit or insurance window	Day 15 to Day 75	Finance ministries, central banks, DFIs, EXIMs, partner-state agencies
High	Temporary food-safety fast-track for low-risk changes	Day 15 to Day 90	Food regulators, standards bodies, customs, health and agriculture agencies
High	Standing ASEAN public-private resilience cell	Day 1 to Month 6	ASEAN Secretariat, national focal points, AFBA, ASEAN BAC, FIA
Medium	Partner-state arrangements on export reliability, supplier credit, reinsurance and alternative sourcing	Month 2 to Month 6	Trade, foreign affairs and finance ministries; willing partner states; industry