



ASEAN DOCUMENTS SERIES 2006

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

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I. ASEAN SUMMIT DOCUMENTS^{*}

Chairperson's Statement of the 12th ASEAN Summit H.E. the President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

**"One Caring and Sharing Community"
Cebu, Philippines, 13 January 2007**

1. We, the Heads of State and/or Government of ASEAN Member Countries, had a very productive 12th ASEAN Summit Meeting, on 13 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines.
 2. We exchanged views on regional and international developments, focusing on how we may deepen ASEAN integration to better foster the region's sustainable development, stability, security and prosperity for the benefit of all our peoples.
 3. We resolved to uphold the centrality of ASEAN and to enhance its standing as an effective driving force for regional initiatives and collective responses to the challenges and opportunities facing our region, countries and peoples. We stressed that the ASEAN community we are building shall be a community of peoples caring for and sharing their human, natural and cultural resources and strengths for their common good and mutual benefit.
- Cebu Declaration on the Blueprint of the ASEAN Charter**
4. We recognized that ASEAN must manage the key challenges of regional integration, globalization, economic growth and new technologies. In doing so, we acknowledged that ASEAN must remain cohesive with strong institutions and responsive policies for regional community building. To help realize this vision, we signed the Cebu Declaration on the Blueprint of the ASEAN Charter to endorse the Report of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter as one of the basis of the drafting of the ASEAN Charter together with our views and directives given at the 11th and 12th ASEAN Summit. We also directed the High Level Task Force to complete the drafting of the ASEAN Charter in time for the 13th Summit in Singapore in 2007.
- An ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community**
5. We recognized ASEAN's progress in creating a caring environment that prioritizes the quality of life of its peoples. We agreed to address the special needs of the vulnerable and disadvantaged, through people-centered integration. To reinforce this environment in the context of building a stronger regional identity, we agreed to hold ASEAN Day commemorative activities in each our countries.
 6. We agreed to strengthen the protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of women and children within and between our countries. Towards this end, we will mainstream their concerns in our national and regional plans.
 7. We recognized the contributions of our migrant workers to the development and prosperity of our region. We, therefore, issued the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers as a concrete manifestation of our collective commitment to attain this objective. We directed our officials to implement the Declaration and to develop, in accordance with its provisions, effective mechanisms to safeguard our migrant workers, including an ASEAN instrument to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers, consistent with our vision of building a just, humane and democratic ASEAN Community. We also instructed the Secretary General to report annually on the progress of these directives.
 8. We convened the Second Special Session on HIV and AIDS to stem and reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS in the region. We agreed to strengthen national AIDS policies and programs to protect persons living with HIV and AIDS, as well as other affected groups, from social stigma. We agreed to remove obstacles in the access of quality products and medicines for HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment. We adopted the Third ASEAN Work Program on HIV and AIDS (AWP III) for 2006-2010. We expressed support for the work of the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA) in strengthening regional responses to HIV and AIDS through multi-sectoral participation. We expressed appreciation for the assistance extended by UNAIDS to ASEAN in implementing regional HIV and AIDS initiatives.
 9. We agreed to strengthen our efforts to achieve our common goals of eradicating poverty and hunger in ASEAN, as determined by the World Food Summit, the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the VAP. We undertook to support further resource mobilization for agriculture and rural development in the ASEAN. We adopted the ASEAN Statement calling upon the Paris Club to seriously consider the Philippine proposal, raised at the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, for debt-equity arrangements to fund MDG projects.
 10. We agreed to support the operations of the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, based in the Philippines to actively promote biodiversity conservation in the region. We also agreed to pursue marine biodiversity projects in the region.
 11. We discussed the transboundary haze pollution in the region and noted the work of the ASEAN Environment Ministers in developing effective strategies to address this problem and in mobilizing resources to implement the Plans of Action in dealing with Transboundary Haze Pollution. We stressed the importance of bringing the Haze issue to the attention of other countries and international organizations. We noted that the ASEAN Environment Ministers had adopted the Cebu Resolution on Sustainable Development to address critical and persistent environmental problems that generate economic and social dislocations. We also agreed to work on an ASEAN Leaders Declaration on Environmental Sustainability to be issued at our next Summit in Singapore.
 12. We welcomed the progress in implementing the VAP and decisions from previous ASEAN and Related Summits. We urged Member Countries and Dialogue Partners to continue contributing to the ASEAN Development Fund to support ASEAN's integration. We tasked our Ministers to take steps to fully implement the VAP and other ASEAN action plans and decisions, and we directed the Secretary-General to update us on these matters at our next Summit.

^{*}The documents for the 12th ASEAN Summit are dated January 2007 as the Summit was postponed from its original December 2006 date.

An ASEAN Community by 2015

13. We affirmed our strong commitment to accelerate the establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015 as envisioned in the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the ASEAN Concord II and agreed to sign the Cebu Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

ASEAN Security Community

14. We welcomed the steady progress made in implementing ASEAN Security Community (ASC) - related activities through the VAP and the ASC Plan of Action, including the convening of the First ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting, as well as advances in the work of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.
15. We signed the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism to enhance the region's capacity to confront terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and to deepen counter-terrorism cooperation among our law enforcement and other relevant authorities. We also recognized the importance of inter-faith dialogue in fostering greater understanding among our peoples and pledged to increase cooperation in this area.

ASEAN Economic Community

16. We agreed to hasten the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 and to transform ASEAN into a region with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labour, and freer flow of capital.
17. We expressed serious concern over the negative impact that prolonged high oil prices have on economic growth and development in the region. To address this problem in a strategic manner, we agreed to deepen ASEAN energy cooperation, especially for key ASEAN infrastructure projects, including the ASEAN power grid and Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline. Our ultimate aim is to create an open energy market. We also stressed that ASEAN must improve energy use efficiency, and must diversify its energy supply by developing such alternative energy sources as biofuels and civilian nuclear power. In this regard, we agreed to pay close attention to the security, environmental, health and safety dimensions of the energy sector and we tasked our officials to look into a regional nuclear safety regime.

Narrowing Development Gap

18. We noted that the Mid-term Review of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan has recommended new project areas to benefit the ASEAN New Members, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. We recognized that the IAI needs more resources to meet their urgent needs and those of the ASEAN sub-regions. We also called for developing a coherent and integrated approach to infrastructure development, particularly transport linkages, in order to narrow development gaps.
19. We agreed to promote greater education cooperation among our countries and to strengthen education within them, in order to narrow our region's development gaps, to prepare our youth for regional leadership, and to increase the competitiveness of our peoples. We commended the contribution of the ASEAN University

Network (AUN) towards this effort and called for the strengthening of the Network to facilitate educational access.

Myanmar

20. We took note of the briefing by Myanmar on the latest developments in the implementation of its Roadmap to Democracy. We encouraged Myanmar to make greater progress towards national reconciliation. In this regard, we called for the release of those placed under detention and for effective dialogue with all parties concerned. Furthermore, we agreed on the need to preserve ASEAN's credibility as an effective regional organization by demonstrating a capacity to manage important issues within the region.

ASEAN's External Relations

21. We appreciated the dynamism and diversity of our cooperation with each of our Dialogue Partners, particularly for integration and the narrowing of development gaps. We looked forward to their continued engagement with ASEAN.
22. We welcomed the accession of France and Timor Leste to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia during our Summit. Their accession enhances the Treaty as our principal regional instrument governing peaceful inter-state relations, and should be followed by closer peace and security cooperation with ASEAN in the region and in the United Nations and other international fora.
23. We welcomed the progress of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand. We underscored the importance of FTA's in strengthening ASEAN's global competitiveness and its cooperation with its Dialogue Partners. We encouraged all Dialogue Partners to work with ASEAN on the early conclusion of their respective FTA's. These FTA's, taken together, will deepen East Asian economic integration, which will benefit the peoples of the region.

East Asia Summit

24. We looked forward in convening the Second East Asia Summit (EAS) on 15 January 2007. Reaffirming that ASEAN should consolidate its leading and central role in the evolving regional architecture; we are committed to ensuring that our meeting will build on the success of the First EAS. We looked forward to signing the Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security which would help shape a common regional policy for energy issues, including the development and use of alternative and renewable forms of energy, promotion of energy efficiency and resource and infrastructure development through greater private sector involvement. We tasked our officials to continue working with our EAS partners in coming up with concrete projects to enhance our energy security.
25. We exchanged views on the future of East Asian cooperation. We agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation with other EAS partners and reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three process would be the main vehicle towards achieving an East Asian community.

ASEAN - Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

26. We welcomed the Philippine initiative to forge closer cooperation with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which is ASEAN's immediate neighbor and a potential partner in promoting peace, security and prosperity in the region. We tasked our officials to identify means of strengthening our linkages with the SCO, in addition to the existing arrangement between our Secretariats.

Regional and International Issues

27. We agreed to continue our cooperation to maintain security, stability and peace in our region. Towards this end, we will continue collective action to address the challenges posed by such serious threats as terrorism and transnational crime, avian influenza and other major infectious diseases, environmental degradation, natural disasters, destabilizing increases in oil prices, and the negative impact of rapid globalization and growth.
28. We reaffirmed that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is an international priority. We, therefore, urged the DPRK to desist from conducting further nuclear tests, to take concrete and effective steps to implement the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement, and to rejoin, at an early date, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We emphasized that DPRK must effectively address the humanitarian concerns of the international community.
29. We fully support the Six-Party Talks and other diplomatic efforts to resolve the Korean Peninsula issue. At the same time, we agreed that the international community must convey in clear terms to the DPRK that the latter must denuclearize in a verifiable manner. We, therefore, reaffirmed our commitment to the full implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1695 and 1718 for this purpose.
30. We expressed our continuing concern over instability in Iraq and the Middle East. We called for dialogue between all contending sides, to secure national reconciliation in Iraq, and a durable and equitable settlement between Israel and Palestine, consistent with the relevant United Nations resolutions.
31. We reaffirmed our commitment to the United Nations and our support for its comprehensive reform, including the enhancement of the voice and role of developing countries in its structure and processes. We welcomed the message to ASEAN of the new United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, and expressed our pride that he is from our own region and our best wishes for his success in his important tasks.

WTO

32. We took note of the message from WTO Director General Pascal Lamy on the status of the negotiations on the WTO talks and the Doha Development Round. We adopted the ASEAN Statement on the WTO to express support for the resumption of the Doha Round.
33. We welcomed Viet Nam's accession to the WTO and reiterated our support for early accession of Lao PDR into the WTO.

Pakistan

34. We noted the Proposal by the Prime Minister of Malaysia for Pakistan to be accorded the status of full Dialogue Partner of ASEAN as per the latter's request. We agreed that the request be given due consideration.

Other Matters

35. We supported the continued efforts of the ASEAN Foundation to foster a greater sense of regional identity among our peoples. We noted the Report of the Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation and agreed to ensure full private sector involvement in our community building activities.

36. We welcomed the report of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and expressed our continuing support for its role in enhancing private sector engagement in ASEAN economic policy discussions. We also underscored the need for closer coordination and regular engagement between the private sector and relevant public agencies in the implementation of the ABAC recommendations and ASEAN's economic initiatives and programmes.
37. We were pleased with the innovative proposals made by the President of the 27th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) Assembly on making ASEAN more effective and meaningful for Asia and the world, and on enhancing ASEAN-AIPO interaction.
38. We welcomed the report of the Chair of the 5th ASEAN People's Assembly (APA) on the outcome of the 5th APA that was held in Manila on 8-9 December 2006. We took into consideration the 5th APA's recommendations on how to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and the region's civil society organizations.

Cebu Declaration towards One Caring and Sharing Community

Cebu, Philippines, 13 January 2007

WE, the Heads of State/Government of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, hereinafter referred to as ASEAN;

RECALLING the goals and objectives of the ASEAN Vision 2020, which sets out a broad vision of the ASEAN becoming "a concert of Southeast Asian Nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together as partners in dynamic development and in a community of caring and sharing societies";

RECALLING FURTHER the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II), adopted during the 9th ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia, on 7 October 2003, which aims to realise the establishment of the ASEAN Community comprising three pillars, namely the ASEAN Security Community (ASC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) that are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing for the purpose of ensuring durable peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region;

REAFFIRMING the core elements of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Plan of Action of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), which aims to build a community of caring and sharing societies to address issues of poverty, equity and human development; manage the social impact of economic integration by building a competitive human resource base and adequate systems of social protection; enhance environmental sustainability and sound environmental governance; and strengthen the foundations of regional social cohesion towards an ASEAN Community;

GUIDED by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and underscoring the importance of the Millennium Declaration wherein ASEAN Leaders at the 2nd ASEAN-UN Summit in 2005 declared to focus their collective efforts toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

ENCOURAGED by the 2001 Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN wherein the survival, development, protection and participation rights of children in various conditions, including those with special needs, were recognised and identified;

REAFFIRMING FURTHER the ASEAN Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (RDPE), which aims to formulate strategies and implement programmes and projects based on the vision to eradicate poverty and respond to challenges of globalisation, trade liberalisation and regional integration;

EXPRESSING the need to accelerate the implementation of agreed ASEAN activities to address the development gap among ASEAN Member Countries, and to facilitate the pace of economic integration of ASEAN into one community of nations;

HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. Reaffirm our commitment to realise the MDGs and the four strategic thrusts of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), particularly in reducing poverty and inequality and in improving the standard and quality of life of our people.
2. Direct our relevant ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial bodies to accelerate ASEAN cooperation under the socio-cultural pillar through closer consultation and synergy of cooperation in realising the goals of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) with clear timelines.
3. Strive to build a caring and sharing community for children that will effectively address issues on their survival, development, protection and participation rights through adequate allocation of resources and undertake effective measures and strengthen existing mechanisms to promote and protect the rights of the child, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
4. Encourage equitable and effective participation of women in all fields in the ASEAN community-building process.
5. Encourage greater institutional collaboration in promoting ASEAN awareness particularly among the younger generation, and promote the increased involvement of ASEAN youth and students at national and regional level activities, so that they can make valuable contributions to the achievement of the ASEAN Community.
6. Commit to improve our standard of education to build a more competitive workforce.
7. Expand the participation of ASEAN parliamentarians, private sector and civil society organisations in line with the goal toward a people-centred ASEAN.
8. Promote ASEAN identity building in support of an ASEAN Community by undertaking initiatives and activities to increase the level of ASEAN awareness and "we feeling" among the peoples of ASEAN. We also reaffirm our efforts in preserving and promoting the region's rich and vast cultural heritage and living traditions, which reflect the ASEAN spirit of unity in cultural diversity and social harmony.

DONE at Cebu, Philippines, this Thirteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven, in a single original copy in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
SAMDECH HUN SEN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia:
DR. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO
President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
BOUASONE BOUPHAVANH
Prime Minister

For Malaysia:
DATO' SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI
Prime Minister

For the Union of Myanmar:
GENERAL SOE WIN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Philippines:
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President

For the Republic of Singapore:
LEE HSIEN LOONG
Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
GENERAL SURAYUD CHULANONT (RET.)
Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
NGUYEN TAN DUNG
Prime Minister

ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism

Cebu, Philippines, 13 January 2007

Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties";

RECALLING the Charter of the United Nations and relevant principles of international law, the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to counter terrorism and relevant resolutions of the United Nations on measures aimed at countering international terrorism, and reaffirming our commitment to protect human rights, fair treatment, the rule of law, and due process as well as the principles enshrined in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia done at Bali on 24 February 1976;

REAFFIRMING that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group;

RECALLING also the ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism and the Declaration on Terrorism adopted at the ASEAN Summits in 2001 and 2002 respectively;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the Vientiane Action Programme done at Vientiane on 29 November 2004, particularly its thrust on "shaping and sharing of norms" and the need, among others, to work towards the conclusion of an ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement, and an ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, and the establishment of an ASEAN Extradition Treaty as envisaged by the 1976 Declaration of ASEAN Concord;

DEEPLY CONCERNED over the grave danger posed by terrorism to innocent lives, infrastructure and the environment, regional and international peace and stability as well as to economic development;

REALISING the importance of identifying and effectively addressing the root causes of terrorism in the formulation of any counter terrorism measures;

REITERATING that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, committed wherever, whenever, and by whomsoever, is a profound threat to international peace and security and a direct challenge to the attainment of peace, progress and prosperity for ASEAN and the realisation of ASEAN Vision 2020;

REAFFIRMING our strong commitment to enhance cooperation in countering terrorism which covers the prevention and suppression of all forms of terrorist acts;

REITERATING the need to improve regional cooperation on counter terrorism and undertake effective measures through deepening cooperation among ASEAN law enforcement agencies and relevant authorities in countering terrorism;

ENCOURAGING the Parties to become parties as soon as possible to the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to counter terrorism;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

Objective

This Convention shall provide for the framework for regional cooperation to counter, prevent and suppress terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to deepen cooperation among law enforcement agencies and relevant authorities of the Parties in countering terrorism.

Article II

Criminal Acts of Terrorism

1. For the purposes of this Convention, "offence" means any of the offences within the scope of and as defined in any of the treaties listed as follows:
 - a. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970;
 - b. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, concluded at Montreal on 23 September 1971;
 - c. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents, adopted in New York on 14 December 1973;

- d. International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages, adopted in New York on 17 December 1979;
- e. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted in Vienna on 26 October 1979;
- f. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, done at Montreal on 24 February 1988;
- g. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, done at Rome on 10 March 1988;
- h. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, done at Rome on 10 March 1988;
- i. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted in New York on 15 December 1997;
- j. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, adopted in New York on 9 December 1999;
- k. International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted in New York on 13 April 2005;
- l. Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, done at Vienna on 8 July 2005;
- m. Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, done at London on 14 October 2005; and
- n. Protocol of 2005 to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, done at London on 14 October 2005.

2. On depositing its instrument of ratification or approval, a Party which is not a Party to a treaty listed in paragraph 1 of this Article may declare that, in the application of this Convention to that Party, that treaty shall be deemed not to be included in paragraph 1 of this Article. This declaration shall cease to have an effect as soon as the treaty enters into force for the Party having made such a declaration, which shall notify the depositary as stated in paragraph 2 of Article XX of this entry into force.
3. When a Party ceases to be a party to a treaty listed in paragraph 1 of this Article, it may make a declaration as provided for in this Article, with respect to that treaty.

Article III

Sovereign Equality, Territorial Integrity and Non-Interference

The Parties shall carry out their obligations under this Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-interference in the internal affairs of other Parties.

Article IV

Preservation of Sovereignty

Nothing in this Convention entitles a Party to undertake, in the territory of another Party, the exercise of jurisdiction or performance of functions which are exclusively reserved for the authorities of that other Party by its domestic laws.

Article V

Non-Application

This Convention shall not apply where the offence is committed within a single Party, the alleged offender and the victims are nationals of that Party, the alleged offender is found in the territory of that Party and no other Party has a basis under this Convention to exercise jurisdiction.

Article VI**Areas of Cooperation**

1. The areas of cooperation under this Convention may, in conformity with the domestic laws of the respective Parties, include appropriate measures, among others, to:
 - a. Take the necessary steps to prevent the commission of terrorist acts, including by the provision of early warning to the other Parties through the exchange of information;
 - b. Prevent those who finance, plan, facilitate, or commit terrorist acts from using their respective territories for those purposes against the other Parties and/or the citizens of the other Parties;
 - c. Prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts;
 - d. Prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups by effective border control and controls on issuance of identity papers and travel documents, and through measures for preventing counterfeiting, forgery or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents;
 - e. Promote capacity-building including trainings and technical cooperation and the holding of regional meetings;
 - f. Promote public awareness and participation in efforts to counter terrorism, as well as enhance inter-faith and intra-faith dialogue and dialogue among civilisations;
 - g. Enhance cross-border cooperation;
 - h. Enhance intelligence exchange and sharing of information;
 - i. Enhance existing cooperation towards developing regional databases under the purview of the relevant ASEAN bodies;
 - j. Strengthen capability and readiness to deal with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) terrorism, cyber terrorism and any new forms of terrorism;
 - k. Undertake research and development on measures to counter terrorism;
 - l. Encourage the use of video conference or teleconference facilities for court proceedings, where appropriate; and
 - m. Ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice.
2. Subject to the consent of the Parties concerned, Parties shall cooperate to address the root causes of terrorism and conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism to prevent the perpetration of terrorist acts and the propagation of terrorist cells.

Article VII**State Jurisdiction**

1. A Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences covered in Article II of this Convention when:
 - a. The offence is committed in the territory of that Party; or
 - b. The offence is committed on board a vessel flying the flag of that Party or an aircraft which is registered under the laws of that Party at the time the offence is committed; or
 - c. The offence is committed by a national of that Party.
2. A Party may also establish its jurisdiction over any such offence when:
 - a. The offence is committed against a national of that Party; or
 - b. The offence is committed against a state or government facility of that Party abroad, including its embassy or other diplomatic or consular premises; or

- c. The offence is committed in an attempt to compel that Party to do or to abstain from doing any act; or
- d. The offence is committed by a stateless person with habitual residence in the territory of that Party.

3. A Party shall likewise establish its jurisdiction over the offences covered in Article II of this Convention in cases where the alleged offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite that person to any of the Parties that have established their jurisdiction in accordance with paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article.
4. This Convention does not exclude the exercise of any criminal jurisdiction established by a Party in accordance with its domestic laws.

Article VIII**Fair Treatment**

1. Any person who is taken into custody or regarding whom any other measures are taken or proceedings are carried out pursuant to this Convention shall be guaranteed fair treatment, including enjoyment of all rights and guarantees in conformity with the laws of the Party in the territory of which that person is present and applicable provisions of international law, including international human rights law.
2. Upon receiving information that a person who has committed or who is alleged to have committed an offence covered in Article II of this Convention may be present in its territory, the Party concerned shall take such measures as may be necessary under its domestic laws to investigate the facts contained in the information.
3. Upon being satisfied that the circumstances so warrant, the Party in whose territory the offender or alleged offender is present shall take the appropriate measures under its domestic laws so as to ensure that person's presence for the purpose of prosecution or extradition.
4. Any person regarding whom measures referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article are being taken shall be entitled:
 - a. To communicate without delay with the nearest appropriate representative of the State of which that person is a national or which is otherwise entitled to protect that person's rights;
 - b. To be visited by a representative of that State;
 - c. To be informed of that person's rights under subparagraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 4 of this Article.
5. The rights referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article shall be exercised in conformity with the laws and regulations of the Party in the territory of which the offender or alleged offender is present, subject to the provision that the said laws and regulations must enable full effect to be given to the purposes for which the rights accorded under paragraph 4 of this Article are intended.
6. When a Party, pursuant to the present Article, has taken a person into custody, it shall immediately notify, directly or through the Secretary-General of ASEAN, the Parties which have established jurisdiction in accordance with paragraph 1 or 2 of Article VII, and, if it considers it advisable, any other interested Parties, of the fact that such person is in custody and of the circumstances which warrant that person's detention. The Party which is carrying out the investigation referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall promptly inform the said Parties of its findings and shall indicate whether it intends to exercise jurisdiction over the said person.

Article IX General Provisions

1. The Parties shall adopt such measures as may be necessary, including, where appropriate, national legislation, to ensure that offences covered in Article II of this Convention, especially when it is intended to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organisation to do or to abstain from doing any act, are under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature.
2. Pursuant to Article VI of this Convention, the Parties shall, where possible, establish channels of communication between their competent agencies to facilitate the exchange of information to prevent the commission of offences covered in Article II of this Convention.
3. The Party where the alleged offender is prosecuted shall, upon the request of the other Parties claiming jurisdiction over the same, communicate the status of the case at any stage of the proceedings to those other Parties.

Article X Status of Refugees

The Parties shall take appropriate measures, in conformity with the relevant provisions of their respective domestic laws and applicable international law, including international standards of human rights, before granting refugee status, where the Parties recognise and grant such status, for the purpose of ensuring that the asylum seeker has not planned, facilitated or participated in the commission of terrorist acts.

Article XI Rehabilitative Programmes

The Parties shall endeavour to promote the sharing of best practices on rehabilitative programmes including, where appropriate, social reintegration of persons involved in the commission of any of the offences covered in Article II of this Convention with the objective of preventing the perpetration of terrorist acts.

Article XII Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

1. The Parties shall, in conformity with their respective domestic laws, afford the widest measure of assistance in connection with investigations or criminal proceedings brought in respect of the offences covered in Article II of this Convention.
2. The Parties shall, where they are parties to the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters done in Kuala Lumpur on 29 November 2004, carry out their obligations under paragraph 1 of this Article in conformity with that Treaty.

Article XIII Extradition

1. The Party in the territory of which the alleged offender is present shall, in cases to which Article VII of this Convention applies, if it does not extradite that person, be obliged, without exception whatsoever and whether or not the offence was committed in its territory, to submit the case without undue delay to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution, through proceedings in accordance with

the domestic laws of that Party. Those authorities shall take their decision in the same manner as in the case of any other offence of a grave nature under the domestic laws of that Party.

2. The offences covered in Article II of this Convention shall be deemed to be included as extraditable offences in any extradition treaty existing between any of the Parties before the entry into force of this Convention. The Parties undertake to include such offences as extraditable offences in every extradition treaty to be subsequently concluded between them.
3. When a Party which makes extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty receives a request for extradition from another Party with which it has no extradition treaty, the requested Party may, at its option, and in conformity with its domestic laws, consider this Convention as a legal basis for extradition in respect of the offences covered in Article II of this Convention.

Article XIV Political Offences Exception

None of the offences covered in Article II of this Convention shall be regarded for the purposes of extradition under Article XIII of this Convention or mutual legal assistance in criminal matters under Article XII of this Convention as a political offence or as an offence connected with a political offence or as an offence inspired by political motives. Accordingly, a request for extradition or for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters based on such an offence may not be refused on the sole ground that it concerns a political offence or an offence connected with a political offence or an offence inspired by political motives.

Article XV Designation of Central Authorities or Coordinating Structures

Each Party shall designate, as appropriate, a central authority or coordinating structure to enhance cooperation under this Convention.

Article XVI Implementation, Monitoring and Review

The relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies involved in ASEAN cooperation on countering terrorism shall be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of this Convention.

Article XVII Confidentiality

1. Each Party shall preserve the confidentiality and secrecy of documents, records and other information received from any other Party, including the source thereof.
2. No document, record or other information obtained pursuant to this Convention shall be disclosed to or shared with any other Party, State or person except with the prior written consent of the Party which provided such document, record or information.

Article XVIII Relationship with Other International Instruments

This Convention shall not derogate from obligations subsisting between the Parties pursuant to other international agreements nor, where the Parties agree, shall it prevent the Parties from providing assistance to each other pursuant to other international agreements or the provisions of their respective domestic laws.

Article XIX **Settlement of Disputes**

Any difference or dispute between the Parties arising from the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Convention shall be settled amicably through consultation and negotiation between the Parties through diplomatic channels or any other peaceful means for the settlement of disputes as agreed upon between the Parties.

Article XX **Ratification, Approval and Depositary**

1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification or approval in accordance with the internal procedures of the Parties.
2. The instruments of ratification or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN who shall promptly inform the other Parties of such deposit.

Article XXI **Entry into Force and Amendment**

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the 30th (thirtieth) day following the date of the deposit of the 6th (sixth) instrument of ratification or approval with the Secretary-General of ASEAN in respect of those Parties that have submitted their instruments of ratification or approval.
2. For any Party ratifying or approving this Convention after the deposit of the 6th (sixth) instrument of ratification or approval, but before the day the Convention enters into force, the Convention shall also apply to that Party on the date the Convention enters into force.
3. In respect of a Party ratifying or approving this Convention subsequent to its entry into force pursuant to paragraph 1, it shall enter into force for that Party on the date its instrument of ratification or approval is deposited.
4. This Convention may be modified or amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Parties. Such modification or amendment shall enter into force on such date as shall be mutually agreed upon by Parties and shall form part of this Convention.
5. Any modification or amendment shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from or based on the provisions of this Convention before the entry into force of such modification or amendment.

Article XXII **Withdrawal**

1. Any Party may withdraw from this Convention at any time after the date of the entry into force of this Convention for that Party.
2. The withdrawal shall be notified by an instrument of withdrawal to the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
3. The withdrawal shall take effect 180 (one hundred and eighty) days after the receipt of the instrument of withdrawal by the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
4. The Secretary-General of ASEAN shall promptly notify all the other Parties of any withdrawal.

Article XXIII **Registration**

This Convention shall be registered by the Secretary-General of ASEAN to the United Nations Secretariat pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

DONE at Cebu, Philippines, this Thirteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven, in a single original copy in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam:

HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:

SAMDECH HUN SEN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia:

DR. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO
President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

BOUASONE BOUPHAVANH
Prime Minister

For Malaysia:

DATO' SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI
Prime Minister

For the Union of Myanmar:

GENERAL SOE WIN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Philippines:

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President

For the Republic of Singapore:

LEE HSIEN LOONG
Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand:

GENERAL SURAYUD CHULANONT (RET.)
Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

NGUYEN TAN DUNG
Prime Minister



Cebu Declaration on the Blueprint of the ASEAN Charter

Cebu, Philippines, 13 January 2007

WE, the Heads of State/Government of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member Countries of ASEAN, on the occasion of the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu;

INSPIRED by One Vision, One Identity, the creation of One Community for ASEAN by the year 2020;

EMBARKING on a momentous undertaking of establishing an ASEAN Community and facilitating its realisation by adopting an ASEAN Charter as stated in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter adopted at the 11th ASEAN Summit on 12 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur;

CONSCIOUS that ASEAN has matured into a regional organisation and is expanding its role as an integrated regional economy and a dynamic force in maintaining regional peace and stability as envisaged in the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) and its plans of action, roadmaps, and the ASEAN Vision 2020 which envisions ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian nations, outward-looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies;

MINDFUL of the immense opportunities and key challenges posed by ASEAN's regional integration process, rapid globalisation and impact of new technologies, as well as the pressing need to strengthen and reinforce further the existing institutions of ASEAN by providing ASEAN with a legal personality and an efficient structure, which will facilitate the attainment of community objectives;

RECALLING our decision in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter at the 11th ASEAN Summit to establish the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter, whom we mandated to examine and provide practical recommendations on the directions and nature of the ASEAN Charter relevant to the ASEAN Community as envisaged in the Bali Concord II and beyond, taking into account, but not limited to, the principles, values and objectives as contained in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter, and to consider their recommendations at our subsequent meetings;

NOTING that our Ministers have established a High Level Task Force to carry out the drafting of the ASEAN Charter based on the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter and the recommendations of the EPG;

RECOGNISING the outstanding and comprehensive work of the EPG and its dedication and the efficiency with which it has carried out its mandate, producing the Report of the EPG on the ASEAN Charter;

ACKNOWLEDGING the earnest efforts of the EPG in actively consulting various ASEAN sectors and stakeholders, including civil society organisations, businessmen, academics and parliamentarians on their views regarding what should be the key components of an ASEAN Charter and the changes necessary to support the realisation of ASEAN's community building;

WE DO HEREBY AGREE:

FIRST, we are committed to establish an ASEAN Charter as a crowning achievement of 40 years of ASEAN to enable ASEAN to meet future challenges and opportunities.

SECOND, we reiterate our conviction that an ASEAN Charter will serve as a firm foundation in achieving one ASEAN Community by providing an enhanced institutional framework as well as conferring a legal personality to ASEAN.

THIRD, we endorse the Report of the EPG on the ASEAN Charter and agree that the High Level Task Force should commence the drafting of the ASEAN Charter based on our directions given at the 11th and 12th ASEAN Summits, the relevant ASEAN documents, together with the EPG recommendations, to be completed in time for the 13th ASEAN Summit in Singapore in November 2007.

DONE at Cebu, Philippines, this Thirteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven, in a single original copy in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
SAMDECH HUN SEN
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For the Republic of Indonesia:
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For the Kingdom of Thailand:
GENERAL SURAYUD CHULANONT (RET.)
Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
NGUYEN TAN DUNG
Prime Minister

Cebu Declaration on the Acceleration of the Establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015

Cebu, Philippines, 13 January 2007

WE, the Heads of State/Government of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member Countries of ASEAN, on the occasion of the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu;

ACKNOWLEDGING the prescience of ASEAN Vision 2020 and the significant and important progress that ASEAN has made towards the goals of that visionary declaration;

RECALLING the proposal made at the 11th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005, on accelerating the establishment of an ASEAN Community, as well as the exchange of views at the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur and the recommendation from the 38th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in August 2006;

RECOGNISING that different levels of development within ASEAN require some flexibility as ASEAN moves towards a more integrated and interconnected future;

WELCOMING the concrete outcomes of the First Coordinating Conferences for the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action (ASCCO) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Plan of Action (SOC-COM), as well as the Consultative Meetings for the Priority Integration Sectors (COPS) under the ASEAN Economic Community;

BUILDING UPON our commitment to the Vientiane Action Programme in November 2004 as successor to the Hanoi Plan of Action to realise the aims of ASEAN Vision 2020 and the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II, and welcoming the establishment of the ASEAN Development Fund in 2005 as a positive step towards integration;

EXPRESSING SATISFACTION with the progress towards narrowing the development gap under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and other programmes and acknowledging the need to enhance efforts to achieve this goal;

DETERMINED to deal more effectively with the increasing range of transboundary concerns which ASEAN faces in this rapidly changing world since the articulation of Vision 2020 in 1997 and the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II in 2003 through better coordination and increased cooperation within ASEAN;

ENCOURAGED by ASEAN's deepening relations with our Dialogue Partners in various areas including our FTA negotiations, comprehensive plans of action and the convening of the East Asia Summit, and our Dialogue Partners' engagement of ASEAN as a reliable and substantive partner in the development of a larger community in the region;

CONSCIOUS also that the strengthening of ASEAN integration through the accelerated establishment of an ASEAN Community will reinforce ASEAN's centrality and role as the driving force in charting the evolving regional architecture;

BELIEVING that at the core of ASEAN's response to the increasing number of regional challenges must be its efforts to build a strong ASEAN Community premised on a closely integrated, dynamic and vibrant regional economy, deeper political and security cooperation and stronger socio-cultural linkages;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

FIRST, ASEAN's strong commitment towards accelerating the establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015 along the lines of ASEAN Vision 2020 and the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II, in the three pillars of the ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community;

SECOND, ASEAN's strong determination to accelerate the full implementation of the ASEAN Community's programme areas, measures and principles, with appropriate flexibility;

THIRD, ASEAN's determination to create a stronger, more united and cohesive ASEAN that can better manage the challenges posed by the evolving regional architecture and economic climate; and

FOURTH, that ASEAN remains committed to further expanding our engagement with our Dialogue Partners and other parties, and believes that such interaction will assist ASEAN in its integration efforts to achieve the ASEAN Community by 2015.

DONE at Cebu, Philippines, this Thirteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven, in a single original copy in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
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Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

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Prime Minister

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For the Republic of the Philippines:
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President

For the Republic of Singapore:
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For the Kingdom of Thailand:
GENERAL SURAYUD CHULANONT (RET.)
 Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
NGUYEN TAN DUNG
 Prime Minister

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ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers

Cebu, Philippines, 13 January 2007

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN), attending the 12th ASEAN Summit on 13 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines;

RECALLING the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II adopted at the 9th ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia, which stipulated the establishment of an ASEAN Community resting on three pillars: an ASEAN Security Community, an ASEAN Economic Community and an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community;

RECALLING also the Universal Declaration on Human Rights adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly Resolution 217(A)(III) of 10 December 1948, as well as other appropriate international instruments which all the ASEAN Member Countries have acceded to, in order to safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

RECALLING further the Vientiane Action Programme adopted at the 10th ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR, which provides for, inter alia, the promotion of human rights and obligations to realise an open, dynamic and resilient ASEAN Community;

CONFIRMING our shared responsibility to realise a common vision for a secure and prosperous ASEAN Community by improving the quality of life of its people and strengthening its cultural identity towards a people-centered ASEAN through, among others, measures on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers;

RECOGNISING the contributions of migrant workers to the society and economy of both receiving states and sending states of ASEAN;

RECOGNISING further the sovereignty of states in determining their own migration policy relating to migrant workers, including determining entry into their territory and under which conditions migrant workers may remain;

ACKNOWLEDGING the legitimate concerns of the receiving and sending states over migrant workers, as well as the need to adopt appropriate and comprehensive migration policies on migrant workers;

ACKNOWLEDGING also the need to address cases of abuse and violence against migrant workers whenever such cases occur;

REITERATING that ASEAN should make further progress as a cohesive and caring society committed to enhancing the quality of life and well being of its people, especially those in the vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors;

HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Both the receiving states and sending states shall strengthen the political, economic and social pillars of the ASEAN Community by promoting the full potential and dignity of migrant workers in a climate of freedom, equity, and stability in accordance with the laws, regulations, and policies of respective ASEAN Member Countries;
2. The receiving states and the sending states shall, for humanitarian reasons, closely cooperate to resolve the cases of migrant workers who, through no fault of their own, have subsequently become undocumented;
3. The receiving states and the sending states shall take into account the fundamental rights and dignity of migrant workers and family members already residing with them without undermining the application by the receiving states of their laws, regulations and policies; and
4. Nothing in the present Declaration shall be interpreted as implying the regularisation of the situation of migrant workers who are undocumented.

OBLIGATIONS OF RECEIVING STATES

Pursuant to the prevailing laws, regulations and policies of the respective receiving states, the receiving states will:

5. Intensify efforts to protect the fundamental human rights, promote the welfare and uphold human dignity of migrant workers;
6. Work towards the achievement of harmony and tolerance between receiving states and migrant workers;
7. Facilitate access to resources and remedies through information, training and education, access to justice, and social welfare services as appropriate and in accordance with the legislation of the receiving state, provided that they fulfill the requirements under applicable laws, regulations and policies of the said state, bilateral agreements and multilateral treaties;
8. Promote fair and appropriate employment protection, payment of wages, and adequate access to decent working and living conditions for migrant workers;
9. Provide migrant workers, who may be victims of discrimination, abuse, exploitation, violence, with adequate access to the legal and judicial system of the receiving states; and
10. Facilitate the exercise of consular functions to consular or diplomatic authorities of states of origin when a migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody or detained in any other manner, under the laws and regulations of the receiving state and in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

OBLIGATIONS OF SENDING STATES

Pursuant to the prevailing laws, regulations and policies of the respective sending states, the sending states will:

11. Enhance measures related to the promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers;
12. Ensure access to employment and livelihood opportunities for their citizens as sustainable alternatives to migration of workers;
13. Set up policies and procedures to facilitate aspects of migration of workers, including recruitment, preparation for deployment overseas and protection of the migrant workers when abroad as well as repatriation and reintegration to the countries of origin; and
14. Establish and promote legal practices to regulate recruitment of migrant workers and adopt mechanisms to eliminate recruitment malpractices through legal and valid contracts, regulation and accreditation of recruitment agencies and employers, and blacklisting of negligent/unlawful agencies.

COMMITMENTS BY ASEAN

For purposes of protecting and promoting the rights of migrant workers, ASEAN Member Countries in accordance with national laws, regulations and policies, will:

15. Promote decent, humane, productive, dignified and remunerative employment for migrant workers;
16. Establish and implement human resource development programmes and reintegration programmes for migrant workers in their countries of origin;
17. Take concrete measures to prevent or curb the smuggling and trafficking in persons by, among others, introducing stiffer penalties for those who are involved in these activities;
18. Facilitate data-sharing on matters related to migrant workers, for the purpose of enhancing policies and programmes concerning migrant workers in both sending and receiving states;
19. Promote capacity building by sharing of information, best practices as well as opportunities and challenges encountered by ASEAN Member Countries in relation to protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights and welfare;
20. Extend assistance to migrant workers of ASEAN Member Countries who are caught in conflict or crisis situations outside ASEAN in the event of need and based on the capacities and resources of the Embassies and Consular Offices of the relevant ASEAN Member Countries, based on bilateral consultations and arrangements;
21. Encourage international organisations, ASEAN dialogue partners and other countries to respect the principles and extend support and assistance to the implementation of the measures contained in this Declaration; and
22. Task the relevant ASEAN bodies to follow up on the Declaration and to develop an ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers, consistent with ASEAN's vision of a caring and sharing Community, and direct the Secretary-General of ASEAN to submit annually a report on the progress of the implementation of the Declaration to the Summit through the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.

DONE at Cebu, Philippines, this Thirteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven, in a single original copy in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
SAMDECH HUN SEN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia:
DR. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO
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GENERAL SURAYUD CHULANONT (RET.)
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For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
NGUYEN TAN DUNG
Prime Minister

ASEAN Commitments on HIV and AIDS

Cebu, Philippines, 13 January 2007

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Association of South East Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN), gathered in Cebu, Philippines on 13 January 2007, devoting a Special Session during the 12th ASEAN Summit, to review and renew our commitments on HIV and AIDS;

RECOGNISING that the HIV epidemic brought about by factors such as poverty, gender inequality and inequity, illiteracy, stigma and discrimination, conflicts and disasters, affects groups most at risk like sex workers, men having sex with men, transgenders, and drug users including injecting drug users; and vulnerable groups such as migrants and mobile populations, women and girls, children and youth, people in correctional institutions, uniformed services, communities of populations in conflict and disaster-affected areas;

REAFFIRMING our earlier commitments to effectively respond to HIV in the ASEAN region, made at our first Special Session held in conjunction with the 7th ASEAN Summit in November 2001 in Bandar Seri Begawan, and reiterated at the 9th ASEAN Summit in October 2003 in Bali, the 2nd ASEAN-United Nations Summit in September 2005 in New York and the 11th ASEAN Summit in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur;

RECALLING the commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal No. 6 which specifically refers to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;

SUPPORTING the 2005 World Summit's call and the Political Declaration made by the United Nations General Assembly at the High Level Meeting on AIDS held on 2 June 2006, to scale up significantly towards universal access to comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010 for all those in need, and the reduction of vulnerability of persons living with HIV, especially orphans, vulnerable children and older persons;

REITERATING that the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN Region promotes and protects women's rights by reducing their vulnerability to HIV and eliminating gender inequalities and gender-based violence by creating an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and strengthening their economic independence;

RECALLING ALSO the Beijing Plus Five process that aimed to undertake further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, especially in promoting women's health, including the fight against the HIV and AIDS pandemic, and also to further undertake gender-mainstreaming initiatives that address HIV and AIDS and other diseases;

NOTING the Hanoi Call to Action for Children and HIV/AIDS in East Asia and the Pacific Region of 24 March 2006, which highlights nine urgent actions to scale up response to children who are vulnerable to, infected and affected by HIV and AIDS;

GUIDED by ASEAN's Vision 2020 as a concert of Southeast Asian nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies; which reaffirms the social responsibility of all Member Countries to act together in resolving transboundary issues;

GRAVELY CONCERNED that the HIV epidemic continues to threaten our vision, and the lives and future of our peoples, especially the vulnerable populations throughout the region, with socio-economic consequences that pose a formidable challenge to ASEAN Community-building;

SADDENED that whereas HIV once primarily affected men, women now represent half of all people living with HIV and that as youth behaviour changes, rates of HIV among youth are rising at an alarming rate, with young people between 15 to 24, accounting for over fifty percent of new infections in some of our Member Countries;

REALISING that an effective response to HIV requires relentless efforts and continued commitment by all concerned in implementing comprehensive responses to reduce the number of new infections, and to provide treatment, care and support to adults and children living with HIV and AIDS;

AWARE that stigma and discrimination are barriers to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, as well as serious threats to the quality of life and livelihood of people living with and affected by HIV;

ACKNOWLEDGING that we can achieve an effective response to HIV through strong leadership, country ownership, political foresight and commitment to sustainable financing, multi-sectoral coordination and partnerships with civil society including private sector, particularly people living with HIV, and communities vulnerable and most at risk to HIV, through region-wide and global policies that respect, protect and promote the rights of people living with HIV and groups vulnerable and most at risk to HIV;

EMPHASIZING that ASEAN's Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) highlights the importance of addressing the core issues of poverty reduction, equity and health, and creating an enabling environment for preventing the spread of HIV and for the comprehensive treatment, care and support for people living with HIV in the region;

COMMENDING the untiring efforts of the ASEAN Health Ministers and their Senior Officials, especially the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS, to prevent further transmission of HIV and mitigate its impact through joint actions and policies for improved regional responses, especially recent efforts for more people-centred initiatives;

AFFIRMING that responses to HIV and AIDS require meaningful civil society participation, including greater involvement of people living with HIV; and that in ASEAN, civil society organisations have been actively involved in effective actions for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and in mitigating its impact;

ENCOURAGED by the ongoing cooperation between ASEAN and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Secretariat and its co-sponsors, and other key partners in the response to HIV and AIDS;

RECOGNISING that although resources allocated for responding to the HIV epidemic have increased substantially in many Member Countries since our first Special Session in 2001, scaling up access to protection, HIV prevention, treatment and care for majority of the affected population and high-risk communities requires still larger shares of the national budgets towards universal access by 2010, greater assistance from international partners as well as mobilisation of the business and private sector if we are to ensure that our programmes and activities have wide coverage, adequate and sustainable support;

ASSERTING that halting the spread of HIV requires the sustained cooperation and commitment of government at the highest levels, involvement of mass organisations, civil society, and strategic partners in HIV programme planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation, so that vulnerable and most at-risk communities, especially children, are protected from the impact of AIDS;

Do commit ourselves, as we progress towards a caring and sharing ASEAN Community, to:

1. Prioritise and lead the mainstreaming and alignment of HIV policies and programmes with our national development and poverty reduction plans and strategies to involve multi-sectoral responses in harmonised approaches, address the gender dimension of the epidemic, and ensure that all stakeholders at national and local levels are actively and effectively involved;
2. Harmonise programmes, activities, target population on HIV and AIDS, monitoring and evaluation systems from different sources of funding, consistent with the national program priorities, especially in the face of scaling up ART; efforts shall be given to fostering prevention and reduction of new cases and improve the performance of ART program to ensure highest adherence to drug regimens.

3. Ensure that our policies and programmes give ample emphasis to containing the epidemic in vulnerable populations; sharing of lessons, best practices and evidence-informed prevention policies; and moving prevention and education efforts, including public information campaigns, beyond the health sector, and especially address aspirations of children and young people, women, couples and other vulnerable groups to protect themselves against the disease;
4. Undertake to halt the spread of HIV, through not only the setting of ambitious national targets as committed in the 2006 UN General Assembly Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS but also through youth- and women-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, and specific HIV information, education, and communication;
5. Put into place necessary legislation and regulations (including workplace policies and programmes) to ensure that persons living with HIV and affected groups are protected and are not subjected to stigma and discrimination, have equal access to health, social welfare and education services, including continued food security and education for children;
6. Act to remove obstacles in access to quality HIV and AIDS prevention products, medicines, and treatment commodities;
7. Strengthen and facilitate the work of our AIDS coordinating authorities by endeavouring to chair and participate in their activities; expanding their membership to include all relevant key stakeholders involved in responses to HIV; allocating regular funds for their activities; and ensuring their accountability;
8. Strongly support the mobilisation and allocation of technical, financial and human resources to adequately implement, programmes and policies to respond to HIV;
9. Involve persons living with HIV, civil society organisations and the private sector, as equal partners in responses to the HIV epidemic, and ensure that the civil society has sustainable financial means and support to participate actively and meaningfully in our efforts against HIV and AIDS, including at policy and decision-making levels;
10. Strengthen the role of the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS to effectively implement regional responses to HIV, with multi-sector engagement, including that of the private sector; and ensure the meaningful participation of all relevant key stakeholders in efforts consistent with our regional and international commitments;
11. Guide the implementation of the operational work plan of the Third ASEAN Work Programme on HIV (AWPIII) for 2006-2010, which we adopt, and assign the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS to regularly report progress; and
12. Continue working with our Dialogue Partners, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Secretariat and its co-sponsors, other UN organisations, international partners, civil society organisations and the private sector in realising our commitment to scale up effective responses to HIV and AIDS.

ADOPTED in Cebu, the Philippines this Thirteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security

Cebu, Philippines, 15 January 2007

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand, on the occasion of the Second East Asia Summit on 15 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines;

RECOGNISING the limited global reserve of fossil energy, the unstable world prices of fuel oil, the worsening problems of environment and health, and the urgent need to address global warming and climate change;

RECOGNISING that our energy needs are growing rapidly, and will necessitate large-scale investments in the coming decades;

ACKNOWLEDGING that fossil fuels underpin our economies, and will be an enduring reality for our lifetimes;

RECOGNISING that renewable energy and nuclear power will represent an increasing share of global supply;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to strengthen renewable energy development such as in biofuels, and to promote open trade, facilitation and cooperation in the sector and related industries;

HIGHLIGHTING the fundamental need of countries in East Asia for reliable, adequate and affordable energy supplies which are essential for strong and sustainable economic growth and competitiveness;

CONSIDERING further that the First East Asia Summit had agreed to enhance cooperation by promoting energy security;

RECOGNISING the need to pursue energy policies and strategies best suited to each country's national circumstances, which will lead to sustainable development;

NOTING that biofuel and hydropower resources are renewable and as such harnessing these resources is an important aspect of our national energy policies;

REAFFIRMING our collective commitment to ensuring energy security for our region;

HEREBY DECLARE:

To work closely together towards the following goals:

1. Improve the efficiency and environmental performance of fossil fuel use;
2. Reduce dependence on conventional fuels through intensified energy efficiency and conservation programmes, hydropower, expansion of renewable energy systems and biofuel production/ utilisation, and for interested parties, civilian nuclear power;
3. Encourage the open and competitive regional and international markets geared towards providing affordable energy at all economic levels;

4. Mitigate greenhouse gas emission through effective policies and measures, thus contributing to global climate change abatement; and
5. Pursue and encourage investment on energy resource and infrastructure development through greater private sector involvement.

And to achieve these goals, through the following measures:

1. Promote cleaner and lower emissions technologies that allow for the continued economic use of fossil fuels while addressing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;
2. Encourage the use of biofuels and work towards freer trade on biofuels and a standard on biofuels used in engines and motor vehicles;
3. Take concrete action toward improving efficiency and conservation, while enhancing international cooperation through intensified energy efficiency and conservation programmes;
4. Set individual goals and formulate action plans voluntarily for improving energy efficiency;
5. Increase capacity and reduce costs of renewable and alternate energy sources through innovative financing schemes;
6. Encourage collective efforts in intensifying the search for new and renewable energy resources and technologies, including research and development in biofuels;
7. Ensure availability of stable energy supply through investments in regional energy infrastructure such as the ASEAN Power Grid and the Trans ASEAN Gas Pipeline;
8. Encourage recycling of oil revenues and profits for equity investments and long term, affordable loan facilities for developing countries in the region;
9. Explore possible modes of strategic fuel stockpiling such as individual programmes, multi-country and/or regional voluntary and commercial arrangements;
10. Promote clean use of coal and development of clean coal technologies and international environmental cooperation towards mitigating global climate change;
11. Pursue regional or bilateral cooperation through research and development, sharing of best practices, and financing of energy products; and
12. Assist less developed countries in enhancing national capacity building in achieving the above goals.

The necessary follow-up actions to ensure implementation of the above measures, including appropriate reporting, will be undertaken through existing ASEAN mechanisms in close consultations among EAS participants.

ADOPTED in Cebu, Philippines, this Fifteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven, in a single original copy in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
SAMDECH HUN SEN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia:
DR. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO
President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
BOUASONE BOUPHAVANH
Prime Minister

For Malaysia:
DATO' SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI
Prime Minister

For the Union of Myanmar:
GENERAL SOE WIN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Philippines:
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President

For the Republic of Singapore:
LEE HSIEN LOONG
Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
GENERAL SURAYUD CHULANONT (RET.)
Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
NGUYEN TAN DUNG
Prime Minister

For Australia:
JOHN HOWARD
Prime Minister

For the People's Republic of China:
WEN JIABAO
Premier

For the Republic of India:
DR. MANMOHAN SINGH
Prime Minister

For Japan:
SHINZO ABE
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Korea:
ROH MOO-HYUN
President

For New Zealand:
HELEN CLARK
Prime Minister

Chairman's Statement of the 2nd East Asia Summit

Cebu, Philippines, 15 January 2007

1. The Second East Asia Summit chaired by H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines was held on 15 January 2007 in Cebu City, the Republic of the Philippines.
2. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN, Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand had a productive exchange of views on regional and international issues, as well as on issues of strategic importance to the East Asian region.

Poverty Eradication

3. We reaffirmed our commitment to the eradication of poverty in East Asia. We resolved that improving the standard of living for our people should remain a central focus of our regional cooperation efforts. We also confirmed our commitment to achieve the target and objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's).

Energy

4. As a priority area for the second East Asia Summit, we convened a special session on energy to achieve our shared goal of ensuring affordable energy sources for development in our region. We expressed appreciation for the background paper prepared by the ASEAN Secretariat, and agreed that discussions should take into consideration :
 - a. energy security
 - b. renewable and alternative energy sources
 - c. energy efficiency and conservation, and
 - d. climate change
5. To this end, we signed the Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security, which aims to achieve the following goals:
 - a. Improve the efficiency and environmental performance of fossil fuel use;
 - b. Reduce dependence on conventional fuels through intensified energy efficiency and conservation programs, hydropower, expansion of renewable energy systems and bio-fuel production/ utilization, and for interested parties, civilian nuclear power;
 - c. Encourage the development of open and competitive regional and international markets geared towards providing affordable energy at all economic levels;
 - d. Mitigate greenhouse gas emission through effective policies and measures, thus contributing to global climate change abatement; and
 - e. Pursue and encourage investment in energy resource and infrastructure development through greater private sector involvement
6. We welcomed the various project proposals made on cooperation in energy security, including Japan's four-pillar initiative entitled "Fueling Asia – Japan's Cooperation Initiative for Clean Energy and Sustainable Growth." We agreed to establish an EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force, based on the existing ASEAN Energy Sectoral mechanisms, to follow up on our discussion and report on its recommendations at our next Summit. We welcomed Singapore's offer to host an EAS Energy Ministers Meeting to consider ways to enhance energy cooperation.

Education

7. We agreed to strengthen regional educational cooperation, noting that we could tap the region's centers of excellence in education for this purpose. Noting proposals to renew our historical ties, we welcomed initiatives such as the revival of the Nalanda University in India, to improve regional understanding and the appreciation of one another's heritage and history.

Finance

8. We recognized that sustaining economic growth and stability in the region will require continued efforts to develop deeper, more diversified and better-integrated financial markets, and to strengthen regional mechanisms to prevent and manage financial crises. We welcomed closer cooperation among EAS participating countries and agreed to task officials to develop proposals to this end for our consideration at our next Summit.

Avian Influenza

9. We recalled that at the First East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, we adopted the EAS Declaration on Avian Influenza Prevention, Control and Response. We expressed concern over some continuing cases of avian influenza in the region, and we reaffirmed our commitment to coordinate efforts and to increase cooperation in addressing this challenge including ensuring the availability of medicine and health personnel protection measures.

Natural Disaster Mitigation

10. Noting that natural disasters have caused tremendous loss of life and damage to property in the region in recent years, we agreed to strengthen our cooperation to improve our natural disaster response preparedness and mitigation. We identified closer coordination among our national emergency response and management mechanisms as a specific area for this cooperation.

Doha Development Agenda

11. We reaffirmed our commitment to the World Trade Organization's Doha Round and urged WTO members to restart negotiations as soon as possible. We called on all members to work towards the achievement of a balanced and ambitious outcome to expand opportunities in agriculture, industry and services, and to realize global development objectives.

Economic Development and Regional Integration

12. We welcomed ASEAN's efforts towards further integration and community building, and reaffirmed our resolve to work closely together in narrowing development gaps in our region. We reiterated our support for ASEAN's role as the driving force for economic integration in this region. To deepen integration, we agreed to launch a Track Two study on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) among EAS participants. We tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to prepare a time frame for the study and to invite all our countries to nominate their respective participants in it.

We welcomed Japan's proposal for an Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

Interfaith Initiatives

13. We welcomed the contribution of interfaith and intercultural dialogue in building mutual trust, respect and cooperation between our peoples, and in enhancing regional peace and security. The importance of educational material, including curriculums, and

of training centers for promoting understanding across different religions, societies and cultures, was recognized. We welcomed the specific proposal made for a Dialogue among East Asian Cultures, Societies and Faith, as we expressed support for various initiatives in this area now underway in the region, including the Asia Pacific Regional Dialogue, the ASEM Interfaith Dialogue, and the UN's Alliance of Civilizations.

Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula

14. Reaffirming our views that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful and verifiable manner is a critical international objective, we expressed grave concern over the recent nuclear test conducted by the DPRK. We urged the DPRK to desist from conducting further tests, to take concrete and effective steps to fully implement the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement, and to rejoin, at an early date, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We also urged the DPRK to actively address the security and humanitarian concerns of the international community, including serious shortages of food, medical and other humanitarian services in North Korea, as well as the abduction issue.
15. We emphasized our strong support for the Six Party Talks, and reaffirmed our conviction that the Talks should result in more tangible progress in addressing outstanding issues.
16. While encouraging every diplomatic option remains a very high priority, we agreed on the need to remain consistent in conveying to the DPRK the international community's disapproval of actions that threaten the peace and security of our region and the world. In this regard, we reaffirmed our commitment to the full implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1695 and 1718, urged North Korea to respect these resolutions, and discussed how we could work together to ensure their effectiveness.

Future Direction of the EAS

17. We agreed to initiate concrete projects in all the five priority EAS cooperation areas before our next Summit. We also agreed that our officials and the ASEAN Secretariat will use existing mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of these projects.
18. We recognized our progress in building confidence among EAS participants and encouraged an open and continuing exchange of views on issues of strategic importance to the region. We expressed our conviction that the EAS should remain outward looking, with ASEAN as the driving force working in close partnership with other participants of the East Asia Summit.
19. We reaffirmed our position that the East Asia Summit is an important component of the emerging regional architecture, and we confirmed our view that the EAS complements other existing regional mechanisms, including the ASEAN dialogue process, the ASEAN + 3 process, the ARF, and APEC in community building efforts. We underscored the value of open and spontaneous Leaders-led discussions on strategic issues of peace and stability in our region and in the world.

20. To implement our decisions, we tasked our Officials and the ASEAN Secretariat to continue coordination within the framework of existing ASEAN mechanisms. We commended the work of the ASEAN Secretariat in establishing the EAS electronic network to help ensure closer coordination and cooperation.

21. We agreed to convene the third East Asia Summit in Singapore on 21 November 2007.

II. ASEAN SECURITY COMMUNITY

ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING (AMM) Joint Communique of the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 July 2006

FORGING A UNITED, RESILIENT AND INTEGRATED ASEAN

Introduction

1. We, the Foreign Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), met at the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on 24-25 July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur. His Excellency Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and Chairman of the 39th ASEAN Standing Committee, chaired the Meeting.
2. His Excellency Sir Moi Avei, Minister for Petroleum and Energy of Papua New Guinea, and His Excellency José Luis Guterres, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor Leste, attended the Opening Ceremony of the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting as a Special Observer in ASEAN and a Guest of the Chairman of the 39th ASEAN Standing Committee, respectively.

Opening Address

3. The Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia, delivered an Opening Address at the Opening Ceremony of the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. The Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia emphasized the need for ASEAN to be steadfast in keeping its solidarity and to remain focused on achieving its common mission of fostering greater regional integration. ASEAN should adopt the approach of proceeding step-by-step, instrument-by-instrument, institution-by-institution in its community building efforts. This is the only way to ensure that ASEAN achieves true consensus on establishing a set of common values, perceptions and outlook.
4. On the building of the ASEAN Community, he underlined three overarching principles, whereby there should be a universal acceptance that community interests would prevail over national interests on issues affecting the community and that ASEAN has to do better in giving national effect to wider international treaties and conventions, including ASEAN treaties and agreements by putting in place capacities for enforcing community decisions. In addition, Member Countries must adhere to a common set of community values, though universal in nature, but are distinctly ASEAN in character. Topping the list of values must be acceptance of good governance in our respective countries and societies.
5. He looked forward to receiving the report of the Eminent Persons Group on the ASEAN Charter which would be a major leap forward in ASEAN's work of placing the building blocks for the ASEAN Community.
6. The Honourable Prime Minister also highlighted the latest developments in the Middle East which was gravely threatening

international peace and security. Being responsible members of the international community, ASEAN countries should not appear indifferent to the plight of the Palestinians. He stated that we should condemn Israel's latest use of disproportionate force in Gaza and in the West Bank. We should not tolerate Israel's excessive military reprisals against Lebanon. ASEAN must make its voices heard, loudly and clearly and that ASEAN should not continue tolerating the subjugation and repression of the Palestinian people by Israel.

The ASEAN Community

7. We were pleased with the progress made in moving towards the realization of the ASEAN Community by the year 2020, through the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), and based on the three pillars, namely the ASEAN Security Community (ASC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), as enshrined in the Bali Concord II. We agreed that it was important for ASEAN to strengthen our integration efforts for all three pillars of the ASEAN community. As a follow-up to our Leaders' discussions at the 11th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, we exchanged views on how to bring forward the realisation of the ASEAN Community from 2020 to 2015 and the possible ways of achieving this objective. We reiterated the importance of maintaining ASEAN centrality in the context of ASEAN related regional architectures to support the attainment of the objectives of the establishment of the ASEAN Community.
8. We welcomed the ongoing historic mission of the Eminent Persons Group on the ASEAN Charter to propose bold and visionary ideas for the future direction of ASEAN and provide practical recommendations on the nature of the ASEAN Charter, as mandated by the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter, which was signed by our Leaders at the 11th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 12 December 2005.
9. We commended the EPG for its consultative and inclusive approach in engaging all pertinent stakeholders in ASEAN, including meetings with representatives of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO), Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism, ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS), civil society organisations, ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASEAN-CCI) and the private sector. We reiterated our support for the EPG to continue to "think out of the box" and explore all bold and visionary ideas for the strengthening of ASEAN and its institutional framework. We are confident that the EPG's report and recommendations, which would be presented for consideration by our Leaders at the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu, the Philippines, would enable the Leaders to decide on the drafting of the Charter. The EPG report represents a significant contribution to the building of the ASEAN Community that is more people-centred and resilient to challenges. In this context, we agreed to establish the High Level Task Force to carry out the drafting of the ASEAN Charter after the 12th ASEAN Summit, based on the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter.
10. We underlined the need to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of ASEAN for improved coordination in its endeavours to achieve the goals and objectives of the ASEAN Community.

Vientiane Action Programme (VAP)

11. In ensuring the expeditious implementation of the VAP, we reiterated that the implementation of the three pillars of the ASEAN Community should be mutually reinforcing. We agreed to undertake greater efforts to enhance the coordination mechanism in its implementation to help us realise the goals of the ASEAN Community. We also agreed that Member Countries should take into account the need to integrate the VAP into their national development plans. In this regard, we welcomed the convening of the 5th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Development Planning (SOMDP) in Kuala Lumpur on 6-7 July 2006, in facilitating the integration of ASEAN's goals, objectives and implementation of the VAP into national development plans of Member Countries. We further agreed that the Plans of Action with the respective Dialogue Partners should be in tangent with the VAP.
12. We welcomed the ASEAN Baseline Report as a crucial instrument in the evaluation of the achievements of the VAP and successor action programmes. In this regard, we reiterated the importance of regular review of the VAP to ensure that all the programmes and activities are responsive to ASEAN needs and priority.
13. We appreciated the contributions by several ASEAN Dialogue Partners to the ASEAN Development Fund (ADF), which serves as a common pool of financial resources for the implementation of the VAP. We called upon other Dialogue Partners, countries as well as international organisations to support and contribute to the ADF.
14. We underscored the importance of narrowing the development gap among ASEAN Member Countries, which is essential for the regional integration of ASEAN. We agreed that in undertaking capacity-building projects, focus should also be given to developing policy environment that is conducive to support trade, investment and infrastructure sectors in the CLMV countries. We expressed our appreciation to our Dialogue Partners, donor countries, institutions and ASEAN Member Countries for their contributions and assistance towards ASEAN integration.

Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI)

15. We stressed the need for effective implementation of the recommendations in the Report of the Mid-term Review of the IAI Work Plan, which was adopted by our Leaders at the 11th ASEAN Summit in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur. The Report has broadened the scope of the IAI to meet the urgent needs of the CLMV countries and to improve the coordination mechanism. We underlined the need to further explore innovative sources of funding to support the efforts, including through private and public initiatives and welcomed Thailand's offer to prepare a paper on this matter.
16. We welcomed the sustained efforts taken by the ASEAN-6 countries and Dialogue Partners to implement the IAI Work Plan (2002-2008) and look forward to their further support and assistance. We believed that there is a need to harmonize the IAI Work Plan projects within the framework of the 7 focus areas and to ensure that the IAI projects support the realization of the 11 priority integration sectors under the AEC.
17. We welcomed Viet Nam's offer to host the Second IAI Development Cooperation Forum (IDCF) Meeting in the first half of 2007 with a view to expediting the implementation of the IAI in bridging the development gap among ASEAN Member Countries.

ASEAN Security Community (ASC)

18. We reaffirmed our commitment under the ASC to promote and advance political and security cooperation to a higher plane in our efforts to preserve and further advance ASEAN as a peaceful, stable and developed region, living in peace with one another and with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment, including through shaping and sharing of regional norms.
19. We welcomed the convening of the Inaugural ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM), held in Kuala Lumpur on 8-9 May 2006, as an important contribution to the development of the ASC. We noted that the next ADMM will be held in Singapore in 2007. We noted Indonesia's offer to host a Retreat of the ASEAN Defence Ministers in Bali during the Chairmanship of the Philippines.
20. We noted the outcome of the inaugural consultation between the Chairman of the 39th ASEAN Standing Committee and the President of the 27th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO) on 13 April 2006 in Kuala Lumpur as provided for under the ASC Plan of Action in the VAP. We agreed that such consultations should be held regularly.
21. We welcomed the proposal to convene the first ASC Plan of Action Coordinating Conference of the ASEAN committees/bodies responsible for the ASEAN Security Community in September 2006 for the purpose of expediting its implementation.
22. We noted the outcome of the Fifth Workshop on an ASEAN Regional Mechanism on Human Rights held on 29-30 June 2006 in Kuala Lumpur and viewed it as an important forum for continuous dialogue on the establishment of a regional human rights mechanism in ASEAN. We also noted the work carried out by the non-governmental Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism, including the meeting between the open-ended ASEAN SOM Troika and the Working Group at the sidelines of the 39th AMM with the objective to facilitate the implementation of the activities under the promotion of human rights component of the VAP. We further noted that the National Human Rights Commissions of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand are prepared to collaborate with the Working Group and other civil society organisations, with the view to facilitating the establishment of an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism.
23. In accordance with the Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN Security Community, the Ministers also agreed to begin discussions on the elaboration of an ASEAN Instrument on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.

Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia

24. We reaffirmed the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as an instrument of peace, security and cooperation in inter-state relations. We were gratified that a growing number of countries outside ASEAN have either acceded or expressed their interest to accede to the TAC. We regarded this as further testimony of the continued relevance of the TAC in contributing to regional peace, security and stability. In this context, we welcomed the accession of Australia on 10 December 2005 at the margins of the 11th ASEAN Summit.
25. We welcomed the decision by France to accede to the TAC. However, we noted that France was not able to accede to the Treaty during the 39th AMM/PMC/13th ARF in Kuala Lumpur due to the situation in the

Middle East. We expressed the hope that France would be able to accede to the TAC soon.

26. We also reiterated our call to other Dialogue Partners and countries to accede to the TAC in the near future so as to create a favourable environment conducive for development in the region which will be beneficial not only to ASEAN but all its partners and friends as well.

South China Sea

27. We noted the convening of the Second ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) held in Siem Reap, Cambodia in May 2006 and the convening of the First and Second Meetings of the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC which were held in Manila, Philippines and Sanya City, China in August 2005 and February 2006 respectively, as a concrete step towards the full implementation of the DOC. We hoped that with the effective implementation of the DOC, ASEAN and China would move towards the early adoption of a Code of Conduct for the South China Sea.
28. We encouraged all parties concerned to continue the exercise of self-restraint and undertake confidence-building measures that would contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. In this connection, we took note of the cooperative activities already forged by some concerned parties, which yielded positive results through negotiation and dialogue, in the spirit of mutually beneficial cooperation. We also reaffirmed our commitment to resolve the dispute in the South China Sea through peaceful means in accordance with international conventions including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Transnational Crimes and Counter Terrorism

29. We reiterated our strong condemnation against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasised the need to address the root causes of terrorism. We reaffirmed our commitment to prevent, suppress and eliminate international terrorism in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.
30. We underscored the significant role of the ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) in combating transnational crimes and called on the AMMTC to heighten cooperation in these areas including other relevant ASEAN bodies and ASEAN Dialogue Partners. In this regard, we also look forward to the convening of the 6th AMMTC in Brunei Darussalam in 2007.
31. We noted the successful conclusion of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT) by all ASEAN Member Countries, which would improve the effectiveness of cooperation in combating transnational crime and terrorism through mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, and expressed hope that the Treaty would be ratified by all ASEAN Member Countries. We also recalled the proposal to work towards the immediate establishment of an ASEAN extradition treaty as envisaged by the 1976 Declaration of ASEAN Concord as stipulated in the VAP, and the consequent decision by the 6th ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALMM) that ASLOM would examine modalities for a model ASEAN extradition treaty.
32. We welcomed efforts to enhance the capacity of the ASEAN Member Countries in counter-terrorism including through the elaboration of

an ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism as provided for under the VAP, and the consequent decision of the 6th SOMTC in Bali in 2006 to create a joint experts working group (EWG), comprising representatives from SOM, SOMTC and ASLOM, to work out the terms of reference and guiding principles of an ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism.

33. We also noted the need to pursue cooperation to prevent and combat corruption as mandated by the VAP and look forward to the convening of the ad-hoc working group meeting prior to the 7th SOMTC in Lao PDR in 2007 to further follow-up on this initiative.
34. We called for continued close cooperation between security-related bodies, such as Interpol, ASEANAPOL and the relevant national authorities, particularly relating to intelligence information sharing on terrorism. We also called upon all Member Countries to strengthen the existing technical cooperation for the development of capacity and capability of counter terrorism-related agencies and officials. In this connection, we further called for continued cooperation between the regional centres, in particular, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Kuala Lumpur, the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok and the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) in Semarang.

Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ)

35. We reaffirmed the importance of vigorous efforts to further strengthen cooperation in supporting the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ). We urged the nuclear weapons States to become parties to the Protocol of the SEANWFZ Treaty as soon as possible.
36. We recalled Article 20 of the SEANWFZ Treaty of 15 December 1995, which states that "Ten years after this Treaty enters into force, a meeting of the Commission shall be convened for the purpose of reviewing the operation of the Treaty". We directed the Executive Committee of the SEANWFZ to look into the implementation of Article 20.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

37. We reaffirmed the roles of ASEAN as the primary driving force of the ARF process and the ARF as the primary forum in enhancing political and security dialogue and cooperation in the wider Asia-Pacific region as well as the pivot for building peace and security in the region. We welcomed Bangladesh's participation at the 13th ARF on 28 July 2006 as the 26th participating country in the ARF, which would contribute to further enhance political and security dialogue and cooperation in the region.
38. We commended the important progress made in the implementation of the ARF activities, which had to a great extent contributed to political stability, security, and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. We recognized the need to forge concrete cooperation among ARF countries in building capacity and capabilities in order to better cope with numerous challenges. While emphasizing that confidence building would continue to play a vital role in the ARF process, we welcomed the ARF's progress towards Preventive Diplomacy (PD) and look forward to the development of concrete measures in PD at a pace comfortable to all. We noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the agreed ARF activities for the Inter-Sessional year 2005-2006.

ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)

39. We welcomed the convening of the 38th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting on 21-25 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur and noted the outcome of the 12th ASEAN Economic Ministers Retreat on 15 May 2006 in Manila. We expressed satisfaction with the substantial progress made towards the realization of the AEC. We noted the efforts made in relation to deepening the economic integration of ASEAN, which will provide the necessary impetus to sustain and boost economic growth in the region and that internal economic integration of ASEAN must be accelerated for ASEAN to maximise gains from its economic engagement with major trading partners.
40. We welcomed the efforts in implementing various measures to integrate the 11 priority sectors to realize the AEC. We were pleased with the inclusion of logistics as the 12th priority integration sector and noted the on-going discussions to identify new measures and sectors as well as evaluate existing measures for Phase 2 of the integration process.
41. We also welcomed the initiative taken by the Economic Ministers to identify and eliminate restrictive practices and non-tariff barriers to allow for unrestricted flow in trade in goods, services and investment to realise the AEC. These include initiatives taken to further establish Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) and the Plan of Action for the realization of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW), which allows for a single channel clearance of goods for the ASEAN Member Countries, by 2008 for ASEAN-6 and no later than 2012 for other Member Countries.
42. We attached great importance on the strengthening of economic linkages with ASEAN Dialogue Partners which aims at enhancing ASEAN's position as a competitive base for international production and foreign direct investment. In this context and in pursuant to the signing of the ASEAN-ROK Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation at the 9th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 13 December 2005, we noted that the Trade in Goods Agreement between ASEAN and ROK would be implemented by no later than 1 January 2007. We noted the status of the on-going negotiations on FTAs with Dialogue Partners and expressed hope that the FTAs would be concluded in a timely manner to the mutual satisfaction of all parties.
43. We supported the initiative taken to further broaden and enhance economic relations with the European Union and the United States of America. In this respect, we noted the recommendations made in the Report of the ASEAN-EU Vision Group on Enhanced Partnership on the establishment of an ASEAN-EU FTA to foster and diversify trans-regional trade and investment flows and to deepen economic integration between the two regions in a sustainable manner. We were pleased to note that ASEAN and EU would undertake domestic consultations before any decision could be made to launch an FTA. The initiatives in pursuing these engagements are consistent with the principle of open regionalism that ASEAN has always advocated.
44. We were pleased with the new initiatives and progress in ASEAN Finance Cooperation particularly in the progress of the Roadmap for Financial and Monetary Integration of ASEAN (Ria-fin). Notable progress was made in relation to capital market development as well as the Fourth Round Negotiations on Liberalisation of Financial Services (AFAS), under a new positive list modality, which is

expected to be concluded by the end of 2007. We also welcomed the efforts to promote ASEAN as an asset class.

45. We noted the projected economic growth of ASEAN at 5.8 per cent in 2006 as compared to the 5.5 per cent growth in 2005.

Energy Cooperation

46. We recognized the adverse impact of rising international oil prices on the economy of Member Countries and hence underscored the importance of finding ways to enhance energy efficiency and increase the share of renewable energy sources in power generation and energy consumption. We called for greater regional cooperation in sharing experience, knowledge and expertise to help promote energy efficiency and development of new and renewable energy sources in the region. In this respect, we commended the efforts by the ASEAN Ministers of Energy and the ASEAN Senior Energy Officials in expediting the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the ASEAN Power Grid and the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA) 2005, as well as the progressive implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP).

Sub-regional Cooperation

47. We were pleased with the substantial progress made in the implementation of the initiatives and programmes under various sub-regional arrangements. In this regard, we recalled the successful convening of the 2nd Summit of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) held in Thailand on 1-3 November 2005. We also recalled the successful convening of the Second Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippine East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit, the First Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Summit, the Second Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) Summit and the Second Cambodia-Laos-Viet Nam Growth Triangle (CLV-GT) Summit on 11 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We reaffirmed the importance that ASEAN attaches to the various sub-regional cooperation frameworks in enhancing the efforts of narrowing the development gap among all Member Countries as well as accelerating the integration of ASEAN.

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)

48. We were encouraged by the progress of the ASCC Plan of Action that was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 10th ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR. We expressed our hope and desire to see greater engagement and participation of the ASEAN people in ASEAN activities. In this regard, we expressed our commitment to pursue the programmes and activities under the ASCC, with the objective of bringing ASEAN to the people of ASEAN, and took note of the adoption of the theme of the 39th ASEAN Day, "ASEAN and the Young People". We were pleased to see the plan by the ASEAN Secretariat to convene a coordinating conference of ASEAN bodies relevant to the ASCC Plan of Action in the second half of 2006.
49. We commended the holding of the Civil Society Conference at the sidelines of the 11th ASEAN Summit on 7-9 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur. The involvement of civil society is a vital component of developing a people-centred ASEAN Community. In this regard, we were pleased to note that the Philippines will continue the engagement with civil society groups during its chairmanship on the regional level. An opportunity for the civil society representatives to report to the Leaders will be arranged during the 12th ASEAN Summit.

50. We supported the continued efforts by the ASEAN Foundation in generating public awareness of ASEAN and fostering a sense of belonging to ASEAN among its peoples through its various activities. We noted the Report of the Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation on the Foundation's activities. We encouraged other countries and regional and international organizations as well as the private sector from ASEAN Member Countries to cooperate closely with the ASEAN Foundation and assist it to carry out its activities aimed at realizing its goals and objectives.

Sectoral Cooperation

Consular and Immigration

51. We welcomed the signing of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption in Kuala Lumpur on 25 July 2006. We agreed that this Framework Agreement would facilitate travel for ASEAN nationals within ASEAN.

Environment

52. We recalled the concerns expressed by our Leaders at the 11th ASEAN Summit held in Kuala Lumpur on 12 December 2005, on the issue of transboundary haze pollution resulting from land and forest fires that affects some of the Member Countries annually. We reiterated our commitment to further intensify and undertake coordinated action by our relevant Ministries and agencies at the national and regional levels, to deal collectively with the transboundary haze pollution, guided by the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution. In this regard, we noted the on-going process of ratification by Member Countries which have yet to ratify the Agreement and expected this to be finalised soon in order to ensure effective regional cooperation in this area.

53. We commended the initiative to commemorate 2006 as the ASEAN Environment Year with the theme: "Biodiversity: Our Life, Our Future", which was launched in Bogor, Indonesia on 18 May 2006. We urged all Member Countries and our collaborating partners to showcase ASEAN's efforts, and promote awareness and ownership, in promoting environmental protection, in particular sustainable management of our rich and diverse biological diversity. In this respect, we welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity based in Los Banos, the Philippines, which was launched on 27 September 2005 to further promote collaboration on biodiversity. We expressed our appreciation to the EU for providing financial support for the first three years of operation of the Centre, and called upon Member Countries and our collaborating partners to continue to lend support to the activities of the Centre.

54. We reaffirmed the importance of the Heart of Borneo initiative, as stated in the Chairman's Statement of the 11th ASEAN Summit, as a collective effort to promote sustainable forest management.

55. We reiterated the importance of concrete implementation of UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol and called for further concrete implementation and commitment to pursue efforts for parties, particularly those in Annex 1 of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol to address climate change. Therefore, we urged the Annex I Parties to increase their commitment in implementing the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) activities particularly in the ASEAN region.

Disaster Management

56. We expressed our deepest condolences to the Governments and the peoples of the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic

of Indonesia over the tremendous loss of lives and property as a result of the mudslide disaster which struck Guinsaugon St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, Philippines on 17 February 2006; the earthquake which struck Yogyakarta and Central Java, Indonesia, on 27 May 2006; and the tsunami which struck Western and Central Java, Indonesia, on 17 July 2006 respectively. We expressed our appreciation for the expeditious relief efforts of ASEAN Member Countries, friendly countries, international organisations and other relief organisations and called upon them to continue to provide their support for rehabilitation and reconstruction activities to enable speedy recovery of those affected.

57. We recalled the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), which was signed on 26 July 2005 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. We welcomed the ratification of the Agreement by Member Countries and further called upon Member Countries that have yet to ratify the Agreement to do so in order to ensure effective regional cooperation in this area. In this regard, we noted the offer by Indonesia to host the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).

58. We emphasized the importance of developing effective multi-nodal and multi-hazard early warning systems to save lives and minimise damages. We recognized the existing efforts such as the establishment of the UNESCAP Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund for Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, with Thailand and Sweden contributed a total of US\$12.5 million. In this regard, we encouraged the contribution and utilisation of the fund to enhance the capacity of the early warning systems. In addition, those efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness of local communities should be promoted.

59. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthen ASEAN standby arrangements for disaster relief and emergency response and to enhance linkages with other regional and global standby arrangements through the sharing of earmarked assets, joint exercises in search and rescue and expediting the establishment of common guidelines and standard operating procedures as well as regional disaster early warning and monitoring capacities through real time information sharing in order to ensure rapid responses to emergencies.

Health

60. We recalled our Leaders' decision at the 11th ASEAN Summit to strengthen regional institutional linkages and partnership among all stakeholders in ASEAN Member Countries to control and eradicate the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the region. In this regard, we expressed our deep concern over the negative effects of the avian influenza on economy and society and called for greater cooperation among Member Countries and others, through information exchange and best practices, to prevent and control the spread of the disease. We noted the progress in stockpiling vaccines and antiviral drugs to meet the immediate needs of affected countries and underlined the importance to prepare for containment when human cases occur; and meet pandemic preparedness needs.

61. We commended the work of the ASEAN HPAI Taskforce and the ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme to conduct and coordinate effective and comprehensive plans to combat emerging and re-emerging diseases. We also welcomed endeavours from donor countries and international organizations to help keep ASEAN free from emerging diseases. In particular, we

appreciated the funding support of Japan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to assist ASEAN in combating the avian influenza in the region.

62. We commended the efforts made by the ASEAN Health Ministers to ensure regional cooperation and unity in health emergencies, and in providing the necessary guidance for development of an operation plan for the Third ASEAN Work Programme on HIV and AIDS (2006-2010). We welcomed their preparations to convene a Second Special Session on HIV and AIDS for ASEAN Leaders in December 2006 alongside the 12th ASEAN Summit. We also underlined the need for a higher profile of ASEAN cooperation on the issue to be highlighted to the international community, such as through the convening of ASEAN panels at the International Conferences on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) since 2001. We noted that ASEAN's commitment to address the issue together with like-minded partners has also resulted in a cooperation agreement with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Education

63. We welcomed the convening of the First ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASEM) held in Singapore on 21 March 2006 and its Joint Statement. As education is an important tool in engendering the ASEAN identity and promoting the development of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, we welcomed the initiative by ASEM to lay a strategic framework for education collaboration in the region which among others, highlighted the importance of education, particularly in primary and basic education, in developing a regional identity. This is relevant to the emphasis placed by ASEAN Leaders to establish an ASEAN Community imbued with a sense of awareness and belonging.

Culture and Information

64. We reaffirmed our support to the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI) to continue undertaking activities that promote mutual understanding and solidarity among Member Countries through people-to-people exchanges, cultural performances and exhibitions, information exchange, skills development, and the promotion of awareness and appreciation of customs and traditions among the younger generation. We recognised that these activities have played a vital role in the efforts towards building an ASEAN Community. In this respect, we were pleased that the people-centred agenda advocated by the 39th ASC Chair has contributed to the awareness of ASEAN, mutual respect and cooperation amongst ASEAN and its peoples. We commended the efforts of the COCI in forging friendship with the international community as part of its effort to promote ASEAN through arts and culture.

Labour

65. We were pleased with the expansion of ASEAN Labour cooperation through the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme. We welcomed the addition of a new priority area on occupational safety and health (OSH) under the Labour Ministers' Work Programme at the 19th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting on 5 May 2006 in Singapore and the continued progress of the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET). We look forward to the continued contribution of the Labour Ministers to a sustained economic growth in ASEAN through their Policy Dialogue on National OSH Framework and Management Systems, and the discussions on progressive labour practices to enhance competitiveness of ASEAN.

Women

66. We welcomed the operationalisation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in ASEAN, which we had signed at our 37th Meeting in 2004. We congratulated the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) for their efforts in developing an operational work plan with focused activities to ensure that ASEAN's women are protected and empowered and in reducing women's vulnerability to exploitation and paving the way for their continued advancement. We also welcomed the partnership forged with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in support of the ACW's work.

Youth

67. We reiterated the need to involve ASEAN youth in our various mainstream and sectoral programmes and activities as part of the regional effort to empower and shape our youth into useful citizens with strong national and regional identity, features that are essential as we strive towards realising the ASEAN Community. We welcomed the initiative taken to establish a youth development fund in ASEAN, to address the VAP's call for increased participation of youth in the productive workforce, and encourage their entrepreneurship and employability, leadership and regional awareness. We further called upon the different ASEAN sectoral bodies to link their respective efforts in addressing priorities for the youth.

Science and Technology

68. We reaffirmed that human resource and technology developments have played a vital role in sustaining economic growth and enhancing community well-being in ASEAN. We welcomed the initiative of the 11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (S&T) held on 11-12 August 2005 in Jakarta to focus the regional science and technology cooperation on human resource and development and research in emerging fields and enabling technologies such as renewable and alternative energy, development of information technology application particularly on open source systems, biotechnology and food science, materials science and nanotechnology and disaster management. In this regard, we look forward to the convening of the 4th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology on 28-29 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur.
69. We welcomed the continued efforts by ASEAN Member Countries to implement new activities under the ASEAN-help-ASEAN Programme to promote S&T development in ASEAN. We were pleased to note that since its launching by the ASEAN S&T Ministers in 2002, joint activities implemented under the Programme have benefited ASEAN Member Countries and also contributed in narrowing the development gap.

External Relations

70. We expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved in ASEAN's relations with the Dialogue Partners, namely, Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, the United Nations Development Programme and the increasing interest of Sectoral Dialogue Partner Pakistan to engage more with ASEAN. We also expressed our commitment to intensify cooperation in various fields with ASEAN Dialogue Partners for the mutual benefit of our peoples and region. We further expressed our

appreciation to our Dialogue Partners for their continued support in ASEAN's efforts towards establishing the ASEAN Community by 2020.

71. In this regard, we look forward to the signing of the Framework Document for the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership on 27 July 2006. We also look forward to the signing of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism on 28 July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur and the implementation of the activities identified therein.
72. On ASEAN-Russia relations, we are pleased to note the successful convening of the First ASEAN-Russian Federation Summit held in Kuala Lumpur on 13 December 2005, and the endorsement of the ASEAN-Russia Joint Declaration on Progressive and Comprehensive Partnership.
73. We believed that these developments will contribute to further enhance ASEAN-Russia relations. We also noted that 2006 is the 10th anniversary of ASEAN-Russia relations, which we are marking with a few commemorative activities, among which are the Russian Food Festival and the publication of the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Magazine. These two activities will be launched at the sidelines of the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting/Post Ministerial Conferences, in conjunction with the ASEAN PMC+1 session with the Russian Federation on 27 July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur. We further noted that the ASEAN Food Festival will be organised in the Russian Federation later this year.
74. We underscored the need to maintain ASEAN centrality and unity in all dialogue and cooperation processes initiated by ASEAN. In this regard, we reaffirmed the importance of ASEAN acting and be recognised as the driving force in all facets of our relations with our Dialogue Partners and other external parties as well as ASEAN playing a central role in the evolving regional architectures.
75. We welcomed the interest expressed by several non-regional countries and international institutions to extend technical assistance and financial support for the implementation of ASEAN's development agenda. As an outward-looking organization, ASEAN recognised the need to establish other forms of formal relations with other non-regional countries and international institutions to assist its development agenda. In this context, we tasked the ASEAN Directors-General and the ASEAN Secretariat to develop new categories of partnership with non-regional countries and international institutions while maintaining the moratorium on new Dialogue Partnership. We also welcomed the offer of the Philippines to work with the ASEAN Secretariat in identifying ways to strengthen cooperation with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
76. We renewed our commitment to the ASEAN Plus Three (ASEAN+3) cooperation and reiterated our long-term goal of developing an East Asian community. We agreed that the ASEAN Plus Three process would remain as the main vehicle with ASEAN as the driving force for East Asian community building. Pursuant to the signing of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 12 December 2005, we noted that the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials and the Directors-General, in their meetings on 18 May 2006 in Karambunai, Sabah and 8 June 2006 in Seoul, ROK, respectively, had had initial discussions in preparation of the drafting of the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation, and the accompanying Work Plan, to be issued by our Leaders in 2007 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.

77. We recalled the successful convening of the First East Asia Summit (EAS) in Kuala Lumpur on 14 December 2005 attended by all Leaders of ASEAN Member Countries, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand. While emphasising ASEAN as the driving force, we reaffirmed that the EAS, as an open, inclusive, transparent and outward-looking forum, would serve as a platform for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest to promote peace and economic prosperity in East Asia. We reaffirmed the efforts of the East Asia Summit to promote community building in this region and its integral part of the evolving regional architecture. We viewed this 'Leaders-led' Summit as an important event of historical significance to ASEAN and agreed to cooperate using existing mechanisms to implement the decisions of the Summit and the 17 areas of cooperation mentioned by the Leaders.
78. We recalled the successful holding of the Second ASEAN-UN Summit on 13 September 2005 in New York wherein it was agreed that ASEAN-UN cooperation needs to be further broadened with the involvement of the various UN specialised agencies to encompass all areas related to community building, including key issues related to development, in particular, poverty eradication and the Millennium Development Goals, prevention and control of infectious diseases, disaster management, transnational issues, trade and investment as well as peace and security. We noted that the Summit also agreed to convene future ASEAN-UN Summits on a regular basis. In this context, the Philippines proposed to explore the possibility of having an ASEAN-UN Summit in 2007.

Developments in Myanmar

79. We took note of the briefing by Myanmar on the recent developments in the country and the complex challenges faced by Myanmar in dealing with the process of national reconciliation and peaceful transition to democracy as contained in the Roadmap. We expressed concern on the pace of the national reconciliation process and hope to see tangible progress that would lead to peaceful transition to democracy in the near future. We reiterated our calls for the early release of those placed under detention and for effective dialogue with all parties concerned. We expressed our support for the constructive role taken by the Chairman of the 39th ASEAN Standing Committee and further discussed the outcome of his visit to Myanmar on 23-24 March 2006. We also noted the initiative taken by the United Nations Undersecretary General for Political Affairs, who visited Myanmar on 18-20 May 2006 and Myanmar's readiness to receive another visit by him.
80. We recognized that Myanmar needs both time and political space to deal with its many and complex challenges. We hope that Myanmar's efforts to deal with those challenges will progress so that Myanmar can effectively engage the international community, and in this regard ASEAN would remain constructively engaged as required.

Regional and International Issues

81. We exchanged views on the following issues:

Timor Leste

82. We took note of the recent positive developments in Timor Leste and welcomed the immediate assistance from Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand and Portugal to deploy defence and security forces in Timor Leste. We welcomed the appointment of the new Prime

Minister and Cabinet. We congratulated H. E. José Luis Guterres, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor Leste, on his recent appointment.

83. We agreed to Timor Leste's participation, where appropriate, in functional areas of ASEAN activities. We also welcomed Timor Leste's decision to accede to the TAC.

Iraq

84. We were encouraged by the determination of the Iraqis in taking important steps in the political process towards reconciliation and shaping the democratic and independent future of Iraq. We welcomed the election that took place in Iraq on 15 December 2005 to elect 275 members of the Iraqi Parliament and subsequent establishment of the Iraqi Government of national unity on 20 May 2006 that could bring about political and economic reconstruction. However, we expressed deep concern over the deteriorating security condition in Iraq, including the continued attacks on civilians and places of worship. We urged the Iraqi authorities and others to improve the security situation in Iraq and to engage with all parties in resolving the political differences through peaceful democratic means. We also earnestly hoped that the new Iraqi Government would act with utmost urgency towards the restoration of national unity and political stability that would contribute to durable peace, security and prosperity in the country.

Middle East

85. We were gravely concerned over the deteriorating situation and the escalation of violence in the Middle East, particularly the disproportionate, indiscriminate and excessive use of force by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in Lebanon, triggered by the capture of the two Israeli soldiers. It would threaten efforts towards reviving the Peace Process.
86. We condemned all acts of terror, violence and destruction. We also condemned attacks that have resulted in injury and death of innocent civilians and the destruction of civilian property and infrastructure. We further condemned the abduction and detention of Cabinet Ministers, government officials, and other individuals and we called for their immediate and unconditional release.
87. We urged all parties to exercise utmost restraint, in particular to avoid additional casualties among innocent civilians and damage to civilian property and infrastructure and to refrain from acts that could further exacerbate the situation and worsen the humanitarian crisis.
88. We called for an immediate ceasefire and urged the international community and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to get all parties in the conflicts to adhere to the ceasefire under UN supervision with the participation of countries that are able to do so, and ultimately to work towards a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region.
89. We reaffirmed the call for the strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon as stipulated in UNSC Resolutions 1664 and 1680.
90. We also urged Israel and Palestine to return to the peace process and implementation of the Quartet Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict as outlined in UNSC Resolution 1515.

91. We welcomed all efforts taken to address the situation, including the visits to the region by the Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General to the Middle East and the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, as well as the efforts undertaken by the Foreign Minister of France in that country's capacity as current President of the United Nations Security Council. We viewed the visit by the U.S. Secretary of State to the region and Italy's intention to host an international conference on 26 July 2006 as encouraging steps and hope that these would bring about the immediate cessation of hostilities, opening the way for the unimpeded flow of humanitarian relief and assistance to the civilians affected by the conflict, the early return of displaced persons and providing the conditions for a durable and lasting solution to the problems in the region. We also emphasised the need for speedy restoration of essential infrastructure facilities in Palestine and Lebanon to avoid further deterioration of humanitarian condition of the Palestine and Lebanese people.

Korean Peninsula

92. We expressed our concern over the latest developments in the Korean Peninsula including the test-firing by DPRK of its Taepodong-2 missiles on 5 July 2006 which could affect peace and stability in the region. We noted the unanimous adoption of the UNSC resolution 1695. We also expressed our desire for the realisation of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and our continued support for the early resumption of the Six Party Talks. We also expressed our hope that the on-going inter-Korean exchanges would continue to provide conditions which would be conducive to peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. We also believed that the ARF can contribute to promoting peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and expressed the hope that members of the Six Party Talks can utilise their presence during the ARF to promote the resumption of the Talks.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

93. We reemphasised the importance of a rule-based multilateral trading system. We expressed regret on the failure to agree to the negotiating modalities on agriculture and non-agriculture market access (NAMA) at the Informal Ministerial Meeting held on 29 June - 1 July 2006 in Geneva. We called on all WTO Members, especially the major ones, to redouble their efforts in line with their commitment to the objectives of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and to ensure that the negotiations would come to a successful conclusion by the end of 2006. We reiterated that the Doha Round must achieve an ambitious and balanced outcome that is development-oriented with particular emphasis on ensuring real, effective and operational development benefits to developing countries.
94. We reiterated our support to the early accession of the Lao PDR and Viet Nam to the WTO. In this connection, we congratulated Viet Nam on her conclusion of all her bilateral negotiations and supported the earliest completion of the multilateral negotiation process to enable Viet Nam to join the WTO before November 2006.

Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED)

95. We recognised that now is the opportune time to strengthen ties and forge cooperation between Asia and the Middle East that would allow the two regions to take advantage of their resurgence in the global economy. The AMED was conceived to achieve this

objective by fostering dialogue and mutual understanding through three Working Groups on Political and Security issues, on Social, Educational, Cultural, Scientific and Media issues, and on Economic issues.

Asia-Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

96. We also welcomed the outcome of the 5th ACD Ministerial Meeting on 23-24 May 2006 in Doha, Qatar. We commended the progress that has been made with respect to the promotion of closer cooperation in the area of energy, which is to put priority on such areas as energy security, research and assessment on energy, energy infrastructure and development and exploring the possibility of reinvesting revenues that accrue from the energy in the ACD countries to enhance sustainable growth and development in Asia. We look forward to the 2nd ACD Energy Forum to be hosted by Pakistan in November 2006 to further discuss this and other important energy issues. We also commended the progress that has been made in the area of financial cooperation, especially with regard to making productive use of Asia's substantial savings, including revenues that accrue from the energy trade, and invest these through the Asian Bond Market mechanism for the benefit of the region.

Asia-Africa Cooperation

97. We noted the progress on the follow up of the outcome of the Asia-Africa Summit toward the realisation of the New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership (NAASP) and look forward for the development of concrete programme and project cooperation by the Senior Officials' Meeting to be held in Durban on 1-3 September 2006.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

98. We welcomed the progress achieved by APEC member economies towards facilitating and liberalizing trade and investment as well as towards economic and technical cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. We believed ASEAN and APEC share a common vision of promoting regional sustainable growth and shared prosperity. We also believed that greater collaboration between ASEAN and APEC through the exchange and sharing of information, expertise and best practices and capacity building programmes would contribute towards this vision and that the ASEAN-APEC partnership would also benefit the business sector and other sectors through the various trade facilitation initiatives to address business concerns and impediments to cross border trade, investment and cooperation. In this regard, we expressed our full support for Viet Nam to successfully hold the 14th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November 2006 with a view to contributing to the building of a dynamic community for sustainable development and prosperity. We also supported Cambodia's intention to seek membership in APEC.

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

99. We stressed the need for ASEM to provide a foundation and framework for fostering the Asia-Europe comprehensive partnership in the 21st century. We look forward to a successful convening of the 6th ASEM Summit on 10-11 September 2006 in Helsinki, Finland and the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of ASEM as an important benchmark of a ten-year process linking Asia and Europe. We hoped that the 6th ASEM Summit would further strengthen a mutually beneficial and forward looking Asia-Europe partnership. We hoped further it would reflect in its vision on the future directions of ASEM cooperation in areas of mutual concern

and interest such as strengthening multilateralism; addressing security threats; sustainable development; dialogue among cultures and civilisations; and globalization and competitiveness.

100. We welcomed the initiative to establish the ASEM Virtual Secretariat (AVS) at the ASEAN Secretariat as an information-sharing device to facilitate coordination and cooperation among its partners. In this context, we look forward to contributions to the ASEAN Secretariat by all ASEM partners to ensure the effective operation of the AVS.

United Nations (UN)

101. We reaffirmed our support for multilateralism and international law as embodied in the UN Charter. In reviewing the status of the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, adopted at the conclusion of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly held from 14 to 16 September 2005, we supported a comprehensive reform of the United Nations and underlined the need to enhance the voice and the role of the developing countries within the UN system. We believed that to ensure that the UN remains relevant and effective, it is imperative that it be democratized efficient, transparent, accountable, and truly reflective of the will and interest of all Member States. We also welcomed the establishment of the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Peacebuilding Commission.
102. We reaffirmed ASEAN's support for Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Cambodia and Malaysia's candidature to become non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for the year 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2015-2016 respectively. In this context, we also reaffirmed our collective endeavour to support Indonesia's bid for the non-permanent seat for the UNSC for 2007-2008, in the election to be held at the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly and requested Indonesia to coordinate this endeavour with the Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member Countries in New York.

ASEAN Candidature for the UNSG

103. We reaffirmed our endorsement of Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand as the ASEAN Candidate for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations (UNSG). We agreed to continue to pursue a coordinated strategy in support of the campaign for the ASEAN Candidate. We called on all Member States of the United Nations to support the ASEAN Candidate.

Cooperation with Regional Organisations

104. We recalled the outcomes of the ASEAN-South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and ASEAN-Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Foreign Ministers Meetings in September 2005 in New York where several areas were identified for cooperation between ASEAN and these organisations. We recognized the potential of these cooperation arrangements to generate mutual benefits.

40th AMM

105. We elected the Philippines as the In-coming Chair of the 40th ASEAN Standing Committee and Singapore as the Vice-Chair. We look forward to the 40th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting/Post Ministerial Conference/14th ASEAN Regional Forum to be held on 30 July to 2 August 2007 in the Philippines.

ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 July 2006

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), hereinafter referred to individually as "Member Country" and collectively as "Member Countries";

DESIRING to maintain, strengthen and further develop the friendship and cooperation in ASEAN;

RECALLING the provisions of Article 2 of the ASEAN Tourism Agreement signed on 4 November 2002, in Cambodia on facilitation of intra-ASEAN travel;

RECALLING paragraph (b) of Article 11 of the ASEAN Framework Agreement for Integration of Priority Sectors signed on 29 November 2004, which commits ASEAN Member Countries to provide visa exemption for intra-ASEAN travel by ASEAN nationals; and

INTENDING to provide general principles and guidelines in establishing and/or renewing bilateral agreements among Member Countries on visa exemption for their respective citizens traveling within the ASEAN region;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. Member Countries, where applicable, shall exempt citizens of any other Member Countries holding valid national passports from visa requirement for a period of stay of up to 14 (fourteen) days from the date of entry, provided that such stay shall not be used for purposes other than visit. Citizens of Member Countries who enter another Member Countries for other purposes or for a stay exceeding the days allowed under the laws and regulations of the host countries are required to apply for appropriate visas or passes.
2. Notwithstanding the above paragraph, Member Countries shall reserve the right to provide visa-free entry for citizens of other Member Countries for temporary visits for a period more than fourteen (14) days in accordance with their respective laws and regulations and/or bilateral protocols/arrangements.

Article 2

The duration of passport validity of citizens of Member Countries shall be at least six (6) months from the date of entry.

Article 3

1. The waiver of visa requirements under the foregoing articles shall not exempt citizens of Member Countries from the requirements of complying with the laws and regulations in force in the host country.
2. Each Member Country shall reserve the right to refuse admission or shorten the authorised duration of stay in its territory of citizens of other Member Countries who may be considered undesirable.

Article 4

Member Countries shall exchange, through diplomatic channels, specimen of their current passports, and specimen of any new passports not later than thirty (30) days before their introduction.

Article 5

1. Member Countries shall reserve the right to temporarily suspend the implementation of this Agreement for reasons of national security, public order, and public health by giving other Member Countries immediate notice, through diplomatic channels.
2. The suspension shall be lifted immediately after the situation which has given rise to the suspension has ceased to exist.
3. Member Countries shall reserve the right to terminate the implementation of the Agreement by means of written notification, through diplomatic channels. The termination of the implementation of the agreement shall take effect ninety (90) days after the date of receipt of the notification.
4. Unless otherwise provided, the termination of implementation of this Agreement shall have effect only as regards the Member Country that has notified it. The Agreement shall remain in force for other Member Countries.

Article 6

1. This Agreement shall not affect the implementation of existing agreements on visa exemption between Member Countries as well as the rights and obligations of Member Countries under any existing agreements or international conventions of which they are parties.
2. If the provisions of the agreements on visa exemption stated in paragraph 1 of this Article are less preferential to those of this Agreement, the Member Countries concerned shall negotiate for amendments in compliance with the provisions of this Agreement.

Article 7

Member Countries, where applicable, shall negotiate and conclude separate bilateral protocols to implement this Agreement as soon as possible. The implementation of such bilateral protocols shall come into force on the date as mutually agreed by the respective Member Countries.

Article 8

1. This Agreement is subject to ratification or approval by all Member Countries in accordance with their respective domestic laws and regulations.
2. The instruments of ratification or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN who shall promptly inform other Member Countries of such deposit.
3. This Agreement shall enter into force when instruments of ratification or approval of all Member Countries have been deposited.

Article 9

Member Countries may request through a diplomatic channel to amend or modify all or any part of this Agreement. The amendment or modification shall become effective upon consent in writing by all Member Countries and shall form part of this Agreement.

Article 10

Any differences or disputes arising out of the interpretation and implementation of this Agreement shall be settled amicably by consultation or negotiation among Member Countries without reference to any third party or international tribunal.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised to sign by their respective Governments, have signed the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption.

DONE at Kuala Lumpur, this Twenty-Fifth Day of July in the Year Two Thousand and Six, in a single copy in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:

LIM JOCK SENG

Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:

HOR NAMHONG

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

For the Republic of Indonesia:

DR. N. HASSAN WIRAJUDA

Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

DR. THONGLOUN SISOU LITH

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

For Malaysia:

DATO' SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Union of Myanmar

NYAN WIN

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of the Philippines:

ALBERTO G. ROMULO

Secretary of Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of Singapore:

GEORGE YONG-BOON YEO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Kingdom of Thailand:

DR. KANTATHI SUPHAMONGKHON

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

PHAM GIA KHIEM

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Statement by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member Countries on the Situation in the Middle East

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 July 2006

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam gathered in Kuala Lumpur for the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), taking cognizance of the deteriorating situation in the Middle East and having discussed the issue, wish to state the following:

We are gravely concerned over the deteriorating situation and the escalation of violence in the Middle East, particularly the disproportionate, indiscriminate and excessive use of force by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in Lebanon, triggered by the capture of the two Israeli soldiers. It will threaten efforts towards reviving the Peace Process.

We condemn all acts of terror, violence and destruction. We also condemn attacks that have resulted in injury and death of innocent civilians and the destruction of civilian property and infrastructure. We further condemn the abduction and detention of Cabinet Ministers, government officials, and other individuals and we call for their immediate and unconditional release.

We urge all parties to exercise utmost restraint, in particular to avoid additional casualties among innocent civilians and damage to civilian property and infrastructure and to refrain from acts that could further exacerbate the situation and worsen the humanitarian crisis.

We call for an immediate ceasefire and urge the international community and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to get all parties in the conflicts to adhere to the ceasefire under UN supervision with the participation of countries that are able to do so, and ultimately to work towards a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region.

We reaffirm the call for the strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon as stipulated in UNSC Resolution 1664 and 1680.

We also urge Israel and Palestine to return to the peace process and implementation of the Quartet Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict as outlined in UNSC Resolution 1515.

We welcome all efforts taken to address the situation, including the visits to the region by the Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General to the Middle East and the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, as well as the efforts undertaken by the Foreign Minister of France in that country's capacity as current President of the United Nations Security Council. We view the visit by the U.S. Secretary of State to the region and Italy's intention to host an international conference on 26 July 2006 as encouraging steps and hope that these would bring about the immediate cessation of hostilities, opening the way for the unimpeded flow of humanitarian relief and assistance to the civilians affected by the conflict, the early return of displaced persons and providing the conditions for a durable and lasting solution to the problems in the region. We also emphasize the need for speedy restoration of essential infrastructure facilities in Palestine and

Lebanon to avoid further deterioration of humanitarian condition of the Palestine and Lebanese people.

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**Statement by the Foreign Ministers
of ASEAN Member Countries
on Assistance by ASEAN Missions in
Third Countries to Nationals of ASEAN
Member Countries in Crisis Situations**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 July 2006

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, gathered in Kuala Lumpur for the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), taking cognizance of the needs of our nationals in crisis situations overseas and having discussed the issue, wish to state the following:

We express our deep concern on the difficulties faced by our nationals in third countries who are caught in conflict or crisis situations. We recognize that some of our Member Countries may not have diplomatic representation and therefore our nationals may not be able to receive adequate assistance in certain countries.

We agree that in the spirit of ASEAN solidarity our Missions in third countries would extend assistance to nationals of ASEAN Member Countries who are caught in conflict or crisis situations, in the event of need and based on the capacities and resources of those relevant Missions.

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**Statement by the Foreign Ministers
of ASEAN Member Countries calling for
the Resumption of the Six-Party Talks
on the Issue of the Korean Peninsula**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 July 2006

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, gathered in Kuala Lumpur for the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), taking cognizance of the situation on the Korean Peninsula and having discussed the issue, wish to state the following:

We emphasize that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is essential in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region. We reaffirm the importance of dialogue among all parties for the peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue.

We also reaffirm our support for the principles of the Joint Statement on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula reached on 19 September 2005 at the Six-Party Talks in Beijing. We also stress the importance of the observance and implementation of the Joint Statement.

We call upon all parties concerned to resume the Six-Party Talks and take advantage of their presence at the 13th ARF to fully utilize this opportunity for dialogue as a means to move forward in achieving a peaceful resolution of the issue.

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**Chairman's Press Statement for the
ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27 July 2006

1. The ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC)+1 Sessions with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, Australia, Canada, the European Union, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and the United States; and the ASEAN PMC+10 Working Lunch were held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27 July 2006.

Australia

2. The ASEAN PMC+1 with Australia is co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Pham Gia Khiem, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam and H.E. Alexander Downer Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia. The Meeting welcomed Australia's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia in Kuala Lumpur on 10 December 2005. ASEAN expressed appreciation for Australia's contribution of AUD 1.3 million to the ASEAN Development Fund (ADF) received in April 2006.

Canada

3. The ASEAN PMC+1 with Canada is co-chaired by H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam and H.E. Peter Gordon MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada. The Meeting adopted the 2005-2007 ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Work Plan, which outlines cooperation in various areas, such as disaster management, counter terrorism and transnational crime, energy, health, trade and investment, science and technology. In this respect, the Ministers looked forward to the early implementation of the activities outlined in the Work Plan.

4. The Meeting also endorsed the Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism between ASEAN and Canada for signing on 28 July 2006. The Meeting noted the significance of the signing of this Joint Declaration between ASEAN and Canada as it completes the conclusion of joint declarations to combat international terrorism between ASEAN and all its ten Dialogue Partners.

European Union

5. The ASEAN PMC+1 with the European Union (EU) is co-chaired by H.E. Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and H.E. Dr. Javier Solana, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union and the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy. ASEAN expressed its appreciation to the EU for being the largest contributor in providing assistance to implement the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP). Both sides looked forward to the convening of the 16th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in 2007. The Meeting also agreed to mark the 30th anniversary of the ASEAN-EU dialogue in 2007. ASEAN welcomed the announcement by the EU that it will accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC).

New Zealand

6. The ASEAN PMC+1 with the New Zealand is co-chaired by H.E. Alberto G. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and H.E. Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand. The Meeting welcomed the initiative of New Zealand to establish the Asia Security Fund with an initial allocation of NZ\$500,000 to support, among others, activities to implement the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Declaration to Combat International Terrorism. The Meeting adopted the ASEAN-New Zealand Framework for Future Cooperation, 2006-2010. The framework is aimed to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and New Zealand in the political and security fields, as well as in the economic and socio-cultural development and a number of projects and programmes have been identified.

Russian Federation

7. The ASEAN PMC+1 with the Russian Federation is co-chaired by H.E. George Yeo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore and H.E. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. The Meeting lauded the successful convening of the First ASEAN-Russian Federation Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 13 December 2005, and its outcome documents, namely the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Russian Federation on Progressive and Comprehensive Partnership, as well as the adoption of the Comprehensive Programme of Action to Promote Cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Russian Federation 2005-2015. These documents would form the basis for greater and enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation.
8. The Meeting welcomed the ratification by all the ASEAN Member Countries and the Russian Federation of the ASEAN-Russian Federation Agreement on Economic and Development Cooperation, which they had signed on 8 December 2005 and its subsequent coming into force on 11 August 2006. In this respect, the Foreign Ministers looked forward to the launching of the ASEAN-Russian Federation Dialogue Partnership Financial Fund in January 2007, to support ASEAN-Russian Federation development cooperation activities.
9. The Meeting noted the various activities planned for in 2006 as commemoration of the tenth year of ASEAN-Russian Federation dialogue relations. Two activities were implemented in conjunction with the ASEAN PMC+1 Session with the Russian Federation of 27 July 2006. One is the Russian Food Festival, which was held from 22 July to 1 August 2006. The other was the launching of the ASEAN-Russia 10th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine at the start of the ASEAN-Russia Post Ministerial Conference. The Meeting also noted that the ASEAN Food Festival would be held in the Russian Federation later in the year.

United States of America

10. The ASEAN PMC+1 with the United States of America (US) is co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Kantathi Suphamongkhon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and H.E. Dr. Condoleezza Rice, US Secretary of State. The Meeting recalled the issuance of the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership with the aim of elevating the ASEAN-US Dialogue on 17 November 2005 in all ASEAN capitals and Washington D.C. As a follow up, the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the US Secretary of State signed the Framework Document for the Plan of Action to

Implement the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership on 27 July 2006. The Meeting looked forward to the early implementation of the Plan of Action which serves as a five year master plan (2006-2011) aimed at pursuing joint actions and measures to enhance cooperation in the fields of political and security, economic as well as social and development in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial manner. Both sides also supported the early conclusion of the negotiations on the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) which would further enhance ASEAN-U.S. economic relations.

ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference+10 Working Lunch

11. The ASEAN PMC+10 Working Lunch was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. All Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member Countries and ASEAN's other Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN, were present. Canada, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United States of America were also represented by members of their delegations at the Working Lunch.
12. The Meeting discussed regional and international developments, in particular on energy security and disaster management and emergency response. ASEAN welcomed the continued support by the Dialogue Partners in regional cooperation on regional disaster management and relief. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers updated the Dialogue Partners on developments since the signing of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 26 July 2005 and called upon the Dialogue Partners and other regional and international organisations to assist in intensifying cooperation in this area among ASEAN Member Countries.
13. The Meeting also agreed to enhance cooperation between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners in the energy sector including in promoting energy efficiency. The Meeting recognised that focus should be given to the employment of cleaner, more efficient energy technologies of all kinds, and the development of alternative energy sources such as bio-fuel, hydro-electric power, nuclear energy, solar energy and wind energy, using cost effective and environmentally-friendly technologies. The Meeting acknowledged that energy security should be strengthened through interdependence and cooperation to ensure greater access to adequate, reliable and cost-effective energy supply to achieve economic, social and environmental objectives.

Exchange of Views on International Issues

14. At the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences +1 with the Dialogue Partners, the Ministers also exchanged views on international and regional issues, namely the developments in the Korean Peninsula and the situation in the Middle East.

Korean Peninsula

15. The Ministers expressed concern over the test firing by the DPRK of ballistic missiles on 5 July 2006 and welcomed the UN Security Council Resolution 1695 of 15 July 2006. The Meetings supported the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks and the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue in a peaceful manner. In this regard, the Meetings strongly urged the DPRK to refrain from any action that might aggravate tension, return immediately to the Talks without preconditions, and work towards the expeditious implementation of the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement as was unanimously

agreed upon in this Resolution. The Meetings also believed that the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) can contribute to promoting peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and expressed the hope that members of the Six-Party Talks could utilise their presence during the ARF to promote the resumption of the Talks.

Middle East

16. The Ministers expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation and the escalation of violence in the Middle East. The Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member Countries reaffirmed their views as contained in the Joint Communiqué of the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and their Statement on the Situation in the Middle East, which were issued on 25 July 2006.
17. The Ministers noted that H.E. Dr. Condoleezza Rice, US Secretary of State, H.E. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, H.E. Peter Gordon MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada and H.E. Dr. Javier Solana, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy had been present at the International Conference on the Situation in the Middle East which was held in Rome on 26 July 2006 and exchanged views on the outcome of the Conference. They took note of the various initiatives on the latest efforts being undertaken to end the conflict.
18. The Ministers called for a ceasefire so as to end the senseless killings and destruction of infrastructure and property and urged all parties in the conflict to adhere to the ceasefire under UN supervision, and ultimately to work towards a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region.
19. The Dialogue Partners acknowledged ASEAN centrality and recognised ASEAN's role as the driving force in all dialogue processes initiated by ASEAN. In this regard, the Dialogue Partners reaffirmed and emphasised the importance of ASEAN in playing the key role in the evolving regional architecture. In this context, the Meeting noted the successful convening of the First East Asia Summit (EAS) in Kuala Lumpur on 14 December 2005.
20. The Dialogue Partners were also updated on the status of ASEAN's efforts towards ASEAN Community Building. In this regard, the ASEAN Member Countries conveyed ASEAN's appreciation to Australia and India for their contribution to the ASEAN Development Fund (ADF), as well as to Japan for the establishment of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), to support the VAP and narrow ASEAN's development gap. The Meeting noted the on-going follow-up action to the implementation of the VAP and its three pillars of the ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. The Ministers of ASEAN Dialogue Partners agreed to work closely with ASEAN in providing assistance for ASEAN integration through the VAP and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI).
21. The Dialogue Partners were informed of the change of Country Coordinatorship of ASEAN Dialogue Partners in a new three-year cycle beginning 29 July 2006 as follows:

ASEAN DIALOGUE COORDINATORSHIP

ASEAN COUNTRY COORDINATORS	PRESENT 2003 - 2006	NEXT CYCLE 2006 - 2009
Brunei Darussalam	Canada	China
Cambodia	China	EU
Indonesia	EU	India
Lao PDR	India	Japan
Malaysia	Japan	Republic of Korea
Myanmar	Republic of Korea	New Zealand
Philippines	New Zealand	Russia
Singapore	Russia	United States
Thailand	United States	Australia
Viet Nam	Australia	Canada

ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS MEETING (ADMM)

Joint Press Release of the Inaugural ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9 May 2006

1. The Ministers of Defence of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN held their inaugural meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 9 May 2006. The Meeting was chaired by the Hon. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Malaysia.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the current regional and international security situation. The Ministers welcomed the prevailing peaceful and stable inter-state relations in Southeast Asia. While noting the generally stable situation in the region, the Ministers agreed that security challenges remained and that continued efforts should be undertaken to address them.
3. The Ministers agreed to contribute to the establishment of an ASEAN Security Community or ASC as declared by the ASEAN Heads of State and Government at the 9th ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia, on 7 October 2003 and mandated under the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP).
4. The Ministers reaffirmed the goal of the ASC "to bring ASEAN's political and security cooperation to a higher plane to ensure that countries in the region live at peace with one another and with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment."
5. The Ministers also reaffirmed the principles of the ASC, such as to abide by the Charter of the United Nations and other principles of international law and to uphold ASEAN's principles.
6. The Ministers adopted the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting or ADMM concept paper and agreed that the ADMM should be an integral part of ASEAN, that it should add-value to and complement

the overall ASEAN process, and that it should also be open, flexible and outward-looking in respect of actively engaging ASEAN's friends and Dialogue Partners as well as ASEAN Regional Forum or ARF. The Ministers agreed that the specific objectives of the ADMM would be (a) to promote regional peace and stability through dialogue and cooperation in defence and security; (b) to give guidance to existing senior defence and military officials dialogue and cooperation in the field of defence and security within ASEAN and between ASEAN and dialogue partners; (c) to promote mutual trust and confidence through greater understanding of defence and security challenges as well as enhancement of transparency and openness; and (d) to contribute to the establishment of an ASEAN Security Community (ASC) as stipulated in the Bali Concord II and to promote the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme on ASC.

7. The Ministers expressed support for the ARF as the leading cooperative security process towards promoting peace and stability among countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In this regard, the Ministers directed their civilian and military officials to continuously participate actively in the ARF Security Policy Conference, ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue, and other activities of the ARF.
8. The Ministers expressed support for the continuation of informal consultations amongst the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Force, ASEAN Army Chiefs, ASEAN Navy Chiefs, ASEAN Air Force Chiefs, ASEAN Heads of Coast Guards, and ASEAN Heads of Military Intelligence units.
9. The Ministers agreed to establish an ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting or ADSOM to support the activities of the ADMM.
10. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Working Group on Security Cooperation of the ASEAN Special Senior Officials' Meeting or ASEAN Special SOM and the ASEAN Secretariat for laying the groundwork for the establishment of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting.

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF)

Chairman's Statement of the 13th ASEAN Regional Forum

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28 July 2006

1. The Thirteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was convened on 28 July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers of all ARF Participants, as well as the European Union High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. The List of Delegates appears as ANNEX 1.
3. A meeting of the defense and military officials attending the 13th ARF was also held on 27 July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur.
4. The Ministers welcomed the admission of Bangladesh as the 26th Participant of the ARF and took note of its expressed commitment to

contribute to the attainment of the ARF's goals and to abide by and subscribe to all the decisions and statements already made by the ARF.

Overview of the ARF Process

5. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the ARF as the main multilateral political and security forum in the region and agreed to its further strengthening. The Ministers reiterated their support for ASEAN as the primary driving force of the ARF and encouraged the continued cooperation and contribution of all the ARF participants in moving the ARF process forward in its evolution toward the next stage of its development.
6. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the significant progress of the ARF and the role that it has played in enhancing political and security dialogue and cooperation as well as confidence building in the Asia-Pacific region. The Ministers agreed to continue to observe in good faith the basic principles of decision-making by consensus and non-interference. In this regard, the Ministers reaffirmed that the ARF should move forward at a pace comfortable to all.
7. The Ministers held comprehensive discussions on issues of common concern and stressed the need for the ARF to focus its deliberations on regional issues, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as international issues with regional impact. The Ministers recognized that the challenges facing the Asia Pacific region are becoming more complex and interrelated and require greater regional cooperation.

Highlights of Discussions on Regional and International Security Issues

8. The Ministers expressed their condolences to the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia for the loss of lives and property caused by the earthquake that struck Jogjakarta and Central Java, Indonesia in May 2006, as well as the tsunami that hit the Southern Coast of Java, Indonesia on 17 July 2006. The Ministers underlined the importance of ARF partners working together and of coordinating their efforts with other relevant regional and international partners, including the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in emergency preparedness, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, including disaster risk reduction, through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in addressing disasters of all kinds.
9. The Ministers expressed their support for and were gratified with the significant progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action under the Vientiane Action Programme adopted at the 10th ASEAN Summit. The Ministers emphasised the need to heighten cooperation in the security sphere in efforts to preserve and further advance the region towards peace, stability, democracy, and prosperity. The Ministers also welcomed the successful convening of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 9 May 2006.
10. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the purposes and principles of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), which the ARF participants regard as an important code of conduct governing inter-state relations in Southeast Asia and for the promotion of cooperation, amity and friendship within Southeast Asia and between ASEAN and other ARF participants. The Ministers welcomed the accession of Australia to the TAC during the 11th ASEAN Summit on 10 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur. The accession by Australia is further testimony of the continued

relevance of the TAC in contributing to regional peace, security and stability.

11. The Ministers welcomed the decision by France to accede to the TAC. The Ministers welcomed the EU's intention to accede to the TAC.
12. The Ministers exchanged views on developments in the Korean Peninsula. The Ministers emphasized that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is essential in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region, and voiced support for the peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue through dialogue. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Joint Statement on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula unanimously adopted on 19 September 2005 at the Six-Party Talks in Beijing and stressed the importance of the observance and early implementation of the Joint Statement. The Ministers also called upon all parties concerned to resume the Six-Party Talks without preconditions. The Ministers welcomed the informal discussion among some ARF participants on the situation in Northeast Asia in Kuala Lumpur on 28 July 2006 and expressed their hope that this could contribute towards the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks.
13. Most Ministers expressed concern over the test-firing of missiles by the DPRK on 5 July 2006 and believed that such tests could have adverse repercussions on peace, stability and security in the region. The Ministers noted the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1695 on 15 July 2006 and the rejection of this resolution by the DPRK. The Ministers urged the DPRK in this regard to re-establish its moratorium on missile testing.
14. Some Ministers expressed their grave concern over the deteriorating situation and unabated violence in the Middle East, particularly the disproportionate, indiscriminate and excessive use of force in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in Lebanon. These actions would gravely threaten any efforts towards reviving the Peace Process.
15. The Ministers condemned all acts of terror, violence and destruction that have resulted in injury and death of innocent civilians and the destruction of civilian property and infrastructure. The Ministers urged all parties to exercise utmost restraint, in particular, to avoid additional casualties among innocent civilians and damage to civilian property and infrastructure and to refrain from acts that could further exacerbate the situation.
16. The Ministers took note of the various initiatives being undertaken to end the conflict. In this regard, the Ministers acknowledged the convening of the International Conference on the Situation in the Middle East in Rome on 26 July 2006.
17. Some Ministers called for a ceasefire and urged the international community and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to get all parties in the conflicts to adhere to the ceasefire and ultimately to work towards a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region.
18. The Ministers stressed that a negotiated outcome was the only way to ensure long-term peace, security and stability in the region. They reaffirmed the call for the strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon as stipulated in UNSC Resolutions 1664 and 1680. The Ministers also urged Israel and Palestine to return to the peace process and implementation of the Quartet Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict as outlined in UNSC Resolution 1515.
19. The Ministers exchanged views on the recent developments in Myanmar. The Ministers expressed concern on the pace of the national reconciliation process and hope to see tangible progress that would lead to peaceful transition to democracy in the near future. The Ministers reiterated their calls for the early release of those placed under detention and for effective dialogue with all parties concerned. The Ministers noted that this issue has been discussed extensively by the 39th AMM and in this regard, they expressed support for the constructive role taken by the Chairman of the 39th ASEAN Standing Committee and further discussed the outcome of his visit to Myanmar on 23-24 March 2006. The Ministers also noted the initiative taken by the United Nations Undersecretary General for Political Affairs, who visited Myanmar on 18-20 May 2006 and Myanmar's readiness to receive another visit by him.
20. The Ministers recognized that Myanmar needs both time and political space to deal with its many and complex challenges. The Ministers expressed their hope that Myanmar's efforts to deal with those challenges will progress so that Myanmar can effectively engage the international community, and in this regard the ARF would remain constructively engaged as required.
21. The Ministers congratulated H.E. José Luis Guterres, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor Leste, on his recent appointment. The Ministers took note of the recent positive developments in Timor Leste and welcomed the immediate assistance from Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand and Portugal to deploy defense and security forces to Timor Leste. The Ministers welcomed the appointment of the new Prime Minister and Cabinet and their desire to work expeditiously towards normalising the situation in the country.
22. The Ministers welcomed the steps taken by ASEAN and China towards the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) including the convening of the two Working Group Meetings which were held in Manila, Philippines and Hainan, China in August 2005 and February 2006 respectively. The Ministers noted the ASEAN-China SOM on the implementation of the DOC, in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 30 May 2006 to accelerate the implementation of the DOC. The Ministers expressed their hope that with the implementation of the DOC, ASEAN and China would move towards the eventual adoption of a Code of Conduct for the South China Sea.
23. The Ministers were encouraged by the determination of the Iraqis in taking important steps in the political process towards reconciliation and the building of a democratic and independent future of Iraq. The Ministers welcomed the election that took place in Iraq on 15 December 2005 to elect members of the Iraqi Parliament. The Ministers welcomed the formation of a government of national unity in Iraq on 20 May 2006.
24. The Ministers expressed the hope that the positive developments in the political process will lead to an easing of the hardship faced by ordinary Iraqis. In this regard, the Ministers expressed concern over the security condition in Iraq, and condemned the continued attacks on civilians and places of worship. The Ministers urged the Iraqi authorities and others to do all they could with the aim of

- improving the security situation in Iraq. The Ministers welcomed the 25 June 2006 Iraqi National Reconciliation Plan announced by Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki and urged all Iraqis to work together to resolve political differences through peaceful democratic means.
25. The Ministers strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Mumbai on 11 July 2006 that caused tragic loss of innocent life and damage to property, and expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of the attack, their families and friends. The Ministers reaffirmed that terrorism, irrespective of its origins, motivations or objectives, constitutes a threat to all peoples and countries, and the common interest of the international community in ensuring peace, stability, security and economic prosperity.
 26. The Ministers also reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and agreed that terrorism should not be associated with any particular religion or ethnic group. Some Ministers emphasized the need to address the root causes of terrorism. The Ministers expressed support and further called for continued international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden the understanding among civilisations to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures. In this regard, the Ministers took note of discussions during the 4th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC) in Beijing on 26-28 April 2006. The Ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to prevent, suppress and eliminate international terrorism consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and other universally recognized international law.
 27. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism during the 13th ARF on 28 July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur and the planned implementation of the activities identified therein.
 28. The Ministers also expressed support and called for continued cooperation between the regional centres on counter-terrorism such as the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Kuala Lumpur, the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok, and the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) in Semarang, Indonesia.
 29. The Ministers recognized that the illegal use of small arms and light weapons still constitute a serious threat to human security in every part of the world. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the ARF's strong commitment to work toward the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, as well as United Nations resolution 60/81. In this regard, the Ministers emphasized the importance of the recommendations made by the ARF CBM Seminar on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Phnom Penh on 2-4 November 2005.
 30. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of strengthening controls of the transfer of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS), to help prevent these weapons being acquired or used by terrorist or other non-state groups. The Ministers noted that the proliferation of these weapons to non-state groups posed a threat to international civil aviation and to all countries in the region.
 31. The Ministers welcomed the ARF's continuing focus on the issue of Maritime Security and reaffirmed the importance of addressing this issue within a cooperative framework that respects the rights of littoral states and the legitimate concerns of user states. The Ministers also welcomed the Meeting in Batam, Indonesia from 1-2 August 2005 where the Foreign Ministers of the littoral states of the Straits of Malacca reiterated the fundamental principles in the management of the Straits of Malacca aimed at ensuring the safety of navigation, environmental protection and maritime security, while maintaining the balance between the sovereign rights of littoral states and the legitimate interests of the international community. The Ministers further welcomed the concurrent meeting of the Chiefs of Defense Forces of the three littoral states and Thailand from 1-2 August 2005 in Kuala Lumpur on enhancing maritime security cooperation among the armed forces of the four countries. The Ministers also welcomed the Jakarta Meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore that was hosted by Indonesia and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on 7-8 September 2005 on enhancing safety, security, and environmental protection.
 32. The Ministers stated that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery systems, including potentially to terrorists, remained a serious security challenge. The Ministers urged all States to become parties to the two most recent universal instruments to combat nuclear terrorism; namely, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 April 2005, and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted on 8 July 2005 in Vienna. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of UNSC resolution 1673 in which the Security Council reiterated the requirements of UNSC resolution 1540, thereby reaffirming the international community's determination to prevent the proliferation of WMD, including in particular to non-state actors. In this respect, they expressed their support for the efforts of the 1540 Committee and called upon all States to ensure effective and full implementation of the Resolution.
 33. The Ministers of the States Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), reaffirming the validity of the Treaty as a cornerstone of global stability and security, expressed the need for undertaking further efforts to strengthen the NPT, bearing in mind the discussions at the 2005 Review Conference and agreed to make further efforts to strengthen compliance with and enforcement of all provisions of the Treaty. The Ministers reiterated their continued support for the important role of the NPT and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in preventing nuclear proliferation and promoting nuclear disarmament as well as peaceful use of nuclear energy.
 34. The Ministers called for the maintenance of existing moratoria on nuclear testing and on the production of fissile material for weapons purposes. They reaffirmed their support for the concept of internationally recognized nuclear-weapons-free zones (NWFZs) established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States in the regions concerned and emphasized the contribution of such zones to enhancing global and regional peace and security. The Ministers also further reaffirmed the importance of continued consultation on the Protocol of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty between the nuclear weapon states and the parties to the Treaty.
 35. The Ministers agreed that avian and pandemic influenza continues to pose a significant potential threat to countries in the region. The Ministers recognized the importance of working with existing multilateral organizations to ensure that any ARF initiatives complement rather than duplicate existing initiatives. The Ministers agreed that it was important that states are committed to transparency in the reporting of influenza cases in humans and in animals, prompt sharing of epidemiological data with the WHO, capacity building to prevent and contain emerging epidemics, and early intervention in response to potential outbreaks.

Review of Activities of the Current Inter-Sessional Year (July 2005-July 2006)

36. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the success of Track I and Track II activities that have taken place during the current inter-sessional year (July 2005-July 2006). They commended the work of the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures & Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBMs & PD), co-chaired by the Philippines and the United States, and held in Honolulu, USA, on 26-28 October 2005 and in Manila, Philippines, on 1-3 March 2006. The Ministers noted the summary report of the co-chairs and endorsed their recommendations. The Co-Chairs' Reports appears as ANNEX 2.
37. The Ministers welcomed the contributions made by defense officials in the ARF process. In this regard, the Ministers were pleased with the outcome of the Third ASEAN Regional Forum Security Policy Conference (ASPC) hosted by Malaysia in Karambunai, Sabah on 18 May 2006. They noted with satisfaction that the high-level interaction among the ARF defense policy officials had contributed further to building confidence and fostering mutual understanding, thus contributing to the maintenance of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.
38. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the 5th ARF Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster relief (ISM on DR) which was held in Bandung, Indonesia from 30 November to 2 December 2005, and was co-chaired by Indonesia and China. The Co-Chairs' Report appears as ANNEX 3. The Ministers noted that Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the United States, and China have volunteered to serve as shepherds to coordinate interim efforts to further the work of the ARF in disaster relief. The Ministers also adopted the ARF Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response which appears as ANNEX 4.
39. The Ministers noted the report of Brunei Darussalam and China as Co-Chairs of the Fourth Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC), which was held in Beijing, on 26-28 April 2006, and endorsed its recommendations. The Co-Chairs Report appears as ANNEX 5.
40. The Ministers adopted the ARF Statement on Cooperation in Fighting Cyber Attack and Terrorist Misuse of Cyber Space and the ARF Statement on Promoting a People-Centered Approach to Counter-Terrorism which expressed the ARF participants' determination to enhance cooperation in the fight against international terrorism. The statements appear as ANNEX 6 and ANNEX 7 respectively.
41. The Ministers noted the following workshops and seminars, which were completed in the inter-sessional year 2005/2006:
 - Workshop on Civil-Military Operations, Manila, Philippines, 11-14 September 2005;
 - Seminar on Cyber Terrorism, Cebu, Philippines, 3-5 October 2005;
 - Seminar on Missile Defense, Bangkok, Thailand, 6-7 October 2005;
 - 9th ARF Heads of Defense Universities/Colleges/Institutions, Ha Noi, Viet Nam;
 - Workshop on Training for the Cooperative Maritime Security, Kochi, India, 26-28 October 2005;
 - Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2-4 November 2005;
 - Export Licensing Experts' Meeting, Singapore, 17-18 November 2005;
 - Workshop on Capacity Building of Maritime Security, Tokyo, Japan, 19-20 December 2005;
 - Seminar on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Singapore, 27-29 March 2006

Programme of Work for the Next Inter-sessional Year

42. The Ministers agreed that the ISG on CBMs & PD continue its work and welcomed the offer by Indonesia and the European Union to co-chair the ISG on CBMs & PD in the next inter-sessional year. The Ministers also noted that the first ISG on CBMs and PD will be held on 1-3 November 2006 in Batam, Indonesia and the second meeting will be held in the first quarter of 2007 in Finland.
43. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of the continuation of the ISM on DR and agreed that the ISM on DR should continue its work in finding ways to establish a resilient regional disaster preparedness and emergency management. The Ministers also noted that Indonesia and the People's Republic of China will Co-Chair the Sixth ISM or DR in the next inter-sessional year, which will be held in Qingdao, China on 18-20 September 2006.
44. The Ministers agreed that the ISM CTTC should continue its work to forge a more strengthened cooperation in fighting against terrorism and transnational crime. The Ministers welcomed the offer by Singapore and Japan to Co-Chair the 5th ISM on CTTC in 2007 in Tokyo, Japan.
45. The Ministers reaffirmed the procedure that all proposed ARF activities should first be discussed at the ISG/ISM level and agreed at ARF-SOM. The Ministers approved the work program for the next inter-sessional year (July 2006-July 2007) as in ANNEX 8.

Future Direction of the ARF Process

46. The Ministers agreed to continue the implementation of the Nine Recommendations of the Stocktaking of the ARF process, which was adopted in Brunei Darussalam on 31 July 2000. The Ministers agreed to extend further cooperation and support for the ARF Chair in carrying out the mandates outlined in the paper on the Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair. The Ministers looked forward to the development of standard operating procedures for the ARF Chair to perform its enhanced role. In this regard, the Philippines will continue consultations on the Terms of Reference of Friends of the ARF Chair. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the open dialogue regarding the progress of the ARF process and committed to further advancing the ARF process towards the preventive diplomacy stage and beyond.
47. The Ministers welcomed the ARF's progress towards Preventive Diplomacy (PD). The Ministers recalled the importance of the adopted Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy in guiding the ARF in the development of Preventive Diplomacy and looked forward to the development of concrete measures in PD. The Ministers also welcomed the convening of the First ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEP) Meeting which was co-chaired by Malaysia and the Republic of Korea on 28-30 June 2006 in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. The Ministers were briefed by the Malaysian Co-Chair on the outcome of this Meeting. The Ministers noted the recommendations of the EEPs regarding the future course of the ARF and the role of the EEPs as contained in the Co-Chairs Summary Report which appears as ANNEX 9. The Ministers also requested the ARF SOM to consider the recommendations and submit its assessment of their practicability to ARF Ministers at their next meeting.
48. The Ministers agreed on the continued publication of the ARF Annual Security Outlook (ASO) to promote transparency as well as confidence building among ARF participants and welcomed the seventh volume of the ASO.

49. The Ministers emphasized the need to continue strengthening ties with other regional and international security organizations as well as linkages between Track I and Track II. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed Thailand's Concept Paper on "Enhancing Ties between Track I and Track II in the ARF, and between the ARF and Other Regional and International Security Organisations" as approved by SOM ARF which appears as ANNEX 10, and entrusted the relevant ARF bodies to proceed in accordance with the guidelines and format contained therein.
50. The Ministers commended the ARF Unit in assisting the ARF Chair and in developing the ARF's institutional memory, including through the regularly updated Matrix of ARF Decisions and their Status, which is made available on the ARFNet, and the development of the ARF Internet homepage and virtual communications network at www.aseanregionalforum.org. The Ministers acknowledged the assistance that some ARF participants were extending to the ARF Unit and encouraged others to do the same.
51. The Ministers welcomed the progress of the ARF Fund, for the purpose of implementing projects, activities, and decisions of the ARF, particularly the adoption of the standard format for the ARF Fund Project Brief which appears as ANNEX 11.
52. The Ministers noted that applications to participate in the ARF would be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the established criteria. In this connection, they welcomed and agreed to ASEAN's consensus on the admission of Sri Lanka as the 27th participant in the ARF, which would be officiated during the 14th ARF.
53. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the open dialogue regarding the progress of the ARF process and committed to further advancing the ARF process towards the preventive diplomacy stage and beyond, on the basis of consensus and at a pace comfortable to all, while continuing to build mutual confidence and trust among its participants.

ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Promoting a People-Centred Approach to Counter Terrorism

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28 July 2006

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), on behalf of the participating states and organisations, issues the following statement:

RECOGNISING THAT:

The overwhelming majority of people in the region, and around the globe, are peace-loving;

Terrorism, irrespective of its origins, motivations or objectives, constitutes a serious threat to human security, regional and international peace, stability and security. There is no justification, whatsoever, for any act of terrorism which should be unequivocally condemned;

Any measures to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be consistent with the Charter of the United Nations (UN), international law, including human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, where applicable; United Nations Security Council Resolutions; and UN

Conventions and Protocols related to counter-terrorism which individual participating states are a state party to;

Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, culture, race or nationality;

Successfully combating terrorism requires a comprehensive approach, that includes addressing causes and factors conducive to the spread of terrorism without acknowledging these as justifications for terrorist and/or criminal activities;

Supporting initiatives currently undertaken by regional and international organizations on counter terrorism, including efforts to resolve conflicts, promote respect, understanding and tolerance among people of all religions, beliefs and cultures, forms part of the overall ARF efforts to counter terrorism;

Strong cooperation exists within the ARF framework in the fight against international terrorism and desiring to undertake further measures to prevent, disrupt, combat and respond to terrorism;

It is vitally important to engage all levels of society including academia, the media, non-governmental organisations, community groups and other relevant institutions in the efforts against international terrorism;

COMMITTED TO:

Implement the principles laid out in this Statement, in accordance with their respective domestic laws and their specific circumstances, with the view to the full implementation of any or all of the following measures:

1. Identifying counter terrorism strategies and measures that promote greater tolerance, understanding, conflict resolution including inter-cultural dialogues, as well as those aimed at winning the "hearts and minds" of the people and their unequivocal condemnation of terror in all its forms and manifestations and regardless of its alleged motives in order to ensure their effectiveness;
2. Inculcating people's awareness of the threat from terrorism to their safety and well-being and enhancing preparedness in their response to the threat;
3. To undertake all necessary measures in accordance with international law;
4. Developing initiatives and programmes, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, international laws and relevant rules of procedure of the United Nations, to promote public participation in counter terrorism measures, by, encouraging the comprehensive input of academia, media, non-governmental organizations, community groups and other relevant institutions;
5. Strengthening information sharing, exchange of best practices and joint-capacity building efforts on both preventive measures and emergency response mechanisms;
6. Identifying ways to enhance partnerships between, and among participating states, with international organizations, regional fora and other relevant institutions to promote the above measures in the efforts to counter terrorism; and
7. Reviewing the progress on these efforts to further strengthen cooperation to counter terrorism.

ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Cooperation in Fighting Cyber Attack and Terrorist Misuse of Cyber Space

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28 July 2006

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), on behalf of the participating states and organization, issues the following statement:

Strongly condemning all acts of terrorism regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security;

Reaffirming the imperative to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

Rejecting any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, nationality, race, or culture;

Ensuring that all measures to combat terrorism are in accordance with the United Nations Charter and other applicable principles of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law;

Acknowledging that terrorist misuse of cyber space is a destructive and devastating form and manifestation of global terrorism whose magnitude and rapid spread would be exacerbated by the increasing cyber interconnectivity of countries in the region;

Recognizing the serious ramifications of an attack via cyber space to critical infrastructure on the security of the people and on the economic and physical well-being of countries in the region;

Recognizing the detrimental impact of fear which can be enhanced by the terrorists in conjunction with attacks in physical space;

Further recognizing that terrorist misuse of cyber space is a form of cyber crime and a criminal misuse of information technologies;

Acknowledging that the proceeds from cyber crime may be laundered and/or used to fund terrorist activities;

Emphasizing the importance of ARF countries acting cooperatively to prevent the exploitation of technology, communications, and resources, including Internet, to incite support for and/or commit criminal or terrorist acts, including the use by terrorists of the internet for recruitment and training purposes.

Recalling the ARF Statement on Strengthening Transport Security against International Terrorism of 2 July 2004, which mentions, in particular, that ARF countries will endeavor to cooperate to ensure that terrorists are prevented from using information technology and its applications to disrupt and sabotage the operation of transportation systems;

Stressing the need for cooperation between governments and the private sector in identifying, preventing, and mitigating cyber-attacks and terrorist misuse of cyber-space;

Believing that an effective fight against cyber-attacks and terrorist misuse of cyber space requires increased, rapid and well-functioning legal and other forms of cooperation.

1. ARF participating states and organization endeavor to enact, if they have not yet done so, and implement cyber crime and cyber security laws in accordance with their national conditions and by referring to relevant international instruments and recommendations/guidelines for the prevention, detection, reduction, and mitigation of attacks to which they are party, including the ten recommendations in the UN General Assembly Resolution 55/63 on Combating the Criminal Misuse of Information Technologies.
2. ARF participating countries and organization acknowledge the importance of a national framework for cooperation and collaboration in addressing criminal, including terrorist, misuse of cyber space and encourage the formulation of such a framework that may include the following proposed courses of action:
 - Identify national cyber security units and increase coordination among national agencies;
 - Develop national watch, warning, and incident response capabilities;
 - Collaborate/cooperate with international and regional agencies for cyber investigation and collection and sharing of cyber evidence and, effective management of resources for mutually beneficial partnerships that foster international cooperation, interoperability, and coordination in fighting criminal and terrorist misuse of cyber space;
 - Conduct training/technology transfer and counter-measures, especially digital forensics;
 - Reinforce capabilities to protect and recover critical infrastructure, minimize loss, track and trace the sabotage activities on such infrastructure;
 - Encourage private sector partnership with the government in the field of information security and fighting cyber crime, including the protection of critical infrastructure;
 - Increase public awareness on cyber security and cyber ethics with emphasis on safety and security, best practices, the responsibilities of using information networks and negative consequences from misuse of networks.
3. ARF participating states and organization agree to work together to improve their capabilities to adequately address cyber crime, including the terrorist misuse of cyber space by:
 - Endeavoring to identify national cyber security units and joining and participating in established networks of cooperation;
 - Endeavoring to establish an ARF-wide network of Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT) concerning cyber-crime to facilitate the real time exchange of threat and vulnerability assessment and issuance of required warnings and patches and which would join existing cyber and incident warning and response networks;
 - Leveraging on existing cooperation among different CSIRT networks and collaborating with other international and regional organizations with similar concerns;
 - Providing, where and when possible, technical assistance and capacity-building programs to countries that request help in developing laws, extending training (in forensics, law enforcement, legal and technical matters), and when and where possible, providing hardware and software;
 - Within the framework of applicable data protection regulation, information and intelligence sharing between law enforcement, partners, and regional agencies, and community;
 - Enhancing efforts towards training and awareness among the masses to bring about a culture of cyber security.

4. The ARF participating countries and organization also commit to continue working together in the fight against cyber crime, including terrorist misuse of cyber space, through activities aimed at enhancing confidence among different national CSIRTs, as well as formulating advocacy and public awareness programs.
5. ARF participating countries and organization commit themselves to adopting such measures as may be appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts, including through computer networks.
6. The ARF participating countries and organization decide to annually review the progress of these and other efforts to combat cyber attack and the terrorist misuse of cyber space at subsequent ARF Ministerial Meetings.

ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28 July 2006

The Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum, on behalf of the participating countries, issues the following statement:

Expressing condolences and sympathy to the victims, their families, the Government and the people of the countries that suffered significant human, social and economic losses and damages from the unprecedented tsunami disaster and earthquake as well as typhoons, cyclones/hurricanes, floods and landslides in various ARF participating countries;

Recalling the Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention in the aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004 issued at the Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on the Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami in Jakarta, 6 January 2005; the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in Kobe, 18-22 January 2005 to effectively tackle disaster reduction; the Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangement in Phuket, 29 January 2005; the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, 26 July 2005; the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction in Beijing, 27-28 September 2005; as well as international conferences concerning natural or other disasters, including manmade, under the auspices of the United Nations;

Deeply concerned about the additional socio-economic burden borne by the ARF participating countries, particularly the developing countries, due to the number, scale and increasing impact of natural disasters and other disaster situations;

Noting with appreciation the solidarity, brotherhood, sense of humanity, generous outpouring of support and constructive cooperation shown by the international community, including ARF participating countries, to help affected communities with humanitarian assistance in response to recent natural disasters, including the 2004 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian ocean and the 2005 South Asia earthquake;

Reaffirming that humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality;

Mindful of the importance of encouraging regional and international cooperation to enhance preparedness and support the efforts of affected countries to mitigate and respond to natural disasters in all their phases and to reduce loss of life and other social, economic and global environmental assets;

Emphasizing the importance of civil-military cooperation in meeting regional peace and security challenges as well as identifying possible areas of cooperation in developing civil-military cooperation as an effective tool in disaster relief operations, at a pace comfortable to all, consistent with internationally agreed principles;

Recognizing the need for common understanding of civil-military cooperation, and the development of standardized civil-military coordination procedures consistent with existing international guidelines;

Recognizing also the need for appropriate and people-centered early warning and the dissemination of information and disaster management plans at all levels, including at the community level, which has thus far received rather limited attention from the international community and national governments;

Noting the importance of the availability of funds in the region for immediate disbursement, and the appropriateness of contributions to support timely and effective responses to humanitarian emergencies and noting international efforts to increase the pool of resources available;

Reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility to protect the people and property on their territories from natural disasters;

Recalling that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of states must be fully respected in accordance with the charter of the United Nations. In this context, humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and in principle on the basis of an appeal by the affected country;

Emphasizing the importance of developing and strengthening institutions, mechanisms and capacities at the sub-national, national, regional as well as the international levels to support community capacities to reduce disaster risk;

Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in providing leadership and coordinating the efforts of the international community;

Acknowledging the importance of the ASEAN Standby Arrangements for Disaster Relief and Emergency Response, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, ASEAN Disaster Information Sharing and Communication Network, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), and other regional instruments on disaster management and emergency response, including UN bodies, and recognizing the need for close coordination between regional and international bodies;

Recognizing the importance of the national sovereignty and integrity as well as the international law in the process of disaster management and emergency response.

ARF participating countries will endeavor to enhance cooperation that support and complement existing regional and international disaster management and emergency response mechanisms in the following areas:

A. Risk Identification and Monitoring

- (1) to take appropriate measures to identify regional disaster risks and risk management capacities and conduct disaster risk assessment covering among others; natural hazards, risk assessment, monitoring vulnerabilities and appraisal of disaster management capacities and the inputs/resources required to appropriately reinforce these;
- (2) to share information with regard to forecasting and monitoring hazards and disasters to interested ARF participants; information transmission, feedback and action (particularly relating to populations at risk).

B. Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

- (1) to develop an ARF Virtual Task Force on multi-hazard Disaster Response Management in order to promote ARF cooperation in disaster-related issues;
- (2) to support the work of UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in building up an Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System and to link up with other regional efforts to create a global multi-hazard early warning system;
- (3) to call upon all ARF participating countries to integrate disaster risk reduction efforts into their national legislative frameworks, policies and strategies in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015;
- (4) to establish a directory of specialized experts/groups of experts in disaster relief and emergency preparedness in the ARFNet and share it with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;
- (5) to maintain an updated regional database of emergencies response and disaster management contacts, and to develop a joint database of assets and capabilities available to be shared with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities and the Register of Military, Civil Defense and Civil Protection Assets (MCDA);
- (6) to compile ARF participating countries' disaster management procedures/manuals and capabilities in order to enhance common understanding of respective countries' emergency preparedness procedures through sharing of lessons learned and best practices;
- (7) to work towards the development of ARF regional standby arrangements for immediate humanitarian assistance including the development of Standard Operating Procedures (of non-binding nature) in close cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;
- (8) to allocate adequate resources for the development and implementation of disaster management policies at all levels of administration;
- (9) to collaborate with international partners to clarify their possible roles in supporting national disaster response plans;
- (10) to consider, as appropriate, the development of bilateral/regional/multilateral legal arrangements/framework to facilitate

and in line with disaster management and emergency response related international assistance;

- (11) to improve communications protocols with international data warning providers (in terms of 24 hour-per-day, seven-day-per-week notification and verification data input and warnings with all critical international data providers);
- (12) to provide early warning information to ARF participating countries, which include seismic and sea level data, data on seismic origins and to link with other warning systems and to exchange data in the case of an emergency.

C. Emergency Response and Disaster Relief

- (1) to consider, as appropriate, the development of ARF general guidelines on disaster management and emergency response for the use of both civilian and military personnel within the ARF participating countries and to ensure consistency with existing UN guidelines and ASEAN mechanisms on disaster management and emergency response, civil-military cooperation and other international capabilities;
- (2) to enhance networking and coordination between national Search and Rescue (SAR) and other relief agencies of ARF participants, and with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG);
- (3) to promote coordination among donors, relief agencies, and the international community in carrying out short, medium and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk-reduction efforts led by the Governments of disasters-affected countries, in cooperation with the International Recovery Platform co-organized by the UN (UNDP, ISDR, OCHA and ILO), the World Bank, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC);
- (4) to receive warning information and to coordinate with national disaster warning center of each country to maximize efficiency in emergency response and disaster relief.

D. Capacity Building

- (1) to undertake research and education, as well as sharing of knowledge and expertise among ARF participating countries with a view to strengthening capacities in the field of disaster risk reduction;
- (2) to strengthen national/regional preparedness and disaster management capability through education and training, sharing of expertise, desktop disaster relief simulation exercises and combined joint exercises in civil military operations;
- (3) to promote networking, enhance coordination and establish exchange/attachment programs between and among ARF participants' emergency management agencies;
- (4) to welcome and make use of the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, which has been established on 26 September 2005 under UNESCAP administration for the establishment of an effective early warning system in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.

ARF participating countries are to regularly review the progress of these and other efforts to further strengthen cooperation in disaster relief at the subsequent ARF Intersessional-Meeting on Disaster Relief as well as other ARF meetings.

TREATY OF AMITY AND COOPERATION

Instrument of Extension of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (to Timor Leste)

Cebu, Philippines, 13 January 2007

WHEREAS the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which was signed on 24 February 1976 in Bali, Indonesia, was amended by the First and the Second Protocols Amending the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which were signed on 15 December 1987 and 25 July 1998, respectively;

WHEREAS Article 18, Paragraph 3, of the aforesaid Treaty as amended by Article 1 of the aforesaid Second Protocol provides that States outside Southeast Asia may accede to the Treaty with the consent of all the States in Southeast Asia, namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, in a letter dated 21 July 2006, conveyed the desire of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste to accede to the Treaty;

NOW, therefore, the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, having considered the said letter, hereby consent to the accession to the Treaty by the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste.

DONE at Cebu, Philippines, this Thirteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

For Brunei Darussalam:

MOHAMED BOLKIAH
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:

HOR NAMHONG
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

For the Republic of Indonesia:

DR. N. HASSAN WIRAJUDA
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

DR. THONGLOUN SISOULITH
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

For Malaysia:

DATO' SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Union of Myanmar:

NYAN WIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of the Philippines:

ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of Singapore:

GEORGE YONG-BOON YEO
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Kingdom of Thailand:

NITYA PIBULSONGGRAM
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

DR. PHAM GIA KHIEM
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Instrument of Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (by Timor Leste)

Cebu, Philippines, 13 January 2007

WHEREAS the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which was signed on 24 February 1976 in Bali, Indonesia, was amended by the First and the Second Protocols Amending the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which were signed on 15 December 1987 and 25 July 1998, respectively;

WHEREAS Article 18, Paragraph 3, of the aforesaid Treaty as amended by Article 1 of the aforesaid Second Protocol provides that States outside Southeast Asia may also accede to the Treaty with the consent of all the States in Southeast Asia, namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; and

WHEREAS all the States in Southeast Asia have consented to the accession of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste to the Treaty;

NOW, therefore, the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, having considered the aforesaid Treaty as amended by the Protocols, hereby accedes to the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out all the stipulations therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Instrument of Accession is signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste.

DONE at Cebu, Philippines, this Thirteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

JOSE LUIS GUTERRES
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Democratic Republic of Timor Leste

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Instrument of Extension of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (to the French Republic)

Cebu, Philippines, 13 January 2007

WHEREAS the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which was signed on 24 February 1976 in Bali, Indonesia, was amended by the First and the Second Protocols Amending the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which were signed on 15 December 1987 and 25 July 1998, respectively;

WHEREAS Article 18, Paragraph 3, of the aforesaid Treaty as amended by Article 1 of the aforesaid Second Protocol provides that States outside Southeast Asia may accede to the Treaty with the consent of all the States in Southeast Asia, namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, in a letter, dated 11 April 2006, conveyed the desire of the French Republic to accede to the Treaty;

NOW, therefore, the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, having considered the said letter, hereby consent to the accession to the Treaty by the French Republic.

DONE at Cebu, Philippines, this Thirteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

For Brunei Darussalam:
MOHAMED BOLKIAH
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
HOR NAMHONG
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

For the Republic of Indonesia:
DR. N. HASSAN WIRAJUDA
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
DR. THONGLOUN SISOULITH
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

For Malaysia:
DATO' SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Union of Myanmar:
NYAN WIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of the Philippines:
ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of Singapore:
GEORGE YONG-BOON YEO
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
NITYA PIBULSONGGRAM
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
DR. PHAM GIA KHIEM
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Declaration on the Deposit of the Instrument of Accession of the French Republic to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia

Cebu, Philippines, 13 January 2007

CONSIDERING that the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which was signed on 24 February 1976 in Bali, Indonesia, was amended by the First and the Second Protocols Amending the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which were signed on 15 December 1987 and 25 July 1998, respectively;

CONSIDERING that Article 18, Paragraph 3, of the aforesaid Treaty as amended by Article 1 of the aforesaid Second Protocol provides that States outside Southeast Asia may also accede to the Treaty with the consent of all the States in Southeast Asia, namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; and

CONSIDERING that all the States in Southeast Asia have consented to the accession of the French Republic to the Treaty;

THEREFORE, having considered the aforesaid Treaty as amended by the Protocols, the French Republic has signed its Instrument of Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia on 20 July 2006 in accordance with its internal procedures;

NOW THEREFORE, the French Republic, having acceded to the aforesaid Treaty as amended by the Protocols, the French Republic deposited its Instrument of Accession to the same and recalls that it will faithfully perform and carry out the provisions therein contained.

THIS DECLARATION on the Deposit of the Instrument of Accession of the French Republic to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia is signed by the Minister Delegate for European Affairs of the French Republic.

DONE at Cebu, Philippines, this Thirteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

Catherine COLONNA
Minister Delegate for European Affairs of the French Republic



III. ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS (AEM)

The 12th ASEAN Economic Ministers Retreat

Makati City, Philippines, 15 May 2006

Points for the Press Conference

- The ASEAN Economic Ministers had their Retreat in Manila, Philippines on 15 May 2006.

Acceleration of ASEAN Economic Community

- The AEM Retreat deliberated on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), including accelerating the establishment of AEC. The Ministers underscored the importance of taking bold actions to expedite economic integration in ASEAN towards the establishment of AEC as well as closer monitoring and coordination of cross sectoral initiatives and plans supporting the AEC.
- Taking into account the importance of deepening and broadening regional integration, the Ministers exchanged views on the possible steps to be taken, which include:
 - (a) A single coherent blueprint for the AEC, which would give the political impetus to ASEAN's community-building efforts, including synchronizing trade and investment policies.
 - (b) Putting in place the necessary regional mechanisms to support the AEC.
 - (c) Looking at measures to enhance transparency and predictability which are not only key to making ASEAN an attractive investment area but also necessary to build confidence among ASEAN Member Countries as they move towards the AEC.
 - (d) Mobilising resources to narrow the development gap among the less developed ASEAN's members to mitigate the implications resulting from liberalization and integration.
 - (e) Looking at decision making process to facilitate expeditious implementation of ASEAN plans and initiatives in economic cooperation and integration, especially the more effective use of the ASEAN Minus X formula for implementation of agreed initiatives.
- The Ministers were of the view that while FTAs (free trade arrangements) are important for ASEAN to strengthen external linkages, initiatives that support internal market integration and beyond border measures should be prioritized and implemented in an expeditious manner.

Priority Integration Sectors

- The Ministers noted the progress made on the implementation of the measures for priority integration sectors and emphasized the

importance of coming up with a comprehensive roadmap for logistic services. In this context, ASEAN should endeavor to work on an integral approach of facilitating customs procedures, transportation requirements, and management of supply chain.

- The Ministers reiterated the importance of active participation of the private sector in the ASEAN economic integration process. The Ministers welcomed the convening of COPS II or the Second Consultative Meeting on the Priority Sectors which aims to involve greater private sector participation to review the progress in the implementation of the priority integration sectors.

ASEAN External Economic Relations

- The Ministers were briefed on the progress made on ASEAN negotiations for FTAs and CEPs (closer economic partnerships) with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, including China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK).
- The Ministers received the Final Report of the Vision Group for the AEM-EU Consultations and welcomed the two key recommendations, i.e. the establishment of a WTO consistent FTA and expansion of economic cooperation that ensures the benefits of the FTA are maximized and balanced. The Ministers tasked SEOM to look into the implementation of the recommendations put forward in the report.

Others

- The Ministers noted the preparations for the 38th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM) which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in August 2006.
- Finally, the Ministers thanked the government and people of Philippines for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

List of ASEAN Economic Ministers:

H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Ms. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Commerce, Lao PDR and Chairman of the AEM; Dato' Sidek Hassan, Secretary-General, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia (representing H.E. Dato' Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia); H.E. Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister of Commerce, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Peter B. Favila, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; Mr. Utama Savanayana, Vice Minister for Commerce, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Mr. Somkid Jatusripitak, Deputy Prime and Minister and Minister of Commerce, Thailand); Mr. Tran Dong Phuong, Director-General, Department for Multilateral Trade Policy, Ministry of Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam); H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement of the 38th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 22 August 2006

1. The Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) was held on 22 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia chaired the Meeting, which was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM), the Ninth ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council Meeting and the Twentieth ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council Meeting.

Opening Ceremony

2. The Meeting was formally opened by the Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia.
3. In his opening remarks, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of making all efforts to achieve the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. As ASEAN economies become more interdependent, the Prime Minister called on ASEAN Member Countries to address the balance between domestic and regional interests in order to achieve the broader goal of the region becoming a single integrated seamless market, and serve as an international production base.
4. The Prime Minister emphasised the need to address the problems of implementation. It is thus important for ASEAN economies to adopt a united front on international economic issues. While ASEAN accord priority to internal economic integration, it is also important for ASEAN to continue engaging and expanding linkages with major trading partners. The Prime Minister also stressed the role of private sector in integrating regional economies. He called upon the private sector to come up with ideas and innovations to assist ASEAN governments in the formulation of strategic policies.

Economic performance

5. The Ministers noted a slight moderation in ASEAN's economic performance in 2005. They were pleased that, despite the challenges brought about by natural disasters especially in Indonesia, the high oil prices, and the persistent threat of avian flu in several parts of the region, ASEAN economies still managed to grow at an average of 5.5 per cent during the past year.
6. ASEAN FDI flows reached US\$ 38 billion in 2005, which was an increase of 48% from the previous year. The outlook for 2006 is also bullish as preliminary data for the first quarter of 2006 indicated that FDI flows have already reached US\$ 14 billion, an increase of 90% from the US\$ 7.4 billion registered for same period in 2005.
7. ASEAN continued to sustain positive trend for its trade performance as total exports for 2005 increased by 13.5% from US\$ 569.4 billion in 2004 to US\$ 646 billion in 2005. The trend continued up to the first quarter of 2006 with a 17.7% growth of ASEAN exports, as compared with export figures for the same period in 2005. The share of intra-ASEAN trade as a percentage of total ASEAN trade remained relatively constant at 25% in 2005, slightly higher than the 24.3% share in 2004.

8. In noting ASEAN's economic performance, the Ministers underscored the importance of continuing efforts to deepen and broaden economic integration in order to achieve not only sustainable growth but also resilience to cushion ASEAN from the adverse impact of any internal and/or external shocks.

The ASEAN Economic Community

9. The Ministers assessed the viability of accelerating the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and in this regard, agreed to recommend to the Leaders to accelerate ASEAN economic integration from 2020 to 2015. They exchanged views with representatives from the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on the AEC and the ASEAN Charter.
10. In moving forward with the goal of AEC, the Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to implement the Priority Integration Sector Roadmaps, which serve as the catalyst to realise this goal. They noted the progress made in implementing the Phase I Roadmaps for Integration of the Priority Integration Sectors and the on-going work on Phase II of the Priority Integration Sectors.
11. Recognising the need to collectively work towards improving the quality of logistics services and reducing transaction costs, the Ministers noted that the preliminary work on drafting the ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocol for Logistics Services Sector and its corresponding Roadmap has started. In this regard, the Ministers urged all relevant officials and private sector representatives to closely coordinate and exert all efforts to complete the relevant Roadmap of logistics services for signing at the AEM Retreat 2007.

Trade Facilitation

12. The Ministers agreed that free flow of goods, as a key component of the AEC, can be achieved through enhancing trade facilitation, which will reduce transaction cost and the cost of doing business in ASEAN. The Ministers therefore agreed to put more emphasis on trade facilitation and tasked Senior Officials to develop a comprehensive trade facilitation work programme. They agreed that some of the major accomplishments in ASEAN cooperation in customs as well as transportation and communications should provide a good momentum to work towards this comprehensive work programme.
13. The Ministers particularly welcomed the developments on the implementation of the ASEAN Single Window and the signing of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport at the 11th ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting in November 2005. They were optimistic that these initiatives, once fully implemented, would not only contribute to the expansion of trade among Member Countries but also enhance ASEAN's attractiveness as an FDI destination.

Trade in Services

14. The Ministers noted that the 4th round of services negotiations under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS), which began in 2005, were in the final stages. They looked forward to the finalisation of the 5th package of commitments, which would be endorsed and signed at the 12th ASEAN Summit in December 2006 in Cebu, the Philippines. They affirmed ASEAN's commitment to integrate the services sector and urged all relevant officials and sectoral bodies to work towards the 2015 goal of achieving free flow of services.

15. To further underpin ASEAN's commitment to liberalise trade in services, the Ministers re-emphasised ASEAN's commitment to progressively eliminate all forms of restrictions that affect national treatment and market access limitations by 2015, with flexibility. In this context, they tasked the Senior Officials to explore alternative modalities for achieving free flow of services and report back to the Ministers' preparatory Meeting before the 12th ASEAN Summit.
16. Emphasising the importance of Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) as catalysts to the free movement of professionals and skilled labour in ASEAN, the Ministers were pleased to note the status of the current work on developing sectoral MRAs. They looked forward to the signing of the MRA on Nursing Services at the 12th ASEAN Summit. The MRA on Engineering Services was signed by the AEM in December 2005.
17. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) for their efforts in implementing arrangements to accelerate the integration of the air travel sector. The ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on the Full Liberalisation of Air Freight Services are being finalised while the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on Air Services are being developed.

ASEAN Industrial Cooperation (AICO) Scheme

18. The Ministers, recognising the continued importance of the AICO Scheme especially in promoting industry specialisation and complementation, agreed to extend the waiver of the 30% national equity requirement under the AICO Scheme until 31 December 2009.

ASEAN External Economic Relations

19. The Ministers noted the developments on ASEAN's external economic relations, including the status of ASEAN's ongoing negotiations with Dialogue Partners for Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Comprehensive Economic Partnerships (CEPs). They expressed confidence that, with flexibility and open-mindedness, negotiations will be completed within the deadlines set. They also reiterated the centrality of ASEAN in external economic relations.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

20. A separate statement on WTO is issued.
21. The Ministers keenly anticipates Viet Nam's accession to the WTO which was expected to be announced at the WTO General Council Meeting in October 2006. They also reaffirmed their support to Lao PDR's bid to become a WTO member as early as possible.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Peter B. Favila, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Somkid Jatusripitak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN

ASEAN Statement on the WTO Doha Negotiations

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 23 August 2006

1. We, the ASEAN Economic Ministers express our deep concern and disappointment on the suspension of the Doha negotiations in July 2006 because of divergences in positions on key issues of domestic support and market access in agriculture and non-agricultural market access (NAMA). This suspension has systemic implications on the efficacy of the multilateral trading system and its ability to continue to deliver key benefits in terms of trade liberalisation in goods and services. The multilateral trading system cannot afford a "failure" of the Doha negotiations.
2. As a group of developing countries with open economies, ASEAN attaches great importance to the Doha negotiations in contributing towards strengthening the multilateral trading system. It is also critical to the continuing economic growth and development of our Member countries. A successful Round in particular will benefit developing countries and least developed countries by ensuring market access through reductions in tariffs, trade-distorting domestic subsidies and trade barriers. We seek that WTO Members continue efforts to make progress on the triangle of issues to enable negotiations to be resumed. ASEAN urges that these differences be addressed expeditiously if there is to be a successful resumption and conclusion to the negotiations.
3. Many WTO Members have since expressed their wish for the negotiations to resume as soon as possible. ASEAN believes that WTO Members must put the process back on track before the end of 2006, and recognise that necessary breakthroughs in critical negotiating areas of Agriculture and NAMA are needed. To this end, all WTO Members must be prepared to review and make necessary adjustments in positions to enable objectives of the negotiations to be achieved.
4. On ASEAN's part, we are prepared to make our own contribution to ensure a meaningful and substantial outcome to the negotiations that will allow economies to prosper and develop. In particular, ASEAN attaches importance to the development dimension of the negotiations, including the strengthening of Special and Differential Treatment provisions as embodied in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, which should form an integral part of the outcome of the negotiations. We are committed to work towards an agreement with a view to making those provisions operational and effective.
5. ASEAN calls upon the major players to show requisite leadership and the political will needed to bring the Round to a successful conclusion. We are ready to contribute and work closely with our Dialogue Partners and WTO Members to achieve this paramount objective of concluding the negotiations, through a transparent and inclusive process, and upholding and safeguarding the integrity of the multilateral trading system for the benefit of all.
6. Issued on 23 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Media Release Issued by the Chair of ASEAN Economic Ministers

Cebu, Philippines, 8 December 2006

The ASEAN Economic Ministers met on 8 December 2006 in Cebu and signed the following ASEAN Economic Integration Agreements:

- i. the Protocol on ASEAN Framework (Amendments) Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors;
- ii. the Protocol on ASEAN Sectoral Integration (Amendments) Protocols for the Integration of Priority Sectors;
- iii. Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Nursing Services; and
- iv. Protocol to Implement the Fifth Package of Commitments under ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services.

ASEAN PRIORITY INTEGRATION SECTORS

2. The Protocols on Priority Sectors capture measures in the second phase of Priority Integration Sectors which include refinement to the existing measures in Phase I Roadmaps, changes to timelines and expansion of product coverage for tariff elimination.
3. ASEAN countries will eliminate duties on 3,523 tariff lines on 1 January 2007. Apart from duty elimination, ASEAN countries will also implement measures to simplify customs procedures, strengthen cooperation on standards and conformance and enhance facilitation of travel and movement in ASEAN.
4. The signing of the Protocols reaffirms ASEAN commitment to accelerate economic integration and enhance overall competitiveness of the ASEAN countries.
5. In its effort to further facilitate intra-ASEAN trade, member countries have agreed to adopt Product Specific Rules (PSR) for 2,011 products of the Priority Integration Sectors.
6. These PSR will give flexibilities to exporters and manufacturers of ASEAN to choose the most convenient rule, that is, to either use the 40% Value Added Criterion or PSR in meeting the origin criteria in order to be eligible for the CEPT rate.
7. Various measures are also being undertaken to further integrate intra-ASEAN trade, including the elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) between Member Countries in three packages beginning 2008 and will be fully eliminated by 2010.

ASEAN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON SERVICES

8. Given the importance of services liberalisation, ASEAN Member Countries have made substantial offers for the Fifth Package of Commitments under AFAS. ASEAN's offer covers the following sectors/sub-sectors:
 - i. Healthcare;
 - ii. Tourism and Travel Related Services;
 - iii. Computer and Related Services;
 - iv. Telecommunication;
 - v. Business Services;
 - vi. Distribution Services;
 - vii. Construction; and
 - viii. Maritime Transport.

9. ASEAN Economic Ministers have also agreed to have a concrete plan to liberalise the overall services sector in ASEAN by 2015. This includes possibility of staging of services liberalisation every two years. Sectors and sub-sectors which are of higher priority or less sensitivity to be identified by Member Countries for liberalisation in the early stages.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS ON NURSING SERVICES

10. This Arrangement will:
 - i. facilitate the mobility of nursing services professionals within ASEAN;
 - ii. enhance exchange of information and expertise on standards and qualifications;
 - iii. promote adoption of best practices for professional nursing services; and
 - iv. provide opportunities for capacity building and training of nurses.
11. Under this arrangement, the following criteria must be complied with before nurses are allowed to practice in member countries. The individual:
 - must be registered and/or licensed as a professional nurse by the Nursing Regulatory Authority of the Country of Origin; and
 - may apply for registration or licence in a Host Country to be recognised and allowed to practise nursing in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Host Country concerned.
12. The MRA also provides for the establishment of the ASEAN Joint Coordinating Committee on Nursing Services to facilitate greater understanding of existing policies, procedures and practices and develop and promote strategies to manage the implementation of this MRA. It also encourages Member Countries to adopt and harmonise standards and procedures in the implementation of this MRA.
13. This is positive step taken by ASEAN to strengthen professional capabilities by promoting the flow of relevant information and exchange of expertise, experience and best practices among Member Countries.

ASEAN Framework (Amendment) Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors

Cebu, Philippines, 8 December 2006

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (hereinafter referred to as "Lao PDR"), Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations (hereinafter collectively referred to as "ASEAN" or "Member States" or singularly as "Member State");

RECALLING the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors done at Vientiane, Lao PDR on 29 November 2004 (hereinafter referred to as the "Framework Agreement");

REAFFIRMING the commitment that the ASEAN Economic Community shall be the end-goal of ASEAN economic integration as outlined in the ASEAN Vision 2020;

REITERATING the commitment of ASEAN that the ASEAN Economic Community will result in ASEAN becoming a single market and production base, turning the diversity that characterises the region into opportunities and business complementation to make ASEAN a more dynamic and stronger segment of the global supply chain and the world economy;

CONSIDERING the necessity to revise the Framework Agreement to reflect the changes necessary to move ahead with the integration of the Priority Sectors;

DESIRING to reflect the changes to the Framework Agreement pursuant to Article 25(1) of the Framework Agreement,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 Objective

The objective of the ASEAN Framework (Amendment) Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors (hereinafter referred to as the "Framework (Amendment) Agreement") is to refine, improve, supplement and add new measures, sectors, implementing bodies and timelines in relation to the priority sector roadmaps so as to enable the progressive, expeditious and systematic integration of these sectors in ASEAN.

Article 2 Trade in Goods

Paragraphs (1) and (2) of Article 4 of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted by the following:

1. Member States shall eliminate all Common Effective Preferential Tariff for the ASEAN Free Trade Area (CEPT-AFTA) tariffs on all identified products (other than those in the sensitive, highly sensitive and general exception lists) covered by the individual ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocols, except those listed in accompanying negative lists to the Protocols, which in total for each Member State shall not exceed 15% of the total product list appearing as Annex XII to this Framework Agreement, by:
 - a. 1 January 2007 for ASEAN-6; and
 - b. 1 January 2012 for CLMV.
2. Member States shall implement the following actions in relation to non-tariff measures (hereinafter referred to as "NTMs") and non-tariff barriers (hereinafter referred to as "NTBs") to ensure transparency, in accordance with the timelines indicated:
 - a. establish the database of ASEAN NTMs as of June 2004 and regularly update it;
 - b. establish clear criteria to identify NTMs that are barriers to trade by 27 September 2005;
 - c. establish a clear and definitive work programme for the assessment of existing NTMs and identification of NTBs by 21 August 2006;
 - d. eliminate NTBs on all identified products by the following timeline:

1. 1st Package: by 1 January 2008 for ASEAN-5; 1 January 2010 for the Philippines; and 1 January 2013 for CLMV;
2. 2nd Package: by 1 January 2009 for ASEAN-5; 1 January 2011 for the Philippines; and 1 January 2014 for CLMV;
3. 3rd Package: by 1 January 2010 for ASEAN-5; 1 January 2012 for the Philippines; and 1 January 2015 with flexibility up to 2018 for CLMV;

- e. conduct regular review and assessment of NTMs based on the criteria set by the AFTA Council beginning 1 January 2008.

Measures on NTMs shall apply to all products in accordance to the decisions of 20th AFTA Council, 21 August 2006, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Priority Integration Sectors' Measures on NTMs and NTBs shall be implemented in conformance with the said AFTA Council decisions."

Article 3 Trade in Services

Article 5 of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted by the following:

"Member States shall accelerate the liberalisation of trade in priority services sectors by 2010. This could be achieved through:

- a. elimination of all limitations in Mode 1 (cross-border supply) and Mode 2 (consumption abroad) by 31 December 2008, otherwise due reasons shall be provided;
- b. allowing for Mode 3 (commercial presence) foreign equity participation targets, with flexibility, by 31 December 2010, in conformity with the relevant decisions of the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM);
- c. setting clear targets for liberalising other Mode 3 limitations, by 31 December 2007;
- d. improving Mode 4 commitments in line with the results of each ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) Round Negotiations;
- e. accelerating the development and finalisation of Mutual Recognition Arrangements (hereinafter referred to as "MRAs"), as identified, by 31 December 2008;
- f. applying the ASEAN-X formula; and
- g. promoting joint ventures and cooperation, including third country markets beginning 2007."

Article 4 Investment

Article 6 (a), (b) and (c) of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted with the following:

- a. accelerate the opening up of sectors currently in the Sensitive List (hereinafter referred to as "SL") by transferring these sectors into the Temporary Exclusion List (hereinafter referred to as "TEL") under the Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA), using the ASEAN-X formula;
- b. reduce restrictive investment measures in the SL. Complete the progressive elimination of restrictive investment measures in the TEL by 2010 for ASEAN-6, 2013 for Viet Nam and 2015 for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar;
- c. identify and implement programmes and activities to promote investments in ASEAN."

Article 5 Rules of Origin

Article 7 of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted with the following:

"Member States shall, by 31 December 2006, improve the CEPT Rules of Origin by:

- a. making them more transparent, predictable, standardised and trade-facilitating, taking into account the need to encourage regional sourcing and the best practices of other Regional Trade Agreements, including the rules of origin of the WTO;
- b. adopting substantial transformation as alternative criteria for conferring origin status."

Article 6 Customs Procedures

Article 8 of the Framework Agreement is amended:

- a. by substituting the expression "on an ongoing basis" in subparagraph (a) with "31 December 2007";
- b. by adding the following new sub-paragraph:
"(g) implement the ASEAN Single Window by 1 January 2008 for ASEAN-6 and by 1 January 2012 for CLMV;"

Article 7 Standards and Conformance

Article 9 of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted with the following:

"Member States shall take the following steps to accelerate the development of MRAs and harmonise product standards and technical regulations:

- a. accelerate the development and implementation and where appropriate the development of sectoral MRAs for priority sectors beginning 1 January 2005;
- b. encourage domestic regulators to recognise, beginning 1 January 2007, test reports issued by testing laboratories which are already accredited by national accreditation bodies in ASEAN that are signatories to International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) MRAs for products not covered under the Sectoral MRAs;
- c. set, by 31 December 2005, clear targets and schedules for harmonisation of standards in the priority sectors wherever required. Where international standards are not available and when requested by industry, align national standards among Member States;
- d. harmonise already identified standards among Member States by 31 December 2007;
- e. identify and harmonise additional standards, wherever required; where international standards are not available, and when requested by industry, align national standards among Member States by 31 December 2010;
- f. harmonise and/or develop technical regulations as appropriate, for national application by 31 December 2010;
- g. ensure compliance with the requirements of the WTO Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade and the Application of Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures;
- h. explore the development of ASEAN policy on standards and conformance to further facilitate the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community, beginning 2005."

Article 8 Facilitation of Travel in ASEAN

Article 11 of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted with the following:

- a. harmonise procedures for the issuance of visas to international travelers in ASEAN; and
- b. provide visa exemption for intra-ASEAN travel by ASEAN nationals.

Article 9 Movement of Business Persons, Experts, Professionals, Skilled Labour and Talents

Article 12 of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted with the following:

"Member States shall, taking into account their respective domestic laws and regulations:

- a. develop an ASEAN Agreement to facilitate the movement of business persons, including the adoption of an ASEAN Travel Card;
- b. identify and develop other mechanisms that will compliment existing ASEAN initiatives to further facilitate the movement of experts, professionals, skilled labour and talents by 31 December 2007; and
- c. accelerate completion of MRAs to facilitate free movement of experts, professionals, skilled labour and talents in ASEAN, by 31 December 2008."

Article 10 Trade and Investment Promotion

Article 13 (a) and (b) of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted with the following:

- a. intensify intra-ASEAN and extra-ASEAN joint promotion efforts on a regular basis;
- b. organise regular private sector initiatives to undertake:
 - i. more efficient joint ASEAN facilitation and promotion measures to promote FDI into ASEAN; and
 - ii. joint trade and investment missions;"

Article 11 Intra-ASEAN Trade and Investment Statistics

Article 14 of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted with the following:

"Intra-ASEAN Trade and Investment Statistics

Member States shall develop an effective system to monitor intra-ASEAN trade and investments through:

- a. establishment of an efficient trade and investment database, by 31 December 2009;
- b. provision of updates to the ASEAN Secretariat of the latest trade (goods and services) and investment statistics; and
- c. preparation of consolidated industry profiles, by the respective associations, which, inter alia, cover information such as production capacity and product range."

Article 12 Intellectual Property Rights

Article 15 of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted with the following:

"Member States shall expand the scope of ASEAN intellectual property rights cooperation beyond trademarks and patents to include cooperation in copyrights information exchange and enforcement."

Article 13
Outsourcing and Industrial Complementation

Article 16 of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted with the following:

“Outsourcing and Industrial Complementation

Member States shall promote complementation among ASEAN manufacturers, as applicable, through:

- a. identification and development of areas of specialisation on production processes, research and development (R&D), and testing facilities based on comparative advantage of individual Member State; and
- b. development of guidelines on promoting outsourcing arrangements among Member States, as applicable, by 31 December 2008.”

Article 14
Sectoral Integration Protocols and Annexes

Article 21 of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted with the following:

“The ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocols attached to this Framework Agreement, the total product list and such other annexes agreed upon in accordance with the Framework Agreement, as annexed, including any modifications made thereto, shall form an integral part of this Framework Agreement.”

Article 15
Depositary

This Framework (Amendment) Agreement shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each ASEAN Member State.

Article 16
Entry into Force

1. The Framework (Amendment) Agreement shall enter into force 90 (ninety) days after the date of its signature. Notwithstanding the specified date of entry into force, Member States undertake to carry out the obligations which arise prior to the date of entry into force of this Framework (Amendment) Agreement in accordance with the timelines indicated herein and in the Roadmaps attached to the ASEAN Sectoral Protocols as Appendices.
2. Member States undertake to complete their internal procedures of ratification for the entry into force of this Framework (Amendment) Agreement.
3. Each Member State shall, upon the completion of its internal procedures of ratification of this Framework (Amendment) Agreement, notify the ASEAN Secretariat in writing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this ASEAN Framework (Amendment) Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors.

DONE in Cebu, the Philippines, this Eighth Day of December in the year of Two Thousand and Six, in single copy, in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:

MOHAMED BOLKIAH
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:

CHAM PRASIDH
Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

For the Republic of Indonesia:

MARI ELKA PANGESTU
Minister of Trade

For the Lao People’s Democratic Republic:

NAM VIYAKETH
Minister of Industry and Commerce

For Malaysia:

RAFIDAH AZIZ
Minister of International Trade and Industry

For the Union of Myanmar:

U SOE THA
Minister for National Planning and Economic Development

For the Republic of the Philippines:

PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary of Trade and Industry

For the Republic of Singapore:

LIM HNG KIANG
Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Kingdom of Thailand:

KRIRK-KRAI JIRAPAET
Minister of Commerce

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

TRUONG DINH TUYEN
Minister of Trade

**ASEAN Sectoral Integration (Amendment)
Protocol for Priority Sectors**

Cebu, Philippines, 8 December 2006

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (hereinafter referred to as “Lao PDR”), Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations (hereinafter collectively referred to as “ASEAN” or “Member States” or singularly as “Member State”);

RECALLING the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors done at Vientiane, Lao PDR on 29 November 2004 (hereinafter referred to as “Framework Agreement”) and ASEAN Framework (Amendment) Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors done in Cebu, the Philippines, on 8th December 2006 (hereinafter referred to as “Framework (Amendment) Agreement”);

REAFFIRMING the commitment to carry out the concluded roadmap for the full integration of the 11 priority sectors, namely, agro-based products, air travel, automobiles, e-ASEAN, electronics, fisheries, healthcare, rubber-based products, textiles and apparels, tourism and wood-based products;

REITERATING the commitment of ASEAN to fulfil the agreed obligations arising from the ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocols and Annexes and to undertake the appropriate measures to enable progressive, expeditious and systematic integration of the 11 priority sectors through the measures in the Roadmaps referred to in Article 1 of the Framework Agreement;

CONSIDERING the necessity to revise the Roadmaps for the ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocols and Annexes of the 11 priority sectors to reflect changes, progress and development of each Roadmap;

DESIRING to reflect the various modifications in writing pursuant to the Final Provisions provided for in each of the ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocol for all 11 priority sectors,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocols for the eleven priority sectors concluded on 29 November 2004 shall be amended by replacing the Appendices and Attachments annexed to each of them by the Appendices and Attachments annexed to this Protocol.

Article 2

This Protocol shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each ASEAN Member State.

Article 3

1. This Protocol shall enter into force 90 (ninety) days after the date of its signature. Notwithstanding the specified date of entry into force, Member States undertake to carry out the obligations which arise prior to the date of entry into force of this Protocol in accordance with the timelines indicated in the Roadmaps attached to the ASEAN Sectoral Protocols as Appendices.
2. Member States undertake to complete their internal procedures of ratification for the entry into force of this Protocol.
3. Each Member State shall, upon the completion of its internal procedures of ratification of this Protocol, notify the ASEAN Secretariat in writing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this ASEAN Sectoral Integration (Amendment) Protocol for the Integration of Priority Sectors.

DONE in Cebu, the Philippines, this Eighth Day of December in the year Two Thousand and Six, in single copy, in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:

MOHAMED BOLKIAH
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:

CHAM PRASIDH
Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

For the Republic of Indonesia:

MARI ELKA PANGESTU
Minister of Trade

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

NAM VIYAKETH
Minister of Industry and Commerce

For Malaysia:

RAFIDAH AZIZ
Minister of International Trade and Industry

For the Union of Myanmar:

U SOE THA
Minister for National Planning and Economic Development

For the Republic of the Philippines:

PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary of Trade and Industry

For the Republic of Singapore:

LIM HNG KIANG
Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Kingdom of Thailand:

KRIRK-KRAI JIRAPAET
Minister of Commerce

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

TRUONG DINH TUYEN
Minister of Trade

**Protocol to Implement
the Fifth Package of Commitments under
the ASEAN Framework Agreement
on Services**

Cebu, Philippines, 8 December 2006

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member Countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN");

NOTING the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 15 December 1995 in Bangkok, Thailand, which seeks to enhance cooperation in services amongst Member Countries, eliminate substantially restrictions to trade in services amongst Member Countries and liberalise trade in services by expanding the depth and scope of liberalisation beyond those undertaken by Member Countries under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (hereinafter referred to as "GATS") of the World Trade Organisation (hereinafter referred to as "WTO");

HAVING carried out three rounds of negotiations and concluded four sets of schedules of specific commitments embodied in the Protocol to Implement the Initial Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 15 December 1997 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Protocol to Implement the Second

Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 16 December 1998 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, the Protocol to Implement the Third Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 31 December 2001 and the Protocol to Implement the Fourth Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 3 September 2004 in Jakarta, Indonesia;

NOTING the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors signed by the ASEAN Leaders together with the Roadmaps for the Integration of Priority Sectors on 29 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, which includes four services sectors, namely, Air Travel, Healthcare, e-ASEAN (telecommunications and IT services) and Tourism, provide measures to deepen and broaden internal economic integration and linkages, with the participation of the private sector, to realise an ASEAN Economic Community;

RECALLING that the Thirty-Sixth ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting launched the fourth round of negotiations, beginning 2005 and ending 2006, to cover all services sectors and all modes of supply;

HAVING carried out subsequent negotiations pursuant to Article IV of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services and finalised the fifth package of commitments;

DESIRING to set out in a schedule, the specific commitments that each Member Country shall undertake, for which Member Countries shall accord preferential treatment to one another on a Most-Favoured Nations basis;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Member Countries who are WTO Members shall continue to extend their specific commitments under GATS to ASEAN Member Countries who are non-WTO Members.
2. The Annexes to this Protocol shall consist of the Horizontal Commitments, Schedules of Specific Commitments and the Lists of Most-Favored Nation Exemptions.
3. This Protocol and its Annexes shall form an integral part of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services.
4. This Protocol shall enter into force 90 (ninety) days after the date of its signature.
5. Member Countries undertake to complete their internal procedures of ratification for the entry into force of this Protocol.
6. Each Member Country shall, upon the completion of its internal procedures of ratification of this Protocol, notify the ASEAN Secretariat in writing.
7. This Protocol shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each Member Country. The Secretary-General of ASEAN shall also promptly furnish notifications of ratification or acceptance made pursuant to paragraph 6 to each Member Country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the Protocol to Implement the Fifth Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services.

DONE in Cebu, the Philippines, this 8th Day of December in the year Two Thousand and Six, in a single original copy in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam:

MOHAMED BOLKIAH

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:

CHAM PRASIDH

Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

For the Republic of Indonesia:

MARI ELKA PANGESTU

Minister of Trade

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

NAM VIYAKETH

Minister of Industry and Commerce

For Malaysia:

RAFIDAH AZIZ

Minister of International Trade and Industry

For the Union of Myanmar:

U SOE THA

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development

For the Republic of the Philippines:

PETER B. FAVILA

Secretary of Trade and Industry

For the Republic of Singapore:

LIM HNG KIANG

Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Kingdom of Thailand:

KRIRK-KRAI JIRAPAET

Minister of Commerce

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

TRUONG DINH TUYEN

Minister of Trade

ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Nursing Services

Cebu, Philippines, 8 December 2006

PREAMBLE

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member Countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (hereinafter collectively referred to as "ASEAN" or "ASEAN Member Countries" or singularly as "ASEAN Member Country");

RECOGNISING the objectives of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (hereinafter referred to as "AFAS"), which are to enhance cooperation in services amongst ASEAN Member Countries in order to

improve the efficiency and competitiveness, diversify production capacity and supply and distribution of services of their services suppliers within and outside ASEAN; to eliminate substantially the restrictions to trade in services amongst ASEAN Member Countries; and to liberalise trade in services by expanding the depth and scope of liberalisation beyond those undertaken by ASEAN Member Countries under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (hereinafter referred to as "GATS") with the aim to realising free trade in services;

RECOGNISING the ASEAN Vision 2020 on Partnership in Dynamic Development, approved on 14 June 1997, which charted towards the year 2020 for ASEAN the creation of a stable, prosperous and highly competitive ASEAN Economic Region which would result in:

- free flow of goods, services and investment;
- equitable economic development, and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities; and
- enhanced political, economic and social stability;

NOTING that Article V of AFAS provides that ASEAN Member Countries may recognise the education or experience obtained, requirements met, and licence or certification granted in other ASEAN Member Countries, for the purpose of licensing or certification of service suppliers;

NOTING the decision of the Bali Concord II adopted at the Ninth ASEAN Summit held in 2003 calling for completion of Mutual Recognition Arrangements (hereinafter referred to as "MRAs" or singularly as "MRA") for qualifications in major professional services by 2008 to facilitate free movement of professionals/skilled labour/talents in ASEAN; and

PROVIDING an MRA on Nursing Services that would strengthen professional capabilities by promoting the flow of relevant information and exchange of expertise, experience and best practices suited to the specific needs of ASEAN Member Countries.

HAVE AGREED as follows

ARTICLE I OBJECTIVES

The objectives intended under this MRA are to:

- 1.1 facilitate mobility of nursing professionals within ASEAN;
- 1.2 exchange information and expertise on standards and qualifications;
- 1.3. promote adoption of best practices on professional nursing services; and
- 1.4 provide opportunities for capacity building and training of nurses.

ARTICLE II DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE

In this MRA, unless the context otherwise stated,

2.1 Nurse refers to a natural person who has completed the required professional training and conferred the professional nursing qualification; and has been assessed by the Nursing Regulatory Authority of the Country of Origin as being technically, ethically and legally qualified to undertake professional nursing practice; and is registered and/or licensed as a professional nurse by the Nursing Regulatory Authority of the Country of Origin. This definition shall not apply to a technical level nurse.

2.2 Country of Origin refers to the participating ASEAN Member Country where a nurse has a valid and current registration and/or licence to practise nursing.

2.3 Foreign Nurse refers to a nurse of ASEAN nationality who is registered and/or licensed to practise nursing in the Country of Origin and is applying to be registered and/or licensed to practise nursing in a Host Country in accordance with the Policy on Practice of Nursing in the Host Country.

2.4 Host Country refers to the participating ASEAN Member Country where a Foreign Nurse applies to be registered and/or licensed to practise nursing.

2.5 Nursing Qualification means the qualification in nursing granted by a recognised Training Institution approved and recognised by the Nursing Regulatory Authority and/or the appropriate agency of the Country of Origin.

2.6 Nursing Regulatory Authority (hereinafter referred to as "NRA") means a body vested with the authority by the Government of each ASEAN Member Country to control and regulate nurses and the practice of nursing. In this MRA, NRA refers to the following:

Nursing Board for Brunei	for Brunei Darussalam
Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Cambodia	for the Kingdom of Cambodia
Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia	for the Republic of Indonesia
Ministry of Health, Lao People's Democratic Republic	for Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia Nursing & Midwifery Boards	for Malaysia
Ministry of Health & Myanmar Nursing and Midwifery Council	for the Union of Myanmar
Professional Regulation Commission, Board of Nursing	for the Republic of the Philippines
Singapore Nursing Board	for the Republic of Singapore
Thailand Nursing Council	for the Kingdom of Thailand
Ministry of Health, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam	for Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

2.7 Practice of Nursing refers to the provision of nursing care by a nurse that encompasses promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative practices which may include education and research.

2.8 Recognised Training Institution means any university, college or nursing education institutions approved by the NRA and/or appropriate agency of the Country of Origin following procedures as prescribed by its Government or its relevant authority.

ARTICLE III RECOGNITION, QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY OF FOREIGN NURSES

3.1 Recognition of a Foreign Nurse

A Foreign Nurse may apply for registration or licence in a Host Country to be recognised and allowed to practise nursing in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Host Country concerned, subject to the following conditions:

- 3.1.1 Granted a Nursing Qualification;

- 3.1.2 Possession of a valid professional registration and/or licence from the Country of Origin and a current practising licence or certificate or any relevant certifying documents;
- 3.1.3 Minimum practical experience in the practice of nursing of not less than three (3) continuous years prior to the application;
- 3.1.4 Compliance with satisfactory continuing professional development in accordance with the Policy on Continuing Professional Development in nursing as may be mandated by the NRA of the Country of Origin;
- 3.1.5 Certification from the NRA of the Country of Origin of no record or pending investigation of having violated any technical, professional or ethical standards, local and international, for the practice of nursing; and
- 3.1.6 Compliance with any other requirements, such as to submit for a personal medical examination or undergo an induction program or a competency assessment, as may be imposed on any such application for registration and/or licence as deemed fit by the NRA or any other relevant authority or the Government of the Host Country concerned.

3.2 Eligibility of a Foreign Nurse

Subject to domestic laws and regulations, a Foreign Nurse who satisfies the conditions as stated in Article 3.1 is deemed eligible to work in the Host Country.

3.3 Undertaking of a Foreign Nurse

A Foreign Nurse who is granted registration or licence in the Host Country to practise nursing shall comply with the following:

- 3.3.1. Local codes of professional conduct in accordance with the policy on ethics and conduct on the Practice of Nursing established and enforced by the Host Country;
- 3.3.2 Prevailing domestic laws and regulations of the Host Country, including rules and regulations governing the practice of nursing in the Host Country;
- 3.3.3 Subscribe to any requirements for an insurance liability scheme of the Host Country; and
- 3.3.4 Respect the culture and religion of the Host Country.

ARTICLE IV

EVALUATION, REGISTRATION AND MONITORING

4.1 Nursing Regulatory Authority

The NRA of the Host Country shall be responsible for the following:

- 4.1.1 Evaluate the qualifications and experiences of Foreign Nurses;
- 4.1.2 Register and/or license Foreign Nurses allowing them to practise nursing in the Host Country;
- 4.1.3 Monitor the professional practice and conduct of Foreign Nurses who have been registered and/or licensed; and
- 4.1.4 Ensure that Foreign Nurses observe and maintain high standards of practice of nursing in accordance with the code of professional conduct of the Host Country.

4.2 ASEAN Joint Coordinating Committee on Nursing

4.2.1 An ASEAN Joint Coordinating Committee on Nursing shall be established comprising representatives from the NRA and/or appropriate Government Agency of the participating ASEAN Member Countries to meet regularly to:

- 4.2.1.1 facilitate the implementation of this MRA;
- 4.2.1.2 seek greater understanding of existing policies, procedures and practices, to develop

and promote strategies to manage the implementation of this MRA;

- 4.2.1.3 encourage the adoption and harmonisation of standards and procedures in the implementation of this MRA through the mechanisms available;
- 4.2.1.4 update changes or developments in the relevant prevailing laws, regulations and practices of each Host Country;
- 4.2.1.5 continue mutual monitoring and information exchange;
- 4.2.1.6 serve as an avenue to resolve amicably any disputes or issues arising out of the implementation of this MRA that is forwarded to it by any NRA of the participating ASEAN Member Country;
- 4.2.1.7 discuss the development of capacity building programmes; and
- 4.2.1.8 discuss other matters related to this MRA.

4.2.2 The ASEAN Joint Coordinating Committee on Nursing shall formulate the mechanism to carry out its mandate.

ARTICLE V

MUTUAL EXEMPTION

5.1 Mutual Exemption

- 5.1.1 The participating ASEAN Member Countries recognise that any arrangement, which would confer exemption from further assessment by the NRA of the Host Country could be concluded only with the involvement and consent of that NRA and/or the relevant government agencies.
- 5.1.2 The participating ASEAN Member Countries further recognise that registering or licensing authorities for the practice of nursing have statutory responsibilities for protecting the health, safety, environment, and welfare of the community within their jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VI

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

6.1 The following mechanism will be observed by the ASEAN Joint Coordinating Committee on Nursing in any dispute arising out of the interpretation, implementation, and/or application of this MRA:

- 6.1.1 A Foreign Nurse may lodge any complaint arising out of this MRA to the NRA of the Host Country;
- 6.1.2 If the Foreign Nurse is not satisfied with the actions or explanations of the NRA of the Host Country taken with respect to the complaint lodged, then the Foreign Nurse may contact the NRA of the Country of Origin to seek consultations with the NRA of the Host Country to resolve the dispute;
- 6.1.3 Any unresolved dispute arising from the consultations shall be forwarded by the NRA of either the Country of Origin or the Host Country to the ASEAN Joint Coordinating Committee on Nursing, which shall seek to resolve the dispute amicably; and
- 6.1.4 Any dispute concerning the interpretation, implementation, and/or application of any of the provisions under this MRA which cannot be resolved by the ASEAN Joint Coordinating Committee on Nursing shall be subject to the mechanism set out in the ASEAN Protocol on Enhanced Dispute Settlement Mechanism done at Vientiane, Lao PDR on 29 November 2004.

**ARTICLE VII
APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF GATS AND AFAS TO THIS
MRA**

The terms and definitions and other provisions of the GATS and AFAS shall be referred to and shall apply to matters arising under this MRA for which no specific provision has been made herein.

**ARTICLE VIII
AMENDMENT**

The provisions of this MRA may only be amended by mutual written agreement by the Governments of all ASEAN Member Countries.

**ARTICLE IX
DEFERRAL OF IMPLEMENTATION**

- 9.1 Any ASEAN Member Country that wishes to defer implementation of this MRA shall notify the ASEAN Secretary-General in writing of its intention within three months from the date of signature and the ASEAN Secretary-General shall thereafter notify the rest of the ASEAN Member Countries. The deferral shall be effective upon notification to the other ASEAN Member Countries. Any ASEAN Member Country which does not defer implementation of this MRA shall be referred to as "participating ASEAN Member Country" in this MRA.
- 9.2 Any ASEAN Member Country which had, pursuant to Article 9.1 above, given notice of its intention to defer the implementation of this MRA, shall notify the ASEAN Secretary-General in writing when it is ready to implement this MRA, provided that such date shall not be later than 1 January 2010. The ASEAN Secretary-General shall thereafter notify the rest of the ASEAN Member Countries.

**ARTICLE X
FINAL PROVISIONS**

- 10.1 This MRA shall enter into force for all Member Countries on the date of signature.
- 10.2 This MRA shall be deposited with the ASEAN Secretary-General, who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each ASEAN Member Country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective governments, have signed the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Nursing Services.

DONE in Cebu, the Philippines, this Eighth Day of December in the year Two Thousand and Six, in a single original copy in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
MOHAMED BOLKIAH
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
CHAM PRASIDH
Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

For the Republic of Indonesia:
MARI ELKA PANGESTU
Minister of Trade

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
NAM VIYAKETH
Minister of Industry and Commerce

For Malaysia:
RAFIDAH AZIZ
Minister of International Trade and Industry

For the Union of Myanmar:
U SOE THA
Minister for National Planning and Economic Development

For the Republic of the Philippines:
PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary of Trade and Industry

For the Republic of Singapore:
LIM HNG KIANG
Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
KRIRK-KRAI JIRAPAET
Minister of Commerce

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
TRUONG DINH TUYEN
Minister of Trade

**Protocol to Establish and Implement
the ASEAN Single Window**

20 December 2006

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (hereinafter referred to as "Lao PDR"), Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Asian or "Member Countries or individually as "Member Country),

RECALLING that the adoption of the ASEAN Single Window approach, including the electronic processing of trade documents at national and regional levels, is one of the mechanisms to realize the ASEAN Economic Community by facilitating trade and investment under the Vientiane Action Programme (2004);

NOTING that as a concrete step towards the establishment and implementation of the ASEAN Single Window, the ASEAN Economic Ministers have signed the Agreement to Establish and Implement the ASEAN Single Window on 9 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (hereinafter referred to as the "ASW Agreement");

RECALLING that Article 6 of the ASW Agreement mandates Member Countries, by means of a protocol, to adopt relevant internationally accepted standards, procedures, documents, technical details and formalities for the effective implementation of the ASEAN Single Window;

AFFIRMING that the terms of this Protocol shall be based on the objectives, principles and obligations under the ASW Agreement,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

**PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS AND OBJECTIVES**

Article 1

General Definition and Interpretation

1. For the purposes of this Protocol, the following terms shall be defined as follows:
 - a) The ASEAN Single Window (hereinafter "ASW") is the environment where National Single Windows of Member Countries operate and integrate.
 - b) The National Single Window (hereinafter "NSW") is a system which enables:
 - i. a single submission of data and information;
 - ii. a single and synchronous processing of data and information; and
 - iii. a single decision-making for customs release and clearance of cargo. A single decision-making shall be uniformly interpreted as a single point of decision for the release of cargoes by the Customs on the basis of decisions, if required, taken by Line ministries and agencies and communicated in timely manner to the Customs.
2. This Protocol shall be read and interpreted in accordance with the ASW Agreement. In the event of any inconsistency between this Protocol and the ASW Agreement, the provisions of the ASW Agreement shall take precedence.
3. The Technical Guide of ASW and NSWs Implementation is the compilation of relevant internationally accepted standards, procedures, documents, glossary, technical details and formalities for the effective implementation of the ASEAN Single Window, to be adopted as deemed appropriate by Member Countries. It constitutes the technical guidance of the implementation subject to regular reviews and updates in line with new technology and development as deemed necessary by Member Countries. The Technical Guide of ASW and NSWs Implementation (hereinafter the "ASW Technical Guide") appears as ANNEX 1.
4. The Action Plan of ASW Implementation is the schedule comprising activities required, as specified in ANNEX 2.

Article 2

Objectives

The objectives of this Protocol are:

- a) To provide a legal and technical framework to establish and implement the ASW and NSWs as regional commitments towards the establishment of an ASEAN Economic Community;
- b) To strengthen the coordination and partnership among Lead agencies¹ ASEAN Customs Administrations and relevant line ministries and agencies and economic operators (importers,

exporters, transport operators, express industries, customs brokers, forwarders, commercial banking entities and financial institutions, insurers, and those relevant to the international supplychain) to effectively and efficiently implement the ASW;

- c) To encourage participation of economic operators to the implementation of the ASW and NSWs; and
- d) To provide technical, functional and operational guidance for the implementation of the ASW and NSWs in Member Countries as set forth in the ASW Agreement, taking into consideration the ASW Technical Guide.

**PART II
SCOPE AND COVERAGE**

Article 3

Scope of Application

Provisions under this Protocol shall apply for the establishment and implementation of the ASW and NSWs at regional and national levels, respectively.

Article 4

ASEAN Single Window Model

1. The conceptual ASW Model appears in the ASW Technical Guide.
2. The ASW shall operate in an open environment of required relationships and linkages between economic operators and governments, for a completion of a transaction, such as Government-to-Business, Business-to-Business, or Government-to-Government, and others of such nature, through a secure infrastructure.

Article 5

National Single Windows

Member Countries shall develop and implement their NSWs based on international standards and best practices as established in international agreements and conventions concerning trade facilitation and modernisation of customs techniques and practices.

PART III

TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE ASEAN SINGLE WINDOW AND NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOWS

Article 6

Documents and Formalities

1. Documents and formalities that shall be used in the ASW system by Member Countries comprise, inter alia, the following:
 - a) ASEAN Customs Declaration Document as endorsed by ASEAN Directors-General of Customs, as in ANNEX 3;
 - b) Commercial and transport documents for the release and clearance of goods and commodities by Customs Administrations as stipulated in national laws and regulations of Member Countries, as appropriate;
 - c) Formalities and documents required by national laws and regulations for the release and clearance of goods and commodities by Customs Administrations as stipulated in national laws and regulations of Member Countries, as appropriate; and

- d) Other formalities as stipulated by national laws and regulations and international conventions where relevant.
2. The format of documents and formalities for the purpose of NSW systems shall be determined by the respective national competent authorities in line with international standards.

Article 7
Data and Information

1. Data and information, including regulatory information, for the purpose of a single submission, of a single and synchronous processing and of a single decision making shall be submitted, collected and processed in an agreed format and transmitted through secured channels and in established communication and interface protocols as defined by Member Countries.
2. For the purpose of the ASW and NSWs, Member Countries shall, as deemed appropriate, align data and information parameters, for customs clearance and release, to the World Customs Organization (WCO) Data Model and relevant international standards.
3. Bilateral or regional arrangements among Member Countries for the exchange and sharing of data and information for the ASW shall be encouraged.
4. The access to, exchange, use, legal validity, and confidentiality of data and information in the framework of the ASW are subject to the national laws and regulations of the respective Member Countries.

Article 8
Applications of Information and Communication Technology

1. The NSWs shall make use of the appropriate technology with open architecture based on international standards and technical advancements in areas of information and communication technology and data processing.
2. The implementation of the NSWs shall make use of international standards of data and information processing and management, such as the United Nation Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT), Extensible Mark-up Language (XML), American National Standard Institution X.12 (ANSI X12), RosettaNet or others relevant to the implementation of the NSWs.
3. The secure infrastructure for the ASW and NSWs shall follow international standards and best practices with features such as confidentiality, data integrity, authenticity and non-repudiation.

Article 9
The ASW Technical Guide

Member countries shall implement the ASW and NSWs based on the ASW Technical Guide, with the necessary modifications or updates as required by individual Member Countries for effective implementation.

Article 10
Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

The protection of intellectual property rights of technological products and services being developed by Member Countries for the ASW shall be enforced in conformity with the respective national laws and regulations

of the Member Countries and with international agreements to which the Member Countries are Contracting Parties.

Article 11
Partnership in the ASW and NSWs Implementation

Member Countries shall strengthen the partnership with the trading community and businesses in the implementation of the ASW and NSWs. Business-to-business initiatives as relevant to the ASW and NSWs shall be encouraged.

Article 12
Mobilisation of Resources for Implementation

Member Countries shall mobilise resources for the establishment and implementation of their respective NSWs, as well as their respective components of the ASW.

PART IV
PROCESSES, ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

Article 13
Customs and Business Processes

Customs and business processes are established on the basis of international standards and best practices.

Article 14
Roles and Functions of Line Ministries and Agencies

1. Member Countries shall determine the roles and functions of their respective Line Ministries and agencies for the effective implementation and operation of the ASW and NSWs. All Line Ministries and agencies of the respective Member Countries shall support and cooperate closely with their respective Lead agency as determined in the ASW Agreement.
2. The respective ASEAN Customs Administrations are ultimate decision-makers for release and clearance of cargo on the basis of timely communicated information, if required, from Line ministries and agencies of respective Member Countries.

Article 15
Action Plan of ASW Implementation

The implementation of the ASW and NSWs shall be in accordance with the Action Plan of ASW Implementation, which may be reviewed or revised as deemed appropriate.

PART V
OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 16
Annexes

Annexes to this Protocol are integral parts of this Protocol.

Article 17
Dispute Settlement

The provisions of the ASEAN Protocol on Enhanced Dispute Settlement Mechanism, done at Vientiane, Lao PDR on the 29th day of November 2004, shall apply to disputes arising under this Protocol.

Article 18
Institutional Arrangements

1. The Ministers responsible for ASEAN Economic Integration shall meet whenever necessary to review this Protocol for the purpose of considering further measures to improve the development and/or implementation of the ASW.
2. The steering Committee of ASW implementation (ASW Steering Committee) shall be established by the Ministers responsible for ASEAN Economic Integration to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the ASW and NSWs. The ASW Steering Committee shall be led by a high level officer of an ASEAN Customs Administration or of a government agency as designated by the Ministers.
3. The ASEAN Secretariat shall provide technical and secretarial support to the ASW Steering Committee.

Article 19
Mutual Assistance

Mutual assistance among Member Countries shall be promoted for effective and efficient implementation of the ASW and NSWs.

Article 20
Final Provisions

1. The provisions of this Protocol may be modified through amendments mutually agreed upon in writing by all Member Countries.
2. This Protocol shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall furnish a certified copy to each Member Country.

Article 21
Entry into Force

1. This Protocol shall enter into force upon signing.
2. Each Member Country shall, upon the completion of its national procedures of ratification of this Protocol, notify the ASEAN Secretariat in writing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the Protocol to Establish and Implement the ASEAN Single Window.

DONE on this twentieth day of December in the year 2006, in a single copy in the English language:

For the Government of Brunei Darussalam:
PEHIN DATO PADUKA HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN
BIN HAJI IBRAHIM
Minister of Finance II

For the Royal Government of Cambodia:
KEAT CHHON
Senior Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance

For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia:
SRI MULYANI INDRAMATI
Minister of Finance

For the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
CHANSY PHOSIKHAM
Minister of Finance

For the Government of Malaysia:
TAN SRI NOR MOHAMED YAKCOP
Minister of Finance II

For the Government of the Union of Myanmar:
MAJOR-GENERAL HLA TUN
Minister of Finance and Revenue

For the Government of the Republic of the Philippines:
MARGARITO B. TEVES
Secretary of Finance

For the Government of the Republic of Singapore:
THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM
Minister for Education and Second Minister for Finance

For the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand:
THANONG BIDAYA
Minister of Finance

For the Government of the Socialist Republic Viet Nam:
VU VAN NINH
Minister of Finance

ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA (AFTA)
Joint Media Statement
of the 20th Meeting of the ASEAN
Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council Meeting
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 21 August 2006

1. The Twentieth Meeting of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council was held on 21 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
2. The Meeting was attended by Ministers from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia. The AFTA Council Meeting was preceded by a meeting of the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials on 19 August 2006.
3. The Ministers discussed, among others, the progress made in the implementation of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme; the status of the various requests made under the Protocol Regarding the Implementation of the CEPT Scheme Temporary Exclusion List; the ASEAN Integration System of Preference (AISP); the liberalisation of ICT goods under the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement; work on the elimination of non-tariff barriers; and the developments in the work on Rules of Origin.

Realisation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area

4. The Ministers welcomed Malaysia's tariff reductions to 0-5% for her automotive CKDs and CBUs and the Philippines' reversion of

the tariff rates of her petrochemical and certain plastic products to CEPT rates, which was temporarily suspended. With this, the Ministers were pleased to note that 99.77% of the products in the CEPT Inclusion List (IL) of ASEAN-6 have been brought down to the 0-5% tariff range. As of this date, products in the IL which continue to have tariffs above 5% are those which have been transferred from the Temporary Exclusion List (TEL), Sensitive Lists (SL), Highly Sensitive List (HSL) and General Exception Lists (GE) in 2004. The CLMV Countries are not far behind the original CEPT Agreement signatories as 90.96% of the products they trade in the region have been moved into the IL and tariffs on 76.86% of these items have already been brought down to the 0-5% tariff band.

5. The Ministers noted Member Countries' implementation of their commitment on the complete elimination of tariffs as 65.09% of the products in the IL of ASEAN-6 have been eliminated in accordance with the Protocol to Amend the CEPT-AFTA Agreement for the Elimination of Import Duties. The average tariff for ASEAN-6 under the CEPT Scheme is now down to 1.74% from 12.76% in 1993.
6. The Ministers commended Viet Nam for the transfer of her remaining items under TEL and SL into the inclusion List on 1 January 2006 as committed under the Protocol on the Accession of Viet Nam to the CEPT Agreement. As such, Viet Nam has no more products under TEL and SL. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that Lao PDR has no more products in her TEL and only 1.9% of her products remain in her SL, which would be phased into IL by 2008. As for Myanmar, only her unprocessed Agriculture Products (UAP), which accounts to 0.72% of her total numbers of tariff lines, remain in the TEL while Cambodia has 22.89% of her total tariff lines in the TEL. The TEL products of Myanmar and Cambodia would be phased into the IL by 2007. The ASEAN-6 has no more TEL products since 2005.

Review of the General Exception (GE) List

7. The Ministers noted the review of the GE list, which aims to institute further improvements in the GE lists and make it more consistent with the CEPT Agreement. With the completion of the review, the Ministers noted that the products in the GE list have been significantly reduced to only 0.68% of total tariff lines. The Ministers also endorsed the modality of tariff reduction of these products and urged Member Countries to comply with the agreed schedule.
8. The consistency of the GE list with Article 9(b) of the CEPT Agreement would further enhance intra-ASEAN trade and facilitate the ASEAN integration process.

Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers

9. The Ministers endorsed the Work Programme on Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), which aims at aligning the elimination of identified NTBs with the elimination of tariffs that would ensure the realisation of free flow of goods, as mandated by the Leaders in Bali Concord II. The Ministers re-emphasised the importance they attached to the elimination of non-tariff barriers and called on the senior officials to recommend to the next AFTA Council the necessary peer review mechanism to enhance transparency in NTMs and ensure that no new measures that are barriers to trade be introduced in ASEAN.

Enhanced CEPT Rules of Origin (ROO)

10. The Ministers noted the progress made in improving the CEPT Rules of Origin. The Ministers endorsed the Substantial Transformation

Rules for iron and steel which will be implemented as co-equal or alternative rule to the 40% ASEAN value-added rule.

11. The Ministers re-emphasised the important role of the Rules of Origin in facilitating intra-ASEAN trade, and directed the Task Force on CEPT Rules of Origin to update the CEPT Rules of Origin to facilitate adaptation to changes, particularly as ASEAN negotiate Free Trade Agreements with Dialogue Partners.

ASEAN Integration System of Preferences (AISP)

12. Recognising the usefulness of the AISP Scheme in narrowing the development gap between ASEAN-6 and the CLMV and in hastening their integration into the mainstream of the global and regional market for goods and services, the Ministers instructed the senior officials to explore measures that would enhance the utilisation of the Scheme for consideration at the 21st AFTA Council.

Customs Cooperation

13. The Ministers took note of the final preparation for the Protocol for the Establishment and Implementation of the ASEAN Single Window, containing the technical guide of the ASEAN Single Window and the action plan to secure effective implementation of activities under the Single Window. The Protocol will be signed by ASEAN Finance Ministers in due course. The Ministers urged the officials to complete implementation of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document.
14. The Ministers welcomed the completion of the review of the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2002, resulting in the new AHTN 2007 which is simplified and updated based on international standards and best practices. The Ministers commended the hard work of the customs officials for their continuous efforts in reforming and modernising customs processes and reiterated the importance of customs cooperation in its contribution to further facilitating ASEAN trade toward the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community.

Standard and Conformance

15. The implementation of the Framework Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) and the harmonisation of technical regulations and products standards have resulted in 140 harmonised standards in ASEAN and additional 24 standards for electrical and electronic equipment are being targeted for harmonisation during 2004-2007. The Ministers noted also that progress has been made in developing an ASEAN monitoring system for the effective implementation of the ASEAN Policy Guideline on Standard and Conformance endorsed in 2005, as well as the development of ASEAN CONFORMITY MARK that would facilitate the free movement of goods within the region. Other key accomplishments on standards and conformance, appears as an annex to this Statement.

ASEAN Trade Performance

16. ASEAN's global trade in 2005 totalled to US\$1.226 trillion compared to US\$ 1.072 trillion in 2004. For 2005, total ASEAN exports expanded by 13.5% from US\$ 569.4 billion in 2004 to US\$ 646 billion in 2005. An increase of 15.4 % was registered in total ASEAN imports, i.e. from US\$ 502.5 billion in 2004 to US\$ 579.7 billion in 2005.
17. Intra-ASEAN exports increased from US\$ 141.3 billion in 2004 to US\$ 163.7 billion in 2005, up by 15.9 %. The growth in intra-ASEAN

imports registered a 19.3 % increase or from US\$ 119.7 billion in 2004 to US\$ 142.8 billion in 2005. Intra-ASEAN total trade as a percentage of ASEAN total trade remained relatively constant with a slight increase from 24.3 % in 2004 to 25% in 2005.

18. Japan, the US, the European Union and China and Korea continued to be ASEAN's largest trading partners. The share of ASEAN trade (exports + imports) with these countries in overall ASEAN trade in 2005 were 12.6%, 12.5%, 11.2%, 9.3% and 3.9 %, respectively.

The Meeting was attended by:

Mr. Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Kong Vibol, First Secretary of State of Economy and Finance, Cambodia; Mr. Herry Soetanto, Director-General of International Trade Cooperation, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia ; H.E. Mr. Somdy Douangdy, Vice Minister of Finance, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Elmer C. Hernandez, Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Thanong Bidaya, Minister of Finance, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Truong Chi Trung, Vice Minister of Finance, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN

ANNEX

Other Key Accomplishments on Standards and Conformance

- a. ASEAN is also working on the harmonisation of the Electrical and Electronic Regulatory Regime among Member Countries. With the signing of the Agreement on ASEAN Harmonised Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulatory Regime in December 2005, a 5-year action plan to support the implementation of this Agreement has been developed and agreed upon by all Electrical and Electronic Regulatory Authorities in January 2006.
- b. There has been good progress toward the establishment of one regulatory scheme for cosmetics by 1 January 2008. Member Countries are making necessary preparations for the implementation of the Agreement on ASEAN Harmonised Cosmetic Regulatory Scheme which was signed in September 2003.
- c. Continuing efforts are made to implement the ASEAN Common Technical Dossiers (ACTD) and the ASEAN Common Technical Requirements (ATCRs) by 31 December 2008. A Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Inspection is also being explored.
- d. Substantive work on harmonisation of technical requirements/ regulations is being undertaken to facilitate the integration of traditional medicines and health supplements as well as medical device in the region by 2010.
- e. The adoption of a Post-Marketing Alert (PMA) System for defective and unsafe health care products (cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, medical device, traditional medicines and health supplements) to strengthen networking among Regulatory Authorities toward unsafe and defective healthcare products.
- f. Progress has also been made in the establishment of ASEAN Reference Testing Laboratories (ARLs) in the areas of mycotoxins, pesticide residues, veterinary drugs, microbiology, heavy metals and genetically modified organisms. Six laboratories located in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam were selected to serve as the ARLs.

ASEAN INVESTMENT AREA (AIA) Joint Media Statement of the 9th ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 21 August 2006

ASEAN FDI rebound breaches pre-Asian Crisis level

1. The Ninth AIA Council met on 21 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to review developments in the AIA for the past year. The Council was pleased to note the increase in ASEAN FDI Flows for 2005, which reached US\$38 billion, representing a 48% year-on-year increase from the previous year. Reinforcing the region's attractiveness as an investment destination, the increase notably supersedes ASEAN FDI Flows in 1997, putting ASEAN back on track on its growth path prior to the Asian Financial Crisis (Figure 1).

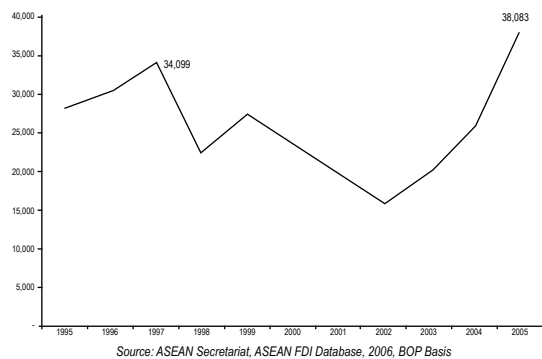


Figure 1. FDI flows to ASEAN 1995-2005

2. Preliminary FDI data for the first quarter of 2006 indicated a substantial increase (90%) to US\$14 billion from US\$7.4 billion in the same period last year. The Council is optimistic that the growth in FDI flows into ASEAN would continue to be promising. The major sources of investment into ASEAN in 2005 were the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, France and Finland. Together, these sources accounted for 48% of total FDI inflows into ASEAN.
3. The Council noted that financial intermediation and related services, including insurance, manufacturing, trade/commerce and services were the top recipients of FDI (accounting for 79% of total FDI) in 2005. Remarkable growth in FDI were also observed in the mining and quarrying sectors, which increased from US\$388 million to US\$3.2 billion and services, which increased from US\$1.8 billion to US\$5.9 billion.

Investor Confidence in ASEAN Manufacturing Sector Strengthens

4. Consistent with the notable increase in BOP FDI is the continuous growth in Approved Manufacturing FDI (Figure 2), which increased by 33% to US\$27.8 billion from US\$20.8 billion in 2004. The top five sectors with substantial FDI interest were refined petroleum products, radio, television and communication equipment, motor vehicles, food products, and electrical machinery.

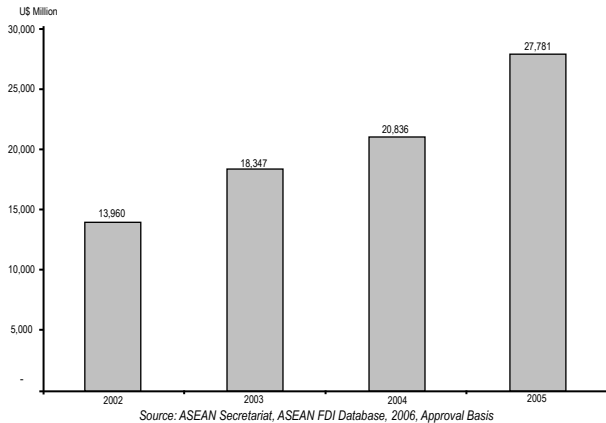


Figure 2. Approved Manufacturing FDI in ASEAN 2002-2005

AIA Liberalises Further

5. The Council has endorsed the Temporary Exclusion List (TEL) and Sensitive List (SL) for the Services Incidental to the Manufacturing, Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry and Mining & Quarrying sectors. These, along with the updated TEL and SL for the Manufacturing, Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry and Mining & Quarrying sectors, shall become an integral part of the AIA Agreement. The AIA Council is confident that these liberalisation measures will further enhance the ASEAN investment environment. (The above lists will be made available in the ASEAN Website - <http://www.aseansec.org>).
6. The Council also endorsed the publication of the following:
 - Temporary Exclusion List (TEL) and Sensitive List (SL) for the Five Sectors (Manufacturing, Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry, Mining & Quarrying) and Services Incidental to the Five Sectors to provide investors with the latest list of commitments under the AIA Agreement;
 - Statistics of Foreign Direct Investment in ASEAN, Eighth Edition, 2006 – to provide better understanding of FDI trends and development in ASEAN;
 - ASEAN Investment Report 2006 – to provide investors and policy makers with information on the ASEAN investment environment in 2005.

These publications will be made available during the 12th ASEAN Summit to be held in Cebu City, Philippines from 11-14 December 2006.

7. The Council welcomed Malaysia's initiative to spearhead the formulation of the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Brochure, which packages ASEAN as a single investment destination.
8. The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to the Most-Favoured Nation Treatment principle of the ASEAN Investment Area, which ensures that ASEAN investors are treated no less favourable than other investors from other countries.
9. The Council agreed to further improve the compilation of investment statistics in ASEAN in order to present a clear picture of FDI in ASEAN.
10. In order to sustain growth momentum of FDI inflow into ASEAN, the Council agreed to undertake more joint investment promotion activities into and within the region (intra-ASEAN), particularly in the priority integration sectors. In line with this, the Council has tasked ASEAN investment officials to organise more inbound investment promotion missions and capacity building workshops and events, in cooperation with the private sector and Dialogue Partners.

Attendance:

The 9th AIA Council Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia and attended by:

Mr. Lim Jock Hoi
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Mr. Kong Vibol
First Secretary of State
Ministry of Economic and Finance
Vice Chairman of the Council for the Development of Cambodia
Cambodia

H.E. Mr. Muhammad Lutfi
Chairman
Investment Coordinating Board
Indonesia

H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh
Minister
Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Lao PDR

H.E. U Soe Tha
Minister
Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development
Myanmar

H.E. Mr. Elmer C. Hernandez
Undersecretary
Department of Trade and Industry
Philippines

H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang
Minister
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Singapore

H.E. Dr. Somkid Jatusripitak
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce
Ministry of Commerce
Thailand

H.E. Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Phuc
Vice Minister
Ministry of Planning and Investment
Viet Nam

H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong
Secretary-General of ASEAN

**ASEAN MINISTERS ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY (AMAF)**

**Joint Press Statement
of the 28th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers
on Agriculture and Forestry (28th AMAF)**

Singapore, 16 November 2006

1. The 28th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) was held in Singapore on 16 November 2006. H. E. Mr. Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development of Singapore chaired the 28th AMAF, with H.E. Professor Dr. Thira Sutabutra, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand as Vice-Chairman.
2. The Ministers reviewed the progress of the implementation of cooperation initiatives and activities in food, agriculture and forestry under the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), the Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) on ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry and the integration protocols for wood-based products, rubber-based products, agro-based products, and fisheries sectors under the ASEAN Framework Agreement for Integration of Priority Sectors. The Ministers were pleased with the significant progress in the implementation of various ASEAN cooperation activities in food, agriculture and forestry.
3. The Ministers conveyed their appreciation to the ASEAN leaders at the 11th ASEAN Summit in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, who recognised that agriculture plays a pivotal role in improving food security and poverty reduction. At the 11th ASEAN Summit, the leaders reiterated ASEAN's commitment to the World Food Summit and Millennium Declarations and supported further resource mobilisation for agriculture and rural development in the Member Countries. The Ministers expressed confidence that the ASEAN leaders will provide further boost to the agriculture sector and highlight its importance when they meet at the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu, Philippines in December 2006.

Strengthening Animal Disease Control Programme

4. In advancing the ASEAN leaders' call in the 11th ASEAN Summit for responsive and coordinated actions to control and eradicate the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), the Ministers concluded and signed the Agreement for Establishment of ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund (AAHTF). The AAHTF will serve as the vehicle in the implementation of unified and harmonised animal health programmes in ASEAN. In addition to the contributions made by ASEAN Member Countries, the AAHTF is open to financial contributions from ASEAN Dialogue Partners, international organisations and the private sector for implementing mutual and sustainable animal disease control programmes in ASEAN.
5. The Ministers reaffirmed continuing efforts by the Member Countries to control and eradicate HPAI that remains a serious threat to the region. The Ministers recognised the need for Member Countries to work together and collaborate with international agencies such as OIE (the World Animal Health Organization) and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) in the fight to control HPAI. The Ministers commended the work of the ASEAN HPAI Taskforce in coordinating and promoting collaborative arrangements and initiatives to enhance understanding and sharing of experiences in the control of HPAI, through the Regional Framework for Control and Eradication of HPAI. The Ministers welcomed the support given by ASEAN

Dialogue Partners and international organisations in strengthening ASEAN's capability to implement and coordinate effective plans to address the animal disease control programmes of economic and public health importance.

**Expanding Markets for Agricultural Products and
Enhancing Safe Food Supply**

6. For supporting economic integration, the Ministers underscored the importance for ASEAN to continue to undertake concerted efforts in the harmonisation of quality and standards, assurance of food safety and standardisation of trade certification. The Ministers also emphasised the need for agricultural and forestry products to achieve internationally recognised standards in order to enhance ASEAN competitiveness in the international markets. Towards this end, the Ministers adopted the following ASEAN standards:
 - a) ASEAN Good Agricultural Practices (ASEAN GAP) for the production, harvesting and post-harvest handling of fresh fruit and vegetables ;
 - b) ASEAN Standards for Mango, Pineapple and Durian, to ensure they are available fresh to the consumer after preparation and packaging;
 - c) ASEAN Standard for Inactivated Canine Parvovirus Vaccine, to control canine viral diarrhoea; and
 - d) A list of 117 additional ASEAN harmonised Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of 19 pesticides. To date, AMAF has adopted a total of 676 ASEAN harmonised MRLs for 52 pesticides used in 59 vegetables, 24 fruits and 15 cash crops.

Coordinated Actions towards Sustainable Forestry

7. The Ministers commended the efforts in the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora. Particularly significant is the establishment of the ASEAN Wildlife Law Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) at the Special Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for the Implementation of Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in December 2005 in Bangkok. ASEAN-WEN is an integrated network among the law enforcement, customs and CITES authorities in Member Countries. The Ministers welcomed the setting up of the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) to support the implementation of ASEAN-WEN.
8. The Ministers recalled the East Asia and the Pacific Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Ministerial Declaration of 2001 which commits participants to take immediate actions to combat illegal logging and its associated trade, and the VAP which calls on Member Countries to eradicate unsustainable forest management practices by 2010. The Ministers noted that progress had been made towards meeting the goals of both initiatives, based on stronger political commitment, more effective programmes in countries within the region, and a number of bilateral and multilateral efforts, including further actions on FLEG matters by the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry.
9. The Ministers called for enhanced cooperation with their counterparts from outside of ASEAN and appreciated the offer of the Philippines to host the 2nd FLEG Ministerial Meeting in 2007 to ensure continued progress with national, regional and global actions. The Ministers also called for concerted actions on specific areas of cooperation including information sharing, forest sector transparency and regional cooperation in improving forest law enforcement mechanisms. The Ministers urged for active participation of Member Countries, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, civil society and the private sector.

10. The Ministers welcomed and supported the Cebu Resolution on Sustainable Development by the ASEAN Ministers responsible for the Environment adopted on 10th November 2006.

Forging Stronger Bonds with Dialogue Partners and International Organisations

11. The Ministers noted the good progress made in the collaborative activities with dialogue partners and international organisations on food, agriculture and forestry. The Ministers thanked Australia, China, Germany, Japan, and Republic of Korea and international organisations like Asian Development Bank (ADB), FAO, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), OIE, and the Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), for their technical assistance and financial support in 2005-2006.
12. The Ministers welcomed the continued collaboration with China under the ASEAN-China Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Agricultural Cooperation. The Ministers also welcomed the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership for strengthening collaboration in sustainable fisheries development in the region.
13. The Ministers endorsed two new ASEAN-Japan initiatives on Strengthening of Partnership among Japan and ASEAN Countries in the promotion of Agricultural Cooperatives; and on South-South Cooperation Promotion Project for Agricultural Productivity Enhancement in Developing Countries.
14. The Ministers endorsed the further development of a series of environmental indicators for ASEAN rice production as presented as a joint activity with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The Ministers also endorsed the continued development of a digital Rice Knowledge Bank for ASEAN rice farmers, and the establishment of Rice Camps at IRRI to educate the young people of ASEAN on the importance of rice farming and rice research.

29th AMAF Meeting

The ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry will meet for the 29th AMAF in Thailand in 2007.

The Ministers from other ASEAN Member Countries expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Singapore for hosting the 28th AMAF Meeting and for their warm hospitality.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Ahmad Haji Jumat, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Anton Apriyantono, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Sitaheng Rasphone, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato Mah Siew Keong, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Major General Htay Oo, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar; H.E. Dr. Segfredo R. Serrano, Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development, Singapore; H.E. Ms Grace Fu, Minister of State for National Development, Singapore; H.E. Professor Dr. Thira Sutabutra, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand; H.E. Dr. Bui Ba Bong, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Agreement for the Establishment of ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund

Singapore, 17 November 2006

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter collectively referred to as "ASEAN" or "Member Countries" or singularly as "Member Country");

DESIRING to accelerate and intensify the implementation of the aims and purposes of ASEAN as embodied in the ASEAN Declaration 1967;

REALISING the necessity for a fund to facilitate the implementation of unified and harmonised animal health projects in the ASEAN region;

AND RECOGNISING the principle of self-reliance in the pursuit of animal health projects, which are vital and strategic to ASEAN interests in view of increasing global competition.

DO HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 Establishment

The Member Countries shall establish a fund for ASEAN animal health projects called the ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund").

Article 2 The ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund

- Contributions made by each Member Country to the Fund shall be paid into an account under the name of "The ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund" and the schedule for contributions by respective Member Countries is set out in Annex A.
- The Fund shall have two accounts, namely the Seed Fund Account and the Project Fund Account.
- Contributions made by international donor agencies or the private sector for specific projects or activities shall be paid into the Project Fund Account.
- Voluntary contributions to the Seed Fund Account by member countries, international donor agencies and other funding sources shall also be encouraged.
- The Seed Fund shall be invested to realise income for the Fund. The Project Fund shall provide financing for approved projects. Unless otherwise agreed upon by Member Countries, at least 20% of the annual income from the Seed Fund shall be ploughed back to the Seed Fund Account; the balance shall accrue to the Project Fund Account.
- Contributions to the Fund shall be made in United States Dollar (USD).
- The Fund may be increased from time to time as agreed upon by the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (hereinafter referred to as "AMAF").

Article 3
Investment of the Fund

1. The portion of the Fund set aside as Seed Fund shall be treated as a capital investment and shall not be used for project financing. The investment of the Seed Fund shall be governed by the objective of maximising income while at the same time ensuring safety and stability in the value of the Seed Fund.
2. The Seed Fund shall be managed by an Investment Manager(s) appointed by the Secretary-General of ASEAN upon approval of Senior Officials Meeting for ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (hereinafter referred to as "SOM-AMAF").

Article 4
Utilisation of the Fund

The utilisation of the Fund shall be in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Utilisation of the ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund" (hereinafter referred to as "the Guidelines") contained in Annex B hereto.

Article 5
Management, Control, Disbursement Accounting and Audit

The management, control, disbursement, accounting and audit of the Fund shall be in accordance with the "Rules Governing Management, Disbursement, Accounting and Audit of the ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund" (hereinafter referred to as "the Rules") contained in Annex C hereto.

Article 6
Amendments

Any amendments to this Agreement (including its Annexes) shall be mutually agreed upon in writing by all the Member Countries.

Article 7
Dispute Settlement

In the event of any dispute or disagreement in the interpretation or application of this Agreement, the Member Countries shall resolve the matter amicably through consultations and negotiations.

Article 8
Annexes

The Annexes to this Agreement shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 9
Entry Into Force and Termination

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signature by all the Member Countries and shall remain in force until it is terminated by the decision of the AMAF, who will decide on the utilisation of the remaining fund.

Article 10
Depository

This Agreement shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each Member Country.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in Singapore, this Seventeenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Six in a single original copy in the English Language.

For the Government of Brunei Darussalam:
PEHIN DATO HAJI AHMAD HAJI JUMAT
Minister of Industry and Primary Resources

For the Royal Government of Cambodia:
CHAN SARUN
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia:
ANTON APRIYANTONO
Minister of Agriculture

For the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
SITAHENG RASPHONE
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

For the Government of Malaysia:
DATO MAH SIEW KEONG
Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry

For the Government of the Union of Myanmar:
HTAY OO
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

For the Government of the Republic of the Philippines:
SEGFREDO R. SERRANO
Undersecretary of Department of Agriculture

For the Government of the Republic of Singapore:
MAH BOW TAN
Minister for National Development

For the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand:
THIRA SUTABUTRA
Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
BUI BA BONG
Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

Annex A

Nature and Schedule of Contributions by Member Countries to the ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund (AHTF)

Criteria for categorisation of contributing countries

- Importance of livestock
- Trade
- Benefits
- GDP
- Capacity to contribute
- Public Health

Proposed Utilisation of ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund

- 80%– Seed Fund
- 20% – Project Fund

Proposed Amount of contribution for each category

Category 1 (USD 300,000) - Countries with very productive livestock industry and capacity to contribute based on the status of their economy (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand)

Category 2 (USD 200,000) – Medium

Category 3 (USD 100,000) - Very productive livestock industry but may not be able to contribute as much as category 1 (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam) Very little livestock industry (Brunei Darussalam, Singapore)

Approved amount of contribution for each category

Countries	Total Amount (USD)	Schedule of contribution	Remarks
Brunei Darussalam	100,000	Five years starting in 2006	
Cambodia	100,000	Five years starting in 2007	
Indonesia	300,000	Six years starting in 2007	
Lao PDR	100,000	Five years starting in 2007	
Malaysia	300,000	Five years starting in 2006	
Myanmar	100,000	Five years starting in 2006	
Philippines	300,000	Five years starting in 2006	
Singapore	100,000	Five years starting in 2006	
Thailand	300,000	Five years starting in 2006	
Viet Nam	100,000	Five years starting in 2007	

Annex B**Guidelines for the Utilisation of the ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund****I. Purpose of the ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund**

- The Fund shall be used for the purpose of financing ASEAN Animal Health Projects approved by the Senior Officials Meeting for ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) through recommendation of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL). Its priority is to support the regional coordination for control and eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Classical Swine Fever (CSF) and other regionalised disease control and eradication programs for economically important animal diseases.

II. ASEAN Animal Health Approved Projects

- ASEAN animal health approved projects are those which meet all of the following criteria:
 - the projects must support the implementation of a

regionalised disease control and eradication programs for economically important animal diseases;

- the projects could not qualify for funding under Dialogue Partner facilities or could only be partially supported by Dialogue Partner facilities.

- A project is considered an ASEAN animal health project eligible for support under the Fund when:
 - it is participated by all Member Countries; or
 - if not all Member Countries participate, it should benefit the region as a whole, or has a regional impact on the majority of the Member Countries.

III. Procedures for Accessing the Fund**Project Proposal**

- Proposals for the Fund shall be submitted to the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) through the ASEAN Secretariat.
- The project proposal shall be presented in the standard format, accompanied by a project brief, prescribed by the ASEAN Cooperation Unit (ACU) of the ASEAN Secretariat.
- The proposed project budget shall present the details of expenditures broken down into the following categories: (1) administrative costs (2) capital costs and (3) operating costs.

Project Review and Appraisal

- The PAC through the ASEAN Secretariat shall review the project proposals and submit its recommendation to the ASWGL and SOM-AMAF. For the purpose of its evaluation, the PAC shall use the criteria approved by ASWGL and SOM-AMAF.
- The project appraisal shall make a statement on the benefits of the project to the ASEAN region (both direct and indirect), and shall assess the financing options (to include the Fund as well as other sources) for the project.

SOM-AMAF Approval

- The SOM-AMAF shall approve the project seeking access to the Fund, taking into account the recommendations of the PAC and ASWGL and the nature of activities eligible for support under the Fund.

Budget Review Committee Consideration

- Once a project has been approved by the SOM-AMAF for support under the Fund, the Budget Review Committee (BRC) shall review the funding requirements of the project. For the purposes of the Fund, the budget approved by the SOM-AMAF for a project shall be regarded as an indicative budget. The BRC may streamline the budget or scale it down, provided that it cannot approve a funding commitment higher than the indicative budget approved by the SOM-AMAF.
- The BRC shall establish its own rules of procedure to ensure expeditious action on funding requests put forward before it.

Issuance of Funding Commitment

- The BRC's approval of funding commitment for a project shall be officially conveyed by a letter from the Chairman

of the BRC to the proponent accompanied by the approved (signed) annualised budget, with copies to the ASEAN National Secretariats.

10. Upon receipt of the copy of the approved budget, the ASEAN National Secretariat of the country hosting the project shall take steps to obtain the names and validate the specimen signatures of the Regional Coordinator /Project Manager and/or his representatives who are to be held accountable for the amounts disbursed under the Fund. The names and specimen signatures shall be submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat.

IV. Eligible Expenditures

1. The Fund shall support projects with clearly defined set of objectives and outputs.
2. The items of expenditure in a project budget shall be classified into three (3) general categories as follows:
 - a. administrative costs: rent, utilities, office requirements, salaries of locally engaged personnel, insurance and taxes;
 - b. operational costs: project overhead costs, recruitment costs, salaries of professional staff engaged in the project, equipment and supplies; and
 - c. capital costs: land and building, and equipment costing more than US\$100,000.
3. The operational costs of the project shall be eligible expenditures under the Fund.
4. The capital and administrative costs shall be borne by the Host Government for the project.
5. Travelling, accommodation and other expenses of delegations attending regular meetings of duly established ASEAN bodies are not eligible expenditures under the Fund.
6. The BRC shall formulate guidelines on the expenditure classification to take into account the particular characteristics of a project, as may be necessary and appropriate.

V. Ownership of Property

1. The ownership of property acquired as a result of expenditures for financing capital costs shall be vested in the Host Government and/or the proponent of the project.
2. The ownership of property acquired as a result of expenditures for financing operational costs shall be vested in the ASEAN Secretariat, provided that in cases where such property is essential for the sustainability of benefits after project completion, the same can be donated to the project, through the Host Government, by the ASEAN Secretariat. The ASEAN Secretariat may redeploy property acquired under a project to other projects supported by the Fund under cost-effective arrangements, or it may sell such property when circumstances warrant. Any proceeds from the sale of property shall accrue to the Fund. The BRC shall formulate guidelines for the use, disposition and sale of property acquired under the Fund.
3. The Host Government and/or the ASEAN Secretariat may not exercise their right to dispose of any property the ownership of which has been vested to them under V.1 and V.2 until after the completion of the project.

4. The ownership of intellectual property acquired as a result of the project shall be vested in the ASEAN Member Countries. The disposition and use of intellectual property rights shall be governed by guidelines to be determined by the SOM-AMAF.

Annex C

Rules governing management, disbursement, accounting and audit of the ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund

I. Management of the ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund

1. The ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) and SOM-AMAF shall have the overall responsibility on policy matters relating to the Fund and shall approve projects eligible for funding from the Fund.
2. ASEAN members' initial contributions should be used to attract more contributions from external countries and international organisations before any drawdown for projects.
3. A Budget Review Committee (BRC) shall be established for the management of the Fund at the operational level. The BRC shall consist of officials from all ASEAN Member Countries.
4. The BRC shall be chaired by the Secretary-General of ASEAN or the Representative appointed by the Secretary-General.
5. The BRC shall establish its own rules and procedures for its meetings and other matters relevant to its functions.
6. The ASEAN Secretariat shall provide technical support to the BRC.
7. The Roles of the ASWGL/SOM-AMAF with regard to the Fund:
 - a. ensure timely remittances of contributions to the Fund;
 - b. establish Guidelines for the Utilisation of the ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund, review these guidelines periodically, and adopt the necessary changes with the view to enhancing the effective utilisation of the Fund;
 - c. recommend to the AMAF, any policy change or restructuring of the Fund as may be necessary to make it more responsive to developments affecting ASEAN;
 - d. approve projects seeking funding support from the Fund, including their indicative budgets, based on the review and evaluation of these projects by the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC);
 - e. review the regular reports submitted by the BRC for purposes of managing the Fund; and
 - f. consider and make decisions on the recommendations of the BRC relating to the Fund, including the appointment of the Investment Manager(s) for the Fund.
8. The Roles of the Secretary-General of ASEAN:
 - a. ensure prudent and effective utilisation of the Fund;
 - b. establish and implement a system of project review and evaluation of the Fund through the PAC;
 - c. establish and implement a system of accounts in the ASEAN Secretariat for keeping up-to-date and accurate records of the Fund and for servicing other requirements of Fund management;
 - d. submit quarterly reports to the ASWGL and annual reports to the SOM-AMAF and AMAF on the status of utilisation of the Fund;

- e. initiate the necessary recommendations to the SOM-AMAF to ensure a more effective utilisation of the Fund; and
 - f. to execute the appointment of the Investment Manager (s) to the Fund as approved by the SOM-AMAF.
9. The Role of the Budget Review Committee (BRC)
- a. implement the Guidelines for the Utilisation of the Fund as approved by the SOM-AMAF; to recommend to the SOM-AMAF revisions and/or adjustments on the Guidelines as it may deem necessary for purposes of promoting the effective utilisation of the Fund;
 - b. determine the proportion of income that should be ploughed back to the Seed Fund Account and that which should accrue to the Project Fund Account;
 - c. establish budget parameters such as standard consultancy fees, per diem, etc, to review the project budgets on these bases, and to determine the final budget allocation for the project. In the process of reviewing whether a candidate project is eligible for support under the Fund, and the BRC shall have the power to further streamline the project budgets based on the indicative budgets approved by the SOM-AMAF. The BRC makes the final determination on the level of financial support for a project to be drawn from the Fund which may be lower than the SOM-AMAF approved indicative budget, but in no case higher than this amount;
 - d. make periodic consolidated cash flow projections based on estimates of the expenditure requirements of all activities/projects supported by the Fund, as well as income generated by the Fund;
 - e. ensure timely releases of funds based on approved budgets and the progress of project implementation;
 - f. install and implement a monitoring system for projects supported by the Fund;
 - g. consolidate and finalise the annual financial statements and accounts of the Fund for presentation to the ASEAN Audit Committee and the ASWGL, SOM-AMAF and AMAF;
 - h. establish investment guidelines for the Fund;
 - i. evaluate applications received for the post of the investment Manager(s), and select and recommend suitable candidates for the approval of the SOM-AMAF; and
 - j. evaluate and appraise the performance of the Investment Manager(s) at periodic intervals as determined by the SOM-AMAF.

10. The Role of the Regional Coordinator /Project Manager

Projects supported by the Fund shall be headed by a Regional Coordinator or a Project Manager to be designated by the BRC. The Regional Coordinator or Project Manager shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. exercise overall responsibility for implementing the project supported by the Fund;
- b. set up and maintain a separate account for purposes of the releases and disbursements made from the Fund;
- c. keep a system of financial records based on guidelines prescribed by the BRC and which could be examined by the ASEAN Audit Committee and the SOM-AMAF;
- d. prepare a work schedule of activities and financial requirements as a basis for the timely completion of project activities as well as the timely submission of requests for budget releases to the BRC; and
- e. prepare quarterly progress reports to the BRC on the performance and financial status of project implementation.

II. Disbursement, Accounting, Reporting and Audit

Disbursement

1. On the basis of the approved budget, the BRC operating through the ASEAN Secretariat shall make disbursements directly to the Regional Coordinator or Project Manager or his authorised representative(s) as follows:
 - a. in the case of projects of short duration (i.e., seminars, workshops), a single disbursement may be made to the project; and
 - b. in the case of projects with longer duration, disbursements may be made on a quarterly basis subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 below.
2. Except for the initial disbursement, subsequent fund releases to the project shall be based on a report of expenditures and performance of the project submitted by the Regional Coordinator or Project Manager on a quarterly basis. Subsequent releases to the project may be made if at least 70 percent of the preceding period's budget has been utilised.

Accounting

3. Contributions by Member Countries, international donor agencies and other financing schemes or funding sources shall be deposited in an account called "The ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund". No amounts from the principal or proceeds of the Fund shall accrue to any other funds held by or under the custody of the ASEAN Secretariat.
4. The ASEAN Secretariat shall designate two accounts under the Fund: the Seed Fund Account and the Project Fund Account. The Seed Fund Account shall initially consist of 80% of the total contribution. The Project Fund Account shall consist of the remaining 20%.
5. The financial year for purposes of accounting for the Fund shall commence on 1 June and shall end on 31 May.
6. The accounting code and procedures of the ASEAN Secretariat shall be used for the Fund.

Financial Reporting

7. The Secretary-General of ASEAN shall submit the following reports in respect of the Fund;
 - a. a quarterly Report to the SOM-AMAF (Status of Fund Utilisation) and
 - b. an annual Report to the AMAF
8. At the project level, the Regional Coordinator or the Project Manager shall submit quarterly reports of the actual expenditures of the project in accordance with the forms and procedures prescribed by the BRC. They shall be responsible for keeping a system of financial records which may be subject to inspection at anytime by the BRC or the ASEAN Audit Committee.

Audit

9. The Fund shall be subject to an annual audit by the ASEAN Audit Committee.
10. The ASEAN Audit Committee may also audit any project funded under the Fund as it deems necessary.

III. Procurement of Goods and Services

1. The procurement of goods and services funded by the Fund shall be in accordance with the Financial Rules of the ASEAN Secretariat.

ASEAN MINISTERS ON ENERGY MEETING (AMEM) Joint Media Statement of the 24th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 27 July 2006

Strategizing for Efficient, Competitive and Sustainable ASEAN Energy Future

1. The 24th ASEAN Ministers on Energy (AMEM) was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 27 July 2006. H.E. Dr. Bosaykham Vongdara, Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR chaired the 24th AMEM, with H.E. Mr. S Iswaran, Minister of State (Trade and Industry) of Singapore as Vice-Chairman.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the strategic directions and measures for efficient, competitive and sustainable energy future in ASEAN since energy will be a key agenda in the forthcoming ASEAN Leaders' Summit in December 2006 in the Philippines. The Ministers discussed the adverse impacts of the volatility of world oil prices. The Ministers were updated on the implementation progress of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) energy cooperation agenda as well as the on the major cooperative programs and activities under the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2004-2009.

Opening Ceremony

3. H.E. Mr. Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of Lao PDR, officially opened the 24th AMEM. In his Keynote Speech, the Prime Minister highlighted that the rapid pace of the economic growth of the ASEAN region requires an adequate energy supply. He stressed that the energy development agenda deserves more attention, considering that the constant surge in oil prices affects the socio-economic development and the living conditions of the people. He expressed hope that the trade, investment and cooperation between ASEAN Member Countries and dialogue partners in the field of energy will increase in the future.

Briefing on OPEC Activities

4. The Ministers viewed that the global energy security is the shared responsibility between producers and consumers. The Ministers noted that the security of demand should go hand-in-hand with security of supply and that transparency and exchange of energy data are important for market predictability and stability. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed any constructive dialogue and cooperation on energy-related issues with Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Strategic Responses for a Secure and Sustainable Energy Future

5. The Ministers highlighted on the fundamental need of ASEAN Member Countries for reliable, adequate and affordable energy

supplies which are essential for strong and sustainable economic growth and competitiveness. The Ministers also highlighted that ASEAN Member Countries will require increasing energy supplies as industries and services consume more energy to maintain increasing rhythm of growth.

6. The Ministers affirmed the importance of maintaining energy security and stability as a priority agenda, as high oil prices are clear risks to sustained economic growth of the ASEAN region. The Ministers collectively viewed that ASEAN's reliance on external sources for oil will have implications on the security of its energy supply. Improvements in energy efficiency and increases in the contribution from renewable energy to supplies are both important for achieving a sustainable energy future.
7. The Ministers called for continued investments in energy production and infrastructural development in order to secure adequate and stable supply of energy. The Ministers also called for further expanding renewable energy by strengthening efficient support system for their utilization, increasing research and development activities towards technological innovation and creating policies to support their development by the private sector.
8. The Ministers agreed to strengthen renewable energy development, such as hydropower, biomass, biofuels, and to promote power trade cooperation in ASEAN.
9. The Ministers also agreed that ASEAN Member Countries should strive to stay resilient and address the challenges of soaring oil prices by making continuous efforts to reduce dependency on imported energy, particularly oil, finding more efficient ways to generate and use of energy, embracing renewable energy, and putting in place measures for improving emergency preparedness and response capacity to high oil prices and supply disruptions.

Headways in Implementation of the VAP Energy Agenda and the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2004-2009

10. The Ministers agreed to collectively work towards the finalization of new ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA) and the Memorandum of Understanding on the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) for possible signing at the 25th AMEM in 2007. The Ministers were pleased with the progress in the development/implementation of the gas pipeline and electricity interconnection projects in the ASEAN Member Countries.
11. The Ministers lauded the significant increase in Energy Efficiency & Conservation (EE & C) activities in the ASEAN Member Countries. EE & C activities covered numerous institutional capacity building programs, increasing private sector involvement in ASEAN EE & C programs, and in expanding markets for energy efficient products. The Ministers agreed to further intensify cooperative measures in this area to mitigate volatile high oil prices, among others.
12. The Ministers recognized the emergence of biofuels as one of the alternatives to reduce ASEAN's fossil fuel consumption. The Ministers emphasized the requirement for closer cooperation and exchange of experience in promoting the biofuel production and use, including relevant fiscal incentives, funding facilities and regulatory infrastructure.
13. The Ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation in the coal sector taking environmental concerns into account.

14. The Ministers recognized the good efforts by the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), which has been very active in providing technical assistance to various ASEAN energy sub-sector networks, project preparation, coordination, facilitation and also in forging technical and financial collaborative partnership with the ASEAN dialogue partners and other international and regional organizations in the implementation of the APAEC 2004-2009.

ASEAN Energy Awards 2006

15. The Ministers congratulated the winners and runners-up from the 25 national nominees for the ASEAN Energy Awards 2006 under the ASEAN Best Practices Competition for Energy Efficient Buildings and Renewable Energy Project Competition.

25th ASEAN Ministers Energy Meeting

16. The 25th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) will be held in Singapore in 2007.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Yahya, Minister of Energy, Prime Minister's Office for Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy for Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources for Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Bosaykham Vongdara, Minister of Energy and Mines for Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Shaziman Abu Mansor, Deputy Minister of Energy, Water and Communications of Malaysia; H.E. Brig. Gen. Than Htay, Vice Minister of Energy for Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Raphael P.M Lotilla, Secretary of Energy for the Philippines; H.E. Mr. S Iswaran, Minister of State of Trade and Industry for Singapore; H.E. Dr. Viset Choopiban, Minister of Energy for Thailand; H.E. Mr. Hoang Trung Hai, Minister of Industry for Viet Nam; and H.E Mr. Nicholas T Dammen, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING (AFMM)

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 10th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 5 April 2006

Introduction

1. We, the ASEAN Finance Ministers, convened our 10th Annual Meeting in Siem Reap on 4-5 April 2006 under the chairmanship of Sr. Minister Keat Chhon, Minister of Economy and Finance, the Kingdom of Cambodia.
2. HE Samdech Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, officially opened our Meeting. He stressed that a well integrated and smoothly functioning regional financial system is *sine qua non* for achieving the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and accelerating ASEAN progress towards realising a unified vision of prosperous and peaceful Southeast Asia.
3. We discussed recent global and regional economic developments and outlook for the year 2006. We also assessed the progress of implementation of the Roadmap for Financial and Monetary Integration of ASEAN (RIA-fin) and other regional initiatives on customs, insurance, counter terrorism financing and money laundering as well as reforms of the international financial system.

Recent Economic Developments

4. ASEAN economies registered sustained robust growth of 5.5 percent last year, supported by continued buoyant domestic demand and exports. This demonstrates the resilience of our regional economies given the moderation of growth in some major economies and high global oil prices.
5. We achieved significant progress in the strengthening of the banking system and financial markets, and noted that corporate balance sheets continued to improve. The growth momentum, further reinforced by private sector efforts, allowed ASEAN economies to pursue fiscal consolidation. Signs of rising price pressures prompted the continued removal of monetary accommodation in some countries, although overall macroeconomic and financial policies remained supportive of growth.
6. We expect the strong growth momentum to continue in 2006, with average ASEAN GDP growth to increase to an estimated 5.8 percent this year, bolstered by strengthening ASEAN domestic demand and continuation of structural reform to maintain confidence. The recovery in Europe and Japan is anticipated to contribute to further improvement of the region's export performance. However, we will continue to be vigilant against risks from sudden and adverse resolution of global imbalances, continued rise of high oil prices and its impact on inflation. We will also pursue prudent macroeconomic policies to maintain supportive macroeconomic environment.

Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration

7. We welcomed the progress that ASEAN economies have made in broadening and deepening domestic capital markets. In particular, bond markets in ASEAN-5 have increased by more than three times since 1997. We are also pleased to note the growth of securitised markets in ASEAN and will continue to implement policies to further drive the growing sophistication of ASEAN capital markets. On the equities side, we were greatly encouraged by the launch of the first ASEAN Index, which will serve as a catalyst towards the further integration of ASEAN stock markets. We also welcomed ongoing efforts by Viet Nam and Cambodia to develop their capital markets.
8. We identified four key priorities to further promote the continued competitiveness and depth of ASEAN's financial sector in a globalised market environment. These are:
 - i. Development of an ASEAN asset class: Following the successful launch of the FTSE/ASEAN equity index in September 2005, we are encouraged by further private sector interest to develop ASEAN financial products. We will continue to engage the private sector in developing a vibrant ASEAN asset class to raise ASEAN's profile among international investors. Similarly, policies will be oriented towards enhancing the pace of the regional capital market integration.
 - ii. Reinforcing financial services liberalisation: We noted the progress in the current fourth round of negotiations on financial services liberalisation within ASEAN. We will reinforce the process for the liberalisation of trade in financial services in the region, including those with our dialogue partners.
 - iii. Strengthening capacity building: We will strengthen current capacity building initiatives to fully realise the potential of the ASEAN financial markets.
 - iv. Enhancing infrastructure financing: We recognised that the ASEAN would need to enhance regional infrastructure in order

to boost long-term growth potential, and agreed to set up a task force to explore the best framework, mechanism and possible instruments for infrastructure financing in the region.

Protocol to Establish and Implement the ASEAN Single Window

9. We welcomed the progress in customs cooperation, particularly in finalising the Protocol to Establish and Implement the ASEAN Single Window (ASW). Through electronic processing of trade documents and streamlined customs procedures, the ASW is expected to significantly facilitate cross-border trade and investment in the region.

Showcasing ASEAN

10. Following the success of the inaugural ASEAN Finance Ministers' Investor Seminar with US investors in New York in 2004, we met with European investors at our second Investor Seminar in London last September to promote investment opportunities arising from closer regional economic integration. In response to the growing interest to participate in ASEAN growth opportunities, we are now planning a third Investor Seminar to be held on 14 September 2006 in Hong Kong and 16 September 2006 during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in Singapore.
11. We recognised that the 2006 IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in Singapore will be the first time the Annual Meeting is returning to ASEAN after a fifteen year break. The event is an important occasion for us to demonstrate the growth and vibrancy of our economies. International investors can expect to gain insight on the wide investment opportunities in ASEAN Member Countries, including the financial markets, tourism, infrastructure development and other growth sectors.
12. We are also pleased to announce, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, the launching of the ASEAN capital account regime webpage on the ASEAN Secretariat's website. The webpage is designed to provide up-to-date information on regional capital account regimes. In addition, a book on "ASEAN Capital Account Regime" will be launched at the Singapore leg of the 3rd ASEAN Finance Ministers' Investor Seminar in September 2006.
13. We resolved to work towards sustaining our economic growth while strengthening our collective efforts towards greater harmonization and integration of our economies and financial markets.
14. We expressed our thanks to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia for their excellent arrangements and warm hospitality accorded to all delegates. The 11th AFMM will be held in Bangkok, Thailand tentatively in March 2007.

Press Release of the 16th ASEAN Banking Conference and 35th ASEAN Banking Council Meeting Singapore, 16-18 November 2006

The 16th ASEAN Banking Conference and 36th ASEAN Banking Council Meeting were held in Singapore from 16th to 18th November 2006 at Parkroyal on Coleman Street, Singapore.

The Association of Banks in Singapore hosted the meetings in accordance with the tradition of rotation of venue.

With a total of 180 bankers from 10 ASEAN countries in attendance, the Conference theme was "Unity and Integration". The importance of the conference was underscored by the attendance of Ambassadors from a number of ASEAN countries as well as representative from ASEAN Secretariat.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. David Conner, Head of Delegation for Singapore, noted that "in view of the challenges and opportunities that will compel greater co-operation among ASEAN members, it is timely that bankers come together and explore ways to work more closely to support ASEAN's growth".

In his opening remarks the ASEAN Bankers Association's Chairman, Mr. Wee Ee Cheong, who is also the Chairman of ABS, said, "ASEAN is entering exciting times. The potential for economic growth is unprecedented as member countries collectively focus on improving their livelihood and economic development." Mr. Wee urged all banks operating in ASEAN, both local and foreign, "to actively explore how they can co-operate and work together to promote the attractiveness of ASEAN as a vibrant economic and business region."

Mr. Wee added that he hoped this annual gathering of senior ASEAN bankers would further strengthen existing ties among the banks and identify new opportunities leading to further economic development and integration throughout the region.

Mr. Heng Swee Keat, Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore was the Guest of Honor and delivered the keynote address for the Conference. Mr. Heng noted that ASEAN has recovered from the 1997/98 financial crisis and ASEAN banks have restored their financial strength. However, he added, "While we have made progress, we must not lose sight of the many problems that remain and the challenges that lie ahead. We must continue to undertake structural reforms in our economies strengthen financial systems and improve the competitiveness of the corporate sector. We must also improve our laws and policies relating to investment, labor and taxation, and to signal clearly that we welcome foreign investments".

Mr. Heng also said that an integrated ASEAN presents many opportunities ASEAN banks and that collectively they have an important role to play. This will include greater financing for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), infrastructure financing and Islamic banking.

At the Plenary Session, Special Guest Speaker, Professor Tommy Koh, Singapore's Ambassador at Large, shared his views on the opportunities and challenges represented by further integration of ASEAN.

Ambassador Koh informed the delegates that ASEAN governments have formed a group with one member from each of the ten ASEAN countries to draft a new ASEAN Charter. This document will be intended to strengthen ASEAN by "taking our unity and integration to a higher peak". He added that the new Charter should accelerate the realization of a single ASEAN market and help narrow the development gap between members. Ambassador Koh will represent Singapore in the ten member drafting team.

Following Professor Koh's presentation, delegates were divided into two groups.

The first group discussed "how ASEAN banks can take advantage of finance, investment and trade opportunities under an integrated ASEAN".

To kick off the discussion, Professor Mirza of UNCTAD gave a briefing on the "recent trends in FDI flow, its impact and strategies for ASEAN to attract foreign direct investment (FDI)". Dr. Worapot Manupipatpong, ASEAN Secretariat, briefed delegates on the various ASEAN initiatives. Following his presentation participants discussed ideas for strengthening co-operation amongst ASEAN banks that would be examined in greater detail by the Association's three permanent Committees.

The second group deliberated on "Competition in an integrated and liberalized ASEAN - whether a bank's size really matter". To stimulate the discussion, Mr. Jean-Marc Poullet of McKinsey & Co. shared the firm's views on the subject and the results of its survey on the subject. The essential point was that although size does have advantages, it does not mean small banks have no roles to play. The European experience shows that small banks are still able to succeed by focusing on specific areas of business where they have a competitive advantage.

At the 36th ASEAN Council Meeting held on 18th November 2006, the following programs were adopted for implementation:

1. Organize an investment workshop [including infrastructure project finance] in Phnom Penh to showcase investment [including infrastructure] projects in the CLMV countries as well as Indonesia and Philippines for joint financing by banks in ASEAN to help narrow the development gap.
2. Indonesia will host a follow-up workshop on Islamic finance. A task force to develop Islamic financing schemes for SMEs to complement existing conventional lending to SME will be established.
3. A seminar to update member countries on their respective status on the implementation of BIS 2 as well as International Accounting Standards [IAS] especially IAS 32 and 39. The Thai Bankers Association will host it.
4. Workshop on Operational Risks [including Key Risk Indicators] will be hosted by Brunei [alternative venue-Viet Nam], together with Risk Management Association; and the Education Committee will develop and organize formal training courses for Operational Risk Managers. Additionally, members will share their respective training syllabi and relevant banking guidelines and best practices.
5. The Inter-Regional Relations Committee will coordinate a liaison and study mission to India in early 2007.
6. The 37th ASEAN Banking Council Meeting will be held in Hanoi in the 4th quarter of 2007 and hosted by the Vietnam Banks Association.
7. The 17th ASEAN Banking Conference and 38th ASEAN Banking Council Meeting will be held in 2008 in Brunei.

ASEAN MEKONG BASIN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (AMBDC)

Joint Media Statement of the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 26 August 2006

1. The 8th Ministerial Meeting on the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 26 August 2006. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar. The Meeting was attended by representatives from ASEAN Member Countries and PR China. Representatives from Japan, Republic of Korea and Asian Development Bank (ADB) also attended the Meeting as observers.
2. The Ministers took note of the progress made in the implementation of projects. As at 10 August 2006, there are 47 projects, at various stages of implementation. 15 projects still require funding worth US\$44 million.
3. The Meeting also noted on the progress of the activities under the Working Group on the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL). The Meeting noted that the 8th Special Working Group Meeting on SKRL will be held in November 2006 in Kunming, China. As for the SKRL project, about US\$ 5.4 million has been secured as grants and another US\$ 40 million for Cambodia in the form of soft loans by ADB in 2006.
4. The Meeting exchanged views on enhancing the effectiveness of the AMBDC Framework and agreed to recommend to the 12th ASEAN Summit in December 2006 in Cebu, Philippines:
 - to place the AMBDC Ministerial Meeting under the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting process; and
 - that the Membership of the core group be opened to other interested parties and international organizations.
5. The decision to place AMBDC under the ASEAN Economic Ministers process is to synchronize the economic integration activities, and to maximize on the limited resources available.

List of Participants:

H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar (Chairman); H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Du Ying, Vice Minister of National Development and Reform Commission, PR China; Mr. Herry Soetanto, Director General, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Elmer C. Hernandez, Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, Philippines; Mr. David Chin, Director General, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Phornsake Karnchanachari, Vice Minister to Foreign Affairs, Thailand; H.E. Nguyen Bich Dat, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam; H.E. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AMMST)

Chairman's Press Statement of the 4th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST)

Kuantan, Malaysia, 29 August 2006

1. The 4th Informal Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology was held on 28 August 2006 while the ASEAN Informal Ministerial Meeting + 3 Session (China, Japan and Korea) and + 1 Sessions with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners namely Australia, India and New Zealand; and the ASEAN Ministers + Invited Dialogue Partners Working Lunch were held in Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia on 28 and 29 August 2006. Ministers responsible for Science and Technology from Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand were represented by their respective Ministers while the rest, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam were represented by their Deputy or Vice Ministers or its equivalent. The Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN, ASEAN Secretariat and his Delegation were in attendance.
2. On the occasion of the 4th IAMMST, the Ministers from six ASEAN Dialogue Partners were also invited to meet with the ASEAN Ministers for Science and Technology. India is represented by the Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences; Japan is represented by the State Minister of Science and Technology Policy, Cabinet's Office; China and Korea by their respective Vice Ministers of Science and Technology; Australia by its Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education, Science and Training and New Zealand by a Senior Officer from the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology.
3. The 4th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology was officiated by the Right Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia on 28th August 2006.

4th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology

4. The 4th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology, confined to the ASEAN Member Countries, was held on 28 August 2006.
5. The Meeting endorsed in principle of the final draft of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology (APAST) for the period 2007 and 2011 and noted with appreciation the 4 flagship programmes in environment and disaster management; new and renewable energy; open source software system; food safety and security that the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (ASEAN-COST) will vigorously pursue for the said period.
6. The Ministers expressed hope the new APAST would contribute to Member Countries in ASEAN in the transition stage; in modernising its agricultural economy and scaling up its industrial production economy, to move into the new economy, the Knowledge-based Economy, while at the same time assist in narrowing the disparity and development gap amongst Member countries of ASEAN.
7. The Ministers realised the involvement of the private sector would be critical in realising the VAP and Vision 2020. The Ministers agreed to organise a side event for the ASEAN private sector at their next

meeting while at the same time tasked the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (ASEAN-COST) to find innovative ways and means to attract the participation of the private sectors in their activities.

8. The Ministers were pleased to note that all Member Countries are making significant progress in their contributions to augment the ASEAN Science Fund (ASF) with the contribution of USD 1 million from each Member Countries over a period of 10 years. The Ministers agreed to approach their Dialogue Partners and invite them to contribute to the funds directly or through providing assistance in implementing the programmes and activities as outline in the APAST.
9. The Ministers reiterated its suggestion for ASEAN-COST to consult their counterparts in other bodies and fora in ASEAN so as to join forces in addressing multisectoral issues such as emerging infectious disease, new energy and disaster management.
10. The Ministers deliberated at length on the K-economy, setting direction and initiative in exploring each other strengths to implement R&D activities in the field of biotechnology, nanotechnology, ICT, and disaster management on a cost-sharing basis by leveraging on the commonalities between the national programmes of each Member Countries. The Ministers agreed to solicit Dialogue Partners cooperation, assistance and participation in the R&D projects, communication, innovation and as well human resource development in the fields of science and technology.
11. As for new initiatives, the Meeting agreed for ASEAN Member Countries to develop common strategies to tackle natural disasters in an integrated manner. Malaysia expressed gratitude to Indonesia and Philippines for allowing Malaysia to place their tsunami warning buoys in their national waters and offered Viet Nam, China and Philippines to access the data from the third bouy that is to be located in Pulau Layang Layang.
12. The Meeting took note of Thailand's proposal to establish an ASEAN Centre for Infectious Diseases and urged each member country to identify their national centres for infectious diseases and to request Japan to assist in this area.
13. The Meeting acknowledged that human resource development is key to the successful implementation of the flagship programmes and other S&T activities. The Meeting supported the proposal by Thailand to establish the Network of Scientists and Researchers through the implementation of the R&D e-forum programme. The ASEAN-wide e-forum will facilitate exchange of ideas and information among researchers in ASEAN member countries as well as enable the identification of R&D topics of common interest. The Meeting agreed for each country to identify one or two research areas that they wish to offer assistance to the newer member countries to reduce development gaps and accelerate integration.

Informal ASEAN + 3 (China, Japan and Korea) Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology

14. The Informal ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology was chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Dr. Jamaludin Jarjis. Japan's Delegation was led by H.E. Iwao Matsuda, Minister for Science and Technology Policy. China and Korea were led by their Vice-Ministers of Science and Technology, namely H.E. Prof. Ma Songde and H.E. Dr. Park Young IL respectively. It was the first time that the ASEAN Ministers for Science and Technology are meeting their counterparts from the ASEAN Plus Three Countries.

15. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations exchanged views on the current situation to explore possibilities in science and technology cooperation in the region in a frank and open atmosphere. The Chairman invited Members of the Meeting to highlight on the needs and expectation of ASEAN in moving up the economic value chain.
16. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation shared the recognition that science and technology is one of the areas which has the most potential to promote regional cooperation. Ministers and Heads of Delegations shared the view that Asia is the driving force of the world economy and that science and technology is the source of power to keep or propel the momentum. They decided that to raise the level of science and technology in the region, efforts by each country and collaboration beyond national boundaries are very important.
17. The Meeting took note of the current status of cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries as well as new initiatives put forward by China, Japan and Korea ranging from cooperation in biofuel, traditional Chinese medicine, new energy, networks of research centres for emerging infectious diseases, disaster management, S&T human resource development programme. The meeting agreed to Japan's proposal on Open-Access Database (Matsuda's Initiative) to promote international cooperation in S&T and to merge this project with Thailand S&T e-forum while at the same time taking into account of the existing databases networks. The Meeting welcomes the new initiatives from Korea on the proposal to establish ASEAN+3 centre for the gifted in science as well as the S&T cooperation road map. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their keen interest to implement the initiatives in a more concerted manner with the Plus Three countries providing its expertise and wherever possible some financial assistance to ASEAN, particularly to the new members of ASEAN.
18. The Meeting also welcome China's invitation to Naning Expo and China's offer on training programmes for the ASEAN Member Countries.

India

19. The ASEAN +1 with India was co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Jamaludin Jarjis, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia and H.E. Kapil Sibal, Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences.
20. In addition to the on-going active collaboration programmes between ASEAN and India in the fields of Biotechnology, ICT, Advanced materials and space technology applications, the Meeting thanked India for its offer to cooperate in relevant initiatives in the areas of infectious diseases; food security and natural disaster, among others.
21. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed India's initiatives to promote ASEAN as its partner for the Technology Summit and Technology Platform (TSTP) 2007 on 6-7 November 2006 in New Delhi, India. The ASEAN Ministers agreed that the ASEAN Delegation be led by Ministerial level participation of all ASEAN Member countries including representatives from the private sectors to the TSTP in India. The Malaysian Minister expressed his keenness to participate and lead the ASEAN Delegation. Under unforeseen circumstances, if the Malaysian Minister is not able to do so, then another Minister from another ASEAN Member country would lead the Delegation.

Australia and New Zealand

22. The ASEAN Ministers and Heads of Delegation decided to meet the Heads of Delegations from Australia and New Zealand together with the consent of all parties concerned. The Informal Meeting of ASEAN + Australia and New Zealand were co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Jamaludin Jarjis, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia with H.E. Pat Farmer, the Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Education, Science and Training for Australia and Dr. Wynn Ingram, the Representative of the Minister of Research, Science and Technology of New Zealand.
23. The Meeting took note of the ASEAN-New Zealand Framework for Future Cooperation, 2006-2010 that aims to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and New Zealand in the political and security fields, as well as in the economic and socio-cultural development and a number of projects and programmes have been identified.
24. The Meeting welcomed Australia's and New Zealand's willingness to further the cooperation in the areas of human resource development, disasters mitigation or management and food security. ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand agreed to look into R&D collaboration in areas of mutual interest.
25. The Ministers of ASEAN and ASEAN Dialogue Partners and Members of their Delegations and the Organising Committee of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia conveyed their full hearted gratitude and thanked to His Royal Highness the Sultan of Pahang, the people and the Government of the State of Pahang for their support and warm hospitality.

Chairman's Press Statement for the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology between ASEAN and Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand

Kuantan, Malaysia, 29 August 2006

The Informal Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology Between ASEAN and Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand was held on 29 August 2006 at the side of the 4th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology in Kuantan, Pahang. This Informal Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Sri Dr. Jamaludin bin Dato' Mohd. Jarjis Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia and co-chaired by H.E. Minister Matsuda, Minister for Science and Technology Policy of Japan, who had earlier proposed the idea of convening an Asian Science and Technology Ministerial Meeting. The Meeting provided the opportunity for the Ministers and Heads of Delegations for Science and Technology of Member Countries of ASEAN to meet with their counterparts from Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand. All Ministers and Heads of Delegation of ASEAN Member Countries and ASEAN's other Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and the Deputy Secretary-General of

ASEAN, and members of their delegations were present at the Informal Meeting.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation exchanged views on various matters pertaining to regional cooperation as they recognised the potential benefits from regional cooperation in the field of science and technology at large. The Ministers shared the views that the following areas are promising for regional cooperation: technology for disaster contingency planning, infectious diseases, energy and environment, human resource development in S&T, collaboration in new emerging technologies such as biotechnology and nanotechnology, and international industry-academia-government collaboration.

The Ministers discussed regional and international developments, in particular on energy security and disaster management and emergency response. ASEAN welcomed the continued support by the Dialogue Partners in regional cooperation on regional disaster management and relief. The Meeting acknowledged that energy security should be strengthened through interdependence and cooperation to ensure greater access to adequate, reliable and cost-effective energy supply to achieve economic, social and environmental objectives.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegations recognised the importance of promoting joint study, exchange of researchers, and industry-academia collaboration across national boundaries. They welcomed the proposal from Japan to construct an Open-Access Database to promote regional cooperation in the area of science and technology.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegations shared the view that the Informal Meeting offered an exceptional opportunity to promote regional cooperation and propose to convene the meeting of 16 countries. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations requested the ASEAN Secretariat and other 6 countries to prepare the formality of the meeting as soon as possible.

The Ministers of ASEAN and ASEAN Dialogue Partners and Members of their Delegations and the Organising Committee of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia conveyed their full hearted gratitude and thanked to His Royal Highness the Sultan of Pahang, the people and the Government of the State of Pahang for their support and warm hospitality.

ASEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND IT MINISTERS MEETING (TELMIN)

Brunei Action Plan

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
19 September 2006

“Enhancing ICT Competitiveness: Capacity Building”

The ASEAN Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology, gathered in Brunei Darussalam from 18–19 September 2006, for the 6th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting,

UPHOLDING the ASEAN Leaders’ focus in promoting development, economic integration and growth and narrowing the development gap, through technology transfer, infrastructure development, capacity building, good governance, and trade and investment expansion;¹

NOTING the 11th ASEAN Summit’s target date for the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015;

RECOGNISING the Tunis Commitment in our desire and commitment to build a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, so that people everywhere can create, access, utilise and share information and knowledge, to achieve their full potential and to attain the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;

RECALLING the Ministerial Understanding on ASEAN Cooperation in Telecommunications and Information Technology concluded at the First TELMIN in Kuala Lumpur in 2001 which sets out the institutional working mechanism of ASEAN TELMIN, TELSOM and TELSOM Working Groups as well as the objectives on ASEAN cooperation in telecommunications and information technology;

RECALLING ALSO the on-going efforts of TELSOM in carrying out the subsequent instructions contained in the TELMIN Manila Declaration 2002, Singapore Declaration 2003 and Ha Noi Agenda 2005;

EMBRACING the goals, strategic thrusts and measures as stated in the ASEAN ICT Focus 2005-2010;

ENCOURAGING new initiatives from ASEAN Member Countries and Dialogue Partners in promoting the ICT competitiveness of the region;

ACKNOWLEDGING the contributions of ASEAN Member Countries to the ASEAN ICT Fund starting this year to support the ASEAN ICT Work Programmes;

ACKNOWLEDGING the work of the four Working Groups of TELSOM; namely ASEAN Information Infrastructure (All), e-Commerce and ICT Trade Facilitation (EC&ITF), e-Society and ICT Capacity Building (ES&ICB) and Universal Access, Digital Divide and e-Government (UADD&e-Gov’t), as well as the ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators’ Council (ATRC), which are the vital pillars of TELMIN’s work mandate to realise ASEAN’s ICT vision and goals;

NOTING with satisfaction the ATRC’s initiatives on expansion of the scope of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) to cover a greater number of telecommunication equipment traded in the ASEAN region as well as the development of best practice guidelines on competition and public consultation processes;

WE HEREBY AGREE TO THIS PLAN OF ACTION:

1. Build ASEAN capacity, which is a vital component in enhancing ICT competitiveness, by:
 - (a) Intensifying capacity building and training programmes to facilitate cross border electronic transactions and the use of electronic signatures, with the continued support of Dialogue Partners and other international organisations;
 - (b) Enhancing capacity building activities to support the development of e-readiness and ICT masterplans of ASEAN Member Countries by 2008;
 - (c) Pursuing the development of ASEAN professional ICT skills standards through knowledge sharing of best practises on various national ICT skills standards and certification mechanism;
 - (d) Intensifying capacity building and training programmes for national Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs);
 - (e) Supporting local content development to increase ICT usage at all levels of society in 2007; and

- (f) Promoting the widespread use of ICT as a tool to boost capacity building in respective ASEAN Member Countries, across all genders and segments of society, including homeworkers, beginning 2007.
2. Develop the ASEAN Information Infrastructure as the foundation for the sustainable development of an information society by:
 - (a) Strengthening the region's cyber-security network by expanding the ASEAN CERT Incident Drills to include ASEAN's Dialogue Partners in 2007; and
 - (b) Deepening policy and regulatory cooperation in 2007 to deal with the opportunities and challenges in the area of Next Generation Networks, including convergence issues and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).
 3. Achieve broader economic and social benefits through wider access to ICT by:
 - (a) Exploring open standards and open source technologies to increase ICT access and interoperability;
 - (b) Facilitating affordable universal access and connectivity through using new technology, for example, wireless broadband, particularly for rural and remote communities;
 - (c) Promoting ASEAN-wide online services through the development of local and ASEAN content, and the delivery of government, social and commercial services through the internet; and
 - (d) Facilitating the development of ASEAN research and education networks beginning 2007.
 4. Facilitate ICT trade and electronic commerce by addressing non-tariff barriers to trade, as well as to lay the policy and legal infrastructure for electronic commerce by:
 - (a) Welcoming more participation in the ASEAN MRA on telecom equipment, taking into account the recently expanded scope of the ASEAN MRA;
 - (b) Sharing best practices in implementing telecommunications competition policies;
 - (c) Fostering the preparation of domestic legislation in all ASEAN Members to enable e-Commerce transactions;
 - (d) Facilitating mutual recognition of digital signatures to enable cross border transactions in ASEAN; and
 - (e) Establishing a networking forum between ASEAN's and Dialogue Partners' businesses as a platform to promote trade and investment.
 5. Exchange information on, and where appropriate harmonise, policies and regulations to increase ASEAN's ICT competitiveness and welcoming the implementation of the ATRC 2006 - 2007 workplan, particularly in the areas of:
 - (a) Mobile Number Portability and International Mobile Roaming Charges;
 - (b) Wireless Broadband deployment, including in rural areas; and
 - (c) Prepaid SIM Card Registration.
 6. Engage the private sector and youths by:
 - (a) Strengthening cooperation with e-ASEAN Business Council (e-ABC) by facilitating high-level strategic dialogues between ASEANICT communities and TELMIN;
 - (b) Encouraging the e-ABC to play a leading role in promoting ASEAN as an attractive region for ICT investment; and
 - (c) Working with institutes of higher learning to establish a dedicated forum for ASEAN youths to address their ICT capacity building needs in areas such as applications software development, digital content development, and e-learning beginning 2007.
 7. Forge links with strategic partners and key ICT international organisations to pool our resources and expertise by:
 - (a) Deepening cooperative activities with Dialogue Partners, in particular China, the European Commission, India, Japan and Korea, particularly in the areas of ICT technology such as broadband, RFID, content development, standards, Internet exchanges, emerging new technologies, telecom network security and ICT infrastructure, and in information exchange of knowledge and best practices; and
 - (b) Continuing the engagement of international organisations like the ITU and APT through regular dialogues, and collaborative projects, particularly in the areas of capacity building, especially in human resource development.
 8. Strengthen our institutional foundations to achieve the programs elaborated above, by:
 - (a) Commencing the use of the ASEAN ICT Fund to initiate key ICT projects in 2007, and to call upon our strategic partners to commit similar resources to these projects;
 - (b) Ensuring effective and efficient utilisation of the ASEAN ICT Fund for projects of mutual benefit to all ASEAN countries;
 - (c) Setting up of the ASEAN ICT Centre (AICTC) by 31 March 2007 to manage and administer the ASEAN ICT Work Programme; and
 - (d) Encouraging the establishment of Centres of ICT Excellence in respective ASEAN Member Countries that could serve as test beds or proof of concept for new ICT technologies, applications and services beginning 2007.
 9. To enhance ICT competitiveness and to realise the above Plan of Action, the ASEAN ICT Priority Projects, as per attached ANNEX A, shall be implemented in 2007.

Adopted at the 6th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN), 19 September 2006, Brunei Darussalam.

ANNEX A

ASEAN ICT PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN 2007

ASEAN INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Engaging ASEAN Dialogue Partners in ASEAN Computer Emergency Response Teams Incidence Drills (ACID II);
2. Training Workshop on Open Document Format (ODF);
3. Capacity Building Training on the Establishment of CERT for Lao PDR and Cambodia;

E-COMMERCE AND ICT TRADE FACILITATION

4. ASEAN ICT e-Mall to Facilitate ICT Trading;

E-SOCIETY AND ICT CAPACITY BUILDING

5. Use of ICTs to Empower Homeworkers in ASEAN Countries;
6. ASEAN Workshop on Public Domain and Content Development;
7. E-Learning: e-Culture/e-Heritage for Youth;
8. ASEAN ICT Skills Standards Development;

UNIVERSAL ACCESS, DIGITAL DIVIDE AND E-GOVERNMENT

9. Engage ASEAN Dialogue Partners in IPv6 Capacity Building Initiatives;
10. Developing a Framework for a Research and Education Network (REN); and
11. Free/Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS) Distribution Kiosks.

Joint Media Statement 6th ASEAN Telecommunications & IT Ministers Meeting

**Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam,
18-19 September 2006**

Enhancing ICT Competitiveness: Capacity Building

Opening Ceremony

1. His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Deputy Sultan, Personal Representative of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, officially opened the 6th ASEAN Telecommunications & IT Ministers Meeting (6th TELMIN).
2. In his Keynote Speech, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Deputy Sultan, Personal Representative of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, emphasised the increasingly important role of the ICT sector in shaping the competitiveness of individuals, nations and groupings such as ASEAN, as well as in increasing productivity, efficiency, cost-savings and hence competitiveness. He expressed that for ASEAN to successfully compete in a borderless world, Member Countries must move towards becoming early adopters of ICTs. He stressed on the importance to find ways and means for capacity building at all levels in enhancing ASEAN's ICT competitiveness. He believed that all ASEAN Member Countries must work together in a concerted manner towards a more even and widespread development of ICT in the region, both in terms of infrastructure and human resource development.
3. H.E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Communications for Brunei Darussalam, chaired the 6th TELMIN, which was preceded by the 7th ASEAN Telecommunications & IT Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM) and the TELSOM Meetings with the Dialogue Partners (China, Japan, Korea and India) on 14-16 September 2006.

Brunei Action Plan: Building ASEAN Capacity

4. The Ministers reviewed the progress and achievements in the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Focus 2005-2010, the 2005 Ha Noi ICT Action Agenda, and in particular the e-ASEAN Integration Roadmap and the Vientiane Action Programme's (VAP) telecommunications and IT action agenda. The Ministers discussed common issues in creating a conducive, competitive and sustainable ICT environment, developing digital content, ensuring network security, as well as on important initiatives for

strengthening human and institutional capacities in the ASEAN ICT sector.

5. The Ministers highlighted on the importance of building capacity in areas such as ICT literacy, full integration of ICTs in education and training at all levels and creation of critical mass of qualified and skilled ICT professionals and experts. The Ministers stressed that enhancing ASEAN's competitiveness in such areas is crucial in ensuring ASEAN's relevance in the borderless world.
6. The Ministers endorsed the Brunei Action Plan which outlined a programme of action in building ASEAN capacity to enhance the region's competitiveness in the ICT sector.
7. The Ministers were pleased that the ASEAN ICT Fund is actively in place with the first contributions received from the Member Countries. The Ministers agreed that the ASEAN ICT Fund supports the priority projects/initiatives for timely implementation in 2007 under the Brunei Action Plan.
8. The Ministers endorsed the operational plan for the ASEAN ICT Centre (AICTC), with home-based seconded officials, to strengthen the management and coordination mechanisms in the implementation of ASEAN ICT Focus and Work Programmes. The Ministers welcomed the deployment of the first set of seconded AICTC officials next year. The Centre's Programme Director and the two Deputy Directors will be seconded from Malaysia and Indonesia and Viet Nam, respectively.

ATRC Work Agenda

9. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council (ATRC) for the notable achievements under the ATRC Work Plan 2005-2006, particularly in the areas of network/cyber-security, next generation networks, Radio Frequency Identification and MRA -telecoms equipment trade facilitation activities.
10. The Ministers also noted with satisfaction the ATRC Work Plan 2006-2007, which covered new initiatives on international mobile roaming charges, mobile number portability, prepaid SIM registration, information sharing on consumer protection, among others. The Ministers noted that ATRC formed working groups to study further these important concerns.

ASEAN Cyber-Security Cooperation

11. Building on the success of the ASEAN Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) Incident Drills (ACID) held on 28 July 2006, the Ministers welcomed the proposal to launch a second phase of the Drills (ACID II), expanded to include ASEAN Dialogue Partners, to test participating countries' responses to simulate computer attacks and further strengthen cooperation amongst national CERTs.

Forging Strategic Links with ASEAN Dialogue Partners

12. The Ministers welcomed the regular dialogues and collaborative projects with the Dialogue Partners such as China, European Union, India, Japan and Korea. The Ministers also welcomed intensified partnership with ASEAN dialogue partners and key international organisations like the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) to achieve

synergistic and innovative approaches in enhancing cooperation in the ASEAN ICT sector.

13. The Ministers looked forward to the implementation of the cooperation work plans with China (Plan of Action to Implement the Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development), Korea (ICT Cooperation for Co-Prosperity in East Asia 2007-2011), and Japan (Asia Broadband Programme: ICT Cooperation with ASEAN). The Ministers also looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN – India ICT Ministerial and Industry Forums in 2007. The Ministers were pleased with the Plus Three Countries' (China, Japan and Korea) commitment to further boost human development capacities of ASEAN ICT professionals and experts.

e-ASEAN Youth and e-ASEAN Business Council

14. The Ministers agreed to revitalise the e-ASEAN Youth Forum and the e-ASEAN Business Council, by ensuring that the work activities and priorities are relevant and supportive of the ASEAN ICT Focus/ Work Programmes.
15. The Ministers extended full support to Viet Nam's hosting of Asia – Europe ICT Ministers Meeting in 30 November – 1 December 2006 in Ha Noi.
16. Cambodia will be hosting the Seventh ASEAN Telecommunications & IT Ministers Meeting (7th TELMIN) and Related Meetings in 2007.

The Meeting was attended by:

H. E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Communications, Brunei Darussalam; H. E. Dr. Sean Bun Chin, Secretary of State, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Sofyan A. Djalil, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik, Minister of Energy, Water and Communications, Malaysia; H.E. Brig. Gen. Thein Zaw, Minister of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Ramon P. Sales, Chairman (Secretary), Commission on Information and Communications Technology, Philippines; H.E. Dr. Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Kanawat Wasinsungworn, Vice Minister, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Le Nam Thang, Vice Minister, Ministry of Posts and Telematics, Viet Nam; and; H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Chairman's Press Statement ASEAN TELMIN + 1 Sessions with Dialogue Partners

**Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam,
19 September 2006**

Enhancing ICT Competitiveness: Capacity Building

1. The ASEAN Telecommunications & IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) + 1 with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, China, Japan, Korea and India

were held on 19 September 2006 in Brunei Darussalam, preceded by the TELSOM + 1 on 15-16 September 2006.

2. H.E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Communications for Brunei Darussalam, chaired the TELMIN + 1 Sessions with ASEAN Dialogue Partners. ICT Ministers from ASEAN Member Countries, China, Japan, Korea, India, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN were present.
3. In the TELMIN + 1 Sessions, Ministers discussed regional and international developments in the ICT sector, and in particular, on the practical and strategic actions to foster collective and enduring cooperation in the ICT sector.
4. ASEAN Ministers welcomed the continued assistance by the Dialogue Partners in the timely integration of ICT sector to support ASEAN's vision of an economic community. Technical experts/ officials from the above Dialogue Partner Countries shall be invited to participate in the meetings of the TELSOM Working Groups, to work on and hone synergistic and innovative approaches for joint programmes and initiatives.

China

5. H.E. Mr. Xi Guohua, Vice-Minister for Information Industry of China, co-chaired the 1st TELMIN + China. Ministers expressed satisfaction on the notable achievements under the ASEAN-China Workplan 2006. China participated in the 1st ASEAN-China roundtable on exchange of information on regulatory regimes. The ASEAN-China Information Superhighway Working Group has been established to guide the project feasibility study stage, and plan and steer project implementation in the future. China will continue to cooperate with ASEAN in 2007 covering, among others, pilot project for rural communications and universal service, advancing joint network security activities, and human resource development.
6. Ministers agreed to finalise the Plan of Action to Implement Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development, for signing on the occasion of the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu, the Philippines in December 2006. The Plan of Action covers specific and collective initiatives in the following cooperation areas: Information Infrastructure, Universal Service, Network and Information Security, Trade and Investment Facilitation, and Human Resource Development.

Japan

7. H.E. Mr. Kan'ichiro Aritomi, Vice Minister for Policy Coordination, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, co-chaired the 1st TELMIN + Japan. Ministers noted with appreciation the achievements such as cooperation in network infrastructure development, human resource development, R&D and policy dialogues in the ICT field based on the "Asia Broadband Program" since 2003. The program was revised in August 2006 with emphasis on IPv6, Next Generation Network (NGN) and broadband wireless network.
8. Ministers agreed to intensify cooperation with focus on: a) development of telecommunications infrastructure such as wireless technologies; b) Human Resource Development; c) promoting information awareness and project cooperation on Japanese and other R&D activities; and d) alliances in the standardization and diffusion of NGN. ASEAN Ministers welcomed Japan's new projects for 2007 covering the preparation of e-Government Workshop (in association with the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity), e-Learning

seminar and Technology Assessment Study for Universal Service Obligation (USO). Ministers agreed that ASEAN and Japan can share experiences and complement each others' advantages and strengths for mutual benefit.

Korea

9. H.E. Mr. Young Hwan Yoo, Vice Minister of Information and Communication, co-chaired the 1st TELMIN + Korea. Ministers lauded the successful completion of the "Special Project for Bridging the Digital Divide in East Asia" since 2002 which provided significant benefit to ASEAN Member Countries in ICT policy and technology consultations, establishment of Internet Access Centers (in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines and Viet Nam), ICT research cooperation and international ICT fora and exchanges.
10. ASEAN Ministers welcomed Korea's commitment to share experiences and ICT strategies for mutual prosperity of East Asia and in strengthening support of the ASEAN ICT Focus 2005-2010. Ministers looked forward to the expeditious implementation of the new project - "ICT Cooperation towards Co-Prosperity in East Asia 2007-2011" which aims to enhance the ICT industry and address digital divide in four key areas: Consultation on ICT Policy and Information Infrastructure, Human Resources Development in ICT, and Reducing Digital Divide, Dispatch of Korean Expert Groups, and Establishment of the ASEAN-Korea u-ICT Forum.

India

11. H.E. Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, co-chaired the Second TELMIN + India. Ministers noted with appreciation the developments in the ASEAN-India ICT cooperation for the last one year, in the capacity building of ASEAN ICT professionals in information security, e-learning and e-learning technologies and in assistive technologies for visually impaired people.
12. Ministers looked forward to the timely implementation of two priority projects in 2007; the E-Network Project which will provide high quality educational and health services to the CLMV countries through a tele-education and tele-medicine satellite-based network; and convening of the India-ASEAN IT Ministerial and Industry Forums to bring together ICT industries for business and trade networking and alliance. India will also assist ASEAN in building ASEAN's capacity in rural communications and in strengthening ICT policy and regulatory frameworks.

Next TELMIN + 1 Meetings

ICT Ministers from ASEAN and Dialogue Partners will meet in Cambodia in 2007.

The Meeting was attended by:

H. E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Communications, Brunei Darussalam; H. E. Dr. Sean Bun Chin, Secretary of State, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Xi Guohua, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Information Industry, China; H.E. Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, Minister of State for Communications and IT, Ministry of Communications and IT, India; H.E. Dr. Sofyan A. Djalil, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Kan'ichiro Aritomi, Vice Minister for Policy Coordination, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan; H.E. Mr. Young Hwan Yoo, Vice Minister of Information and Communication, Republic of Korea;

H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik, Minister of Energy, Water and Communications, Malaysia; H.E. Brig. Gen. Thein Zaw, Minister of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Ramon P. Sales, Chairman (Secretary), Commission on Information and Communications Technology, Philippines; H.E. Dr. Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Kanawat Wasinsungworn, Vice Minister, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Le Nam Thang, Vice Minister, Ministry of Posts and Telematics, Viet Nam; and H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN TOURISM MINISTERS MEETING (M-ATM)

Joint Media Statement of the 9th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers

Davao, Philippines, 16 January 2006

1. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers held their Ninth Meeting (9th M-ATM) on 16 January 2006 in Davao, Philippines in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2006 (ATF 2006). H.E. Mr. Joseph H. Durano, Secretary, Department of Tourism, Philippines chaired the Meeting together with the co-chair H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore.

ASEAN Tourism Performance and Challenges

2. The Ministers were pleased that tourist arrivals in ASEAN reached more than 44 million by the end of 2005, reflecting an increase of more than 4.7 per cent, compared to 2004. The region remained resilient in attracting improved tourist arrivals. The Ministers expressed the importance of having the industry working together with a strong sense of common purpose.

Fast Tracking the Integration of Tourism in ASEAN

3. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the 11th ASEAN Summit which seeks to integrate the tourism sector at an even faster pace. The Ministers endorsed the recommendation of the ASEAN NTOs to adopt the proposed changes for Phase 2 of Roadmap for Integration of Tourism Sector and the proposed strategies to accelerate the Integration of Tourism Services and Air Travel in ASEAN.

ASEAN Tourism Investment Forum

4. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the ASEAN Tourism Investment Forum on 9 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which provided a significant platform to showcase tourism investment opportunities of the region. In recognition of its importance and benefits obtained from the event, the Ministers agreed that Indonesia and Philippines would host the ATIF in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

Visit ASEAN Campaign (VAC) Further Promoted

5. The Ministers were satisfied with the Media Plan of the next phase of VAC particularly on the production of ASEAN posters; the exchange of Audio Video Promotional (AVP) materials among Member

Countries; the production of an AVP featuring ASEAN key attributes; and improving ASEAN tourism website.

6. The Ministers also welcomed efforts by the tourism industry through the ASEAN Tourism Association (ASEANTA) in promoting the VAC, particularly reinventing the ASEAN Hip Hop Pass into the more flexible and user-friendly Visit ASEAN Pass (Vap!). They emphasized the importance of branding and encouraged the tourism industry to continue to reinvent to further promote inter- and intra-ASEAN travel.
7. The Ministers recognized the significant contribution of youth travellers and agreed to target this market segment by creating suitable tourism products and promotional activities.
8. The Ministers tasked the senior officials with the ASEAN Secretariat to study effective strategies, programs and mechanism to move forward the joint promotion of ASEAN as a single destination and the possible establishment of ASEAN Tourism Centers in major international markets and within ASEAN; and the common ASEAN area at major international tourism events.

Enhancing Facilitation of Travel for Tourists

9. The Ministers raised the urgent need for the establishment of an ASEAN Single Visa to facilitate the travel of international tourists within the region and encouraged immigration authorities to consider the matter.
10. Recognizing the far-reaching impact of an open-sky policy on tourism development in the region, the Ministers welcomed the efforts being undertaken by ASEAN Transport Ministers to work towards the possible conclusion of multilateral agreements for passengers in line with the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Air Travel Sector. The Ministers also encouraged Transport officials to expedite the arrangements for direct flights amongst ASEAN Member Countries and to provide more air traffic rights in order to improve the connectivity of inter- and intra-ASEAN routes, particularly secondary cities.

Strengthening Tourism Manpower

11. The Ministers were pleased to note the completion of the ASEAN Common Competency Standards for Tourism Professionals (ACCSTP) which had successfully identified 33 tourism job-titles common competency framework. The Ministers agreed to formalize Technical Reference Group in each Member Country as formal technical committee for future development of ACCSTP. The Ministers welcomed the decision of ASEAN NTOs to task the Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development to prepare the MRA for eventual signing in December 2006.

Establishing Tourism Standards for Quality Assurance

12. The Ministers noted the finalization of the criteria and requirements of ASEAN Tourism Standards covering hotel, tourism heritage, eco-tourism site, home stay, food and beverage and public restroom. The Minister urged the Task Force on Tourism Standards to identify the performance indicators and the detailed delivery mechanism of these standards. The Ministers acknowledged the following tourism sites as ASEAN Tourism Heritage Sites: Ulu Temburong National Park, Angkor Wat, Kampung Naga, Luang Prabang, Mulu National Park, Mrauk U, Ifugao Rice Terraces, Malay Heritage Centre, Sam Chuk and Halong Bay.

Enhancing Crisis Communications

13. The Ministers noted the progress made by ASEAN Crisis Communications Team (ACCT) in finalizing the framework, action plan and manual for crisis communications for ASEAN. In view of the current threat of Avian flu, the Ministers urged the ACCT to quickly operationalize the framework, action plan and manual for crisis communications and welcomed the move by ACCT to take immediate steps to prepare its members to deal with a crisis situation.

ASEAN Protects Children in Tourism

14. The Ministers supported the regional education campaign as unified approach to combating the sexual exploitation of children in tourism destinations of ASEAN by Child Wise International.

Fortifying Cooperation with Other Countries

15. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+1 Summits held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 12-14 December 2005 and committed ASEAN to implement the tourism-related activities to further strengthen their partnership with ASEAN Dialogue Partners. The Ministers thanked the ASEAN-Japan Centre for its active support to tourism development activities in the region, particularly in handling the Japanese market.

ASEAN Tourism Forum 2006

16. The Ministers were pleased that the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) held in Davao, Philippines from 13 January to 21 January 2006 with the theme: "Celebrating the Many Faces of ASEAN" has brought more than 369 foreign tourism companies as buyers to Davao to explore business opportunities in tourism with about 815 sellers in ASEAN. They welcomed the efforts by the tourism industry in organizing 412 tourism booths and the participation of 171 media agencies in providing timely coverage of ATF 2006 to peoples of ASEAN and our friends all over the world. The Ministers acknowledged CNN International as the "Official International Cable and Satellite Media Partner" for VAC 2006.

Future ATFs

17. The Ministers agreed that ATF 2007 and ATF 2008 will be held in Singapore and Thailand respectively. They further agreed to convene the Tenth and Eleventh Meetings of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers in conjunction with ATF 2007 and ATF 2008.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Dr. Awg Haji Ahmad Haji Jumat, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Lay Prohas, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Jero Wacik, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Somphong Mongkhonvilay, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Chairman of Lao National Tourism Administration, Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Dr. Leo Michael Toyad, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia; H.E. Brigadier General Aye Myint Kyu, Vice Minister for Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Joseph H. Durano, Secretary, Department of Tourism, Philippines; H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Thavatchai Sajakul, Vice Minister of Tourism and Sports, Thailand; H.E. Dr. Pham Tu, Vice-Chairman of Vietnam National Administration of Tourism, Vietnam; and H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

IV. ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

ASEAN EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING (ASED)

Joint Statement from the 1st ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting and 41st SEAMEO Council Conference

Singapore, 23 March 2006

INTRODUCTION

1. Education Ministers (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministers") and senior education officials from Southeast Asian countries gathered in Singapore on 21 – 23 March 2006 for the 1st ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED) and the 41st Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Council Conference.
2. The ASED was institutionalised as a regular ASEAN Meeting by the ASEAN Leaders at the 11th ASEAN Summit held in Malaysia in December 2005. The ASEAN Education Ministers had earlier agreed, during their informal retreat held in Thailand in August 2005, that the ASED would be held back-to-back with the annual meeting of the SEAMEO Council Conference.
3. The 41st SEAMEO Council Conference was officially opened by His Excellency Professor S Jayakumar, Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Law, Singapore. SEAMEO is pleased to admit the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as the 11th Member Country and welcome them to the conference.
4. Apart from the Education Ministers from the Southeast Asian countries, the ASEAN Secretary General, SEAMEO Secretariat Director, senior education officials from the Associate Member Countries of SEAMEO, namely Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand and Norway, partner organisations and observers also attended the Conference. The meetings were supported by the ASEAN Secretariat and SEAMEO Secretariat.
5. In addition to reviewing the plans and programmes of SEAMEO units and exchanging views on education issues, the Ministers also attended the Art and Design Exhibition and visited schools and education institutions in Singapore. The Art and Design Exhibition "Colours of Southeast Asia" was held in conjunction with the 1st ASED and 41st SEAMEO Council Conference, and showcases the rich culture and heritage of the region through art and design works from the different Southeast Asian countries.

Promotion of ASEAN Identity and Socio-Cultural Community – Building on the Strengths of Our Multi-Ethnic Societies

6. Recognising that ASEAN identity is made up of the different socio-cultural identities of the ASEAN Member Countries, the Ministers at the 1st ASED agreed that ASEAN can draw lessons and opportunities from the experiences of the Member Countries in managing cultural and racial diversity. The Ministers re-affirmed that education plays an important role in the promotion of regional identity and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. The Ministers emphasized the critical role that education has to play in fostering greater inter-cultural,

inter-religious and inter-racial understanding within and between societies in the region.

7. The Ministers also noted that there are currently many activities and programmes that enhance interactions and exchanges among students and educationists in the region on a bilateral or ASEAN wide basis. The Ministers shared the view that in order to strengthen awareness and understanding of ASEAN amongst the young, these existing interactions and exchanges should be deepened, as well as expanded to include more Member Countries.
8. To realise the vision of a cohesive and outward-looking ASEAN Community, the ASEAN Education Ministers agreed on the following initiatives:
 - a. Strengthen educational resources available to each member country in the area of ASEAN studies. This can be done through the use of ICT in developing and updating information among the ASEAN countries. The ASEAN Secretariat will work with the Member Countries and the SEAMEO Secretariat to compile source books on ASEAN, which will serve as useful resource materials for schools in ASEAN.
 - b. Strengthen activities that bring ASEAN students and teachers together through more ASEAN studies to engender the ASEAN consciousness; and through more people-to-people interactions to strengthen the bonds and foster the ASEAN identity.
 - c. Initiate and support a parallel collaborative process among researchers and academics of ASEAN Member Countries on the role of education in addressing the challenges and opportunities of multi-ethnic societies and the diverse ASEAN community. This aims to generate useful and relevant outputs to inform ASEAN's education policy-makers. To this end, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies of Singapore will facilitate a collaborative study and the organisation of a conference to discuss the findings of the study. Recommendations from the study will be reported to the Ministers at the 2nd ASED.

Quality in Education – Responding to National Development Priorities

9. At the Policy Forum of the 41st SEAMEO Council Conference, Singapore gave a briefing on the evolution of Singapore's education system - "The Role of Education in National Development". Participants noted the changing priorities and policies in response to the changing developmental and socio-economic needs of the country over the decades since independence.
10. The SEAMEO Ministers also shared and discussed their respective national education experiences and priorities. The Ministers agreed to strengthen collaborations in 3 key areas :
 - a. Language Education. Noting the challenges in the teaching of mother tongue, national language and English, the Ministers agreed on the need to share and learn from one another's experiences, including use of IT in language education.
 - b. Vocational/Technical Education. The Ministers recognised the important role of vocational and technical education in supporting the economic development of a country, and agreed to study ways to facilitate deeper sharing of experiences and best practices among member countries in the area of vocational and technical education.

- c. **School Leadership.** School leadership is key to enhancement of education in schools. The Ministers therefore agreed that special focus should be accorded to the selection and training of school leaders. In this respect, the Ministers noted, with appreciation, the sponsorship offer by Singapore for two school leaders from each Southeast Asian country to attend the International Leaders in Education Programme (iLEP) at the National Institute of Education, Singapore in September 2006. Through the iLEP, school leaders from the region will have the opportunity to engage in deliberations on educational leadership and exchange views on leading and promoting innovation in schools. At the same time, the iLEP will facilitate the building of a learning and sharing network among school leaders from SEAMEO Member Countries.

Next Steps

11. The Ministers tasked the Senior Officials responsible for Education to follow up and coordinate the implementation and study of the ideas and initiatives raised at the 1st ASED and 41st SEAMEO Council Conference. The Ministers also requested that their initiatives on promoting regional identity be highlighted to the ASEAN Leaders at the 12th ASEAN Summit to be held in the Philippines in December 2006.
12. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Singapore for her hospitality as host of the 1st ASED and 41st SEAMEO Council Conference. The 2nd ASED and 42nd SEAMEO Council Conference will be held in Indonesia in 2007.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)

Cebu Resolution on Sustainable Development

Cebu, Philippines, 10 November 2006

Recalling the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) to establish an ASEAN Community comprising three pillars, namely political and security cooperation, economic cooperation, and socio-cultural cooperation that are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing for the purpose of ensuring durable peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region;

Welcoming the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), the medium-term roadmap for the period 2004-2010 which sets out specific programme areas and measures to achieve the goal of establishing the ASEAN Community;

Noting the emphasis of the VAP towards nurturing human, cultural and natural resources of the region for sustained development in a harmonious and people-centred ASEAN through the socio-cultural pillar;

Encouraged by the sustainable development approach of the VAP which stresses that ASEAN's social and environmental agenda is linked inextricably with the economic and security pillars of the ASEAN Community, that social instability can emerge from environmental

scarcity or the inequitable use of environmental assets, and that failure to address these critical and persistent issues can further cause both economic and political dislocations;

Mindful of the need to address global environmental issues by all parties based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, so that these issues do not cause adverse impact to the prosperity of the region; and

Determined to further enhance environmental cooperation in order to achieve an environmentally sustainable ASEAN Community.

We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member Countries responsible for the environment, do hereby:

Express our satisfaction on the progress of implementation of environmental programmes and measures and related activities in the VAP, and resolve to further enhance regional cooperation;

Reiterate our commitment to address global environmental issues through national and regional cooperation and active participation at international fora, and call upon the global community to continue to work with us to enhance such collaboration;

Launch the Third ASEAN State of the Environment Report 2006 which highlights the environmental conditions of the region, challenges faced and actions being taken to address them, while inviting all parties to foster greater collaboration to address these challenges;

Express our serious concern over the recurring transboundary haze pollution which was aggravated by the extended drier weather condition during El Nino years, and resolve to further enhance preventive, monitoring and mitigation efforts to address land and forest fires;

Commit to continue assisting member countries affected by land and forest fires within the framework of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, and for this purpose encourage the remaining member countries to quickly ratify the Agreement;

Establish the Sub-regional Ministerial Steering Committee consisting of Ministers from the 5 most affected countries namely Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand to oversee the implementation of concrete actions to address land and forest fires and the resulting transboundary haze pollution.

Express our full support and commitment to the effective operations of the recently established ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, located in the Philippines, to promote biodiversity conservation in the region, and in this respect express our appreciation to the EU for providing financial support to participating member countries for the first three-and-half years of operations of the Centre;

Agree to expedite the respective national process for signing the ASEAN Framework Agreement on access to, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of, biological and genetic resources, in order to sustainably manage the rich biological resources of the region;

Endorse the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Award to recognise exemplary national efforts in Member Countries and to promote further efforts towards environmental sustainability in ASEAN cities;

Recognise the importance of strengthening national efforts and regional cooperation for effective environmental law enforcement, to address

¹ Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit, Kuala Lumpur, 14 December 2005.

issues such as illegal trade in wildlife. As for illegal logging, there is a need for effective enforcement of forestry law and other related laws, where appropriate;

Express concern over the impact of climate change on ecosystems, in particular water resources, which requires mitigation and adaptation measures to minimise the impacts particularly from flood, drought, landslide, and other water-related hazards;

Commit to enhance further cooperation with the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea under the ASEAN Plus Three Framework through regular policy dialogues and implementation of activities of common interest; and

Express our appreciation to dialogue partners, international and regional organisations, and other countries that have collaborated with us in promoting sustainable development initiatives, and call upon these and other prospective partners to further enhance their collaboration.

Joint Press Statement of the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment

Cebu, Philippines, 10 November 2006

Ministers responsible for environment from the ten ASEAN Member Countries held their formal 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Cebu, the Philippines on 10th November, 2006. The Ministers reviewed regional cooperation on a number of environmental activities in particular those related activities in the Vientiane Action Programme 2006-2010. The Ministers welcomed the sustainable development approach of the VAP which stresses that ASEAN's social and environmental agenda is linked inextricably with the economic and security pillars of the ASEAN Community, and resolved to work towards an environmentally sustainable ASEAN Community.

The Ministers adopted the Cebu Resolution on Sustainable Development.

The Ministers launched the Third ASEAN State of the Environment Report 2006 which highlights the environmental conditions of the region, challenges faced and actions being taken to address them. The Ministers expressed the hope that the report would help all parties to better appreciate regional environmental issues and foster greater collaboration.

In the light of the recent haze episode in the region, the Ministers discussed at length the transboundary haze pollution issue. The First Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution held on 9 November 2006 endorsed its Terms of Reference and Indonesia's Plan of Action in Dealing with Transboundary Haze Pollution. Indonesia will chair the MSC for the first two (2) years. The MSC also agreed with Indonesia's proposal that Member Countries of the MSC may, through the Central Government of Indonesia, wish to adopt one or more fire-prone districts/regencies for enhancing capacity to deal with land and forest fires.

The MSC also recognised the urgency and importance of following up on the Regional Workshop in Jakarta on 2 November, 2006 by organising

a high-level international conference in December 2006 in Indonesia to generate support and partnership for the implementation of the PoA.

The Ministers expressed their full support and commitment to the effective operations of the recently established ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, hosted by the Philippines. The Ministers also agreed to expedite the signing of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on access to, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of, biological and genetic resources, and to promote further listing of ASEAN Heritage Parks, in order to sustainably manage the rich biological resources of the region.

The Ministers agreed to institute an ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Award to recognize exemplary national efforts in Member Countries and to promote further efforts towards environmental sustainability in ASEAN cities.

The Ministers also recognized the importance of strengthening national efforts and regional cooperation for effective environmental law enforcement, to address issues such as illegal trade in wildlife. As for illegal logging, there is a need for effective enforcement of forestry law and other related laws, where appropriate.

ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON HAZE

Ha Noi Statement on Promoting Partnerships for the Implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 11-13 May 2006

1. The Conference on Promoting Partnerships for the Implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution was held on 11-13 May 2006 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Conference was jointly organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam and the ASEAN Secretariat, with funding support from the Government of Viet Nam and the ASEAN-UNDP Partnership Facility.
2. The Conference was held as part of ASEAN's efforts to disseminate and promote better understanding of key aspects of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution; share the progress and articulate further needs for effective implementation of the Agreement; promote and strengthen partnership with relevant regional and international organisations and international donor community; and explore areas of cooperation to meet future challenges of land and forest fires and transboundary haze pollution in the ASEAN region.
3. The Conference was attended by 120 participants from ASEAN Member Countries, Dialogue Partners of ASEAN, relevant regional and international organisations, non-governmental organisations, academia and research institutions, and international donor community. An exhibition was held throughout the Conference to showcase regional and national initiatives and best practices to address fire and transboundary haze pollution.

4. Progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution was highlighted on the first day of the Conference. The ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy, 2006-2020 was also highlighted during the Conference. Detailed discussions were held in working groups on issues related to sustainable management and rehabilitation of peatlands, community-based actions for fire prevention and sustainable management, and partnerships and funding mechanisms. A high-level roundtable involving the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment and senior representatives from regional and international organisations and the international donor community reviewed the recommendations and explored potential areas for collaboration and partnership.
5. The Conference noted with concern the loss and degradation of peatlands in Southeast Asia and recognised that degraded peatlands have been the major source of fires and transboundary haze pollution in the region. The Conference fully supported the implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy, which comprehensively addresses not only the root causes of peatland fires and the associated transboundary haze pollution, but also other critical aspects including biodiversity conservation, socio-economic development, alternative livelihoods, and multi-stakeholder and multi-agency involvement using an ecosystem approach.
6. The Conference noted the many achievements and substantive progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, and that the ASEAN's framework provides a good basis for enhancing coordination and forging partnership in the region.
7. There is much greater cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries including cross border mobilisation of resources to mitigate fires. Emphasis is increasingly placed on prevention rather than suppression, with monitoring continuing to play an important role in both aspects. There has also been greater emphasis for targeted activities on the ground, with the involvement of the local community. However, challenges including eradicating poverty and balancing short-term commercial interests with long-term sustainable development goals need to be addressed.
8. Coordinated efforts at regional, national and local levels should be continued and multi-stakeholder participation should be further promoted. There is also a need to promote greater inter-agency, inter-sectoral and programme coordination in the region.
9. The ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy serves as a good example of addressing the underlying causes, while promoting the ecosystem approach towards multi-stakeholder participation, inter-agency and inter-sectoral coordination. The strategy also provides entry points for all relevant stakeholders to be involved in the implementation of the strategy based on partners' interests and mandate at the community, site-level, country, sub-regional and regional levels.
10. The Conference noted the proposal for the establishment of an International Support Group for ASEAN to disseminate and reach out to regional and international partners. Such mechanisms should build upon the institutional structures in ASEAN.
11. International efforts such as the proposed "Fire Management Code", which is being developed under the auspices of FAO, are useful to galvanise the international community's interests and efforts, and to strengthen activities at the national and regional levels.
12. The Conference supported the proposal for ASEAN Member Countries in the Mekong Region to intensify cooperation to address land and forest fire through the formation of a Sub-Regional Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution for the region. Particular attention will be given to sharing of best practices and techniques, providing alternatives to use of fires for shifting cultivation.
13. The Conference stressed the importance of further disseminating controlled burning practices and alternatives for shifting cultivation for the local community, as well as promoting zero burning practices for commercial purposes. Community-based fire management efforts such as development of community fire brigades, providing incentives and livelihood options for the local community to control open burning practices, disseminating techniques on alternatives to using fires need to be further intensified.
14. The Conference noted that currently resources made available are short-term and project-based, while far more resources are committed for fire suppression and emergency purposes rather than for preventive efforts. Strategies should be developed to mobilise and channel resources to support preventive and mitigation measures that are more long-term in nature. Innovative financing options, including micro-credit financing, market-based instruments, and carbon-related financing should be explored.

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**SUB-REGIONAL MINISTERIAL STEERING
COMMITTEE (MSC) ON TRANSBOUNDARY HAZE
POLLUTION**

**Joint Press Statement
on the Sub-regional Ministerial Meeting
on Transboundary Haze Pollution**

Pekanbaru, Riau, Indonesia, 13 October 2006

The Sub-regional Ministerial Meeting on Transboundary Haze Pollution was held in Pekanbaru on 13 October 2006. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers and other high ranking officials responsible for the environment from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Nine governors of Indonesian provinces, ten regents of the Riau Province as well as representatives of ASEAN Secretariat were also present in the Meeting as observer. The Meeting was conducted in the spirit of cordiality and friendship.

The Meeting discussed urgent measures to jointly tackle the common problem caused by transboundary haze pollution. It underscored the need to promote effective ASEAN cooperation particularly among neighboring countries.

The Meeting assessed the sub-regional efforts to manage the problems caused by transboundary haze pollution and noted the haze problem has not been adequately addressed by the region, while acknowledging the efforts taken by countries in the region. The Meeting was subsequently committed to help each other's efforts to better manage this multifaceted hazard. In this regard, the Meeting appreciated the Indonesian efforts to tackle land and forest fires that resulted in transboundary haze pollution and was committed to support Indonesia in its endeavor.

The Meeting seriously discussed topics of importance, among others, update of regional transboundary haze situation and weather forecast;

progress update by Indonesia of its measures adopted to prevent and mitigate land and forest fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan; and operationalization of the ASEAN transboundary haze pollution control fund to which the Meeting appreciated highly Malaysia's initiative in this regard.

The Meeting respectfully urged Indonesia to urgently finalize the ratification of ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution in accordance with its national law.

During the Meeting, participants brought forward some new ideas and initiatives. In this regard, it noted Indonesia's suggestion that regional cooperation needs to be further strengthened by inter alia empowering the regional standby arrangement in the regional effort to mitigate haze problem and encouraging member countries to contribute to and utilize the fund established under the transboundary haze agreement to operationalise the prevention and mitigation measures. The Meeting resolved to further upgrade and effectively utilise the inventory of fire fighting mechanism.

The Meeting agreed on a regional workshop to be held in Indonesia in early November 2006 to look into new measures to tackle the haze problem, including seeking international expertise so as to develop a comprehensive plan of action with effective monitoring and reporting mechanism.

The Meeting also agreed to set up a Ministerial Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of short and long-term plans to effectively tackle the haze problem. The Committee will comprise the Environment Ministers from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

The formation of the Committee and the outcomes of the regional workshop will be submitted for endorsement at the AMME in Cebu on 9-10 November 2006, and thereafter, to the ASEAN Summit in December 2006. The AMMH will then be convened in Brunei Darussalam in February 2007 to operationalise the decision of the Summit.

Press Statement of the 1st Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution

Cebu City, Philippines, 9 November 2006

1. The First Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution was held on 9 November 2006 in Cebu City, Philippines.
2. The MSC noted that smoke haze affected ASEAN countries, especially Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, and that land and forest fires and smoke haze have also profound socio-economic implications.
3. The MSC further noted that the Sub-Regional Ministerial Meeting (SRMM) on Transboundary Haze Pollution in Pekanbaru, Indonesia, on 13 October 2006, was an important meeting in setting up the MSC and recognising a sustained Plan of Action (PoA) is needed

and the problem should be solved and if necessary with international assistance.

4. The MSC congratulated Indonesia for hosting the Regional Workshop on Developing an Integrated Action Plan on Dealing with Transboundary Haze Pollution on 2 November 2006 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The workshop has been very useful in profiling the issue. Many international and regional organisations have expressed interest during and after the Workshop to participate and assist.
5. The MSC agreed with Indonesia's proposal that Member Countries of the MSC may, through the Central Government of Indonesia, wish to adopt one or more fire-prone districts/regencies for enhancing capacity to deal with land and forest fires.
6. The MSC endorsed the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the MSC on Transboundary Haze Pollution; and Indonesia's Plan of Action in Dealing with Transboundary Haze Pollution.
7. Indonesia will chair the MSC and TWG for the first two (2) years.
8. The MSC also recognises the urgency and importance of following up on the Regional Workshop by organising a high-level international conference in December 2006 in Indonesia to generate support and partnership for the implementation of the PoA.

ASEAN HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING (AHMM)

Declaration of the 8th ASEAN Health Minister Meeting

ASEAN Unity in Health Emergencies

Yangon, Myanmar, 21 June 2006

WE, the Ministers of Health of ASEAN Member Countries, representing Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;

GUIDED by the ASEAN Vision 2020 of a concert of Southeast Asian nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies;

WELCOMING the adoption of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) by our Leaders at their 10th ASEAN Summit in December 2004, to chart the course of action in achieving ASEAN Vision 2020, especially in addressing health development concerns as a prerequisite for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, in support of and linked to the ASEAN Economic and Security Communities;

AWARE that the vision of a stable and secure ASEAN Community can be realised only when our peoples enjoy optimum health, are ensured of treatment, care and support for their diseases, and fully equipped with necessary prevention tools, including timely and accurate information, to be prepared against health emergencies of all sorts;

REAFFIRMING that ASEAN health ministries will continue to be the central driving force in preventing the spread and reducing the

harm of HIV and other infectious diseases in the region; enhancing competitiveness in health-related products and services; strengthening capacity for good clinical practice and clinical trials; addressing priority issues for healthy lifestyles in ASEAN;

COMMITTING to ensure that regional cooperation in health shall be focused on addressing the urgent health needs of ASEAN's peoples, particularly in scaling up individual and collective responses to attain health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); tackling health emergency challenges posed by disaster and disease outbreaks in the region; and adopting a patient-centred approach in building up health human resources to reach out to and service communities in need;

WELCOMING the commitment of ASEAN Leaders to ensure the security of the ASEAN Community through enhanced work in addressing poverty and diseases, and ensuring that the peoples of ASEAN are assured of adequate health care;

ENGOURAGED by the strong support of the ASEAN Leaders who have continued to champion our work, especially in addressing public health emergencies and in tackling AIDS, and their agreement to convene a second Special Session on HIV and AIDS at their next Summit in 2006;

ENCOURAGED ALSO by the success of close collaboration among ASEAN and her partners in implementing a first phase of the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme, the second ASEAN work programme on HIV and AIDS, and in developing the ASEAN Food Safety Improvement Plan and a sixth phase of technical cooperation in pharmaceuticals;

COMMENDING the work of the Senior Officials on Health Development, the ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD) and the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA) in leading priority regional activities that address our aspiration to protect and prepare our peoples against health emergencies;

THANKING the constant support of ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, especially Australia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States who have assisted our efforts against transboundary and infectious diseases, and thanking also the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) who helped us with much of our priority work against AIDS;

CONSCIOUS of our central role in continuing to strengthen and expand joint initiatives among ASEAN and like-minded partners in the wider Asia-Pacific and international community to prepare for challenges caused by recent outbreaks of avian influenza with human health impacts, including a potential pandemic of human influenza;

DO HEREBY COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

ASEAN Unity in Health Emergencies

1. We undertake to lead all necessary efforts in making sure that our communities understand and are prepared for potential public health emergencies such as natural disasters, bioterrorism or outbreaks of communicable diseases, including potential influenza pandemics.
2. We shall strengthen existing capabilities in each of our countries to prepare for these emergencies, by allocating necessary resources for early warning and rapid response to disease outbreaks. We realise that any effort to combat transboundary health emergencies must involve close cooperation among countries.
3. We shall lead national and regional responses in building capacity for disease control. To this end, we shall build up strong national and regional multi-level, multisectoral response teams and establish early warning and reporting mechanisms against potential epidemics. This includes information gathering and sharing, investigation, verification and appropriate response.
4. We shall ensure that our national focal points for disease control are given the needed resources and institutional support to implement the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) programme.
5. We will continue to support the ASEAN Experts Group on communicable Diseases (AEGCD) in implementing the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme, which we had adopted in April 2004. The ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme serves as an integrated action strategy for effective regional surveillance, early warning and response, thus helping all ASEAN Member Countries to be personally prepared for health emergencies that threaten our region. We thank Australia who helped ASEAN implement the first phase activities, and for supporting the development and implementation of a second phase over 2000-2009.
6. We adopt the second phase of the ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme, and call on the AEGCD to work closely with the WHO, and animal health stakeholders in addressing multiple aspects of potential health emergencies arising from avian influenza in poultry. The second phase of the ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme will help us better cope with the health effects of large-scale influenza outbreaks. We will be able to communicate even more rapidly with our partners to identify the pattern of how diseases spread, and share among ourselves the expertise and knowledge of prevention and preparedness issues.
7. We shall ensure that Japan's timely assistance to ASEAN in providing us with a regional stockpile of Oseltamivir and personal protective equipment, is deployed and used by ASEAN Member countries to contain any influenza pandemic should it occur in the region. We congratulate Singapore for taking a coordinating role to house and deploy the regional stockpile.
8. We will ensure that the ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme activities reflect relevant priorities identified by the revised International Health Guidelines (IHR) adopted by the 58th World Health Assembly, in addressing threats to public health in our region and the international community, including that of a potential influenza-related pandemic. The IHR provide the framework for global response to public health emergencies of international concern. Our responses shall include rapid and transparent disease notification, sharing epidemiological data and samples, and providing essential information and recommendations for control measures.
9. We undertake to develop and implement a regional agreement that institutionalises regional monitoring, reporting and response to outbreaks of communicable diseases, and facilitates the deployment of multinational ASEAN outbreak response teams to assist each other in times of emergencies. The regional agreement shall help us standardize our procedures, protocols and institutional arrangements for this purpose.
10. We shall continue to address the consequences of the HIV epidemic, especially to reduce the numbers of new infections,

provide treatment to people living with AIDS, and assist individuals and countries to overcome adverse social and economic impacts. We welcome the preparation of a strategic framework for a Third ASEAN work programme on HIV and AIDS (AWPIII), and the efforts made by the ATFOA to develop an operational work plan.

11. We encourage the ATFOA to continue its excellent work in strengthening collaboration to increase access to affordable drugs; reduce HIV vulnerability of mobile populations; reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission; creating positive environments and reduce stigma and discrimination; and provide treatment, care and support. Innovative strategies have been devised for targeted and effective prevention programmes for populations at high risk of HIV infection. Community capacity has also grown steadily in addressing the social impact of HIV transmission and infection. With the advent of new drug combinations to treat HIV infection and delay the onset of AIDS, there is renewed hope and optimism on further reducing transmission.
12. We shall further invigorate the present momentum of close collaboration among public and private sectors, and civil society in addressing issues of governance; enhancing ASEAN's role in the global policy dialogue; and sharing successful strategies in regional collaboration and problem-solving through the AWPIII. We look forward to working with all partners in continuing ASEAN's fight against HIV and AIDS.
13. We call for our efforts against tuberculosis, malaria and dengue fever not to be neglected, as these still continue to be leading communicable diseases in some of our countries. We commit ourselves to strengthen efforts to prevent and control these diseases, in collaboration with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, WHO and other international and/or regional organisations.
14. We shall also undertake joint efforts in close collaboration with our partners to eliminate and eradicate vaccine-preventable diseases, such as poliomyelitis, measles and neonatal tetanus in our region.

Progressive Measures to Enhance competitiveness

15. We shall ensure to proactively engage with ministries of trade, finance and labour, and other key stakeholders in the public and private sectors, to continue dialogue on challenges that international trade negotiations and agreements present for public health. We note that the ASEAN Economic Community's roadmap for accelerated integration of eleven priority sectors, including health care services, presents both opportunities and challenges for the health sector. We shall work with relevant partners such as the WHO in ensuring coherence and coordination in our health and trade policies, and in stimulating and sharing evidence on the links between trade and health.
16. We will ensure that our efforts to address health and development issues arising from trade liberalisation are consistent with the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), especially the priority measures to be addressed under both the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. We shall develop strategies to strengthen capacity and competitiveness in health-related products and services. Through joint efforts, we undertake to ensure coordination between policy-makers, practitioners and users in rationalising health delivery; and enhance human resources for health in the area of globalisation and trade regulation.

The Health Factor in ASEAN community-building

17. We shall take a lead role in providing health-related relief assistance for those traumatised and rendered vulnerable by natural and human-induced disasters in our region. We shall offer our helping hands to our affected neighbours in post-disaster communicable disease prevention and control.
18. We undertake to develop joint activities that address our commitments to the vision of our Leaders, through continuing our efforts to achieve the health-related MDGs in collaboration with WHO and other related UN bodies.
19. We shall also move forward our regional work in nutrition promotion, which is integral to attaining the MDG targets for health especially in HIV prevention, treatment and care. We note that all ASEAN Member Countries have accepted the challenge of meeting the MDG goals to halve hunger, improve maternal and child health, substantially reduce mortality, and ensure that every child starts and completes basic education. We are aware that progress on achievement of MDGs would leap forward by eliminating nutrition deficiencies through closer coordination and integration of health, industrial and agricultural policies and programmes.

ASEAN-WHO Cooperation

20. We note with interests the WHO's briefing to ASEAN Senior Officials on Health Development on relevant World Health Assembly outcomes, and WHO's work in assisting ASEAN Member Countries address human health effects of avian influenza and pandemic influenza preparedness.
21. We also note that our Senior Officials had a constructive exchange of views with WHO on the progress in addressing priorities identified for ASEAN-WHO cooperation under our Memorandum of Understanding with WHO. We are encouraged that joint work planned for the next two years will bring to bear the comparative advantage of both, with a view to develop a stronger regional platform for health and move forward our strategic agenda for health.

ASEAN-UNAIDS Cooperation

22. We note with satisfaction the progress of ASEAN-UNAIDS cooperation since 2001, and the potential for longer-term activities in future years with the signing of a Cooperation Agreement between ASEAN and UNAIDS in March 2006. This provides the impetus for continued close collaboration and consultation between UNAIDS and the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS in progressing work under the ASEAN framework especially in integrating HIV concerns into national and regional policy agendas; advocacy for sustained commitment on HIV issues; creating enabling environments for improved responses; and adoption of strategic approaches with greater emphasis on macro-level issues and multi-sectoral collaboration.
23. We undertake to lead the charge in developing integrated approaches in consultation with all relevant ASEAN committees and partners in health development cooperation, for the benefit of all. We task our Senior Officials to continue efforts on health human resource development and planning in support of our commitments, and to address priority activities we have identified for a united ASEAN response to health emergencies in our region.

24. We shall review the progress of our commitments made in Yangon when we next meet in 2008 in the Philippines. We express our gratitude to Myanmar for the excellent arrangements made for the 8th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting, and also thank the Philippines for her gracious invitation to the 9th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting.

DONE at Yangon, Myanmar, this Twenty-First day of June the Year Two Thousand and Six, in a single original copy the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:

PEHIN DATO SUYOI OSMAN
Minister of Health

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:

DR. NUTH SOKHOM
Minister of Health

For the Republic of Indonesia:

DR. I NYOMAN KANDUN
Director General of Disease Control and Environment Health
Ministry of Health

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

DR. PONMEK DALALOY
Minister of Health

For Malaysia:

DATO' DR. CHUA SOI LEK
Minister of Health

For the Union of Myanmar:

PROF. KYAW MYINT
Minister of Health

For the Republic of the Philippines:

DR. ETHELYN P. NIETO
Undersecretary of Health

For the Republic of Singapore:

MR. KHAW BOON WAN
Minister of Health

For the Kingdom of Thailand:

MR. ANUTIN CHARNVIRAKUL
Deputy Minister of Public Health

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

DR. TRAN CHI LIEM
Vice-Minister of Health

ASEAN LABOUR MINISTERS MEETING (ALMM)

Joint Communiqué of the 19th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting

Singapore, 5 May 2006

1. The 19th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM) was convened on 5 May 2006 in Singapore. It was preceded by a preparatory Senior Officials Meeting on 3 May 2006. The 19th ALMM had the theme of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH).
 2. The 19th ALMM was opened by H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore. In his Opening Address, H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong remarked that to support and sustain regional growth, the labour markets within the ASEAN Community must be dynamic, productive and flexible. The meetings of ASEAN Labour Ministers and Senior Officials provide a useful platform to establish labour practices and common policies to attract global investments and businesses to the region.
 3. H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong suggested three ways in which ASEAN could secure a better future for its 200 million workers. First, workers should be life-long learners, equipped with new skills that would provide employment opportunities for life. Second, the push for greater flexibility and competitiveness should never be done at the expense of workers' safety. Third, stable and harmonious industrial relations are crucial to sustaining growth and ensuring a favourable investment climate for companies to invest and do business in the region.
- Occupational Safety and Health – Protecting the Safety, Health and Welfare of Workers in the Region**
4. Recognising that OSH is an integral part of a country's development, the Ministers acknowledged the progress made by Member Countries in OSH policies and programmes. They also expressed their continued support for the work of the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET). The ASEAN-OSHNET¹ has carried out and is continuing collaborative activities on information-sharing, standards, inspection, training and research among the ASEAN Member Countries.
 5. The Ministers recognised that OSH policies and programmes should be an important element of ASEAN labour cooperation. To signal ASEAN's strong commitment to ensure OSH protection of workers and to address workplace changes arising from globalisation, the Ministers agreed that their Work Programme should include an additional priority area on "Strengthening of OSH Capacities and Standards in ASEAN". This new priority area would encompass i) preventive and promotional activities on OSH; ii) developing integrated national OSH work plans; iii) developing OSH human resources; and iv) advocating OSH as a priority in national and regional labour agendas.
 6. To complement and further the progress of ASEANOSHNET, the Ministers agreed to convene an "ASEAN Policy Dialogue on National OSH Frameworks and Management Systems." Singapore will work with the ASEAN-OSHNET to bring together ASEAN Member Countries to discuss pertinent OSH challenges and developments. Consultations would be undertaken with workers, employers, academia and international experts.

¹ The ASEAN-OSHNET was established in 2000

The Future of Labour within the ASEAN Community

7. The Ministers renewed their commitment to realising the ASEAN Community by 2020. The Ministers noted that The ASEAN-OSHNET was established in 2000 the accelerated pace of regional economic integration together with the advancement of informationcommunications technology, had brought about many new challenges. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of ASEAN labour cooperation in turning these challenges into opportunities for the ASEAN workforce.
8. In this context, the Ministers noted with satisfaction the bcontinued progress made in addressing the priorities of their Vision and Mission Statement, which undertook to prepare ASEAN's workforce for regional economic integration. Since the Ministers last met in 2004, the Senior Labour Officials have engaged in dialogue on priorities such as social security and protection; facilitating labour mobility in ASEAN; addressing the impact of economic integration on employment; and enhancing tripartite partnerships in industrial relations and workforce employability. A Regional Industrial Relations website had also been launched on 4 May 2006 as a joint initiative of Singapore and Japan. The Ministers welcomed the launch of the website, as a useful platform to share information among ASEAN Member Countries.
9. The Ministers expressed appreciation to ASEAN's Dialogue Partners for their collaboration with Member Countries in implementing initiatives such as i) Enhancing Skills Recognition Systems in ASEAN; ii) ASEAN-Japan Programme on Industrial Relations, iii) Strengthening Social Protection Systems in ASEAN; iv) ASEAN-ROK Human Resource Development Programmes for ASEAN Officials; and v) ASEAN-China High-Level Seminars on Social Security. These initiatives had assisted Member Countries to address their regional labour priorities. The Ministers looked forward to future opportunities for continued collaboration.
10. Recognising that ASEAN labour cooperation is an integral component of the economic and socio-cultural pillars of the ASEAN Community, the Ministers agreed to form an Ad Hoc Working Group on Progressive Labour Practices to Enhance Competitiveness of ASEAN as soon as possible. This would allow ASEAN's labour policy-makers to share experiences and discuss policies to promote ASEAN as a choice destination for global investments and businesses. Led by Singapore, the Working Group shall report to the Ministers in 2008, with an interim report to the Senior Labour Officials in 2007.
11. The Ministers noted that their Senior Labour Officials would continue efforts on human resource planning and labour market monitoring, as well as skills development and training to support economic integration. These efforts would complement the industry-linked human resource development activities under the ASEAN Economic Community. The Ministers also requested the ASEAN Secretariat to regularly monitor and review labour projects under the ASEAN Labour Ministers Work Programme to ensure their effectiveness and continued relevance.

ASEAN-ILO Cooperation

12. The Ministers noted the ILO's briefing to ASEAN Senior Labour Officials on its Global OSH Strategy. They supported the principles of prevention and protection embodied in the Strategy, and

acknowledged that the principles provided a useful basis for national policies and programmes. The new ILO instruments proposed under the Strategy would be helpful in enhancing OSH standards for safer, healthier and more productive workplaces. The Ministers expressed appreciation for ILO's offer of support and assistance in strengthening OSH capacities and programmes in ASEAN, and urged ILO to provide more resources to help raise OSH standards in ASEAN.

13. The Ministers also noted that their Senior Labour Officials had a constructive exchange of views with ILO on the Global Report on Child Labour, ILO Director-General's Report on Employment Relationship, ASEAN-ILO Joint Study on HIV and AIDS in the workplace and the completion and dissemination of the ASEAN-ILO Joint Study on Labour and Employment Implications of AFTA. The Ministers noted the launch of the Global Report on Child Labour, and the references to the progress made in a number of South East Asian countries in tackling child labour.
14. The Ministers noted the completion of the ASEAN-ILO Joint Study on Initiatives on HIV and AIDS and the World of Work in the ASEAN Region, and identified the following for continued joint work, with interested partners:
 - Tripartite collaboration in awareness-raising and reduction of stigma and discrimination; and
 - Coordination by the ASEAN-OSHNET in convening a Regional Conference on HIV and the World of Work.
15. The Ministers also asked their Senior Officials to identify focal points within ASEAN Ministries of Labour to share and exchange information on initiatives carried out in the workplace on HIV prevention and control.
16. The Ministers noted the progress of ASEAN-ILO cooperation since 2003, and the potential for longer-term activities in the future years.
17. The Ministers referred to the ASEAN Statement delivered at the 295th Session of the ILO Governing Body held in Geneva on 30 March 2006 (attached as Annex A), and reiterated the necessity to reconcile differences and to cooperate in dealing with workers' needs.

20th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting

18. The Ministers agreed that the 20th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting would be held in Thailand in 2008.

List of ASEAN Labour Ministers or Their Representatives attending the 19th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting, 5 May 2006, Singapore:

H.E. Pehin Dato Adanan Yusof, Minister of Home Affairs, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Sok San, Secretary of State of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia; H.E. Erman Suparno, Minister of Manpower and Transmigration, Indonesia; H.E. Le Kakanya, Acting Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Seri Dr. Fong Chan Onn, Minister of Human Resources, Malaysia; H.E. Brigadier General Win Sein, Minister of Labour, Myanmar; H.E. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas, Secretary of Department of Labour and Employment, The Philippines; H.E. Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Defence, Singapore; H.E. Chalernpol Thanchitt, Thai Ambassador to Singapore, Thailand; H.E. Le Bach Hong, Vice Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam.

Annex A

Statement By the Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines on behalf of the ASEAN Member States of the ILO at the 295th ILO Governing Body Geneva, 30 March 2006

Mr. Chairman,

1. On behalf of the ASEAN member States of the ILO, I would like to thank the Secretariat for the document prepared for this meeting.
2. I also wish to express our profound appreciation to the Director-General for his continuing support and cooperation with the Government of Myanmar to eradicate the practice of forced labour in the country.
3. We acknowledge the importance of the ILO presence in Myanmar and appreciate the efforts of Mr. Richard Horsey, Acting ILO Liaison Officer, in assisting the Myanmar authorities in the observance of ILO Convention 29.
4. We are opposed to the practice of forced labour and we welcome the commitment of the Myanmar Government to observe ILO Convention 29 and to eradicate the practice of forced labour in the country. In this regard, we continue to encourage and support any discussion between the Government of Myanmar and the ILO to address the issue.

Mr. Chairman,

5. We take note of the intensive dialogue in Geneva between the Office and the Government of Myanmar since the last Governing Body session in November 2005 as well as the ILO mission that visited Myanmar from 12 to 13 March 2006. There were frank and open discussions between the ILO mission and the Minister for Labour with a view to resolving the outstanding issues between the two sides.
6. Realizing that the Government of Myanmar and the ILO have fundamental differences on the establishment of a mechanism to address the issue of forced labour, we urge both sides to continue the process of dialogue and cooperation with a view to finding a mutually acceptable solution. In this regard, we request both sides to harmonise their respective positions so that a compromise result could be achieved at the soonest time possible. ASEAN member states should be kept posted of the progress of the ongoing dialogues.

Mr. Chairman,

7. We believe that it is imperative for both sides to intensify their cooperation and dialogue with mutual trust and confidence at various levels, including the senior leadership, until the issue is completely resolved. It is important that this process continues rather than to adopt alternative measures.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ASEAN COOPERATION ON WOMEN

Framework for Cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

8 June 2006

I. Preamble

1. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereafter 'ASEAN') and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (hereafter 'UNIFEM'),
2. Inspired by the spirit of cooperation among Member Countries, which forms the basis of the foundation and operations of ASEAN as well as UNIFEM;
3. Recalling the commitments made by ASEAN members in the 1988 Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN region and the 2004 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the region;
4. Consistent with the spirit and intent of the 1997 ASEAN Vision 2020 and the 2003 Declaration of ASEAN Concord (Bali Concord 11) to develop an ASEAN community of caring societies that foster cooperation in social development including through the active involvement of women, achieve equitable access to opportunities for full development of human potential and adhere to norms of social and distributive justice;
5. Recognising the mandate and role of UNIFEM as the United Nations body designated to provide technical and financial assistance to innovative programmes and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality;
6. Acknowledging the commonality of aims, goals and concerns, centred on realisation of gender equality between ASEAN and UNIFEM and that gender equality, gender justice and the empowerment of women are central to the process of socio-economic development, and are both determinants and outcomes of development; and
7. Considering the established cooperation between the Member Countries of ASEAN and UNIFEM,
8. ASEAN and UNIFEM hereby agree to establish an Framework for Cooperation' in the ASEAN region to promote and implement the 1988 Declaration on the Advancement of Women and the 2004 Vientiane Action Programme, in the spirit of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), the Beijing + 10 Outcomes document, the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals.

II. AREAS OF COOPERATION

9. The objective of the ASEAN-UNIFEM Framework for Cooperation is to jointly develop and carry out practical measures to implement the above mentioned ASEAN and UN instruments in order to eliminate violence and end discrimination against women in the ASEAN region.

10. The Framework covers but is not limited to, the following broad areas of cooperation:

- a) Consultation, exchange and dissemination of information
 - Joint analysis and collaboration on substantive issues to develop agreed actions.
 - Development of annual work programmes for cooperative activities.
 - Reciprocal attendance at relevant ASEAN Committee of Women meetings and UNIFEM meetings.
 - Joint organisation of seminars and workshops on themes that will help to promote the implementation of the 2004 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN region and the related 2004 Vientiane Action Programme.
 - Systematic exchange of relevant publications and other materials.
 - Maintain regular communication between ASEAN and UNIFEM through designated contact points.

- b) Technical Assistance
 - Technical assistance on the to implement the 2004 ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN region and the related 2004 Vientiane Action Programme.
 - Technical assistance on specific activities under the to implement the 2004 ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN region and the related 2004 Vientiane Action Programme.
 - Building capacity to deepen gender mainstreaming in ASEAN member countries positing links between CEDAW, BPFA and the MDGs.
 - Promotion of women's political participation.

- c) Research, Advocacy and Awareness-Raising

Promote, raise awareness and facilitate action to address issues referred to in the 2004 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN region and the related 2004 Vientiane Action Programme through:

 - conduct and publication of research;
 - production of information, education and communication materials;
 - forums to share experiences and good practices;
 - documentation of experiences and good practices to facilitate learning; and
 - development of an ASEAN Gender Database to track progress and identify areas for action.

III. TERMS OF COOPERATION

11. The ASEAN focal point for coordination of activities under the ASEAN-UNIFEM Framework for Cooperation will be the ASEAN Secretariat, Human Development Unit. The UNIFEM focal point for coordination of activities under the ASEAN-UNIFEM Framework for Cooperation will be the Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM East and South-East Asian Regional Office.

12. The ASEAN-UNIFEM Framework for Cooperation shall be operative for a period of three (3) years, to be renewed automatically for another three (3) .years unless one party indicates in writing to the other party its intent to terminate it six (6) months prior to the date of expiration.

13. The ASEAN-UNIFEM Framework for Cooperation will enter into force upon signature by the Secretary-General of ASEAN and Regional Programme Director of East and South East Asia Regional Office of UNIFEM, on this eight day of the month of June in the year Two Thousand and Six.

For ASEAN:
ONG KENG YONG
 Secretary-General

For UNIFEM:
JEAN D' CUNHA
 Regional Programme Director
 East and Southeast Asia
 Regional Office

United Nations
 Development Fund for Women
UNIFEM

V. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ASEAN PLUS THREE

Joint Media Statement of the 5th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea Tourism Ministers

Davao, Philippines, 17 January 2006

1. The 5th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Rep. of Korea Tourism Ministers was held on 17 January 2006 in Davao, Philippines in conjunction with the 9th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers and ASEAN Tourism Forum 2006. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Joseph H. Durano, Secretary, Philippines' Department of Tourism. Co-chairing was H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
2. The Ministers welcomed the decisions of ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+1 Summits held on 12-13 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur and expressed their full support for the implementation of the recommendations in particular the signing of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea.
3. The Ministers agreed to move forward the implementation of those agreements and plans of action as they would positively contribute to the growth of tourism in East Asia, including the facilitation of travel to the Plus Three countries. The Ministers exchanged views on the progress made and endorsed the recommendations of the ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) to implement the agreements through, among others, joint tourism promotion campaigns; tourism training and education; promotion of the sustainable development of tourism; and exchange of information on relevant statistics, policies and laws. The Ministers welcomed and endorsed Japan's idea to further promote flower tourism, youth travel and tourism exchange among ASEAN+3 countries, including sister cities. The Ministers were pleased to note that China would provide ASEAN Member Countries free booths at CITM 2006 and 2007. The Ministers took note of the efforts of the Republic of Korea in tourism cooperation such as the production of the ASEAN Tourism map in the Korean language, training of ASEAN tour guides in Korean and exchange of tourism experts and professionals.
4. The Ministers were also pleased to note the convening of several ASEAN+3 events in 2005 such as: ASEAN-China Tourism Workshop held on 17-19 May 2005 in Shanghai; ASEAN + 3 Tourism Conference on Strengthening Tourism Partnership among ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK held on 25 May 2005 in Sokcho City, Rep. of Korea; and ASEAN – Japan High Level Flower Tourism Seminar held on 10 December 2005 in Da Lat, Viet Nam.
5. The Ministers exchanged views on the global tourism situation, the recent tourism developments and common challenges to tourism among ASEAN and China, Japan and Rep. of Korea. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the mutual effort to enhance crisis communications and the exchange of timely and accurate information. The Ministers were pleased to note recent trends in

the tourist arrivals between ASEAN and China, Japan, and Rep. of Korea that the Intra-ASEAN Plus Three Countries Travel contributed a significant share of 29 per cent of international tourist arrivals in ASEAN+3 in 2005.

6. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to advance tourism as it has enormous potential to empower their citizens through increased income and employment as well as poverty alleviation. In this respect, the Ministers stressed the need to promote entrepreneurial spirit and the role of SMEs. They also stressed the need to protect the environment and vulnerable groups such as children and women.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Dr. Awg Haji Ahmad Haji Jumat, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Lay Prohas, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Jero Wacik, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Somphong Mongkhonvilay, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Chairman of Lao National Tourism Administration, Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Dr. Leo Michael Toyad, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia; H.E. Brigadier General Aye Myint Kyu, Vice Minister for Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Joseph H. Durano, Secretary, Department of Tourism, Philippines; H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Thavatchai Sajakul, Vice Minister of Tourism and Sports, Thailand; H.E. Dr. Pham Tu, Vice-Chairman of Vietnam National Administration of Tourism, Vietnam; H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN; H.E. Mr. Gu Zhaoxi, Vice Chairman of the National Tourism Administration, China; H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Maruyama, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan; and H.E. Mr. Lim Byoung Soo, Assistant Minister of Culture and Tourism, Rep. of Korea.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' Meeting

Hyderabad, India, 4 May 2006

Introduction

1. We, the Finance Ministers of the ASEAN, China, Japan, and Korea (ASEAN+3), convened our ninth meeting in Hyderabad, India, under the chairmanship of Senior Minister Keat Chhon, Minister of Economy and Finance of the Kingdom of Cambodia.
2. We exchanged views on regional economic and financial developments and policies. We also reviewed the progress of regional financial cooperation processes, including the Chiang Mai Initiative, the Asian Bond Markets Initiative, and the ASEAN+3 Research Group, and explored ways to further enhance regional cooperation.

Recent Economic and Financial Developments in the Region

3. We were pleased to note that East Asia had maintained a strong growth momentum and that the overall economic outlook remained bright in 2006, as assessed by our own peer review mechanism, "Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERP)," as well as International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Nevertheless, we shared a view that there were a number of potential downside risks such as persistently high oil prices, widening global imbalances, upward global interest rates trend, and potentially adverse effect of avian flu pandemics.
4. We acknowledged the deepening economic interdependence and increasing financial market openness in the region. In order to achieve sustainable economic growth in East Asia, we underscored the importance of implementing appropriate macroeconomic policy mix and accelerating economic structural reforms. We also agreed to further strengthen the cooperation in policy development to cope with such potential risks. In particular, given the recent spike of oil prices, we strongly urged for swift actions both on the demand and supply side to stabilize the oil market and underscored the need for enhancing dialogue between oil producing and consuming countries to improve market information and transparency.

Strengthening East Asian Financial Cooperation

5. On the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI), substantial progress has continued to be made. In particular, the strengthening of the regional liquidity support network (also known as "the Second Phase of the CMI Review"), which was initiated at the Jeju ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Meeting 2004, had been successfully completed, as explained below. Here, we reaffirmed to firmly maintain the CMI's two core objectives, namely, (1) to address short-term liquidity difficulties in the region and (2) to supplement the existing international financial arrangements.
 - (i) Collective decision-making procedure for the swap activation was adopted. All Swap Providing Countries can simultaneously and promptly provide liquidity support to any parties involved in bilateral swap arrangements (BSA) at times of emergency;
 - (ii) To explore the ways for further strengthening surveillance capacity in East Asia, the Group of Experts (GOE) and the Technical Working Group on Economic and Financial Monitoring (ETWG) would be launched. The GOE, composed of several regional professional experts, would serve as an independent economic assessment vehicle for this region. The ETWG would play an important role in developing and spreading the Early Warning System to facilitate early detection of irregularities.
 - (iii) The total swap size has now reached US\$75.0 billion, almost doubled from a year ago. Nine BSAs have been revised since last year to enhance the effectiveness of CMI reflecting the Istanbul Agreement.
6. Looking ahead, we tasked the Deputies to set up a "new task force" to further study various possible options towards an advanced framework of the regional liquidity support arrangement (CMI multilateralization or Post-CMI), based upon their exploration during the past year. Moreover, we instructed the Deputies to enhance the regional surveillance capacities.
7. On the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), we noted that concrete progress had been made as indicated by the fact the size of the local currency bond market in the region has more than quadrupled

since 1997. Following the issuance of Pan-Asia Bond in 2004, the achievements included (i) local currency-denominated bonds issued by various international and foreign institutions such as Baht-denominated bonds, Peso-denominated bonds, Renminbi-denominated bonds (Panda Bond), and Ringgit-denominated bonds; and (ii) local currency-denominated bonds issued through securitization. We believed that the study on the issuance of the asset-backed Asian currency-basket bonds and cross-border local currency bonds would contribute to further development.

8. We recognized a noticeable progress made in discussions on the market infrastructure, including regional credit guarantee and investment mechanism, settlement system, credit ratings, and the Asian Bond Standards. We agreed that the on-going discussions should be further expedited to promote development of an international bond market in the region. We concurred that technical assistance should be continued to overcome weaknesses identified in the regular self-assessment and information sharing exercises.
9. On the ASEAN+3 Research Group, we acknowledged the usefulness of the input from researchers and research institutes in the region. The research reports for 2005-2006 will be disseminated through the websites of the ASEAN Secretariat, the ADB, and member countries where available. We endorsed two research topics for 2006-07: "Toward greater financial stability in the Asian region: Exploring steps to create regional monetary units" (led by a Japanese research institute) and "Financial conglomeration in the East Asian region: Recent trends and implications for regional financial market development" (led by a Korean research institute).

ASEAN+3 and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

10. In order to ensure the credibility and legitimacy of the Bretton Woods Institutions in the rapidly changing global economy, we emphasized the importance of an ad hoc quota increase for significantly under-represented countries in the IMF. We called upon its Managing Director to work with the IMFC and Executive Board to come forward with concrete proposals for agreement at the upcoming IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings in Singapore. We agreed that we would play active roles in the IMF policy-making and support its activities.
11. We appreciated the IFIs such as the ADB and IMF for their continued efforts to support ASEAN+3 initiatives related to the regional surveillance activities. We heard the presentation by the ADB President, Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, on the economic outlook for the region. We also welcomed the ADB's ongoing works on the regional bond market development.

Others

12. We expressed our appreciation to governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea for the excellent arrangements as the co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Process. We also thanked government of the Republic of India for its hospitality and kind cooperation.
13. We agreed to meet in Kyoto, Japan, in 2007. The Kingdom of Thailand and the People's Republic of China would co-chair the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Process in 2007.

Joint Statement of the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting

Singapore, 6 May 2006

Introduction

1. ASEAN Labour Ministers gathered in Singapore on 6 May 2006 to discuss joint labour initiatives with their counterparts from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. This is the fifth ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting, and was preceded by a preparatory senior officials meeting on 4 May 2006.
2. The Meeting was attended by Ministers responsible for labour from ASEAN Member Countries, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and their respective delegations. The ASEAN Secretariat was also in attendance. The list of the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers is attached.

Partnerships in Labour

3. The ASEAN Plus Three Ministers discussed occupational safety and health (OSH) as a central theme of their meeting. The Ministers also discussed current and planned joint initiatives to support sustained economic growth in their respective countries and the region through Human Resource Development and employment creation. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to collaborate in addressing key priorities for labour and employment, with a view to alleviating poverty within the region and ensuring economic growth with equity. The ASEAN Ministers thanked their Plus Three counterparts for continued support and assistance in promoting closer cooperation among their respective labour ministries.
4. The ASEAN Plus Three Ministers reiterated the importance of occupational safety and health (OSH) in pursuing economic development and growth. The Plus Three Ministers welcomed the addition of a new priority area on OSH to the ASEAN Labour Ministers Work Programme, and looked forward to future cooperation with ASEAN in this area. The ASEAN Ministers invited the Plus Three to explore areas for closer collaboration among ASEAN Plus Three, including sharing of experience and expertise in support of the work of the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET)¹. In this regard, the ASEAN Ministers invited the Plus Three to participate in the ASEAN Policy Dialogue on National OSH Frameworks and Management Systems, in early 2007. The experience of the Plus Three is relevant especially in raising OSH standards in small and medium enterprises.
5. Future joint labour initiatives to be undertaken by the ASEAN Plus Three include:
 - a. Continuation of the High-Level Social Security Seminars, jointly coordinated by China and ASEAN, to contribute to the strengthening of social security and protection, as well as addressing the impact of the global economy on workers in East Asia. China will convene the Seminar for 2006 in Qingdao, on the topic of employment injury insurance.
 - b. Addressing industrial relations in the context of economic integration and trade liberalisation under the ASEAN-Japan Programme on Industrial Relations (AJPIR) – Phase II. The Ministers thanked Singapore for serving as the lead country for

the AJPIR for 2005/06. A Regional Industrial Relations website had also been launched on 4 May 2006 as a joint initiative of Singapore and Japan. Malaysia and Thailand, in partnership with Japan, will lead regional capacity- building and knowledge-sharing programmes among ASEAN Plus Three countries, to address issues in wages and productivity, globalisation, labour management and response to workplace changes.

- c. Continued dialogue among ASEAN Plus Three labour ministries to realise the ASEAN Labour Ministers' vision of providing productive employment and adequate social protection for the region's workers through innovative and culturally appropriate programmes. The Republic of Korea will assist ASEAN Member Countries in addressing this through the Human Resource Development Programmes for Officials of ASEAN Countries and cooperative programmes on occupational safety and health.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation with ILO

6. The ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers exchanged views on matters to be discussed at the 95th International Labour Conference (ILC), including the proposed new ILO Convention and Recommendation on Occupational Safety and Health.
7. The Ministers supported the principles of prevention and protection embodied in the ILO's Global OSH Strategy, and acknowledged that the new ILO instruments proposed under the Strategy would be helpful in enhancing OSH standards for safer, healthier and more productive workplaces. The Ministers urged the ILO to provide more resources to help ASEAN Plus Three countries in addressing these priorities.
8. The ASEAN Plus Three Ministers also noted that the Republic of Korea will be hosting the 14th ILO Asian Regional Meeting in Busan from 29 August to 1 September 2006. The Ministers expressed their support for the event, and agreed to ensure the active participation of their countries at the Regional Meeting.

Next ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting

9. The Ministers looked forward to further exchanges of views on joint labour initiatives at the next ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting in 2008 in Thailand.

List of ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers or their Representatives attending the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting, 6 May 2006, Singapore:

H.E. Pehin Dato Adanan Yusof, Minister of Home Affairs, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Sok San, Secretary of State of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia; H.E. Erman Suparno, Minister of Manpower and Transmigration, Indonesia; H.E. Le Kakanya, Acting Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Seri Dr. Fong Chan Onn, Minister of Human Resources, Malaysia; H.E. Brigadier General Win Sein, Minister of Labour, Myanmar; H.E. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas, Secretary of Department of Labour and Employment, The Philippines; H.E. Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Defence, Singapore; H.E. Chalermpol Thanchitt, Thai Ambassador to Singapore, Thailand; H.E. Le Bach Hong, Vice Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam; H.E. Xin Changxing, Under Secretary General, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, China; H.E. Hiroshi Okada, Parliamentary Secretary of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan; H.E. Kim Sung Joong, Vice Minister of Labour, Korea.

¹ The ASEAN-OSHNET was established in 2000 and has carried out collaborative activities on information-sharing, standards, inspection, training, and research among the ASEAN member countries.

Joint Statement of the 2nd ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting

“Unity in Health Emergencies”

Yangon, Myanmar, 22 June 2006

Introduction

1. ASEAN Health Ministers gathered in Yangon on 22 June 2006 to discuss joint initiatives with their counterparts from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. This is the second ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting, and was preceded by a preparatory senior officials meeting on 20 June 2006.
2. The Meeting was attended by Ministers for health from ASEAN Member Countries, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and their respective delegations. The ASEAN Secretariat and observers from the WHO were also in attendance. The list of the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers is attached.

Unity in Health Emergencies

3. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers discussed unity in health emergencies as a central theme of their meeting. The Ministers also discussed current and planned joint initiatives on health human resources development in addressing challenges and opportunities arising from closer regional integration in ASEAN, especially the impact of economic integration and trade liberalization on health development.
4. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers welcomed the preparation of a Strategic Framework for a second phase of the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme. The Ministers congratulated the ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD) and their Plus Three counterparts for their dedicated efforts in implementing the EID Programme's Phase I Work Plan over August 2004 to October 2005, which had laid firm foundations in the ASEAN Plus Three countries for effective regional surveillance capacities and early warning and rapid response mechanisms for emerging infectious diseases in the region.
5. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers provided their endorsement for the EID Programme's second phase activities, which would provide the ASEAN Plus Three countries with greater opportunities to share and exchange information, experience and expertise in combating threats to the health and security of their peoples. The EID Programme Phase II activities would bring the ASEAN Plus Three countries even closer in preparing for future threats of disease outbreaks, including those related to natural disasters, bio-terrorism, and pandemic influenza, as well as facilitate partnerships among existing networks and experts in the region on public and animal health.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Health

6. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers reaffirmed their commitment for closer collaboration in addressing key priorities for health development policy coordination, especially in meeting commitments made with regard to the International Health Regulations. The ASEAN Health Ministers also thanked their Plus Three counterparts

for continued support and assistance in promoting closer cooperation among their respective health ministries.

7. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers acknowledged the importance of coordinating trade and health policies in pursuing economic growth with equity. The Plus Three Ministers welcomed the planned work by ASEAN Health Ministers to mount a regional initiative that would bring together health, trade and other relevant policy-makers and stakeholders in the region to discuss and develop consultative and inclusive multi-sectoral approaches for integration of healthcare into development agendas. The Plus Three Health Ministers expressed their interest for future cooperation with ASEAN in this area.
8. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers noted progress made in areas of focus since they first met in 2004, prioritising joint activities in areas such as health promotion; capacity building for health professionals; HIV and AIDS; traditional medicine/complementary and alternative medicine, and policy coherence for health and social welfare development concerns.
9. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers agreed to continue the momentum of cooperation through following joint initiatives in 2006-07. The ASEAN Ministers also invited their Plus Three counterparts to join hands with ASEAN in addressing health and nutrition promotion in the context of meeting health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and implementation of the International Health Regulations adopted in 2005, with particular focus on responding to public health emergencies of international concern.
 - a. communicable diseases especially HIV and AIDS, and emerging infectious diseases;
 - b. health human resources capacity-building in addressing emerging concerns for health and social welfare;
 - c. human security and safety in health;
 - d. integrated approaches, policies and programmes to address the health care needs of older persons; and
 - e. traditional medicine.

Next ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting

10. The Ministers looked forward to further exchanges of views on joint collaboration in health development at their next meeting in 2008 in the Philippines.

Chairman's Press Statement for the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 26 July 2006

1. The Seventh ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting was held on 26 July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.
2. The Ministers expressed their concern over the latest developments in the Korean Peninsula which could affect peace and stability in the region, including the test-firing by DPRK of its Taepodong-2 missiles on 5 July 2006. They noted the unanimous adoption of the UNSC

resolution 1695. They also expressed their desire for the realization of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and their continued support for the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks. They also expressed their hope that the on-going inter-Korean exchanges would continue to provide conditions which would be conducive to peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. They also believed that the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) can contribute to promoting peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and expressed the hope that members of the Six-Party Talks can utilise their presence during the ARF to promote the resumption of the Talks.

3. The Ministers were gravely concerned over the deteriorating situation and the escalation of violence in the Middle East, particularly the disproportionate, indiscriminate and excessive use of force by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in Lebanon, triggered by the capture of the two Israeli soldiers. It will gravely threaten any efforts towards reviving the Peace Process in the foreseeable future.
4. The Ministers were deeply shocked and distressed by the apparently deliberate targeting by the Israeli Defence Forces of the United Nations Observer post in southern Lebanon on 25 July 2006, which killed four United Nations military observers.
5. The Ministers condemned this coordinated attack and extended their deepest condolences to the families of those victims and expressed their sympathies to the Governments of Austria, Canada, China and Finland.
6. The Ministers called on the Government of Israel to conduct a full investigation into this very disturbing incident and demand that any further attack on the United Nations positions and personnel must stop. The Ministers further encouraged the United Nations to also conduct its own investigation.
7. They condemned all acts of terror, violence and destruction. They also condemned the attacks that have resulted in injury and death of innocent civilians and the destruction of civilian property and infrastructure. They further condemned the abduction and detention of Cabinet Ministers, government officials, and other individuals and we call for their immediate and unconditional release.
8. They urged all parties to exercise utmost restraint, in particular to avoid additional casualties among innocent civilians and damage to civilian property and infrastructure and to refrain from acts that could further exacerbate the situation.
9. They called for an immediate ceasefire and urged the international community and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to get all parties in the conflicts to adhere to the ceasefire and ultimately to work towards a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region.
10. The Ministers reaffirmed the call for the strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon as stipulated in UNSC Resolutions 1664 and 1680.
11. They also urged Israel and Palestine to return to the peace process and implementation of the Quartet Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict as outlined in UNSC Resolution 1515.
12. They welcomed all efforts taken to address the situation, including the visits to the region by the Special Advisor of the United Nations Secretary-General to the Middle East and the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, as well as the efforts undertaken by the Foreign Minister of France in that country's capacity as current President of the United Nations Security Council. They viewed the visit by the U.S. Secretary of State to the region and Italy's hosting of the international conference today, 26 July 2006 as encouraging steps and hope that these would bring about the immediate cessation of hostilities, opening the way for the unimpeded flow of humanitarian relief and assistance to the civilians affected by the conflict, the early return of displaced persons and providing the conditions for a durable and lasting solution to the problems in the region. They also emphasised the need for speedy restoration of essential infrastructure facilities in Palestine and Lebanon to avoid further deterioration of humanitarian condition of the Palestine and Lebanese people.
13. The Ministers reiterated their consistent position that the next United Nations Secretary-General shall be selected from an Asian member state of the United Nations.
14. The Ministers were glad to note the decision by the French Government to accede to the TAC. In this regard, they hoped that France could accede to the Treaty at the earliest opportunity.
15. The Ministers welcomed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit signed by the Leaders at the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in Kuala Lumpur on 12 December 2005 and lauded it as an important document which further strengthens and sets forth the future direction of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
16. The Ministers expressed continued commitment to the ASEAN Plus Three process and reaffirmed the decisions of the Eight ASEAN Plus Three Summit, held on 29 November 2004 to issue a Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and Work Plan in 2007. They noted that the ASEAN Plus Three Directors-General had begun the groundwork for the preparation of the Second Joint Statement during their Seventh Meeting held on 7-8 June 2006 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. They further noted that the Philippines, as the incoming Chair of the 40th ASEAN Standing Committee and Country Coordinator for the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, will work together with Singapore, as the Chair of the 41st ASEAN Standing Committee and Country Coordinator for the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in 2007, in preparing the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and Work Plan.
17. The Ministers welcomed the stocktaking exercise being undertaken on the progress of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation since 1997, which would take into account recommendations made by the various ASEAN Plus Three mechanisms, including those from the Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) and East Asia Forum (EAF).
18. The Ministers also welcomed the progress in the implementation of the short-term, medium and long-term measures of the East Asia Study Group (EASG), which was adopted by the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in 2002. They agreed that the EASG measures were useful in their contribution towards East Asian community building and, where appropriate, should be absorbed into the Work Plan to be issued in 2007.
19. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation over the past 9 years, which covers 16 sectors and has 48 mechanisms to facilitate and implement the cooperation. In addition, the Ministers welcomed the establishment

of cooperation in four new sectors under the ASEAN Plus Three framework, which are cooperation in rural development and poverty eradication, women issues, disaster risk management and emergency response, and minerals.

20. The Ministers were encouraged by the progress made in ASEAN Plus Three Finance Cooperation. They noted that the regional self-help and support mechanism of the Chiang Mai Initiative has made substantial progress and the Bilateral Swap Arrangements has amounted to over US\$ 75 billion. Notable progress has also been achieved in the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), with a number of local currency bonds issued by international and foreign institutions.
21. The Ministers welcomed the Second Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers, which was held on 22 June 2006 in Yangon, Myanmar, where the strategic framework for Phase 2 of the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme was adopted. The Ministers expressed hope that the programme would be able to achieve its goal to reduce the economic, social and medical burdens that result from emerging and resurging infectious diseases that threaten the region.
22. The Ministers also welcomed the convening of the East Asia Cultural Week. It would be organized by Thailand and the Republic of Korea separately, in 2007 to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. They noted that the ASEAN Plus Three countries would also participate in these events.
23. The Ministers reaffirmed the urgent need to address energy security issues. With the increase in oil prices, the Ministers stressed the need to search for alternative sources of energy. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the convening of the ASEAN Plus Three Energy Ministers Meeting, scheduled on 27 July 2006 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, which would follow up on the decisions made at the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, held on 12 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur. The Ministers also recommended that the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Summit and 2nd East Asia Summit in Cebu, Philippines on 12 and 13 December 2006 would discuss cooperation in bio-fuel and energy security.
24. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the work undertaken by the ASEAN Plus Three Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat in coordinating and implementing ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
25. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the East Asia Summit as a forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia. In this respect, they recognized that the East Asia Summit could make a significant contribution to the achievement of the long-term goal of establishing an East Asian community.
26. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation for the continued support and commitment of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for ASEAN's efforts at community building and integration including their contribution to the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI).
27. The Ministers discussed the preparations for the Tenth ASEAN Plus Three Summit and the Second East Asia Summit, which will be held on 11 and 13 of December 2006 respectively in Cebu, the Philippines.

Chairman's Statement of the 3rd ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan and Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 27 July 2006

1. The 3rd ASEAN + 3 (China, Japan and Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3) was held on July 27, 2006 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Bosaykham Vongdara, Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR and was attended by the Ministers on Energy from the ASEAN member countries, China, Japan and Korea.
2. We discussed key energy concerns to achieve our goals of greater energy stability, security, and sustainability through the ASEAN+3 Energy Partnership, taking note of the progress of discussions at five fora in the past year.
3. We welcomed the presentation by the International Energy Agency (IEA) on "Global Energy Trends, the Role of Technology, the Impact of High Energy Prices" which provided us a clear understanding on the adverse impacts of high energy prices on each of our countries. In this context, we acknowledged that improving energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) is one of the most effective tools to overcome the current serious situation. We also agreed to implement cooperative measures in response to this factor. We welcomed the IEA's initiative to identify best practices, review existing standards and codes and develop new energy indicators for energy intensive sectors. We also welcomed the announcement by Japan on "Asian Energy Conservation Program".
4. We recognized that oil stockpiling is increasingly important among emergency response measures for enhanced energy security. We respect the outcome of studies on oil stockpiling in Viet Nam jointly implemented by Japan and Viet Nam. We hope that the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam will voluntarily take further steps to develop national oil stockpiling programs on the basis of these studies, with additional support from Japan and Korea. We encouraged other ASEAN countries to consider conducting studies for their own national stockpiling programs. We welcomed that China is steadily implementing a national oil stockpiling program.
5. Recognizing our leaders' intentions as indicated at the ASEAN+3 Summit on December 13, 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, we focused on the importance of alternative energy sources, especially renewable energy. We agreed to pursue a joint study to facilitate both R&D and utilization of renewable energy, taking into account each country's experiences and expertise. We shared the understanding that utilization of renewable energy is advantageous not only for establishing a stable energy supply but also for environmental management and rural electrification. We expect that the newly introduced renewable energy training program of Japan will be implemented in close cooperation with ASEAN + 3 initiatives.
6. As an oil-consuming region, we expressed concern about the high, volatile oil prices, which have a negative influence on both oil-producing and oil-consuming countries. In response to the current serious situation, we proposed to have a dialogue with oil-producing countries in the Middle East to promote mutual understanding and cooperation. We shall pursue initiatives and innovative technologies to achieve market stability with reasonable prices to sustain global economic growth and steady revenue streams for producing

countries as well as environmentally conducive to the expansion of downstream and upstream capacity to meet rising international demand for conventional fuels. We also noted the importance of streamlined energy statistics in developing market transparency.

7. We reiterate the importance in encouraging energy cooperation and integration, energy security, cross-border energy trade and investment in the development of energy interconnection networks including hydropower projects and the ASEAN Power Grids. We acknowledged the role of the Energy Charter Treaty in promoting energy security. We look positively at the increasing interest shown by some ASEAN + 3 countries to deepen the understanding of the Energy Charter process.
8. We acknowledged that natural gas is one important alternative energy source and that ASEAN has a large potential supply. Moreover, we shared the understanding that it is beneficial for both gas-producing and gas-consuming countries to discuss a wide variety of issues to promote active gas trade and utilization among ASEAN + 3.
9. We acknowledged that biofuel program shall have a much greater potential in the energy security measures practicing in the ASEAN + 3 countries. We emphasized the requirement for closer cooperation and exchange of experience in promoting the biofuel program.
10. We agreed to support the activities of the ASEAN Forum on Coal to discuss coal-related issues: efficient use of coal including clean coal technologies, coal trade, and regulation and environmental concerns in coal use. ASEAN welcomed the participation of the +3 countries in the forum.
11. We welcomed the fact that the ASEAN+3 Energy Security Communication System has been developed successfully. We hope that the system will be utilized effectively as a tool for timely emergency response.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Yahya, Minister of Energy in the Prime Minister's Office for Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy for Cambodia; H. E. Mr. Deming Chen, Vice Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission for China; H.E. Dr. Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources for Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Yutaka Kobayashi, Vice Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry for Japan; H.E. Mr. Won-Gul Lee, Vice Minister for Commerce, Industry and Energy for Korea; H.E. Dr. Bosaykham Vongdara, Minister of Energy and Mines for Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Shaziman Abu Mansor, Deputy Minister of Energy, Water and Communications of Malaysia; H.E. Brig. Gen. Than Htay, Vice Minister of Energy for Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Raphael P. M. Lotilla, Secretary of Energy for the Philippines; H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister of State (Trade and Industry) for Singapore; H.E. Dr. Viset Choopiban, Minister of Energy for Thailand; H.E. Mr. Hoang Trung Hai, Minister of Industry for Viet Nam; and H.E. Mr. Nicholas T. Dammen, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement of the 9th Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Ministers of People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea (AEM Plus Three)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24 August 2006

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers and Ministers from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their 9th Consultations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 24 August 2006. The consultations was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Mr. Yi Xiaozhun, Deputy Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China; H.E. Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, Minister of Economic, Trade and Industry, Japan; and H.E. Mr. Kim Hyun-Chong, Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the global economic situation and recent economic developments in ASEAN and the Northeast Asian countries. They expressed satisfaction with progress in economic integration in the region, and particularly noted that trade volume among ASEAN, China, Japan, and Korea expanded by 16 percent from US\$ 273.1 billion in 2004 to US\$ 317.0 billion in 2005. They reiterated the importance of continuing regional economic integration as a means to promote trade and investment flows.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROJECTS

3. The Ministers noted the progress of the implementation of economic cooperation projects. These projects cover a wide range of areas, including information technology (IT), small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), standards and quality conformance, environment, and logistics management.
4. They approved the following new cooperation projects:
 - i. ICT Cooperation towards Co-Prosperty in East Asia (2007-2011), proposed by Korea;
 - ii. ASEAN Plus Three Website for Customs Information Exchange, proposed by Korea;
 - iii. ASEAN Plus Three Logistics Cooperation for Future Trade Facilitation, proposed by Japan;
 - iv. ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation for Internationally Comparable Statistics, proposed by Japan; and
 - v. Agricultural Technology and Management Training Program for ASEAN Countries, proposed by China.

ENHANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION

5. The Ministers welcomed the implementation of the various short-term and medium- and long-term measures recommended by the EASG, particularly economic-related measures such as the East Asia Forum (EAF), the East Asia Business Council (EABC), and the Network of East Asian Think-tanks (NEAT) by China, Thailand and Japan, respectively.
6. The Ministers had extensive discussions on measures to move forward ASEAN Plus Three economic cooperation. The Ministers of ASEAN, China, and Korea took note of Japan's proposal to establish an Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). They requested Japan to discuss this proposal further with the

ASEAN Secretariat. The Ministers also took note of the proposal of Japan for a Track II study on a possible Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) comprising ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand.

FEASIBILITY OF EAST ASIA FREE TRADE AREA (EAFTA)

- The Ministers were briefed by the Chairman of the Joint Expert Group for Feasibility Study on East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) on the outcomes of their study and thanked them for the study. The ASEAN Ministers reiterated the need to expeditiously conclude ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Areas (FTAs) and Comprehensive Economic Partnership (CEP) as the foundation for deeper regional integration. At the same time, the Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to study further the recommendations of the Joint Expert Group.

EAST ASIA BUSINESS COUNCIL (EABC)

- The Ministers had a productive discussion with the East Asia Business Council (EABC) at the occasion of the consultations. The Ministers looked forward to the fruitful outcomes of the East Asia Business and Investment Summit which will be held in December 2006.

ENERGY SECURITY COOPERATION

- The Ministers took note of Japan's initiatives on cooperation on energy efficiency and conservation.

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO)

- The Ministers exchanged views on the recent developments at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), particularly the outcomes of the General Council Meeting on 27-28 July 2006 in Geneva. They reiterated their commitment to work together to ensure successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). They agreed to resume the process in the coming months with the necessary resolve.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION INITIATIVES

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- The Ministers welcomed the successful meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam on 1-2 June 2006. They look forward to the successful organisation of the forthcoming APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting scheduled to be held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 18-19 November 2006.

Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM)

- The Ministers took note of the latest developments in ASEM. They looked forward to a successful 6th ASEM Summit scheduled to be held in Helsinki, Finland, on 10-11 September 2006.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASEAN+3, ASEAN+1, AND EAST ASIA SUMMITS

- The Ministers noted the preparations being undertaken by the Philippines for the ASEAN Plus Three, ASEAN Plus One, and East Asia Summits, which will be held in Cebu in December 2006.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia, Chairperson; H.E. Mr. Yi Xiao Zhun, Vice Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China, Co-Chairperson; H.E. Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan, Co-Chairperson; H.E. Mr. Kim Hyun Chong, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea, Co-Chairperson; Mr. Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Nam Viyareth, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Elmer C. Hernandez, Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Dr. Uttama Savanayana, Vice Minister for Commerce, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN

Joint Press Statement of the 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry Ministers and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea (6th AMAF Plus Three)

Singapore, 17 November 2006

- The ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their sixth meeting in Singapore on 17 November 2006, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development of Singapore.
- The Ministers were pleased with the substantive accomplishments under the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, particularly in cooperation on alleviating poverty and strengthening food security, research and development as well as human development activities.
- The Ministers from the Plus Three Countries (People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea) reiterated their support in the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), as well as in providing technical assistance in narrowing development gaps and accelerating integration of agriculture as a sustainable sector for economic growth and social development.
- The Ministers recognised the necessity for conserving the natural environment; preserving the social and cultural tradition of rural communities while promoting a sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors. Moreover, the Ministers recognised the importance of agriculture in securing a stable supply of safe food in the region.
- The Ministers noted the implementation of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) pilot project activities including stockpiled

emergency rice reserve projects in Indonesia, Lao PDR and in the Philippines, which provided valuable experiences in meeting the humanitarian needs during periods of emergencies and natural disasters. The Ministers agreed to the EAERR Pilot Project's extension for another year. The Ministers also noted the achievements made so far and welcomed a possibility of conversion of the pilot project into a permanent scheme.

6. Noting the successful implementation of Phase I of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project, the Ministers endorsed the proposal for the second-phase of the project. This AFSIS Project has contributed to greater understanding, dissemination and analysis of regional food security data and information among ASEAN Plus Three Countries.
7. The Ministers reaffirmed continuing efforts by the ASEAN Plus Three Countries to control and eradicate Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) that remains a serious threat to the region. The Ministers recognised the need for ASEAN Plus Three Countries to further strengthen collaboration with international agencies such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) so as to improve transparency, coordination and synergy to control and eradicate HPAI.
8. Recognising the need for cooperative actions in promoting sustainable forest management, and effective implementation of forestry laws in combating illegal logging and its associated trade, the Ministers expressed their appreciation on the offer by the Philippines to host the 2nd Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Ministerial Meeting in 2007 to ensure continual progress with national, regional and global actions.
9. The Ministers stressed the importance of sustainable, effective and diversified utilisation of bio-mass resources and technologies in view of improving global environment, ensuring energy security, and enhancing local economies and called for further cooperation in this field.
10. The Ministers agreed to have their seventh meeting in Thailand in 2007. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Singapore for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Ahmad Haji Jumat, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Anton Apriyantono, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Sitaheng Rasphone, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato Mah Siew Keong, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Major General Htay Oo, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar; H.E. Dr. Segfredo R. Serrano, Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development, Singapore; H.E. Ms Grace Fu, Minister of State for National Development, Singapore; H.E. Professor Dr. Thira Sutabutra, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand; H.E. Dr. Bui Ba Bong, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam; H.E. Fan Xiaojian, Vice Minister of Agriculture, People's Republic of China; H.E. Mr. Taku Yamamoto, Senior Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan; H.E. Dr. Park Hae-Sang, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Korea; and; H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN

Chairman's Statement of the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Cebu, Philippines, 14 January 2007

1. The ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit chaired by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines, was held successfully on 14 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member Countries had a productive meeting with the Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
2. We recalled the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in December 2005, which reaffirmed our commitment to ASEAN Plus Three cooperation as the main vehicle in achieving a long-term goal of realizing an East Asia community, with ASEAN as the driving force, and with the active participation of the Plus Three countries.
3. We also noted the scheduled adoption of the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation at the 11th APT Summit in 2007 in Singapore, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of APT cooperation. We affirmed that, in addition to reviewing a decade of accomplishments, the Second Joint Statement should identify opportunities and challenges, and offer strategic guidance for the future direction of APT, with the aim of building an open regionalism connected to the world.
4. We noted with satisfaction the steady progress achieved in APT cooperation in the last nine years, including the implementation of East Asia Study Group's (EASG) short, and medium and long-term measures.
5. We noted the recent expansion of APT cooperation to the following areas: women, poverty alleviation, disaster management and minerals. We thus welcomed the offer of China and Japan to host training seminars and workshops in poverty alleviation, women and disaster management.
6. We also welcomed Japan's proposal to support disaster reduction/preparedness education and other related projects through the Asia Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).
7. We acknowledge the importance of the Chinese proposal to set up a regional monitoring center on infectious diseases. We also acknowledge with appreciation Japan's new pledge of USD 67 million for battling avian and pandemic influenza in the region.
8. We acknowledge that the recent expansion and deepening of APT cooperation to socio-cultural areas does not detract from the consistent positive gains made in financial and monetary cooperation. We note with satisfaction that the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) of bilateral swap arrangements has expanded to USD 75 billion. We acknowledge that the Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI) also promotes the development of efficient bond markets in Asia, which can be the engine for long-term financial growth in the region.
9. We welcomed the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) as a fruitful avenue of integration. At the same time, we noted that we should continue to examine other possible FTA configurations such as

the East Asia Summit (EAS). In this connection, we welcomed the outcome of the feasibility study by the Expert Group on the EAFTA, which was spearheaded by China. As a subsequent measure, we also welcomed the proposal of the ROK to conduct the Phase II study involving the in-depth sector-by-sector analysis of the EAFTA.

10. We welcomed the proposal of Japan to establish an Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).
11. We reaffirmed the urgent need to address energy security and to strengthen existing cooperation on alternative or renewable sources of energy.
12. We welcomed the ROK's proposal to establish an APT Center for the Gifted in Science.
13. The ASEAN Leaders expressed support for the collective leadership of China, Japan and ROK towards a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. We reaffirmed the need for the full implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1695 and 1718. We called for concrete and effective steps toward the full implementation of the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and the denuclearization of the Peninsula. We also urged North Korea to respond to the humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abduction issue.
14. We welcomed the convening of the Seventh China, Japan and Republic of Korea Summit which was also held today in Cebu.
15. We also noted the Memorandum No. 3 on Policy Recommendations on Strengthening the Pillars of East Asian Community Building, prepared by the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT), which may form part of the stocktaking of APT cooperation.
16. We agreed that ultimately, we should sustain those fora and cooperative frameworks that have the greatest positive impact on the peoples of East Asia. This means putting ASEAN community-building at the center, according priority to the successful implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), narrowing the development gap and facilitating ASEAN integration. We thanked the Plus Three countries for their firm support for the VAP, Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan, BIMP-EAGA, Mekong Region Development, ACMECS and other sub-regional growth areas in ASEAN.
17. We recognized that with the ASEAN Community at the center of our long-term pursuit of an East Asia community, the APT process could make positive contributions to the maintenance of regional and global peace, security, progress and prosperity.
18. We reiterated that the APT is an essential part of the evolving regional architecture, complementary to the East Asia Summit and other regional fora.

ASEAN - AUSTRALIA Co-Chair' Statement of the 21th ASEAN-Australia Forum

Phuket, Thailand, 10 November 2006

1. The 21st ASEAN-Australia Forum was held on 10 November 2006 in Phuket, Thailand, with the participation of representatives from Australia and all ASEAN Member Countries as well as the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The Forum was co-chaired by Mr. Sihanak Phuangketkeow, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and Ms. Gillian Bird, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia.
3. The Forum acknowledged the long-standing partnership between ASEAN and Australia as well as multi-faceted challenges, including traditional and non-traditional security threats, which constitute a compelling and timely rationale for ASEAN and Australia to enhance and elevate their partnership to a higher plane.
4. The Forum welcomed the development of a framework document on ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership, which gives a clear direction to all aspect of ASEAN-Australia relations and cooperation. The Forum recommended the said document for signing during the 2nd East Asia Summit in Cebu, the Philippines in December this year.
5. The Forum also agreed that a Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership would be drafted. The Forum expects the Plan of Action to be ready for adoption at the PMC Session with Australia in the Philippines in 2007.
6. The Forum recognized the contribution of the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program (AADCP) to ASEAN's economic integration and welcomed the Successor Program of the AADCP which is taking shape at a crucial time when the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership is being developed and ASEAN is to revise the Vientiane Action Programme and its related Plans of Action in response to possible advancement of the realization of an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. The Forum emphasized that the design of the AADCP Successor Program should be in line with and complementary to the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and the framework document on ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership.
7. The Forum took note of progress in an ASEAN Community building processes as well as ASEAN's continued efforts to engage key players in the region and beyond. Participants in the Forum also reaffirmed their common interest in further engaging among themselves and with external powers in order to maintain peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
8. Australia and ASEAN Member Countries exchanged views on situations in the Pacific region, particularly the Solomon islands, Fiji and Timor Leste. It was acknowledged that Australia had played a constructive role in maintaining peace and stability as well as promoting socio-economic development among countries of the South Pacific region.

9. The Forum extended its full support to the 2nd East Asia Summit to be held in Cebu, the Philippines, this December and its deliberation on priority areas, including energy security and regional financial integration.
10. The Forum was briefed by Vietnam on its hosting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings and the APEC Summit. Participants in the Forum expressed support for APEC's structural reform. They also recognized that APEC had its bearing beyond economic arena and commend the work of member economies on certain areas, such as prevention of communicable diseases, including Avian Influenza, and disaster management.
11. The Forum welcomed the progress of the ASEAN-Australia and New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) negotiations in several areas, such as trade in goods and services, rules of origin, etc. The Forum hoped that ASEAN Member Countries and Australia would exercise greater flexibilities in order to conclude the negotiations by 2007 and implement the AANZFTA in early 2008.
12. The Forum welcomed Viet Nam's recent accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Participants in the Forum also urged for the re-convening of the Doha Round negotiations as soon as possible and noted that the challenge was less of a technical matter than political will. They hoped that key players would remain engaged and that the WTO member economies could work out their differences, especially on the negotiations on liberalization of agricultural products.
13. ASEAN Member Countries and Australia exchanged views on international terrorism and recognized that due to the complexity of the problem, counter-terrorism must involve suppressing terrorist activities and networks as well as combating terrorism from the ideological dimension.
14. The Forum acknowledged the contribution of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) to confidence building among regional countries. They also discussed the future direction of the ARF and expressed support to measures and activities aimed at promoting the move towards Preventive Diplomacy, such as enhanced roles of the ARF Chair as well as Experts and Eminent Persons (EEP), Terms of Reference for Friends of the ARF Chair, increased interaction between Track I and Track II as well as between ARF and other security organizations.
15. The Forum expressed serious concern over nuclear testing in the Korean Peninsula and would welcome the return to the Six Party Talks of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
16. The Forum appreciated cooperation between ASEAN Member Countries and Australia in combating drug trafficking and trafficking in persons in the region. They agreed that comprehensive measures must be applied in solving the problems and looked forward to strengthening collaboration in this regard.
17. All parties recognized the serious threat and trans-boundary impact of communicable diseases, particularly HIV and AIDS and Avian Influenza. They agreed to enhance their cooperation in the areas of prevention, treatment and care at bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels.
18. ASEAN Member Countries and Australia reaffirmed the importance of regional cooperation on disaster prevention, preparedness, early warning and emergency response within the contexts of ASEAN and ARF. Emphasis was placed on a multi-hazard approach, including such measures as capacity building in effective forecast and early-

warning issuance of national centers as well as civil-military interface in emergency response.

19. The Meeting agreed that in order to follow up more closely on cooperation progress, the ASEAN-Australia Forum should be held every 12 to 18 months and that the 22nd ASEAN-Australia Forum would be hosted by Australia in 2007.
20. Participants in the 21st ASEAN-Australia Forum expressed appreciation to Thailand for its warm hospitality and excellent arrangements accorded to them during their stay in Phuket, Thailand.

ASEAN - CANADA

Co-Chairs Statement of the 3rd ASEAN-Canada Dialogue

**Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam,
14-16 June 2006**

1. The 3rd ASEAN-Canada Dialogue was held on 14–16 June 2006 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting was attended by representatives of ASEAN Member Countries, Canada and the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Pengiran Dato Paduka Osman Patra, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam, and Mr. Arif Lalani, Acting Director General of Asia South and Pacific, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada.
3. In his welcoming remarks, Pengiran Dato Paduka Osman Patra stated that the significant developments in the dialogue relations over the last year marked an important step forward in forging a closer ASEAN-Canada relationship. Canada's interest and efforts to further promote the relations, in this regard, was very much appreciated. He also hoped that both sides would take every opportunity to work closely on matters of mutual interest, including in the areas of trade and investment, disaster management, as well as in fighting transnational crimes and addressing health threats. The proposed Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism would contribute towards an enhanced political and security cooperation. Similarly, the ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Work Plan would provide a good basis for a more extensive cooperation between both sides. As this would be the last dialogue meeting to be co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam, he expressed his gratitude for the support received from ASEAN Member Countries and Canada and wished Viet Nam success as the incoming Country Coordinator.
4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Arif Lalani paid tribute to His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Honorable Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2. He also thanked his co-Chair, Pengiran Dato Paduka Osman Patra, for his warm welcome, and for Brunei's leadership over the past three years as Canada's coordinating country for ASEAN. Canada sees the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue as an opportunity to further express its genuine commitment to deeper and broader cooperation with ASEAN. He highlighted the progress on the ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Work Plan and the Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism as

signs of Canada's committed engagement with the ASEAN region. He highlighted that while there have been positive inroads over the past year, there are other areas where ASEAN and Canada should explore further cooperation, such as interfaith dialogue. He hoped that these meetings would continue the excellent discussions that took place in Vancouver 2005, and that Canada looked forward to working with Viet Nam over the next three years as Canada's new coordinating country.

5. ASEAN briefed Canada on the outcomes of the 11th ASEAN Summit and First East Asia Summit (EAS) held in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur. ASEAN also informed Canada on the progress in implementing the measures to realise the ASEAN Community, through the Plans of Action of the political and security, economic and socio-cultural pillars and through the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP). Canada welcomed the positive developments in ASEAN, especially the efforts towards strengthening regional integration and narrowing the development gaps.
6. ASEAN briefed Canada on developments with respect to accessions to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), particularly, highlighting France's decision to sign the Treaty in 2006. ASEAN encouraged Canada to consider acceding to the TAC in the near future.
7. The Meeting exchanged views on developments in the Korean Peninsula and recognized the impact of the nuclear issue on peace, stability and security in the region. The Meeting emphasized the importance of the Six Party Talks in finding a peaceful and comprehensive solution and the development of a consensus strategy to denuclearize the Peninsula which all six parties agree is the objective of the talks. The Meeting also emphasized the importance of encouraging a supportive role of the ASEAN Regional Forum, including, in addressing the humanitarian aspect of this issue. The Meeting also welcomed the positive developments in the inter-Korean talks.
8. The Meeting was of the view that a comprehensive, durable and just resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is important in creating peace and stability in the Middle East. It expressed support for the full implementation of the Road Map and relevant UN resolutions, including the establishment of a Palestinian state existing side-by-side with Israel within secure and recognized borders.
9. On Iran's nuclear programme, the Meeting called on all parties to show restraint and settle the issue through dialogue and peaceful means. The Meeting also hoped for a resumption of negotiations and to enhance cooperation with the involvement of all necessary parties to promote international confidence with the view to facilitating the International Atomic Energy Agency's work on resolving the outstanding issues. The Meeting further emphasised that the Agency should continue its work to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue within its mandate under the Statute of the IAEA.
10. On Iraq, the Meeting expressed serious concerns over the continued acts of violence, especially on the implications it had on innocent civilians and Iraqi authorities. The Meeting called for an increased effort to restore peace and stability in Iraq and hoped for all parties to complete the successful political reconstruction in that country.
11. The Meeting exchanged views on the challenges posed by natural disasters and expressed condolences to the governments and people of the countries that have been affected by such disasters in recent years. In light of the earthquake in Yogyakarta, the Meeting noted with appreciation the generous assistance offered, including by ASEAN Member Countries and Canada. In this regard, the Meeting discussed the need to enhance cooperation on disaster risk management and emergency response, while ensuring complementarity with activities already undertaken at the United Nations (UN) and in other multilateral and regional fora. The Meeting also discussed the importance of promoting disaster risk reduction in disaster-prone countries in the region.
12. The Meeting discussed ways of enhancing cooperation to fight transnational crimes, including, trafficking in persons, and money laundering. Technical assistance and capacity building, in particular to ASEAN Member Countries, were identified as ways in which these problems could be dealt with effectively.
13. ASEAN and Canada strengthened their commitment to counter terrorism through the proposed Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism. Both sides discussed the importance of taking a consistent and collaborative international approach, based on agreed common institutions standards and values including tolerance and respect for diversity, human rights, human security, good governance and the rule of law. The Meeting welcomed the significant initiatives undertaken by ASEAN and Canada in the effort to counter terrorism, including progress in implementing the relevant conventions, protocols and United Nations (UN) Security Council resolutions as well as relevant counter-terrorism UN conventions and protocols. The Meeting noted that existing regional and international institutions, such as the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Kuala Lumpur, and the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) could play an important role in the effort to effectively combat terrorism and transnational crime.
14. The Meeting discussed cooperation in the fight against HIV/AIDS. ASEAN called upon Canada to support its efforts to develop consensus and awareness on the Third ASEAN Work Plan for HIV and AIDS (AWPIII), which would be presented at the 12th ASEAN Leaders' Summit scheduled in Cebu, Philippines in December 2006. The Meeting commended Canada's contribution to the Global Fund for the Prevention of Malaria, Tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. The Meeting also highlighted the XVI International AIDS conference, which will be held in Toronto from August 13-18, 2006.
15. The Meeting emphasized the importance of promoting closer cooperation to deal with and prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as avian influenza, including through the training of personnel, establishment of information sharing system and coordination of national pandemic preparedness plans. Canada commended efforts of countries in the region to overcome this disease, including identifying ways for an enhanced response, and noted the outcome of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Special SOM on Avian Influenza Pandemic Preparedness in Bangkok on 8 May 2006.
16. ASEAN informed Canada on its economic outlook, trade and economic relations with trading partners, and developments in its regional economic integration processes, both internally and externally. Canada welcomed the strengthening of economic and trade cooperation under the framework of ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) and advancing economic partnership with its other Dialogue Partners through the various FTAs. ASEAN and Canada exchanged views on the possibility of closer economic cooperation particularly, in the 11 priority sectors of the ASEAN Economic Community, which would contribute positively to the economic growth of both sides.

17. The Meeting discussed the progress in the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations and emphasised the importance of a successful and ambitious outcome to the Doha Development Agenda.
18. The Meeting recognised the role of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in promoting prosperity and fostering economic cooperation in the region and looked forward to the successful outcome of the APEC Leaders Meeting to be held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam in November 2006. The Meeting welcomed the interest of ASEAN Member countries who are non-APEC members to join the forum.
19. On the future direction of ASEAN-Canada relations, the Meeting discussed ways to develop cooperation such as in the areas of Islamic banking, information communications technology (ICT), human resources development (HRD) and health care. It was felt that more could be done to promote ASEAN-Canada relations through cultural awareness and cooperation, particularly, those which involve people-to-people contact engaging ordinary people such as youth, students, academics and parliamentarians. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Brunei Darussalam and Canada to explore the possibility of organizing an interfaith dialogue.
20. The Meeting looked forward to the signing of the proposed ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism and the adoption of the draft 2005-2007 ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Work Plan. The Meeting agreed that the two documents would serve as a basis for more intensified cooperation between both sides. The Meeting also emphasized that efforts to implement the documents should take into account of the need to undertake region-wide cooperative activities, including, in the area of capacity building.
21. The Meeting was briefed on the endorsement of the ASEAN candidate for the position of United Nations Secretary General, Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai. ASEAN requested for the valuable support of Canada for the ASEAN candidate and also acknowledged Canada's efforts in trying to introduce greater transparency in the UNSG selection process.
22. The next ASEAN-Canada Dialogue would be held in Canada in early 2007, at a date to be announced.
23. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Brunei Darussalam and Canada on their excellent leadership for the ASEAN-Canada relations over the last three years. The Meeting thanked the Government of Brunei Darussalam for its warm hospitality and for the excellent arrangements extended throughout the Meeting. The Meeting was conducted in a spirit of cooperation and cordiality under the chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam and Canada.

ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28 July 2006

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Government of Canada, (hereinafter referred to collectively as "the Participants");

MINDFUL of the 2001 ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism and Declaration on Terrorism by the 8th ASEAN Summit which, inter alia, undertake to strengthen cooperation at bilateral, regional and international levels in combating terrorism in a comprehensive manner;

REALISING that terrorism constitutes a serious crime and is a threat to ASEAN and Canada's peace, security and economic prosperity;

REAFFIRMING their determination to prevent, suppress and eliminate international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (UN), international law, including human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, UN Resolutions or Declarations and UN Conventions and Protocols related to Counterterrorism, where applicable, and affirming that the UN should play a major role in combating terrorism;

RECOGNISING the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States;

REALISING that the complexity and transnational nature of terrorism, and in certain circumstances, its linkages with transnational organised crime, call for the comprehensive and concerted approach that embraces concrete action on many fronts;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of effective international and regional cooperation to combat and prevent international terrorism;

AWARE of the importance of addressing the root causes of terrorism without acknowledging these as justifications for violence;

MINDFUL of ASEAN and Canada's efforts to enhance vertical and horizontal cooperation and noting the importance placed on counter-terrorism collaboration highlighted in the Co-Chairs' statement of the Second ASEAN-Canada Dialogue in Vancouver in 2005;

NOTING that the Co-Chairs' Statement from the 2004 Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism resolved to enhance regional cooperation on counter-terrorism;

RECOGNISING work of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) as a leading ASEAN body for combating terrorism, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and other ASEAN Mechanisms to strengthen regional and international cooperation in the fight against terrorism;

WELCOMING recent regional cooperation to strengthen dialogue and promote mutual understanding within and among countries, cultures, faiths and civilisations;

NOTING also the strong re-affirmation of commitment to enhancing regional counter-terrorism cooperation contained in the 2003, 2004 and 2005 APEC Economic Leaders Statements;

CONSCIOUS that terrorism, as an international phenomenon, must not be identified with any religion, culture, race or nationality;

ENCOURAGED by the strong cooperation between Member Countries of ASEAN and Canada on matters of regional security and law enforcement matters;

DESIRING to strengthen and expand this cooperation to fight international terrorism through the ARF Intersessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime and recognising the leading role of the AMMTC and other ASEAN Mechanisms for combating terrorism.

1. The Participants acknowledge the United Nations as the primary forum for the development of the global legal framework to combat terrorism, and reaffirm the importance of having a framework for cooperation to prevent, disrupt and combat international terrorism through activities such as the exchange and flow of information, intelligence and capacity building.
2. The Participants emphasise that the purpose of this cooperation is to enhance the efficacy of those efforts to combat terrorism.

Scope and Areas of Cooperation:

3. The Participants stress their commitment to seek to implement the principles laid out in this Declaration, in conformity with their obligations under international law, and in accordance with their respective domestic laws and their specific circumstances, in any or all of the following activities and to review them at appropriate existing meetings.
4. Enhanced cooperation in accordance with this Declaration includes:
 - i. Exchange of information on the organisation, activities, methods, arms used, financing and movement of terrorists and counter-terrorism measures, including on the development of more effective policies and legal, regulatory and administrative counter-terrorism regimes, in accordance with relevant international and domestic law;
 - ii. Greater cooperation on law enforcement measures, including those aimed at prevention, investigation, apprehension and prosecution of terrorist activities via regional initiatives such as the Law Enforcement Working Group established by the Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and other ASEAN Mechanisms;
 - iii. Strengthened capacity building efforts, including through training and technical assistance, seminars, workshops and the exchange of best practices, as appropriate;
 - iv. Improved border control, customs and immigration and transport security procedures, to ensure the integrity of travel documents, to prevent document and identity fraud, and to stem the flow of terrorist-related material, money and people;
 - v. Enhanced legal cooperation in criminal matters to bring terrorists to justice, including streamlining the procedures for seeking and granting mutual legal assistance and extradition, where necessary, via regional initiatives such as the Legal Issues Working Group under the framework of the Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism;
 - vi. Strengthened measures to prevent illegal manufacture, possession or trafficking in weapons, ammunition, explosives and other potentially destructive materials or substances;
5. The Participants will take advantage of such opportunities as are considered in the circumstances to be appropriate and necessary to enhance cooperation to combat terrorism, including through diplomatic missions, visits and meetings of Ministers, officials and experts, as well as the judiciary, and conferences, workshops or seminars given available resources.
6. The Participants will work towards closer and interactive dialogue with civil society, including the academic community, to foster greater understanding and cooperation aimed at eliminating terrorism.
7. The Participants recognise the ongoing need for consistency of counter terrorism frameworks with fundamental human rights standards and will explore appropriate opportunities to enhance awareness and understanding of this.

Mechanisms:

5. The Participants will take advantage of such opportunities as are considered in the circumstances to be appropriate and necessary to enhance cooperation to combat terrorism, including through diplomatic missions, visits and meetings of Ministers, officials and experts, as well as the judiciary, and conferences, workshops or seminars given available resources.
6. The Participants will work towards closer and interactive dialogue with civil society, including the academic community, to foster greater understanding and cooperation aimed at eliminating terrorism.
7. The Participants recognise the ongoing need for consistency of counter terrorism frameworks with fundamental human rights standards and will explore appropriate opportunities to enhance awareness and understanding of this.

Participation:

8. The Participants are encouraged to become parties to, and effectively implement, all 13 of the United Nations conventions and protocols relating to terrorism.
9. The Participants are called upon to designate a contact point to coordinate their respective law enforcement and security agencies, authorities dealing with countering terrorist financing and other relevant agencies for the purposes of implementing the declaration.

Disclosure of Information:

10. The Participants will not disclose or distribute any confidential information, documents or data received in connection with this declaration to any third party, at any time, except to the extent agreed in writing by the Participant that provided the information.

Done at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty-Eighth Day of July in the Year Two Thousand and Six, in three original copies, two in the English Language and one in the French Language.

For ASEAN:
DATO' SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Malaysia
 Chairman of the 39th ASEAN
 Standing Committee

For Canada:
PETER GORDON MACKAY
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Canada

ASEAN - CHINA**Joint Ministerial Statement
of the ASEAN-China ICT Ministerial Forum****Penang, Malaysia, 21 April 2006****“Strategic Regional ICT Cooperation for Growth and Prosperity”**

1. We, the Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology of ASEAN Member Countries and China, held our ICT Forum in Penang, Malaysia on 21 April 2006, to discuss the progress of our cooperation and collaboration in advancing the catalytic role of the ICT sector in promoting the region's economic growth and prosperity.
2. H.E. Dato' Seri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik, Minister of Energy, Water and Communications of Malaysia and H.E. Mr. Wang Xudong, Minister for Information Industry of China served as Co-Chairmen.
3. H. E. Dato' Sri Haji Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, officially opened our Forum. Recognizing the potential of ICT in promoting further development in the region, he encouraged ASEAN and China to forge stronger partnership and establish appropriate follow up mechanism to implement and realize the benefits from existing and future ASEAN-China ICT initiatives.
4. We are pleased with the progress of ASEAN-China ICT Cooperation since the adoption of Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development at the First ASEAN-China ICT Week in May 2005.
5. In particular, we noted with appreciation a number of workshops that were organized last year in China including those on capacity building for national computer emergency response team, rural communication and universal services, and information superhighway.
6. We are also pleased to note the continued progress in the implementation of the Information Superhighway project under the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) framework. To further strengthen our efforts in ICT infrastructure building in the region, we agreed to expedite the implementation of the GMS Information Superhighway project while, at the same time, tasking our senior officials to explore the possibility of expanding the GMS project to cover all ASEAN countries towards the establishment of an ASEAN-China Information Superhighway.
7. In 2006, more than ten activities and events are planned, including study visits, training programs, an ASEAN-China ICT Seminar, and a Joint Symposium on RFID Application. An ASEAN-China Coordination Framework for Network and Information Security Emergency Responses will also be developed.
8. Recognizing the importance of the Next Generation Network and its on-going implementation in some of our countries, we agreed to further exchange views and experiences in the migration from PSTN to NGN (including related issues such as IPv6, VoIP and VPN). We also agreed to put greater efforts into enhancing rural communication and universal services and to consider the implementation of pilot projects involving actual application of suitable technology in selected rural areas in the region.
9. Given that there will be the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Greece in October 2006, we agreed to conduct a dialogue on a broad set of issues on internet governance, such as network and information security, international charging arrangement, and deployment of international domain name, and to explore the possibility to develop a common position on issues to be raised at the IGF 2006.
10. To facilitate intra-regional trade, investment, and logistics, particularly in light of ASEAN-China FTA, we agreed that studies may be conducted on e-commerce and e-government, regional standards, and MRAs for telecom equipment certification and ICT expertise certification.
11. Furthermore, ASEAN Ministers are pleased to note that China will be participating, for the first time, in the meeting of ASEAN Telecommunications Regulator Council (ATRC) to be held in Mandalay, Myanmar in July 2006. This would further enhance our understanding of the region's regulatory regimes.
12. We are satisfied with the active participation of our private sectors in the ASEAN-China ICT Business Forum held on 18-19 April 2006. They expressed their support and willingness to participate in ASEAN-China cooperation activities in ICT including, among others, in establishing the ASEAN-China Information Superhighway, universal services, digital content development, RFID, training, standards and MRAs.
13. ASEAN Ministers conveyed their appreciation to China for the donation of 200 units of computers to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam within this year.
14. We reiterated our commitment to continuously enhancing the ASEAN – China strategic partnerships in ICT to support regional growth and prosperity.
15. We expressed our appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for the warm hospitality accorded to us and the excellent arrangements made for the Second ASEAN-China ICT Week.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Communications, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. So Khun, Minister of Posts and Telecommunication, Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Wang Xudong, Minister of Information Industry, China; H.E. Dr. Ashwin Sasongko, Vice Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Vice Minister of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik, Minister of Energy, Water and Communications, Malaysia; H.E. Mr. U Aung Myint, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, Myanmar; Hon. Dr Emmanuel C. Lallana, Commissioner, Commission on Information and Communications Technology, The Philippines; Mr. Leong Keng Thai, Deputy Chief Executive and Director-General, Infocomms Development Authority, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Mahidol Chantrangkurn, Vice Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hung, Vice Minister of Posts and Telematics, Viet Nam; and H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary General of ASEAN.

Joint Statement of ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit

Nanning, China, 30 October 2006

Towards An Enhanced ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China gathered on 30 October 2006 in the "Year of Friendship and Cooperation between ASEAN and China" in Nanning, China, to commemorate the Fifteenth Anniversary of the ASEAN-China dialogue relations

Fifteen Years of Working and Growing Together

2. We reviewed the progress in ASEAN-China dialogue relations and expressed satisfaction that this cooperation is comprehensive and deepening in many areas of mutual interest. The strategic partnership for peace and prosperity between ASEAN and China has not only vigorously boosted their own development and brought tangible benefits to their peoples, but also contributed significantly to peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the world at large. We are confident that we have laid down a solid foundation for enhanced future cooperation between ASEAN and China.
3. We highly appreciated the strengthened political and security cooperation following the signing of the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in 2003 in Bali, and the adoption of the ASEAN-China Plan of Action in 2004 in Vientiane. We commended China for being the first Dialogue Partner of ASEAN to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia in 2003 in Bali. We were pleased with the signing of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in 2002. The ASEAN-China Joint Declaration in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues of 2002 also increased the cooperation in dealing with transnational crime.
4. We welcomed the positive effects of the ASEAN-China Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation signed in 2002 in Phnom Penh. In 2005, the ASEAN-China trade volume reached USD 130.37 billion. While the total volume of ASEAN's actual investment in China reached USD 3.1 billion, China's investment in ASEAN increased to USD 158 million in 2005. In this connection, ASEAN welcomed China's commitment to increase its investment in ASEAN. We were pleased with the successful holding of the first and the second ASEAN-China EXPO and the ASEAN-China Business and Investment Summit in Nanning, China, which facilitated contacts among business people and promoted trade and investment between ASEAN and China. The envisioned ASEAN-China Free Trade Area is crystallising.
5. We noted with satisfaction the expansion of ASEAN-China cooperation from five to ten priority areas, namely, agriculture, information and communication technology (ICT), human resource development (HRD), two-way investment, Mekong River Basin development, transportation, energy, culture, tourism and public health, as well as the signing of several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). These activities promoted closer cooperation in tackling new challenges such as natural disasters and communicable diseases and also more people-to-people contacts.

Moving into the Future Together

Strengthening the Strategic Partnership

6. We believe that the achievements made in the past 15 years in ASEAN-China dialogue relations have been the result of adherence by both sides to the principles enshrined in the TAC, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, the Ten Principles of the Bandung Asian-African Conference, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and other relevant international laws, treaties, and conventions. ASEAN and China relations will continue to be fully guided by these principles.
7. Moving into the future, we agree to further enhance mutual trust and understanding and match the depth and breadth of cooperation with the objective of our strategic partnership to further enhance peace, development and prosperity to the region.
8. We reaffirm our commitment to effectively implement:
 - the Joint Statement of the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of ASEAN and the President of the People's Republic of China 1997;
 - the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity 2003;
 - the ASEAN-China Plan of Action 2004 to Implement Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity; and
 - Other Agreements/MOUs between ASEAN and China.
9. We are committed to deepen collaboration in the ten priority areas of ASEAN-China cooperation. In enhancing our cooperation, we will also take into account the Report of the ASEAN-China Eminent Persons Group (EPG) of 2005.
10. We, the Leaders of ASEAN, highly appreciated China's continued commitment to support ASEAN's community building efforts, including the implementation of the Plans of Action of the ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and other ASEAN initiatives. In this context, ASEAN welcomed China's contribution of USD 1 million to the ASEAN Development Fund (ADF) and China's funding assistance of USD 1 million for IAI projects.
11. We will work in concert to advance the strategic partnership, which would be a catalyst for dialogue relations between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners and greatly contribute to regional peace and stability thereby ensuring continuous prosperity and progress for our peoples. To this end, we expressed our determination to achieve the following:

Political and Security Cooperation

12. We are committed to maintain high-level visits; strengthen cooperation and information sharing in non-traditional security issues; promote cooperation on criminal justice and law enforcement, including in anti-corruption efforts; encourage exchange of defence/security officials; work together in ensuring maritime security in the region; and strengthen regional cooperation on disaster management and emergency preparedness, including post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts, with ASEAN taking the lead.

13. China supports and welcomes ASEAN's efforts to establish a Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone. ASEAN appreciates China's intention to accede to the Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone and will continue to consult China on this matter.
14. We are also committed to effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and work towards the eventual adoption, on the basis of consensus, of a code of conduct in the South China Sea, which would enhance peace and stability in the region.
15. We are also fully committed to support the realisation of the ASEAN Security Community.

Economic Cooperation

16. We are determined to establish the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area by 2010 as scheduled; including trade in goods liberalization by 2010 for ASEAN-6 and China and by 2015 for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam; work expeditiously towards agreements to progressively liberalise trade in services with substantial sectoral coverage and to promote investments by creating a liberal, facilitative, transparent and competitive investment regime in ASEAN and China, as envisioned in ASEAN-China Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation; establish the ASEAN-China Centre for Trade, Investment and Tourism Promotion; promote the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and their participation in the regional economy; cooperate in ensuring energy security, efficiency, and development of alternative and renewable energy sources; strengthen cooperation in finance; deepen cooperation in tourism and travel; work towards a fully liberalised air services regime between ASEAN and China; and support the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community
17. We encourage further cooperation between ASEAN and China in support of sub-regional developments, including the development of economic cooperation zones in areas covering southwestern China; BIMP-EAGA; ACMECS; IMT-GT; GMS; and the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development areas, including the completion of the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) and other areas.

Socio-Cultural Cooperation

18. We agreed to strengthen our socio-cultural cooperation by encouraging greater cooperation between institutions of secondary and higher education; increasing youth exchanges by initiating the ASEAN-China Young Leaders Conference, ASEAN-China Young Entrepreneurs Association and ASEAN-China Young Civil Servants' Exchange Programme as flagship projects; launching a prestigious ASEAN-China Scholarship; promoting scholarly exchanges; supporting the Centre for ASEAN and China Studies; enhancing greater contacts between media personnel, academics and Track II institutions, parliamentarians and civil society; supporting the activities of the ASEAN Foundation in promoting greater people-to-people interaction; cooperating in public health to address the challenges of emerging infectious diseases; and supporting the realisation, including projects and activities under the MoU between ASEAN and China on Cultural Cooperation, of the ASEAN Socio-cultural Community.

Regional and International Cooperation

19. We agree to continue to consult closely on sub-regional, regional and international issues and to cooperate in sub-regional, regional and international fora. We also reaffirm the establishment of the East Asia community as a long-term goal. China supports ASEAN's role as the driving force in regional processes, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Plus Three and East Asia Summit. ASEAN believes that a stable, developing and prosperous China will contribute to peace, stability and sustainable growth for the development of the region and reaffirms its One-China Policy.
20. We tasked our Ministers and Senior Officials to realise the goals, initiatives and activities outlined in this Joint Statement.

Done in Nanning, China, on the Thirtieth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Six, in two original copies in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the People's Republic of China:
WEN JIABAO
Premier

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
SAMDECH HUN SEN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia:
DR. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO
President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
BOUASONE BOUPHAVANH
Prime Minister

For Malaysia:
DATO' SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI
Prime Minister

For the Union of Myanmar:
GENERAL SOE WIN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Philippines:
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President

For the Republic of Singapore:
LEE HSIEN LOONG
Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
GENERAL SURAYUD CHULANONT (RET.)
Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
NGUYEN TAN DUNG
Prime Minister



**Protocol to Amend the Agreement
on Trade in Goods of the Framework
Agreement on Comprehensive Economic
Co-operation between the Association of
Southeast Asian Nations and
the People's Republic of China**

Cebu, Philippines, 8 December 2006

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic ("Lao PDR"), Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (collectively, "ASEAN" or "ASEAN Member States", or individually, "ASEAN Member State"), and the People's Republic of China ("China"), (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties");

RECALLING the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China, signed by the Economic Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and China, in Vientiane, Lao PDR on the 29th day of November 2004, (hereinafter referred to as the "TIG Agreement");

NOTING that China and Viet Nam have, on the 18th day of July 2005, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Outstanding Issues under the TIG Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "MOU between China and Viet Nam");

SEEKING to incorporate the obligations detailed in the MOU between China and Viet Nam into the TIG Agreement;

SEEKING also to incorporate into the TIG Agreement amendments to the Sensitive List and Highly Sensitive List made by some Parties after November 2004, which had been mutually agreed and accepted administratively by the Parties;

SEEKING also to amend the provision relating to the treatment of tariff rate quota (hereinafter referred to as "TRQ");

NOTING that the First Package of Product Specific Rules (hereinafter referred to as "PSR") had been mutually agreed and implemented administratively by the Parties since July 2005;

SEEKING to incorporate the First Package of PSR into the TIG Agreement;

SEEKING also to provide for future packages of PSRs to be attached administratively to the TIG Agreement;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Amendment to Footnote 2 of Article 8(1) of the TIG Agreement

Footnote 2 of Article 8(1) of the TIG Agreement shall be amended by deleting the following phrase:
"[Viet Nam: 4 years]"

Article 2

Amendments to Annex 1 of the TIG Agreement

1. Paragraph 1(ii) of Annex 1 of the TIG Agreement shall be amended by inserting the following footnote after the word "Viet Nam":
"Notwithstanding this schedule for tariff reduction and elimination, Viet Nam shall also reduce and eliminate the tariffs for the products listed in Appendix 1 of this Annex in accordance with the schedule indicated therein."
2. The existing Appendix 1 of Annex 1 of the TIG Agreement shall be renamed as Appendix 2 and the new Appendix 1 is set out in Attachment 1.
3. Paragraph 6(b)(iii) of Annex 1 of the TIG Agreement shall be substituted by the following new paragraph 6(b)(iii):
"(iii) Viet Nam shall have tariffs on 45% of its Normal Track tariff lines eliminated not later than 1 January 2013."
4. Paragraph 7 of Annex 1 of the TIG Agreement shall be substituted by the following new paragraph:
"7. The tariff lines listed by the Parties in Appendix 2 shall have their respective ACFTA tariffs eliminated not later than 1 January 2012 for ASEAN 6 and China, and 1 January 2018 for CLMV."
5. Paragraph (k) of Appendix 2 of Annex 1 of the TIG Agreement shall be amended by deleting the phrase "To be determined not later than 31 December 2004". The table, which appears in Attachment 2 of this Protocol, shall be inserted after the words, "Viet Nam."

Article 3

Amendments to Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement

1. Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be amended as follows:
 - a. Paragraph 1(ii) of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be substituted by the following new paragraph:
"(ii) Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam:
500 tariff lines at the HS 6 digits level."
 - b. Paragraph 1(iii) of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be deleted.
 - c. Paragraph 2(iii) of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be substituted by the following new paragraph :
"(iii) Viet Nam:
shall be not more than 40% of the total number of tariff lines in its Sensitive track or 140 tariff lines at the HS 6-digit level, whichever is lower."
 - d. Paragraph 3(ii) of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be substituted by the following new paragraph:
"(ii) Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariffs lines placed in their respective Sensitive Lists to 20% not later than 1 January 2015. These tariff rates shall be subsequently reduced to 0-5% not later than 1 January 2020."
 - e. Paragraph 6 of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be substituted by the following:

"6. The reciprocal tariff rate treatment of tariff lines placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track, while the same tariff lines are placed by the importing Party in the Normal Track or in the Early Harvest Programme, shall be governed by the following conditions:

- i. the tariff rate for a tariff line placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track must be at 10% or below and the exporting Party has given notification to that effect to the other Parties in order for that Party to enjoy reciprocity;
- ii. the reciprocal tariff rate to be applied to a tariff line placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track shall either be the tariff rate of that exporting Party's tariff line, the Normal Track or Early Harvest Programme tariff rate of the same tariff line of an importing Party from whom reciprocity is sought, whichever is higher;
- iii. notwithstanding sub-paragraph (ii), the importing Party can, on its discretion, apply its Normal Track or Early Harvest Programme tariff rate even if such rate is lower than the tariff rate of the exporting Party; and
- iv. the reciprocal tariff rate to be applied to a tariff line placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track shall in no case exceed the applied MFN rate of the same tariff line of an importing Party from whom reciprocity is sought.

The Interpretative Notes to this paragraph is set out in Appendix 1 of this Annex."

- f. Paragraph 7 of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be substituted by the following:

"7. The treatment of tariff lines of the Parties subject to in-quota and out-quota rates including the modalities for tariff reduction/elimination shall be discussed, mutually agreed by the Parties and be incorporated into the TIG Agreement. The discussions shall include, but not be limited to, the in-quota and out-quota rates."
2. The existing Appendix 1 of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be replaced by the new Appendix 1 as set out in Attachment 3 of this Protocol.
3. The existing Appendix 1 of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be amended as follows:
 - a. Paragraph (k) of Appendix 1 of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be amended by inserting the following footnote after the word "Viet Nam":

"Notwithstanding the schedule for tariff reduction as indicated in Paragraph 3(ii), Viet Nam shall also reduce the tariffs for the products listed in Appendix 4 of this Annex in accordance with the modality therein."
 - b. Paragraph (k) of Appendix 1 of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be amended by deleting the phrase "To be determined not later than 31 December 2004". The table, which appears in Attachment 4 of this Protocol, shall be inserted after the words, "Viet Nam:"
 - c. The existing Appendix 1 of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement, as amended shall be renamed as Appendix 2.
4. The existing Appendix 2 of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be amended as follows:
 - a. Paragraph (k) of Appendix 2 of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be amended by inserting the following footnote after the word "Viet Nam":

"Notwithstanding the schedule for tariff reduction as indicated in Paragraph 3(iii), Viet Nam shall also reduce the tariffs for the products listed in Appendix 4 of this Annex in accordance with the modality therein."
 - b. Paragraph (k) of Appendix 2 of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement shall be amended by deleting the phrase "To be determined

not later than 31 December 2004". The table, which appears in Attachment 5 of this Protocol, shall be inserted in the line after the words, "Viet Nam".

- c. The existing Appendix 2 of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement, as amended shall be renamed as Appendix 3.
5. Appendix 4 of Annex 2 of the TIG Agreement, which appears as Attachment 6, shall be inserted into the TIG Agreement.

Article 4 Other Amendments

The amendments to the Sensitive List and Highly Sensitive List made by some Parties after November 2004, which has been mutually agreed and accepted administratively by the Parties, are set out in Attachment 7 of this Protocol.

Article 5 New Appendices

Taking into account the amendments set out in Articles 3(3) and 3(4), as well as Article 4 above, Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of Annex 2 shall be substituted by new appendices, renamed as Appendix 2 and Appendix 3, as set out in Attachments 8 and 9 of this Protocol. For the Parties which have not carried out any administrative amendments, their list of products shall remain unchanged.

Article 6 Substitution of Attachment B of Annex 3 of the TIG Agreement

The existing Attachment B of Annex 3 of the TIG Agreement shall be substituted by the new Attachment B as set out in Attachment 10 of this Protocol.

Article 7 Future Packages of PSR

Future packages of PSRs that are mutually agreed and accepted by all Parties shall be attached administratively to the TIG Agreement and implemented by the Parties as an integral part of the TIG Agreement.

Article 8 Final Provisions

1. This Protocol and the Annexes and Appendices mentioned herein shall form an integral part of the TIG Agreement and shall enter into force upon the date of signature.
2. For the ASEAN Member States, this Protocol shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each ASEAN Member State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China.

DONE in Cebu, the Philippines, this Eighth Day of December in the Year Two Thousand and Six, in two original copies in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
MOHAMED BOLKIAH
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the People's Republic of China
BO XILAI
Minister of Commerce

For Kingdom of Cambodia:

CHAM PRASIDH

Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

For the Republic of Indonesia:

MARI ELKA PANGESTU

Minister of Trade

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

NAM VIYAKETH

Minister of Industry and Commerce

For Malaysia:

RAFIDAH AZIZ

Minister of International Trade and Industry

For the Union of Myanmar:

U SOE THA

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development

For the Republic of the Philippines:

PETER B. FAVILA

Secretary of Trade and Industry

For the Republic of Singapore:

LIM HNG KIANG

Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Kingdom of Thailand:

KRIRK-KRAI JIRAPAET

Minister of Commerce

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

TRUONG DINH TUYEN

Minister of Trade

The 2nd Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China

Cebu, Philippines, 8 December 2006

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic ("Lao PDR"), Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (collectively, "ASEAN" or "ASEAN Member States", or individually, "ASEAN Member State"), and the People's Republic of China ("China"), (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties");

RECALLING the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China, which was signed on the 4th day of November 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia as amended by the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive

Economic Co-operation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China, which was signed on the 6th day of October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia, (hereinafter referred to as the "Framework Agreement");

NOTING the Memorandum of Understanding on the Early Harvest Programme under the Framework Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China, signed on the 27th day of April 2005 in Manila, Philippines;

NOTING also the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the People's Republic of China concerning the Arrangement of Specific Products under the Framework Agreement, signed on the 6th day of October 2006 in Bali, Indonesia;

SEEKING to incorporate the Early Harvest Programme between the Philippines and China by inserting the relevant HS Codes and product descriptions;

SEEKING also to incorporate amendments to the specific product list made by the Parties after February 2003, which has been mutually agreed and accepted administratively by the Parties;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Amendments to item 2(h) of Annex 1 of the Framework Agreement

1. Item 2(h) of Annex 1 of the Framework Agreement shall be amended by deleting the phrase "Philippines to insert exclusion list" and inserting the following phrase:
"Exclusion of all products for China and ASEAN Member States, except for the products in the table in Attachment 1 of the Second Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement"
2. The table referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is set out in Attachment 1 of this Protocol.

Article 2

Amendments to Philippines' Specific Products List in Annex 2 of the Framework Agreement

Item C6 of Annex 2 of the Framework Agreement shall be amended by deleting the phrase "To insert specific products." and inserting the table set out in Attachment 2 of this Protocol.

Article 3

Other Amendments to Annex 2 of the Framework Agreement

The amendments to the Specific Product List made by the Parties after February 2003, which have been mutually agreed and accepted administratively by the Parties, are set out in Attachment 3 of this Protocol.

Article 4

Substitution of Annex 2 of the Framework Agreement

Taking into account the amendments set out in Articles 2 and 3 above, the existing Annex 2 of the Framework Agreement shall be substituted by the new Annex 2 as set out in Attachment 4 of this Protocol. For the Parties which have not carried out any administrative amendments, their list of specific products shall remain unchanged.

Article 5**Final Provisions**

1. This Protocol shall form an integral part of the Framework Agreement and shall enter into force upon the date of signature.
2. For ASEAN Member States, this Protocol shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each ASEAN Member State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Second Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China.

DONE in Cebu, the Philippines, this Eighth Day of December in the Year Two Thousand and Six, in two original copies in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam:	For the People's Republic of China
MOHAMED BOLKIAH	BO XILAI
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Minister of Commerce

For Kingdom of Cambodia:
CHAM PRASIDH
Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

For the Republic of Indonesia:
MARI ELKA PANGESTU
Minister of Trade

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
NAM VIYAKETH
Minister of Industry and Commerce

For Malaysia:
RAFIDAH AZIZ
Minister of International Trade and Industry

For the Union of Myanmar:
U SOE THA
Minister for National Planning and Economic Development

For the Republic of the Philippines:
PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary of Trade and Industry

For the Republic of Singapore:
LIM HNG KIANG
Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
KRIRK-KRAI JIRAPAET
Minister of Commerce

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
TRUONG DINH TUYEN
Minister of Trade

Memorandum of Understanding between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat and the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China on Agricultural Cooperation

Cebu, Philippines, 14 January 2007

The ASEAN Secretariat, acting for and on behalf of the Member Countries of ASEAN, and the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "the Participants");

DESIRING to further promote the close and friendly relations existing between the ASEAN Member Countries and China;

RECOGNISING the contribution of agriculture and forestry to economic and social development and the benefits to be derived by the Participants from extensive and close technical cooperation in these fields;

Have reached an understanding on the following:

Article I Objectives

The Participants shall conduct cooperation in agriculture and forestry in compliance with the laws and regulations of their respective countries.

Article II Areas of Cooperation

The Participants shall conduct agricultural and forestry cooperation in the following:

1. In the field of agriculture, China will carry out training courses on hybrid rice, cultivation skills, fertilizer and water management, IPM and other areas of mutual interest for about 100 specialists from the ASEAN Member Countries, and send 40 specialists to the ASEAN Member Countries to provide short-term technical services;
2. In the field of fisheries and aquaculture, China will train around 150 aquaculture specialists from the ASEAN Member Countries in batches;
3. In the field of bio-technology application in agriculture, China will conduct 2 – 3 training courses for the ASEAN Member Countries;
4. China will present a number of farm products and farm machinery to the ASEAN Member Countries, and will hold 2 – 3 training courses for the ASEAN Member Countries on farm machinery;
5. In the field of agro-industry, China will hold several training courses for about 50 specialists from the ASEAN Member Countries, and will send about 20 experts to the ASEAN Member Countries to provide short-term services;
6. In the field of agricultural extension, China will hold 2 – 3 training courses for the ASEAN Member Countries;
7. In the field of livestock, China will hold 2 – 3 training courses, especially on dairy cattle and swine production, for the ASEAN Member Countries; and

- The Participants will jointly identify co-operation in other fields of mutual interest such as advanced technology in agriculture, forestry, post-harvest technology, and food security.

Article III Implementation

- The Participants agree that the executing agencies for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding are:
 - the ASEAN Secretariat for the ASEAN Member Countries; and
 - the Ministry of Agriculture PRC for the People's Republic of China.
- The Participants agree that project formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation shall be carried out through existing ASEAN – China Agricultural Committees or bilateral discussions, if there are no existing liaison bodies. The ASEAN Secretariat and China will examine and appraise the activities undertaken at regular intervals.

Article IV Financial Arrangements

- In conducting activities related to this Memorandum of Understanding, the Chinese side will cover all the expenses of international travel, salaries and daily subsistence allowance for the specialists sent by China, while the receiving Participant will provide accommodation, local transportation, office and related facilities; regarding specialists sent by the ASEAN Member Countries to China for the cooperative research or training programmes, the Chinese side will cover the expenses of their international travel, local travel in China, accommodation, and subsistence allowance, while the sending Participant will cover their salaries.
- The activities mentioned in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be conducted subject to the availability of funds and personnel of the Participants.

Article V Protection of Intellectual Property

- The protection of intellectual property rights shall be enforced in conformity with the respective national laws and regulations of the Participants and with the international agreements to which both the ASEAN Member Countries and China are parties to.
- The usage of the names, logo and/or official emblem of any of the Participants on any publication, document and/or paper is prohibited without prior written approval by the Participants concerned.

Article VI Confidentiality

- The Participants shall not disclose or distribute any confidential information, document, data received or supplied to the other in the course of the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding to any third party except to the extent as authorised in writing to do so by the Participants concerned.

- In the event of termination of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Participants agree that the provisions of this Article shall continue to apply.

Article VII Revision, Amendment and Modification

The Participants may revise, amend or modify all or part of the Memorandum of Understanding by any mutual consent in writing. Such revision, amendment or modification, if mutually agreed upon, shall come into force on such date as determined and shall not have retrospective effect.

Article VIII Suspension

Each Participant reserves the right, for reasons of security, public order or public health, to suspend temporarily, either in whole or in part, the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, of which suspension shall be effective thirty (30) days or immediately after notification has given to the other party through diplomatic channels.

Article IX Settlement of Dispute

Any dispute or differences arising out of the interpretation/implementation/application of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled amicably through consultation/negotiations between the Participants without reference to any third party of any international tribunal.

Article X Entry Into Force, Duration and Termination

- This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signing and shall remain in force for a period of 5 years from 2007-2011. Thereafter, it may be extended for additional periods subject to availability of funds and agreement of the Participants, such agreement to be evidenced by way of exchange of letters.
- The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the implementation of on going activities/programmes which have been agreed upon prior to the date of the termination of this Memorandum of Understanding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised by the respective governments of ASEAN Member Countries and the People's Republic of China, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

DONE at Cebu, Philippines, this Fourteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven, duplicate in the Chinese and English languages, both texts being equally authentic. In the event of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Governments of
ASEAN Member Countries
ONG KENG YONG
Secretary-General of ASEAN

For the Government of
the People's Republic of China
YIN CHENGJIE
Vice Minister of Agriculture

Plan of Action to Implement the Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development

Cebu, Philippines, 14 January 2007

RECALLING the Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development (hereinafter referred to as "Beijing Declaration") adopted in May, 2005 in Beijing by the Ministers Responsible for the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) authorities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN") and the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "China") And Together hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties";

RECOGNISING the strong appreciation and recognition the Parties show towards the Beijing Declaration;

CONFIDENT that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration will contribute significantly to the common development of the Parties, consolidate and deepen the partnership for common development in the ICT field of the Parties;

IN PURSUANCE thereof, the Parties hereby adopt the "Plan of Action", which sets a detailed scope of ASEAN-China's key programme areas and strategic actions and measures for collective cooperation in the ICT field for the following five years (2007-2012), as follows:

I. ICT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

1. Expedite the implementation of the GMS Information Superhighway Project, which will endeavor to make the infrastructure building basically completed and service operation available by 2008 and the network for full deployment and operation of services by 2010.
2. ASEAN-China Information Superhighway Project
 - 2.1 Set up ASEAN-China Information Superhighway Working Group, to guide the project feasibility study stage, and plan and steer project implementation in the future.
 - 2.2 Develop ASEAN-China Information Superhighway services and applications taking into account the levels of readiness and specific requirements of the Parties.
 - 2.3 Encourage active participation of business sectors of the Parties.
3. The Next Generation Network (NGN)
 - 3.1 Study plan for seamless migration from traditional communication network to NGN.
 - 3.2 Conduct studies on policy and regulatory issues to facilitate the deployment of NGN business cooperation and technology standards involved in the migration process.
 - 3.3 Cooperate on standard-setting, R&D and promotion of technology and products of Next Generation Internet (NGI).
 - 3.4 Coordinate efforts of the Parties to address such issues as interconnection and market regulation.
4. Broadband Communications
 - 4.1 Share experiences on development of broadband communications and Internet applications.

- 4.2 Cooperate and develop multi-lingual and diversified digital contents and multi-media information resources, such as on-line education, tele-medicine, etc.
- 4.3 Encourage operators of each Party to establish high-speed ASEAN-China Internet Exchange Path (Peering link) and encourage the private-sector to develop internet-based application platform based on the Internet development status of the Parties.
5. Radio
 - 5.1 China to provide training for ASEAN Member Countries on spectrum management, radio monitoring, etc.
 - 5.2 Further strengthen technical exchange and cooperation in such fields as radio frequency planning and coordination, radio monitoring and spectrum management automation.
6. Research & Development
 - 6.1 ASEAN and China will work together to promote the establishment of R&D Center on Telecommunication Equipment for ASEAN-China markets.

II. UNIVERSAL SERVICE

1. Cooperate and develop a universal service guide to specify the development goal and strategy of narrowing the digital divide.
2. Establish the ASEAN-China Telecom Universal Service Forum, which can be considered in conjunction with TELSOM activities, to share best practices and experiences on investment and compensation mechanism, technological means and management skills.
3. Communications in Rural and Remote Areas
 - 3.1 Study ways of telephone and Internet infrastructure building and ways of promoting information services in rural areas.
 - 3.2 Study the best practices of China's experiences for accelerating the development of rural communication.
 - 3.3 Develop pilot projects involving application of suitable technologies in rural areas, and promote solutions which are cost-effective, efficient and easy in maintenance.

III. HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING

1. Continue the promotion of government-led HRD cooperation through the implementation of China's proposal to provide training for ASEAN mid- and high-level ICT managers and technicians.
2. Leverage private sector's resources in providing training programmes for industry's specific needs.
3. Promote ICT training in the form of e-learning, and set up on-line schools, e-learning centers and community access center for wider training coverage and sharing of information resources.
4. Link up websites of ICT research institutes of the Parties to the existing website for ASEAN-China ICT Cooperation (www.caict.org.cn) for information sharing.
5. Encourage volunteers to the rural and remote areas of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV countries) to help the local people get basic ICT knowledge.

6. Promote the establishment of local training bases in CLMV countries.
7. Discuss the set-up of ASEAN-China ICT Youth Leaders Forum by expanding the current ASEAN e-Youth Forum to raise awareness and appreciation of ICT and its role in social development.
8. Organise ICT Contest amongst the young professionals of the Parties.
9. Encourage the establishment of ICT training bases for small and medium enterprises.

IV. NETWORK AND INFORMATION SECURITY

1. Build upon and strengthen ASEAN cooperation on Network Security (ATRC framework and national CERTs), with the view to improve coordination network and improve the capability of network and information security of the Parties.
2. Facilitate the joint participation of ASEAN Member Countries and China in the ASEAN CERTs Incidents Drill (ACID) and subsequently explore the establishment of an ASEAN-China Coordination Framework for Network and Information Security Emergency Responses, to, among others, study the handling of cyber-terrorism and other new threats and challenges by conducting emergency response drills and capacity building seminars. Set up an initial emergency response contact mechanism between ASEAN Member Countries and China by the end of 2007 and ensure its smooth and efficient operation.
3. Establish the ASEAN-China Network and Information Security Expert Group and Forum in conjunction with the ATRC Working Group on Network Security or on other occasions for the exchange of latest technologies and best practices.
4. Cooperate on the R&D and promotion of information security products.
5. Facilitate ASEAN-China sharing of experiences and information on their plans and programmes on awareness of network and information security, i.e. through various means like publication, website, TV programmes, etc.

V. TRADE AND INVESTMENT FACILITATION

1. Deepen the ATRC-China roundtable forum on regulatory regimes, to enhance mutual understanding of ICT regulatory frameworks for an open and transparent environment, which will help in expanding the trade volume and scope of ICT products between the Parties.
2. Identify measures to facilitate mutual recognition arrangements for ICT telecom equipment certification.
3. Promote information exchange and cooperation in the field of online applications and services, especially E-Government (delivery mechanism and solution), E-Commerce and business informatisation.
4. Conduct dialogue and information exchange on E-signature/Digital Signature laws and applications.
5. Set-up ASEAN-China ICT Business Forum for a business-to-business dialogue (by leveraging on the e-ASEAN Business Council meeting or on other occasions).

VI. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE

1. Maintain the high level dialogue and exchange on ICT issues of mutual interest. Make full use of mechanism of ASEAN TELMIN/TELSOM + China Meetings and activities like the ASEAN-China ICT Week.
2. Strengthen consultation and coordination in relevant international organisations.
3. Study and review the implementation of the initiatives proposed by the Leaders of both sides at Summit Meetings.

VII. FUNDING

1. The activities mentioned in this Plan of Action will mainly be funded by ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund (ACCF). Where possible, the Parties will endeavour to offer necessary resources for co-funding projects, either in kind (i.e. expert speakers or consultants) or in cash (i.e. financial support), within their capability. The Parties will work together to explore effective and innovative resource mobilisation strategy for the implementation of this Plan of Action.
2. ASEAN and China will encourage international financial institutions/agencies, development partners and their respective private sectors to participate in the implementation of major projects of interest to them under this Plan of Action.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

1. The specific programmes and measures for the implementation of this Plan of Action will be expressly identified in the annual work plans in the following five years.
2. Regular review of this Plan of Action will be conducted through ASEAN TELMIN + China, ASEAN TELSOM + China and ASEAN TELSOM Working Groups, to ensure the Plan remains relevant to the needs and priorities of the ICT cooperation between ASEAN and China.
3. The Parties may modify or amend this Plan of Action, as deemed necessary.

This Plan of Action shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall promptly provide to all ASEAN Member Countries certified copies thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, as represented by the undersigned who are duly authorised thereto by the respective Governments of the ASEAN Member Countries and the People's Republic of China, have signed this Plan of Action to Implement the Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development.

DONE at Cebu, Philippines, this Fourteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven in two original copies, one in the English Language and one in the Chinese Language, all texts being equally authentic. In the event of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For ASEAN:
ONG KENG YONG
Secretary-General of ASEAN

For the People's Republic of China:
LI ZHAOXING
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Agreement on Trade in Services of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China

Cebu, Philippines, 14 January 2007

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam ("Brunei Darussalam"), the Kingdom of Cambodia ("Cambodia"), the Republic of Indonesia ("Indonesia"), the Lao People's Democratic Republic ("Lao PDR"), Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar ("Myanmar"), the Republic of the Philippines ("Philippines"), the Republic of Singapore ("Singapore"), the Kingdom of Thailand ("Thailand") and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam ("Viet Nam"), Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (collectively, "ASEAN" or "ASEAN Member Countries", or individually, "ASEAN Member Country"), and the People's Republic of China ("China"),

RECALLING the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation ("the Framework Agreement") between ASEAN and China (collectively, "the Parties", or individually referring to an ASEAN Member Country or to China as a "Party") signed by the Heads of Government/State of ASEAN Member Countries and China in Phnom Penh on the 4th day of November 2002;

RECALLING Articles 4 and 8(3) of the Framework Agreement on conclusion as expeditiously as possible of the negotiations of the agreement on trade in services so as to progressively liberalise and eliminate substantially all discrimination and/or prohibition of new or more discriminatory measures with respect to trade in services between the Parties, and to expand the depth and scope of such trade with substantial sectoral coverage beyond those undertaken by the ASEAN Member Countries and China under the World Trade Organisation ("WTO") General Agreement on Trade in Services;

STRIVING to enhance co-operation in services between the Parties in order to improve efficiency and competitiveness, as well as to diversify the supply and distribution of services of the respective service suppliers of the Parties, for implementation in accordance with the timeframes to be mutually agreed by the Parties to the Framework Agreement taking into account the sensitive sectors of the Parties, and with special and differential treatment and flexibility for the newer ASEAN Member Countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam;

RECOGNISING the right of the Parties to regulate, and to introduce new regulations, on the supply of services in the territories of the Parties in order to meet national policy objectives and, given asymmetries existing with respect to the degree of development of services regulation within the Parties, the particular need of the Parties to exercise this right,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

PART I: DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE

Article 1 Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement:

a. "a service supplied in the exercise of governmental authority" means any service which is supplied neither on a commercial basis, nor in competition with one or more service suppliers;

- b. "commercial presence" means any type of business or professional establishment, including through
 - i. the constitution, acquisition or maintenance of a juridical person, or
 - ii. the creation or maintenance of a branch or a representative office, within the territory of a Party for the purpose of supplying a service;
- c. "direct taxes" comprise all taxes on total income, on total capital or on elements of income or of capital, including taxes on gains from the alienation of property, taxes on estates, inheritances and gifts, and taxes on the total amounts of wages or salaries paid by enterprises, as well as taxes on capital appreciation;
- d. "GATS" means the General Agreement on Trade in Services;
- e. "juridical person" means any legal entity duly constituted or otherwise organised under applicable law, whether for profit or otherwise, and whether privately-owned or governmentally-owned, including any corporation, trust, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship or association;
- f. "juridical person of another Party" means a juridical person which is either:
 - i. constituted or otherwise organised under the law of that other Party, and is engaged in substantive business operations in the territory of that Party or any other Party; or
 - ii. in the case of the supply of a service through commercial presence, owned or controlled by:
 - 1. natural persons of that Party; or
 - 2. juridical persons of that other Party identified under subparagraph (i);
- g. a juridical person is:
 - i. "owned" by persons of a Party if more than 50 per cent of the equity interest in it is beneficially owned by persons of that Party;
 - ii. "controlled" by persons of a Party if such persons have the power to name a majority of its directors or otherwise to legally direct its actions;
 - iii. "affiliated" with another person when it controls, or is controlled by, that other person; or when it and the other person are both controlled by the same person;
- h. "measure" means any measure by a Party, whether in the form of a law, regulation, rule, procedure, decision, administrative action, or any other form;
- i. "measures by Parties" means measures taken by
 - i. central, regional or local governments and authorities; and
 - ii. non-governmental bodies in the exercise of powers delegated by central, regional or local governments or authorities;
- j. "measures by Parties affecting trade in services" include measures in respect of
 - i. the purchase, payment or use of a service;
 - ii. the access to and use of, in connection with the supply of a service, services which are required by the Parties to be offered to the public generally;
 - iii. the presence, including commercial presence, of persons of a Party for the supply of a service in the territory of another Party;
- k. "monopoly supplier of a service" means any person, public or private, which in the relevant market of the territory of a Party is authorised or established formally or in effect by that Party as the sole supplier of that service;
- l. "natural person of another Party" means a natural person who resides in the territory of that other Party or elsewhere, and who under the law of that other Party:
 - i. is a national of that other Party; or
 - ii. has the right of permanent residence¹ in that other Party, in the case of a Party which accords substantially the same treatment to its permanent residents as it does to its nationals in respect

of measures affecting trade in services, as notified after the entry into force of this Agreement provided that no Party is obliged to accord to such permanent residents treatment more favourable than would be accorded by that other Party to such permanent residents. Such notification shall include the assurance to assume, with respect to the permanent residents, in accordance with its laws and regulations, the same responsibilities that other Party bears with respect to its nationals;

- m. "person" means either a natural person or a juridical person;
- n. "sector" of a service means,
 - i. with reference to a specific commitment, one or more, or all, subsectors of that service, as specified in a Party's Schedule,
 - ii. otherwise, the whole of that service sector, including all of its subsectors;
- o. "services" includes any service in any sector except services supplied in the exercise of governmental authority;
- p. "service consumer" means any person that receives or uses a service;
- q. "service of another Party" means a service which is supplied,
 - i. from or in the territory of that other Party, or in the case of maritime transport, by a vessel registered under the laws of that other Party, or by a person of that other Party which supplies the service through the operation of a vessel and/or its use in whole or in part; or
 - ii. in the case of the supply of a service through commercial presence or through the presence of natural persons, by a service supplier of that other Party;
- r. "service supplier" means any person that supplies a service²;
- s. "supply of a service" includes the production, distribution, marketing, sale and delivery of a service;
- t. "trade in services" is defined as the supply of a service
 - i. from the territory of a Party into the territory of any other Party ("cross-border");
 - ii. in the territory of a Party to the service consumer of any other Party ("consumption abroad");
 - iii. by a service supplier of a Party, through commercial presence in the territory of any other Party ("commercial presence");
 - iv. by a service supplier of a Party, through presence of natural persons of a Party in the territory of any other Party ("presence of natural persons");
- u. "qualification procedures" means administrative procedures relating to the administration of qualification requirements; and
- v. "qualification requirements" means substantive requirements which a service supplier is required to fulfil in order to obtain certification or a license.

Article 2 Scope

1. This Agreement applies to measures³ by the Parties affecting trade in services.
2. This Agreement shall not apply to:
 - a. services supplied in the exercise of governmental authority within the territory of each Party;
 - b. regulations or requirements governing the procurement by governmental agencies of services purchased for governmental purposes and not with a view to commercial resale or with a view to use in the supply of services for commercial sale.

PART II: OBLIGATIONS AND DISCIPLINES

Article 3 Transparency

Article III of the GATS is, *mutatis mutandis*, incorporated into and shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 4 Disclosure of Confidential Information

Article III bis of the GATS is, *mutatis mutandis*, incorporated into and shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 5 Domestic Regulation

1. In sectors where specific commitments are undertaken under Part III, each Party shall ensure that all measures of general application affecting trade in services are administered in a reasonable, objective and impartial manner.
2.
 - a. Each Party shall maintain or institute as soon as practicable judicial, arbitral or administrative tribunals or procedures which provide, at the request of an affected service supplier, for the prompt review of, and where justified, appropriate remedies for, administrative decisions affecting trade in services. Where such procedures are not independent of the agency entrusted with the administrative decision concerned, the Party shall ensure that the procedures in fact provide for an objective and impartial review.
 - b. The provisions of subparagraph (a) shall not be construed to require a Party to institute such tribunals or procedures where this would be inconsistent with its constitutional structure or the nature of its legal system.
3. Where authorisation is required for the supply of a service on which a specific commitment under this Agreement has been made, the competent authorities of each Party shall:
 - a. in the case of an incomplete application, at the request of the applicant, identify all the additional information that is required to complete the application and provide the opportunity to remedy deficiencies within a reasonable timeframe;
 - b. at the request of the applicant, provide without undue delay, information concerning the status of the application; and
 - c. if an application is terminated or denied, to the maximum extent possible, inform the applicant in writing and without delay the reasons for such action. The applicant will have the possibility of resubmitting, at its discretion, a new application.
4. With the objective of ensuring that measures relating to qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services, the Parties shall jointly review the results of the negotiations on disciplines on these measures, pursuant to Article VI.4 of GATS, with a view to their incorporation into this Agreement. The Parties note that such disciplines aim to ensure that such requirements are, *inter alia*:
 - a. based on objective and transparent criteria, such as competence and the ability to supply the service;
 - b. not more burdensome than necessary to ensure the quality of the service;

- c. in the case of licensing procedures, not in themselves a restriction on the supply of the service.
5. a. In sectors in which a Party has undertaken specific commitments under Part III, pending the incorporation of the disciplines referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article, that Party shall not apply licensing and qualification requirements and technical standards that nullify or impair its obligation under this Agreement in a manner which:
 - i. does not comply with the criteria outlined in subparagraphs 4(a), (b) or (c) of this Article; and
 - ii. could not reasonably have been expected of that Party at the time the specific commitments in those sectors were made.
 - b. In determining whether a Party is in conformity with the obligation under paragraph 5(a) of this Article, account shall be taken of international standards of relevant international organisations⁴ applied by that Party.
6. In sectors where specific commitments regarding professional services are undertaken, each Party shall provide for adequate procedures to verify the competence of professionals of any other Party.

Article 6 **Recognition**

1. For the purposes of fulfilment of their respective standards or criteria for the authorisation, licensing or certification of service suppliers, each Party may recognise the education or experience obtained, requirements met, or licenses or certifications granted in another Party. Such recognition, which may be achieved through harmonisation or otherwise, may be based upon an agreement or arrangement between the Parties or the relevant competent bodies or may be accorded autonomously.
2. Two or more Parties may enter into, or encourage their relevant competent bodies to enter into, negotiations on recognition of qualification requirements, qualification procedures, licensing and/or registration procedures for the purposes of fulfilment of their respective standards or criteria for the authorisation, licensing or certification of service suppliers.
3. A Party that is a party to an agreement or arrangement of the type referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, whether existing or future, shall afford adequate opportunity for other interested Parties to negotiate their accession to such an agreement or arrangement or to negotiate comparable ones with it. Where a Party accords recognition autonomously, it shall afford adequate opportunity for any other Party to demonstrate that education, experience, licenses, or certifications obtained or requirements met in that other Party's territory should be recognised.
4. A Party shall not accord recognition in a manner which would constitute a means of discrimination between countries in the application of its standards or criteria for the authorisation, licensing or certification of services suppliers, or a disguised restriction on trade in services.

Article 7 **Monopolies and Exclusive Service Suppliers**

1. Each Party shall ensure that any monopoly supplier of a service in its territory does not, in the supply of the monopoly service in

the relevant market, act in a manner inconsistent with that Party's obligations under specific commitments.

2. Where a Party's monopoly supplier competes, either directly or through an affiliated company, in the supply of a service outside the scope of its monopoly rights and which is subject to that Party's specific commitments, the Party shall ensure that such a supplier does not abuse its monopoly position to act in its territory in a manner inconsistent with such commitments.
3. If any Party has reason to believe that a monopoly supplier of a service of any other Party is acting in a manner inconsistent with paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article, that Party may request the Party establishing, maintaining or authorising such supplier to provide specific information concerning the relevant operations.
4. The provisions of this Article shall also apply to cases of exclusive service suppliers, where a Party, formally or in effect,
 - a. authorises or establishes a small number of service suppliers; and
 - b. substantially prevents competition among those suppliers in its territory.

Article 8 **Business Practices**

1. The Parties recognise that certain business practices of services suppliers, other than those falling under Article 7, may restrain competition and thereby restrict trade in services.
2. Each Party shall, at the request of any other Party (the "Requesting Party"), enter into consultations with a view to eliminating practices referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. The Party addressed (the "Requested Party") shall accord full and sympathetic consideration to such a request and shall cooperate through the supply of publicly available non-confidential information of relevance to the matter in question. The Requested Party shall also provide other information available to the Requesting Party, subject to its domestic law and to the conclusion of satisfactory agreement concerning the safeguarding of its confidentiality by the Requesting Party.

Article 9 **Safeguards**

1. The Parties note the multilateral negotiations pursuant to Article X of the GATS on the question of emergency safeguard measures based on the principle of non-discrimination. Upon the conclusion of such multilateral negotiations, the Parties shall conduct a review for the purpose of discussing appropriate amendments to this Agreement so as to incorporate the results of such multilateral negotiations.
2. In the event that the implementation of this Agreement causes substantial adverse impact to a service sector of a Party before the conclusion of the multilateral negotiations referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the affected Party may request for consultations with the other Party for the purposes of discussing any measure with respect to the affected service sector. Any measure taken pursuant to this paragraph shall be mutually agreed by the Parties concerned. The Parties concerned shall take into account the circumstances of the particular case and give sympathetic consideration to the Party seeking to take a measure.

Article 10 **Payments and Transfers**

1. Except under the circumstances envisaged in Article 11, a Party shall not apply restrictions on international transfers and payments for current transactions relating to its specific commitments.
2. Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the rights and obligations of any Party who is a member of the International Monetary Fund under the Articles of Agreement of the Fund, including the use of exchange actions which are in conformity with the Articles of Agreement of the Fund, provided that a Party shall not impose restrictions on any capital transactions inconsistently with its specific commitments regarding such transactions, except under Article 11 or at the request of the Fund.

Article 11 **Restrictions to Safeguard the Balance of Payments**

Where a Party is in serious balance of payments and external financial difficulties or threat thereof, it may adopt or maintain restrictions on trade in services in accordance with Article XII of the GATS.

Article 12 **General Exceptions**

Subject to the requirement that such measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between Parties where like conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on trade in services, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent the adoption or enforcement by any Party of measures:

- a. necessary to protect public morals or to maintain public order⁵;
- b. necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health;
- c. necessary to secure compliance with laws or regulations which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement including those relating to:
 - i. the prevention of deceptive and fraudulent practices or to deal with the effects of a default on services contracts;
 - ii. the protection of the privacy of individuals in relation to the processing and dissemination of personal data and the protection of confidentiality of individual records and accounts;
 - iii. safety;
- d. inconsistent with Article 19, provided that the difference in treatment is aimed at ensuring the equitable or effective⁶ imposition or collection of direct taxes in respect of services or service suppliers of other Parties;
- e. provided that the difference in treatment is the result of an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation or provisions on the avoidance of double taxation in any other international agreement or arrangement by which the Party is bound.

Article 13 **Security Exceptions**

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed:

- a. to require any Party to furnish any information, the disclosure of which it considers contrary to its essential security interests; or
- b. to prevent any Party from taking any action which it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests, including but not limited to:
 - i. action relating to fissionable and fusionable materials or the materials from which they are derived;
 - ii. action relating to the traffic in arms, ammunition and implements of war and to such traffic in other goods and materials as is carried

- on directly or indirectly for the purpose of supplying a military establishment;
- iii. action taken so as to protect critical communications infrastructure from deliberate attempts intended to disable or degrade such infrastructure;
- iv. action taken in time of war or other emergency in domestic or international relations; or
- c. to prevent any Party from taking any action in pursuance of its obligations under the United Nations Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 14 **Subsidies**

1. Except where provided in this Article, this Agreement shall not apply to subsidies or grants provided by a Party, or to any conditions attached to the receipt or continued receipt of such subsidies or grants, whether or not such subsidies or grants are offered exclusively to domestic services, service consumers or service suppliers. If such subsidies or grants significantly affect trade in services committed under this Agreement, any Party may request for consultations with a view to an amicable resolution of this matter.
2. Pursuant to this Agreement, the Parties shall:
 - a. on request, provide information on subsidies related to trade in services committed under this Agreement to any requesting Party; and
 - b. review the treatment of subsidies when relevant disciplines are developed by the WTO.

Article 15 **WTO Disciplines**

Subject to any future agreements as may be agreed pursuant to reviews of this Agreement by the Parties under Article 27, the Parties hereby agree and reaffirm their commitments to abide by the provisions of the WTO agreements as are relevant and applicable to trade in services.

Article 16 **Cooperation**

The Parties shall strengthen cooperation efforts in services sectors, including sectors which are not covered by existing cooperation arrangements. The Parties shall discuss and mutually agree on the sectors for cooperation and develop cooperation programmes in these sectors in order to improve their domestic capacities, efficiencies and competitiveness.

Article 17 **Increasing Participation of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam**

The increasing participation of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam in this Agreement shall be facilitated through negotiated specific commitments, relating to:

- a. the strengthening of their domestic services capacity and its efficiency and competitiveness, *inter alia* through access to technology on a commercial basis;
- b. the improvement of their access to distribution channels and information networks;
- c. the liberalisation of market access in sectors and modes of supply of export interest to them; and
- d. appropriate flexibility for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam for opening fewer sectors, liberalising fewer types of

transactions and progressively extending market access in line with their respective development situation.

PART III: SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

Article 18

Market Access

1. With respect to market access through the modes of supply identified in Article 1(t)(i)-(iv), a Party shall accord services and service suppliers of any other Party treatment no less favourable than that provided for under the terms, limitations and conditions agreed and specified in its Schedule⁷.
2. In sectors where market-access commitments are undertaken, the measures which a Party shall not maintain or adopt either on the basis of a regional subdivision or on the basis of its entire territory, unless otherwise specified in its Schedule, are defined as:
 - a. limitations on the number of service suppliers whether in the form of numerical quotas, monopolies, exclusive service suppliers or the requirements of an economic needs test;
 - b. limitations on the total value of service transactions or assets in the form of numerical quotas or the requirement of an economic needs test;
 - c. limitations on the total number of service operations or on the total quantity of service output expressed in terms of designated numerical units in the form of quotas or the requirement of an economic needs test⁸;
 - d. limitations on the total number of natural persons that may be employed in a particular service sector or that a service supplier may employ and who are necessary for, and directly related to, the supply of a specific service in the form of numerical quotas or the requirement of an economic needs test;
 - e. measures which restrict or require specific types of legal entity or joint venture through which a service supplier may supply a service; and
 - f. limitations on the participation of foreign capital in terms of maximum percentage limit on foreign shareholding or the total value of individual or aggregate foreign investment.

Article 19

National Treatment

1. In the sectors inscribed in its Schedule, and subject to any conditions and qualifications set out therein, each Party shall accord to services and service suppliers of any other Party, in respect of all measures affecting the supply of services, treatment no less favourable than that it accords to its own like services and service suppliers⁹.
2. A Party may meet the requirement of paragraph 1 of this Article by according to services and service suppliers of any other Party, either formally identical treatment or formally different treatment to that it accords to its own like services and service suppliers.
3. Formally identical or formally different treatment shall be considered to be less favourable if it modifies the conditions of competition in favour of services or service suppliers of the Party compared to like services or service suppliers of any other Party.

Article 20

Additional Commitments

The Parties may negotiate commitments with respect to measures affecting trade in services not subject to scheduling under Articles 18

and 19 including those regarding qualifications, standards or licensing matters. Such commitments shall be inscribed in a Party's Schedule.

Article 21

Schedule of Specific Commitments

1. The Parties shall enter into negotiations to conclude the packages of specific commitments under this Agreement pursuant to Article 23. The Parties shall endeavour to achieve commitments which are beyond those undertaken under the GATS.
2. Each Party shall set out in a schedule the specific commitments it undertakes under Articles 18, 19 and 20. With respect to sectors where such commitments are undertaken, each Schedule shall specify:
 - a. the sectors in which such commitments are undertaken;
 - b. terms, limitations and conditions on market access;
 - c. conditions and qualifications on national treatment;
 - d. undertakings relating to additional commitments; and
 - e. where appropriate the time-frame for implementation of such commitments.
3. Measures inconsistent with both Articles 18 and 19 shall be inscribed in both the columns relating to Articles 18 and 19.
4. The schedules of specific commitments of a Party shall apply only to those Parties who have completed their respective schedule of specific commitments through negotiations.
5. The Parties' schedules of specific commitments shall be annexed to this Agreement upon completion of the negotiations and shall form an integral part thereof.

Article 22

Application and Extension of Commitments

1. China shall make a single schedule of specific commitments under Article 21 and shall apply this Schedule to all ASEAN Member Countries.
2. Each ASEAN Member Country shall make its individual schedule of specific commitments under Article 21 and shall apply this Schedule to China and the rest of the ASEAN Member Countries.

Article 23

Progressive Liberalisation

1. The first package of specific commitments of each Party is hereby annexed to this Agreement.
2. The Parties shall, with the aim of substantially improving on the first package of specific commitments, conclude the second package of specific commitments within a year from the date of entry into force of this Agreement.
3. At subsequent reviews pursuant to Article 27, the Parties shall enter into successive rounds of negotiations to negotiate further packages of specific commitments under Part III of this Agreement so as to progressively liberalise trade in services between the Parties.

Article 24

Modification of Schedules

1. A Party may modify or withdraw any commitment in its Schedule, at any time after three years from the date on which that commitment has entered into force provided that:

- a. it notifies the Parties as well as the ASEAN Secretariat of its intention to modify or withdraw a commitment no later than three months before the intended date of implementation of the modification or withdrawal; and
 - b. it enters into negotiations with any affected Party to agree to the necessary compensatory adjustment.
2. In achieving a compensatory adjustment, Parties shall ensure that the general level of mutually advantageous commitment is not less favourable to trade than provided for in the Schedules prior to such negotiations.
 3. Any compensatory adjustment pursuant to this Article shall be accorded on a non-discriminatory basis to all Parties.
 4. If the Parties concerned are unable to reach an agreement on the compensatory adjustment, the matter shall be resolved by arbitration under the Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the Framework Agreement. The modifying Party may not modify or withdraw its commitment until it has made compensatory adjustments in conformity with the findings of the arbitration.
 5. If the modifying party implements its proposed modification or withdrawal and does not comply with the findings of the arbitration, any Party that participated in the arbitration may modify or withdraw substantially equivalent benefits in conformity with those findings. Notwithstanding Article 22, such a modification or withdrawal may be implemented solely with respect to the modifying Party.

PART IV: OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 25

State, Regional and Local Government

In fulfilling its obligations and commitments under this Agreement, each Party shall ensure their observance by regional and local governments and authorities in its territory as well as their observance by non-governmental bodies (in the exercise of powers delegated by central, state, regional or local governments or authorities) within its territory.

Article 26

Contact Point

1. Each Party shall designate a contact point to facilitate communications between the Parties on any matter covered by this Agreement, including the exchange of information relevant to the implementation and operation of this Agreement.
2. At the request of any Party, the contact point of the requested Party shall identify the office or official responsible for the matter and assist in facilitating communication with the requesting Party.

Article 27

Review

The ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Minister of the Ministry of Commerce of China or their designated representatives shall meet within a year from the date of entry into force of this Agreement and then biennially or otherwise as appropriate to review this Agreement for the purpose of considering further measures to liberalise trade in services as well as to develop disciplines and negotiate agreements on matters referred to in Article 15 or any other relevant matters as may be agreed.

Article 28

Miscellaneous Provisions

1. The GATS Annexes, namely: Annex on Movement of Natural Persons Supplying Services, Annex on Air Transport Services, Annex on Financial Services, and Annex on Telecommunications shall apply to this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*.
2. This Agreement shall include (a) the Annexes and the contents therein which shall form an integral part of this Agreement, and (b) all future legal instruments agreed pursuant to this Agreement.
3. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, this Agreement or any action taken under it shall not affect or nullify the rights and obligations of a Party under existing agreements to which it is a party.

Article 29

Amendments

This Agreement may be amended by agreement in writing by the Parties and such amendments shall enter into force on such date or dates as may be agreed by the Parties.

Article 30

Dispute Settlement

The Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the Framework Agreement shall apply to this Agreement.

Article 31

Denial of Benefits

A Party may deny the benefits of this Agreement:

- a. to the supply of a service, if it establishes that the service is supplied from or in the territory of a non-Party;
- b. in the case of the supply of a maritime transport service, if it establishes that the service is supplied:
 - i. by a vessel registered under the laws of a non-Party; and
 - ii. by a person of a non-Party which operates and/or uses the vessel in whole or in part.
- c. to a service supplier that is a juridical person, if it establishes that it is not a service supplier of another Party.

Article 32

Entry into Force

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on 1 July 2007.
2. The Parties undertake to complete their internal procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement prior to 1 July 2007.
3. Where a Party is unable to complete its internal procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement by 1 July 2007, the rights and obligations of that Party under this Agreement shall commence on the date of the completion of such internal procedures.
4. A Party shall upon the completion of its internal procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement notify all the other Parties in writing.

Article 33 Depositary

For the ASEAN Member Countries, this Agreement shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof, to each ASEAN Member Country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed the Agreement on Trade in Services of the Framework Agreement on the Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China.

Done at Cebu, the Philippines, this Fourteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven, in duplicate copies in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
MOHAMED BOLKIAH
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the People's Republic of China:
LI ZHAOXING
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
CHAM PRASIDH
Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

For the Republic of Indonesia:
MARI ELKA PANGESTU
Minister of Trade

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
NAM VIYAKETH
Minister of Industry and Commerce

For Malaysia:
DATO' SERI RAFIDAH AZIZ
Minister of International Trade and Industry

For the Union of Myanmar:
U SOE THA
Minister for National Planning and Economic Development

For the Republic of the Philippines:
PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary of Trade and Industry

For the Republic of Singapore:
LIM HNG KIANG
Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
KRIRK-KRAI JIRAPAET
Minister of Commerce

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
TRUONG DINH TUYEN
Minister of Trade

1. In the case of Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam and China, natural person of another Party shall be limited to a natural person who resides in the territory of that other Party or elsewhere and who under the law of that other Party is a national of that other Party. Therefore, in line with the principle of reciprocity, this Agreement shall not apply to the permanent residents of Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, and China. Once any of these Parties enacts its domestic law on the treatment of permanent residents of another Party or non-party, there shall be negotiations on the issue of whether to include permanent residents in the coverage of natural person under this Agreement in respect of that Party.
2. Where the service is not supplied directly by a juridical person but through other forms of commercial presence such as a branch or a representative office, the service supplier (i.e. the juridical person) shall, nonetheless, through such presence be accorded the treatment provided for service suppliers under this Agreement. Such treatment shall be extended to the presence through which the service is supplied and need not be extended to any other parts of the supplier located outside the territory where the service is supplied.
3. The exclusion of taxation measures by the Philippines from the scope of this Agreement shall be further discussed by all Parties before the entry into force of the Agreement.
4. The term "relevant international organisations" refers to international bodies whose membership is open to the relevant bodies of at least all Parties of this Agreement.
5. The public order exception may be invoked only where a genuine and sufficiently serious threat is posed to one of the fundamental interests of society.
6. Measures that are aimed at ensuring the equitable or effective imposition or collection of direct taxes include measures taken by a Party under its taxation system which:
 - i. apply to non-resident service suppliers in recognition of the fact that the tax obligation of non-residents is determined with respect to taxable items sourced or located in the Party's territory; or
 - ii. apply to non-residents in order to ensure the imposition or collection of taxes in the Party's territory; or
 - iii. apply to non-residents or residents in order to prevent the avoidance or evasion of taxes, including compliance measures; or
 - iv. apply to consumers of services supplied in or from the territory of another Party in order to ensure the imposition or collection of taxes on such consumers derived from sources in the Party's territory; or
 - v. distinguish service suppliers subject to tax on worldwide taxable items from other service suppliers, in recognition of the difference in the nature of the tax base between them; or
 - vi. determine, allocate or apportion income, profit, gain, loss, deduction or credit of resident persons or branches, or between related persons or branches of the same person, in order to safeguard the Party's tax base.

Tax terms or concepts in subparagraph (d) of Article 12 and in this footnote are determined according to tax definitions and concepts, or equivalent or similar definitions and concepts, under the domestic law of the Party taking the measure.

7. If a Party undertakes a market-access commitment in relation to the supply of a service through the mode of supply referred to in Article 1(t)(i) and if the cross-border movement of capital is an essential part of the service itself, that Party is thereby committed to allow such movement of capital. If a Party undertakes a market-access commitment in relation to the supply of a service through the mode of supply referred to in Article 1(t)(iii), it is thereby committed to allow related transfers of capital into its territory.
8. Subparagraph 2(c) of this Article does not cover measures of a Party which limit inputs for the supply of services.
9. Specific commitments assumed under this Article shall not be construed to require any Party to compensate for any inherent competitive disadvantages which result from the foreign character of the relevant services or service suppliers.

Media Statement of the ASEAN-China Agreement on Trade in Services

Cebu, Philippines, 14 January 2007

1. ASEAN and China reached another milestone at the ASEAN-China Summit in Cebu, the Philippines as Leaders from the ten ASEAN Member Countries and China witnessed the signing of the Trade in Services Agreement under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN and China (TIS Agreement) by the ASEAN Economic Ministers and China's Minister of Foreign Affairs.
2. The TIS Agreement, which will enter into force in July 2007, aims to expand trade in services in the region. Under this Agreement, services and services suppliers/providers in the region will enjoy improved market access and national treatment in sectors/subsectors where commitments have been made.

3. The market access commitments of the Parties to the TIS Agreement are contained in the first package of specific schedule of commitments that are attached to the Agreement. The TIS Agreement provides for liberalization on substantial coverage of sectors/subsectors especially in more than 60 additional subsectors committed by ASEAN Member Countries which are parties to the GATS/WTO.
 4. In terms of level of ambition, the first package also shows higher market access commitments. It is expected that trade in services in the region would expand and grow in scale through the four modes of service delivery, namely: cross-border supply, consumption abroad, commercial presence, and movement of natural persons.
 5. Aside from increased trade, the TIS Agreement is also expected to bring about higher levels of investments in the region, particularly in sectors where commitments have been made, namely:
 - (a) business services such as computer related services, real estate services, market research, management consulting;
 - (b) construction and engineering related services;
 - (c) tourism and travel related services;
 - (d) transport services; educational services;
 - (e) telecommunication services;
 - (f) health-related and social services;
 - (g) recreational, cultural and sporting services;
 - (h) environmental services; and
 - (i) energy services.
 6. Successive rounds of market access negotiations to substantially improve the level of commitment and broaden the subsector coverage of the TIS Agreement will be undertaken over the next one year as the Agreement contains a built-in agenda for the conclusion of a second package of commitments one year from its entry into force.
 7. The TIS Agreement is the second agreement concluded and signed under the Framework Agreement for Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN and China, which was signed by the Leaders in November 2002. The Trade in Goods Agreement was signed by the Economic Ministers from ASEAN Member Countries and China in November 2004.
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Chairman's Statement of the 10th ASEAN-China Summit

Cebu, Philippines, 14 January 2007

1. The Tenth ASEAN-China Summit chaired by H. E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines, was successfully convened on 14 January 2007. The Heads of State/Government of the ASEAN Member Countries held a productive meeting with His Excellency Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.
2. We reviewed the developments in ASEAN-China relations during the past year. We recalled the successful ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit held on 30 October 2006 in Nanning, Guangxi Province in China, to mark the 15th anniversary of ASEAN-China relations. We also recalled the Joint Statement we signed on that occasion, which set the direction of our relations for the next fifteen years. We instructed our Ministers and Senior Officials to take the necessary follow-up action to meet the targets set in the Joint Statement.
3. We noted the significant achievements to realize the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/ Government of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity, particularly in the five new priority areas of cooperation identified at the 9th ASEAN-China Summit in Kuala Lumpur, namely energy, transport, culture, public health and tourism. We also acknowledged the continuing progress in the five original priority areas of cooperation, namely agriculture, information technology, two-way investment, human resources development and Mekong River Basin Development.
4. We welcomed the five-point proposal of the People's Republic of China of strengthening political mutual trust, bringing ASEAN-China economic relations and trade to a new level, carrying out cooperation in non-traditional security fields, actively supporting ASEAN community building and integration, and expanding social, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. These are envisaged to strengthen and enrich ASEAN-China strategic partnership and upgrade ASEAN-China relations.
5. We reiterated our collective resolve to narrow the development gap among ASEAN Member Countries. The Leaders of ASEAN expressed appreciation for China's support in the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP). They thanked China for its contribution of US\$ 1 million to the ASEAN Development Fund (ADF) and its pledge of US\$ 1 million for Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) projects, as announced at the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit.
6. We reaffirmed the expansion of cooperation in the areas of trade in services, ICT and agriculture as shown by the signing today of the ASEAN-China Agreement on Trade in Services (TIS), the Plan of Action to Implement the Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the ASEAN Secretariat and the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China on Agricultural Cooperation.
7. We welcomed the concrete steps taken by China to establish an ASEAN-China FTA. We appreciated its offer to host the first ASEAN-China ministerial consultation on quality inspection this year and its readiness to speed up discussions and sign an MOU on establishing the ASEAN-China Center for Promoting Trade, Investment and Tourism.
8. The Leaders of ASEAN reaffirmed their appreciation for China's continued support as a Development Partner in the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).
9. We commended the success of the Third ASEAN-China EXPO and the Third ASEAN-China Business and Investment Summit in Nanning on 31 October 2006, which facilitated contacts among the business sectors and promoted trade and investment between ASEAN and China.
10. We agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation on energy security, such as development of biofuels.

11. We reiterated the need to promote infrastructure development, particularly in transport, in order to enhance closer linkages and connectivity within the region and beyond. In this regard, the Leaders of ASEAN welcomed China's idea on ASEAN-China joint development strategy for transport cooperation. They also expressed their hope that this strategy would support a coherent and integrated approach to infrastructure development linking Southeast Asia with East Asia.
12. We reaffirmed the need to reinvigorate greater people-to-people ties between ASEAN and China, which allowed for greater understanding of each other's cultures. We recalled last year's agreement to examine ways to promote tourism through an open skies policy and other such measures, and tasked our Ministers and Senior Officials to study ways for implementing this agreement.
13. In the spirit of this year's theme of "One Caring and Sharing Community" for the 12th ASEAN Summit, we agreed to expedite the implementation of the proposals contained in the Joint Statement that was signed in Nanning. This includes the proposal to establish the ASEAN-China Young Leaders Conference, the ASEAN-China Young Entrepreneurs Association and the ASEAN-China Young Civil Servants Exchange Program. We also agreed to immediately embark on closer cooperation in natural disaster preparedness and post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.
14. We agreed to deepen our cooperation in combating Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and other emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.
15. We welcome efforts to explore concrete activities in the field of disaster management.
16. We exchanged views on regional and international developments. The Leaders of ASEAN reiterated their support for China's leadership in helping resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. We shared the view that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is essential in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.
17. We reaffirmed our determination to fully implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DoC) towards the eventual adoption of a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea, as decided in Nanning. We instructed our Senior Officials to finalize the Guidelines on the Implementation of the DoC and convene the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group (ACJWG) on the DoC at the earliest possible time.
18. ASEAN Leaders commend China for its consistent support to ASEAN's leading role in the regional integration process, including ASEAN+3 and East Asia Summit (EAS).
19. We welcome China's intention to accede to the Treaty of Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.
20. We recalled last year's agreement to consider establishing linkages between ASEAN and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in support of the global effort against terrorism.
21. We look forward to the convening of the Second East Asia Summit (EAS) on 15 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines.

ASEAN-EUROPEAN UNION

Joint Media Statement of the 7th Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Minister and the European Union (EU) Trade Commissioner (7th AEM-EU Consultations)

Makati City, Philippines, 16 May 2006

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Trade Commissioner of the European Union (EU) met in Makati City, the Philippines on 16 May 2006 for the 7th AEM-EU Consultation. The Consultation was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Commerce of the Lao PDR, and H.E. Mr. Peter Benjamin Mandelson, EU Trade Commissioner.

Economic Situations in ASEAN and EU

2. The Ministers exchanged views on global economic developments particularly those which influenced regional economic integration initiatives in both ASEAN and the EU.
3. The Secretary-General of ASEAN briefed the Ministers on the latest developments in the ASEAN region, including the implementation of the eleven priority sectors and current efforts to move closer to the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). The Ministers were also briefed on the status of ASEAN's on-going FTA/CEP (free trade areas/comprehensive economic partnership) negotiations with some of its Dialogue Partners, such as, China, Japan, India, Korea and, Australia and New Zealand.
4. The EU Trade Commissioner updated the ASEAN Ministers on the latest programs and activities undertaken as part of continuing efforts to integrate the European market. He highlighted the challenges facing the EU to match the dynamism of other economies such as those in Asia, in particular the need to exploit comparative advantages and increase competitiveness in order to continue to prosper and provide market opportunities for trading partners such as ASEAN.
5. The Ministers agreed that, despite the satisfactory level of the current ASEAN-EU partnership, there is still scope and much potential for both regions to pursue a more ambitious goal for closer economic integration.

ASEAN-EU ECONOMIC COOPERATION

6. The Ministers reviewed the progress of the various projects and activities undertaken under the ambit of the ASEAN-EU dialogue process. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the status of implementing the ASEAN-EU Programme for Regional Integration Support (APRIS), which the ASEAN Ministers agreed have contributed substantially to ASEAN's economic integration efforts. The ASEAN Ministers, in particular, expressed their appreciation for the technical assistance and capacity-building offered by APRIS.
7. The Ministers also discussed the implementation of the Trans-Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative (TREATI), particularly the TREATI Work Programme for 2005 which the Ministers endorsed at their last consultations in Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam in April 2005. The Ministers, in reaffirming the continued relevance and value of TREATI as a vehicle towards developing a partnership for regional

integration, agreed to look into expanding the scope of the TREATI to include activities that would complement and supplement the deeper and broader level of economic integration envisaged for the current engagement. The Ministers tasked their Senior Economic Officials to look into this matter at their next consultations in July 2006.

ASEAN-EU VISION GROUP

8. The Ministers noted the report of the ASEAN-EU Vision Group which was established to look into the feasibility of a possible ASEAN-EU Free Trade Area and other new initiatives for enhancing economic cooperation and ties between ASEAN and the EU. The Ministers also received the Vision Group's Report, Trans-regional Partnership for Shared and Sustainable Prosperity.
9. The Ministers exchanged views on the recommendations put forward in the Report and welcomed the recommendations to take the ASEAN-EU Economic Partnership to a higher level based on two pillars through the establishment of a WTO consistent FTA and expansion of economic cooperation that ensures benefits of the FTA are maximized and balanced. The Ministers agreed that the enhanced ASEAN-EU economic relationship would not be just an FTA but in effect a new strategic partnership between friends.
10. The Ministers tasked their Senior Officials to consider how a strategic ASEAN-EU partnership can be developed through the recommendations of the ASEAN-EU Vision Group. As this partnership with the EU progresses, focus and emphasis shall be given to economic and technical cooperation which the EU will continue to provide ASEAN.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

11. The Ministers exchanged views on international and regional economic issues, including the latest developments in the WTO and the state-of-play of the on-going negotiations for the Doha Development Agenda. The Ministers reiterated their continuing support for the early accession of Lao PDR and Viet Nam to the WTO. The Ministers also noted the current developments in ASEM.

Other Ministers in Attendance:

H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Ms. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; Dato' Sidek Hassan, Secretary-General, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia (representing H.E. Dato' Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia); H.E. Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister of Commerce, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Peter B. Favila, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Utama Savanayana, Vice Minister for Commerce, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Mr. Somkid Jatusripitak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, Thailand); Mr. Tran Dong Phuong, Director-General, Department for Multilateral Trade Policy, Ministry of Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam); H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN - INDIA

Joint Media Statement of the 5th Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Minister of Commerce and Industry of India (AEM-India)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24 August 2006

1. The 5th Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 24 August 2006. The Consultations was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia and H.E. Kamal Nath Minister of Commerce and Industry of India.
2. The Ministers took the opportunity provided by the annual consultations to exchange views on global and regional developments, in particular issues which could potentially shape ASEAN-India economic relations.
3. The Ministers noted that, despite the challenges, bilateral trade between ASEAN and India continued to increase. In 2005, total trade increased by 30.4% from US\$ 17.6 billion in 2004 to US\$ 23.1 billion in 2005.

ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA)

4. The Ministers noted the progress in the negotiations to establish the AIFTA and the efforts to move the negotiations forward. They reaffirmed their will and commitment to establish the AIFTA and directed their senior officials to explore ways to show flexibility in resolving the issues separating both sides, especially those pertaining to the modality on trade in goods. As an impetus to moving the trade in goods negotiations forward, the Ministers agreed that each ASEAN Member Country shall provide India with its individual sensitive list, while India shall provide ASEAN with its one common single sensitive list.
5. In addition, the Ministers agreed that the negotiations on goods be concluded early and negotiations on trade in services and investment be commenced once substantial progress has been made in the negotiations on trade in goods.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia, Chairperson; H.E. Mr. Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce and Industry, India, Co-chairperson; Mr. Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Elmer C. Hernandez, Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Utama Savanayana, Vice Minister for Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Co-Chairman's Statement on India-ASEAN Science and Technology Cooperation

New Delhi, India, 6 November 2006

The Heads of Science and Technology Agencies of the State/Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia (Cambodia), the Republic of Indonesia (Indonesia), the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar (Myanmar), the Republic of Philippines (The Philippines), the Republic of Singapore (Singapore), the Kingdom of Thailand (Thailand) and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (Viet Nam), Member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (collectively, "ASEAN" or "ASEAN Member Countries", or individually, "ASEAN Member country") and the Republic of India (India) gathered and met in New Delhi, India, on 6th November, 2006 for the 12th Technology Summit and Technology Platform, organized jointly by the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and ASEAN Committee on Science & Technology (COST) hereby resolve:

- That in order to realize the shared goal of using knowledge for creation of wealth in the context of Indian-ASEAN partnership it is imperative to consider undertaking collaborative R&D and technology development in areas of common interest including biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, agriculture for food security and advanced materials through the creation of a common India-ASEAN S&T Development Fund.
- To design through harmonized standards a regulatory framework in relation to Biotechnology products and the agricultural processing industry to ensure that the value addition resulting therefrom enures to the benefit of ASEAN region.
- Consider the establishment of an India-ASEAN Institute for Intellectual Property for building Human Resource capacities and training to serve the ASEAN region.
- It is hereby further resolved that in view of the symbiotic relationship between Science & Technology and economic progress the Indian ASEAN partnership will encourage linkages between academic institutions, research laboratories, professional bodies and industry to create a knowledge grid and to support the mobility of members of the scientific community.
- Hold Technology Summits on a regular basis utilising existing platforms in India and ASEAN for encouraging competitiveness within a cooperative framework amongst all stake holders.
- To popularize science through interaction of youth including school children within the ASEAN region and to explore and promote mechanisms to ensure such participation on a large scale.
- It is further resolved that CII in coordination with DST (under the Frame work of GITA signed between the two agencies) and ASEAN Secretariat will spearhead the implementation of programme emanating from this Co-chairmen's Statement, in consultation with the ASEAN COST.

Mr. Kapil Sibal
Minister for Science & Technology
and Earth Sciences, India

Dr. Jamaluddin Mohd. Jarjis
Minister for Science & Technology
and Innovation, Malaysia

Chairman's Statement of the 5th ASEAN + India Summit

Cebu, Philippines, 14 January 2007

1. The 5th ASEAN-India Summit was held successfully on 14 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines and was attended by the Heads of State/Government of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam and H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.
2. We, the Heads of State and/or Government of ASEAN Member Countries and India, had comprehensive exchange of views on regional and international developments and discussed ways to further enhance the partnership.
3. We expressed satisfaction with the overall achievement of ASEAN-India dialogue relations.
4. We acknowledged the deepening and broadening of ASEAN-India dialogue relations covering the areas of trade, investment, tourism, science and technology, information and communication technology, and human resource development, and people-to-people contacts.
5. We welcomed India's "Look East Policy" and as shown by India's interest in entering into Free Trade or Comprehensive Economic Partnerships with ASEAN member countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally.
6. We expressed confidence that with the successful conclusion of ASEAN and India Economic Ministers Meeting which was held on 11 January 2007, on-going negotiations for the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA) would achieve the mandate set by the Leaders on July 2007.
7. We look forward to the launch of a dialogue between ASEAN and India on an Open Skies Agreement that would liberalize air services between ASEAN and India and foster interaction and movement between the peoples of Southeast Asia and India. Enhancing people to people contact can be further complemented with special tourism campaigns.
8. We acknowledged that connectivity shall be further enhanced with the establishment of transport networks between India and CLMV countries. We welcomed India's active participation in the ASEAN Regional Forum, East Asia Summit, and the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation.
9. We welcomed the Progress Report of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity signed at the Third ASEAN-India Summit on 30 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
10. We acknowledged the implementation of priority projects proposed at the 4th ASEAN-India Summit in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005, and acknowledged the implementation of two of these projects, namely: the one-month Special Course for Diplomats from ASEAN Countries held in India on 21 August-22 September 2006 and the

ASEAN-India Technology Summit and Technology Platform (TSTP) that was likewise held in India on 23-24 November 2006. We welcome India's offer to institutionalize the training course for the diplomats from the ASEAN Countries. The ASEAN-India Technology Summit calls for collaborative research and technology, pharmaceuticals, agriculture for food security, and advanced materials and plans to establish an ASEAN-India Science and Technology Fund.

11. We look forward to the early implementation of other projects of mutual interest to ASEAN and India such as 1) ASEAN-India IT Ministerial and IT Industry Forum; 2) ASEAN e-Network Project-Establishing a VSAT-based Tele-Education and Tele-Medicine Network to connect Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam (CLMV); and 3) Indian Education Fairs in ASEAN Countries.
12. We agreed to further enhance ties in the area of human resource development by pursuing cross-linkages for research and development, conducting Indian education fairs in ASEAN countries, and encouraging exchange of scholars between ASEAN and Indian institutes of higher learning. Similarly, we acknowledge India's efforts at establishing Centers for English Language Training (CELT) as well as an Entrepreneurship Development Center (EDC) in Lao PDR after having successfully completed the establishment of similar EDCs in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam.
13. We acknowledged India's cultural and religious influence in Asia and in other parts of the world. Indian advancements in the field of film production is widely known and we encouraged the establishment of joint ventures between Indian and ASEAN film companies to showcase Asian culture and diversity.
14. We expressed appreciation to India for its contribution to the ASEAN Development Fund and the ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund which shall be utilized to support various projects approved under the 4th ASEAN-India Summit and the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity.
15. We agreed to establish humanitarian assistance networks and tsunami early warning systems as well as improve disaster preparedness and management.
16. We expressed concern over the threat posed by terrorism to the region and the global community, and reaffirmed our resolve to implement the 2003 Joint Declaration for Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism (CCIT) through the sharing of information and joint activities by our law enforcement agencies. We also resolved to jointly address the problems of arms smuggling, drug trafficking, and the trafficking of women and children.
17. We recognized India's leadership in the pharmaceutical industry, biotechnology, and traditional medicines and we expressed confidence that ASEAN can greatly benefit in these areas through technology transfer.
18. We expressed confidence that India could play a role in pushing for the resumption of the stalled talks of the Doha Development Round in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

ASEAN - JAPAN

Joint Media Statement of the 13th Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (AEM-METI)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 23 August 2006

1. The Thirteenth AEM-METI Consultations was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 23 August 2006. The Consultations was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia and H.E. Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan.

ASEAN-Japan Trade and Investment Relations

2. The Ministers exchanged views on recent global and regional developments. They were pleased to note that total trade between ASEAN and Japan increased by 7.9 per cent from US\$ 143.3 billion in 2004 to US\$ 154.6 billion in 2005.
3. The Ministers noted that FDI flows from Japan also increased from US\$ 3.12 billion in 2004 to US\$ 3.16 billion in 2005. Japan remained to be ASEAN's third largest source of FDI.

Progress of Work under the Framework of ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP)

4. The Ministers noted the progress of the AJCEP negotiations and efforts exerted by the ASEAN-Japan Committee on Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCCEP) to move forward the negotiations. They noted in particular the agreement reached on the basic idea of "common list, common schedule and common rules of origin" for the AJCEP, the details of which are currently being negotiated. They also noted the agreement in principle reached by ASEAN and Japan on the criteria for conferring originating status under the AJCEP Rules of Origin.
5. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to implement the measures for the realisation of the AJCEP. The Ministers considered the modality for the Trade in Goods component of the regional FTA and instructed the AJCCEP to further study the coverage and staging, the disciplines and treatments that may be applied to products taking into account the concerns of the least developed countries in ASEAN. Recognising that some of the outstanding issues were still under consideration, they tasked the AJCCEP to explore creative ways to narrow the gaps to accelerate the AJCEP within the targets set by the Leaders.

ASEAN-Japan Economic Cooperation

6. The Ministers, underlining the importance of economic cooperation initiatives to complement the AJCEP, noted with satisfaction the steady implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Economic Partnership Cooperation, which was proposed by Japan at the AEM-METI Consultations in Jakarta in 2004.

7. The Ministers welcomed Japan's proposal for a joint project "ASEAN Common Investment Climate Initiative" coordinated by Japan External Trade Organisation, Japan Business Federation, and Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, that will help promote investment particularly in the sectors that formulate regional production networks by improving communications between the Japanese investors and ASEAN policy makers. They also welcomed Japan's new initiatives to enhance logistics efficiency and the ASEAN brand project for strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
8. The Ministers agreed to Japan's proposal for a track-two study on a possible Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) comprising ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand. However, the ASEAN Ministers re-iterated the need to expeditiously conclude the AJCEP as the basis for such expanded regional integration initiative.
9. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed Japan's proposal to establish an Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and requested Japan to discuss this proposal further with the ASEAN Secretariat.
10. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for her continuing support to ASEAN, particularly in efforts to narrow the development gaps between Member Countries, deepen economic integration and realise its vision to establish the ASEAN Economic Community.

AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC)

11. The AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC) also met as part of the AEM-METI Consultations. They noted with appreciation the timely implementation of the AMEICC projects as well as the effective manner by which these projects are being implemented. They also expressed their support to the idea that the AMEICC should stress on its function of providing recommendations to Ministerial level frameworks in line with the initiatives of ASEAN. From this viewpoint, the Ministers supported the recommendation of the AMEICC HRD-WG to create an authorisation scheme for ASEAN common standard curriculum as the basis of common industrial skill qualifications and its proposal to develop several curricula as pilot projects.

Other Areas of Cooperation

12. The Ministers noted that the 7th ASEAN-Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME-METI) was convened in July 2006. Acknowledging that improving energy efficiency and conservation is a key to achieving economic growth, energy security and climate change problem simultaneously, they expressed support to the initiatives of the Energy Officials in forging mutual cooperation in this area. They also encouraged Energy Officials to continue developing and promoting new and alternative sources of energy to reduce oil dependency and enhance regional energy security.

The Meeting was attended by:

Mr. Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan; H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of

International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Peter B. Favila, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Dr. Uttama Savanayana, Vice Minister for Commerce, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN

Joint Media Statement of the 2nd CLMV-Japan Economic Ministers Consultations

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 23 August 2006

1. The Second CLMV - Japan Economic Ministers Consultations was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 23 August 2006. The Consultations was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade of Viet Nam and H.E. Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.
2. The Ministers acknowledged the recent development of economic ties between CLMV countries and Japan, and recognized that further strengthening of economic ties is needed to develop production and distribution networks, and promote industrial competitiveness and investment climate in CLMV countries.
3. The Ministers reviewed the cooperation projects discussed at the First CLMV - Japan Economic Ministers Consultations and expressed appreciation on the successful implementation of these projects such as the Mekong Exhibition, and the Forum for SME Development in Mekong Region in Tokyo.
4. The CLMV Ministers expressed appreciation to Japan's cooperation projects for the development of SEZ (Special Economic Zones) and the Natural Rubber industry in the region, which were reported through AMEICC/WEC-WG. The Ministers shared the view that these projects are in line with the recommendation of the HARA Report.
5. The Ministers exchanged views on the future direction of economic cooperation between CLMV and Japan. They emphasized the long term and sustainable objectives of the cooperation framework to assist CLMV strengthen their capacity. The Ministers also stressed the importance of strengthening the institutional mechanism to enhance the effectiveness of future cooperation under the CLMV - Japan framework and tasked senior economic officials of CLMV and Japan to discuss on this issue at the next senior economic officials meeting.
6. The Ministers also expressed appreciation for the "Young Leadership Program" which contributes to the closer relationship between the young leaders of CLMV and Japan.
7. The Ministers shared the view that trade and investment between Japan and CLMV countries should be further strengthened through both bilateral and regional frameworks.
8. The Ministers agreed that the 3rd CLMV - Japan Economic Ministers Consultations will be co-chaired by Myanmar and Japan and held back to back with the next AEM - METI Consultations.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan; H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN

Chairman's Statement of the 10th ASEAN-Japan Summit

Cebu, Philippines, 14 January 2007

1. The 10th ASEAN-Japan Summit chaired by the H. E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines, was successfully convened on 14 January 2007. The Heads of State/Government of the ASEAN Member Countries held a productive meeting with H.E. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.
2. We expressed satisfaction on the overall progress in the Plan of Action to Implement the Declaration for the Dynamic and Enduring ASEAN-Japan Partnership in the New Millennium adopted in Tokyo in 2003 on the occasion of 30th year anniversary of ASEAN-Japan relations.
3. We recalled the Joint Statement of the 9th ASEAN-Japan Summit reiterating Japan's support for the realization of the ASEAN Community by 2015. We underscored the importance of narrowing the development gap in ASEAN. The ASEAN Leaders thanked Japan for its support to the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and welcomed the establishment in March 2006 of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).
4. We welcomed Japan's fresh grant of US\$ 52 million to help bridge the development gap in ASEAN through the promotion of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic partnership. We noted Japan's assistance to the development of the Mekong region as well as Japan's new initiative to expand its ODA to the Mekong region for the next three years.
5. We reiterated our deep commitment to strengthen cooperation in addressing the problem of the avian influenza and other pandemic diseases. We noted with satisfaction that the regional stockpile of 500,000 courses of Tamiflu and 700,000 sets of personal equipment were completed as a JAIF project. We welcomed Japan's new pledge to provide assistance of US\$ 67 million over the US\$ 150 million contribution already disbursed based on the pledge made at the International Pledging Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza held in January 2006 in Beijing.
6. We welcomed Japan's support in the area to disaster mitigation efforts in the region. We look forward to the constructive participation of ASEAN Member Countries and Japan in the International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake to be held in Kobe this month.
7. We called for follow-up action on an earlier decision to initiate joint flagship projects in culture, human resources development and small and medium industries. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed Japan's initiative on human resource development for peace-building. Japan also reaffirmed its commitment to fund exchange programs, including vocational and higher education.
8. We welcomed Japan's large-scale youth exchange initiative totaling US\$ 315 million over the next five years, which would include the invitation to 6,000 young people annually from ASEAN and other EAS member countries to Japan. We also welcomed Japan's proposal for an "East Asia Youth Ship" project to commemorate the ASEAN's 40th anniversary.
9. The Leaders of ASEAN commended Japan's commitment to enhance its support for other sub-regional development endeavors, such as the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS).
10. We reiterated our determination to conclude a satisfactory and mutually beneficial ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement by April 2007, as scheduled. The ASEAN Leaders expect the AJCEP to be more than a compendium of Japan's bilateral Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with individual ASEAN Member Countries. We instructed our Economic Ministers and Senior Officials to exert all efforts to achieve this objective.
11. We noted the significant recommendations of the ASEAN-Japan Eminent Persons' Committee on the reform of the ASEAN-Japan Centre and instructed our relevant Ministers and Senior Officials to undertake the reform of the ASEAN-Japan Centre as highlighted in the Third Executive Report on the Progress of Implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action.
12. We welcomed the launching of the ASEAN-Japan Counterterrorism Dialogue in June 2006, and also welcomed Malaysia's offer to host the Dialogue in 2007.
13. The Leaders of ASEAN thanked Japan for strengthening cooperation in maritime security through capacity-building for ASEAN Member Countries, including the provision and sharing of modern equipment, ships, and training.
14. We agreed to establish the ASEAN-Japan Eminent Persons' Group to elaborate the concept of the Joint Statement entitled "Deepening and Broadening of the Strategic Partnership" adopted by the Leaders of 9th ASEAN-Japan Summit in Kuala Lumpur and to explore ways to translate the concept into action.
15. We exchanged views on regional and international developments. We expressed grave concern over the recent developments on the Korean Peninsula. We condemn the recent missile launches and the nuclear test conducted by North Korea, and urge North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs and to work towards the expeditious implementation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions 1695 and 1718. We urge North Korea to take concrete and effective steps toward the full implementation of the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005. We also urge North Korea to respond to the humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abduction issue.
16. We noted with satisfaction the progress in East Asia cooperation. We reiterated the importance of advancing East Asia cooperation under the ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit and other frameworks in a mutually complementary manner. We also noted

with satisfaction the holding of the 1st East Asia Gender and Equality Ministerial Meeting and the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology. We agreed to a Track II study of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA). We welcomed Japan's proposal to establish an Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

17. We welcomed Japan's recognition of its support for ASEAN as being in its national interest. We shared Japan's sentiment that ASEAN-Japan strategic partnership is important to the stability and prosperity of the region.
18. Finally, we commended Japan's initiative called "Asia Gateway," comprising three concepts: Towards and Open Japan, Working Together Towards an Open Asia, and Respect for a Diverse Asia.
19. We look forward to the convening of the Second East Asia Summit (EAS) on 15 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines.

ASEAN - REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Joint Media Statement of the 3rd AEM-ROK Consultations

Makati, Philippines, 16 May 2006

1. The Economic Ministers from ASEAN and the Republic of Korea have just concluded their Third AEM-ROK Consultations in Makati City, the Philippines on 16 May 2006. H.E. Mr. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Commerce of the Lao PDR and H.E. Kim Hyun-Chong, Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea co-chaired the Consultations.
2. The Ministers noted the status of the on-going negotiations for the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area (AKFTA) and expressed satisfaction over the progress made so far. The Ministers were particularly pleased with the completion of the negotiations for the Trade in Goods (TIG) Agreement under the ASEAN-Korea Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 24-28 April 2006.
3. With the completion of the negotiations, the TIG Agreement has been signed by Parties which were ready to do so. The rest of the Parties will sign the TIG Agreement as soon as they have completed their respective domestic procedures. The Ministers looked forward to the immediate implementation of the TIG Agreement and the early realization of the AKFTA.
4. The Ministers reiterated their support to Korea's initiative to develop the Gaesong Industrial Complex.
5. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made on the negotiations for the trade in services and investment agreements. They encouraged negotiators from both sides to exert efforts to complete the agreements as expeditiously as possible, preferably by the ASEAN-ROK Summit in Cebu, the Philippines, in December 2006.
6. The Ministers also welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN-Korea Working Group on Economic Cooperation. They stressed the role of this Working Group in identifying and implementing economic

cooperation programs and activities necessary to facilitate and complement the process of moving towards the AKFTA.

Other Ministers in Attendance:

H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Ms. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; Dato' Sidek Hassan, Secretary-General, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia (representing H.E. Dato' Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia); H.E. Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister of Commerce, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Peter B. Favila, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Utama Savanayana, Vice Minister for Commerce, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Mr. Somkid Jatusripitak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, Thailand); Mr. Tran Dong Phuong, Director-General, Department for Multilateral Trade Policy, Ministry of Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam); H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Agreement on Trade in Goods under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Among the Governments of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24 August 2006

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand¹ and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea,

RECALLING the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation among the Governments of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea signed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the thirteenth day of December 2005;

FURTHER RECALLING Articles 1.3 and 2.1 of the Framework Agreement, which reflect their commitment to establish the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area covering trade in goods;

REAFFIRMING their commitment to eliminate duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce on substantially all trade in goods among the ASEAN Member Countries and the Republic of Korea within the specified time frames, while allowing flexibility to them to address their sensitive areas as provided in the Framework Agreement; and

RECOGNISING the different stages of economic development among the ASEAN Member Countries and the need for flexibility to be given to the new ASEAN Member Countries, in particular the need to facilitate their increasing participation in the economic cooperation of the Parties and

the expansion of their exports, including, *inter alia*, through strengthening of their domestic capacity, efficiency and competitiveness,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1

Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

AEM + Korea means the Economic Ministers of the ASEAN Member Countries and the Minister for Trade of Korea;

applied MFN tariff rates:

- (a) in the case of the ASEAN Member Countries which are WTO members as of 1 January 2005 and Korea, means their respective applied rates as of 1 January 2005; and
- (b) in the case of ASEAN Member Countries which are non-WTO members as of 1 January 2005, refer to the rates as applied to Korea as of 1 January 2005;

ASEAN means the Association of Southeast Asian Nations which comprises of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand¹ and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;

ASEAN-Korea FTA means the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area established by the Framework Agreement and other relevant agreements stipulated in paragraph 1 of Article 1.4 of the Framework Agreement;

ASEAN Member Countries means Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand¹ and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam collectively;

ASEAN Member Country means Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand¹ or the Socialist Republic of Vietnam individually;

ASEAN 6 means Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore and the Kingdom of Thailand¹;

Framework Agreement means the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation among the Governments of the ASEAN Member Countries and the Republic of Korea;

GATT 1994 means the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, including its Notes and Supplementary Provisions, which is a part of the WTO Agreement;

Implementing Committee means the Implementing Committee established under Article 5.3 of the Framework Agreement;

Korea means the Republic of Korea;

new ASEAN Member Countries means the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;

non-tariff measures shall include non-tariff barriers;

Parties means the ASEAN Member Countries and Korea collectively;

Party means an ASEAN Member Country or Korea;

WTO means the World Trade Organisation; and

WTO Agreement means the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation, done on 15 April 1994 and the other agreements negotiated there under.

Article 2

National Treatment on Internal Taxation and Regulation

Each Party shall accord national treatment to the goods of all the other Parties in accordance with Article III of GATT 1994. To this end, the provisions of Article 111 of GATT 1994 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, be incorporated into and form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 3

Tariff Reduction and Elimination

1. The tariff reduction or elimination programme of the Parties shall require the applied MFN tariff rates on goods under listed tariff lines to be gradually reduced and, where applicable, eliminated in accordance with this Article.
2. All tariff lines are subject to the tariff reduction or elimination programme under this Agreement and shall be categorised as follows:
 - (a) Normal Track: tariff lines placed in the Normal Track by each Party on its own accord shall have their respective applied MFN tariff rates gradually reduced and eliminated in accordance with the modalities set out in Annex 1 with the objective of achieving the targets prescribed in the thresholds therein; and
 - (b) Sensitive Track: tariff lines placed in the Sensitive Track by each Party on its own accord shall have their respective applied MFN tariff rates reduced or eliminated in accordance with the modalities set out in Annex 2.
3. Subject to Annexes 1 and 2, all commitments undertaken by each Party under this Article shall be applied to all the other Parties.

Article 4

Transparency

Article X of GATT 1994 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, be incorporated into and form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 5

Rules of Origin

The Rules of Origin and the Operational Certification Procedures applicable to the goods covered under this Agreement are set out in Annex 3 and its Appendices.

¹For the purpose of this Agreement the Kingdom of Thailand is included in the reference of this term only after the relevant signature on her behalf has been appended.

Article 6

Modification of Concessions

1. The Parties² shall not nullify or impair any of the concessions under this Agreement, except in cases provided for in this Agreement.
2. Nothing in this Agreement shall preclude any Party from negotiating and entering into arrangements to accelerate the implementation of concessions made under this Agreement or to incorporate new goods into such concessions, provided that such arrangements are mutually agreed upon and applied to all the other Parties.
3. Any Party may, by negotiation and agreement with any other Party to which it has made a concession, modify or withdraw such concession made under this Agreement. In such negotiations and agreement, which may include provision for compensatory adjustment with respect to other goods, the Parties concerned shall maintain a general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions not less favourable to trade than that provided for in this Agreement prior to such agreement.
4. Any agreement by the Parties to modify or withdraw concessions made in the tariff reduction or elimination programme in accordance with paragraph 3, or to accelerate the elimination of tariffs in such programme or to incorporate goods into such programme in accordance with paragraph 2, shall supersede any tariff rate or track determined pursuant to the tariff reduction or elimination programme for that good as set out in Annexes 1 and 2, shall be treated as an amendment to the relevant Annexes and shall enter into force in accordance with the procedure under Article 17.

Article 7

WTO Disciplines

Subject to the provisions of this Agreement and any future agreements as may be agreed pursuant to the reviews of this Agreement by the Parties under Article 15, the Parties² hereby agree and reaffirm their commitments to abide by the provisions of the WTO disciplines as set out in Annexes 1A and 1C to the WTO Agreement, which include, among others, non-tariff measures, technical barriers to trade (hereinafter referred to as "TBT"), sanitary and phytosanitary (hereinafter referred to as "SPS") measures, subsidies and countervailing measures, anti-dumping measures and intellectual property rights.

Article 8

Quantitative Restrictions and Non-Tariff Barriers and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

1. Each Party undertakes not to adopt or maintain any prohibition or quantitative restriction on the importation of any goods of the other Parties or on the exportation of any goods destined for the territory of the other Parties, except in accordance with its WTO rights and obligations or other provisions in this Agreement.
2. Each Party shall ensure the transparency of its non-tariff measures that they are not prepared, adopted or applied with a view to or with the effect of creating unnecessary obstacles to trade among the Parties. The Parties shall identify non-tariff barriers other than quantitative restrictions for elimination as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Agreement. The timeframe for elimination of these non-tariff barriers shall be mutually agreed upon by all the Parties.
3. The Parties recognise the importance of transparency of TBT and SPS regulations as in the WTO Agreements on TBT and SPS, including notification procedures on preparation for regulations and standards on TBT and on any occurrences of SPS incident to reduce their negative effect on trade as well as to protect human, animal or plant life or health. Each Party shall designate its contact point for the purpose of responding to queries related to this Article.
4. A working group on TBT and SPS (hereinafter referred to as the "WG on TBT and SPS") under the Implementing Committee shall be established to deal with issues relating to the implementation of this Article and to facilitate trade and protect human, animal or plant life or health through mutual cooperation and bilateral consultations. The WG on TBT and SPS shall comprise of government officials from agriculture, fisheries, livestock and industry agencies and other related agencies. The WG on TBT and SPS shall develop its scope of work and meet at least once a year or as mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

Article 9

Safeguard Measures

1. Each Party which is a WTO member retains its rights and obligations under Article XIX of GATT 1994 and the WTO Agreement on Safeguards. Actions taken pursuant to Article XIX of GATT 1994 and the WTO Agreement on Safeguards shall not be subject to the Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism under the Framework Agreement.
2. With regard to ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measures, a Party shall have the right to initiate such a measure on a good within the transition period for that good. The transition period for a good shall begin from the date of entry into force of this Agreement and end seven (7) years from the date of completion of tariff reduction/elimination for that good.
3. Subject to the following paragraphs of this Article, a Party shall be free to take ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measures if as an effect of the obligations incurred by the Party under this Agreement, including tariff concessions, or, if as a result of unforeseen developments and of the effects of the obligations incurred by the Party, a good is being imported from the other Parties to which tariff concession was made for that good in such increased quantities, absolute or relative to domestic production, and under such conditions so as to substantially cause or threaten to cause serious injury to the domestic industry of the importing Party that produces like or directly competitive goods in its territory.
4. If an ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measure is taken, a Party taking such a measure may:
 - (a) suspend the further reduction of any rate of tariff provided for under this Agreement for the good; or
 - (b) increase the tariff rate on the good concerned to a level not to exceed the lesser of:
 - (i) the applied MFN tariff rate on the good in effect at the time the action is taken; and
 - (ii) the applied MFN tariff rate on the good in effect on the day immediately preceding the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

² Non-WTO Members of ASEAN shall abide by the WTO provisions in accordance with their accession commitments to the WTO

5. Any ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measure may be maintained for an initial period of up to three (3) years and may be extended for a period not exceeding one year if it is determined pursuant to the procedures referred to in paragraph 6 that the measure continues to be necessary to prevent or remedy serious injury and to facilitate adjustment and that there is evidence that the domestic industry is adjusting. Notwithstanding the duration of an ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measure on the good, such a measure shall terminate at the end of the transition period for that good.
6. In applying ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measures, the Parties shall adopt the rules for the application of safeguard measures, including provisional measures, as provided under the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, with the exception of the quantitative restriction measures set out in Article 5, and Articles 9, 13, and 14 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards. As such, all other provisions of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards shall, *mutatis mutandis*, be incorporated into and form an integral part of this Agreement.
7. An ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measure shall not be applied against a good originating in the territory of a Party, so long as its share of imports of the good concerned in the importing Party does not exceed 3% of the total imports from the Parties.
8. In seeking compensation under Article 8 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards for an ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measure, the Parties concerned shall seek the good offices of the Implementing Committee to determine the substantially equivalent level of concessions to that existing under this Agreement between the Party taking the safeguard measure and the exporting Parties which would be affected by such a measure prior to any suspension of equivalent concessions. Any proceedings arising from such good offices shall be completed within ninety (90) days from the date on which the ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measure was applied.
9. On a Party's termination of an ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measure on a good, the tariff rate for that good shall be the rate that, according, to that Party's tariff reduction and elimination programme as provided in Annexes 1 and 2, would have been in effect but for the measure.
10. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article, no Party may impose an ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measure on a good to which actions are being applied pursuant to Article XIX of GATT 1994 and the WTO Agreement on Safeguards. When a Party intends to apply, pursuant to Article XIX of GATT 1994 and the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, an action on a good to which ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measure is being applied, it shall terminate the ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measure prior to the imposition of the action to be applied pursuant to Article XIX of GATT 1994 and the WTO Agreement on Safeguards.
11. All official communications and documentations exchanged among the Parties and to the Implementing Committee relating to any ASEAN-Korea FTA safeguard measures shall be in writing and shall be in the English language.

Article 10

Measures to Safeguard the Balance of Payments

Where a Party is in serious balance of payments and external financial difficulties or threat thereof, it may, in accordance with GATT 1994, which includes the Understanding on Balance-of-Payments Provisions of GATT

1994, adopt restrictive import measures. In adopting such measures, the Party shall immediately consult with the other Parties.

Article 11

General Exceptions

Subject to the requirement that such measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination among the Parties where the same conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on international trade, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent the adoption or enforcement by a Party of measure:

- (a) necessary to protect public morals;
- (b) necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health;
- (c) relating to the importations or exportations of gold or silver;
- (d) necessary to secure compliance with laws or regulations which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement, including those relating to customs enforcement, the enforcement of monopolies operated under paragraph 4 of Article II and Article XVII of GATT 1994, the protection of patents, trademarks and copyright, and the prevention of deceptive practices;
- (e) relating to the products of prison labour;
- (f) imposed for the protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value;
- (g) relating to the conservation of exhaustible natural resources if such measures are made effective in conjunction with restrictions on domestic production or consumption;
- (h) undertaken in pursuance of the obligations under any intergovernmental commodity agreement which conforms to criteria submitted to the WTO and not disapproved by it or which is itself so submitted and not so disapproved;
- (i) involving restrictions on exports of domestic materials necessary to ensure essential quantities of such materials to a domestic processing industry during periods when the domestic price of such materials is held below the world price as part of a governmental stabilisation plan, provided that such restrictions shall not operate to increase the exports of or the protection afforded to such domestic industry, and shall not depart from the provisions of this Agreement relating to non-discrimination; and
- (j) essential to the acquisition or distribution of products in general or local short supply, provided that any such measures shall be consistent with the principle that all Parties are entitled to an equitable share of the international supply of such products, and that any such measures, which are inconsistent with the other provisions of this Agreement shall be discontinued as soon as the conditions giving rise to them have ceased to exist.

Article 12

Security Exceptions

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed:

- (a) to require any Party to furnish any information the disclosure of which it considers contrary to its essential security interests;

- (b) to prevent any Party from taking any action which it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests, including but not limited to:
- (i) action relating to fissionable materials or the materials from which they are derived;
 - (ii) action relating to the traffic in arms, ammunition and implements of war and to such traffic in other goods and materials as is carried on directly or indirectly for the purpose of supplying a military establishment;
 - (iii) action taken so as to protect critical communications infrastructure from deliberate attempts intended to disable or degrade such infrastructure;
 - (iv) action taken in time of war or other emergency in domestic or international relations; or
- (c) to prevent any Party from taking any action in pursuance of its obligations under the United Nations Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 13

Regional and Local Government

In fulfilling its obligations and commitments under this Agreement, each Party shall ensure their observance by regional and local governments and authorities in its territory as well as their observance by non-governmental bodies in the exercise of powers delegated by central, regional or local governments or authorities within its territory.

Article 14

Institutional Arrangements

The institutions as provided for in Article 5.3 of the Framework Agreement shall oversee, supervise, coordinate and review, as appropriate, the implementation of this Agreement.

Article 15

Review

1. The AEM+Korea or their designated representatives shall meet within one year of the date of entry into force of this Agreement and then biennially or otherwise as appropriate to review this Agreement for the purpose of considering further measures to liberalise trade in goods as well as develop disciplines and negotiate agreements on matters referred to in Article 7 or any other relevant matters as may be agreed.
2. The Parties shall, taking into account their respective experiences in the implementation of this Agreement, review the Sensitive Track in 2012 and every three years thereafter with a view to improving, the market access condition of sensitive goods, including the further possible reduction of the number of goods in the Sensitive Track and the conditions governing the reciprocal tariff rate treatment of goods placed by a Party in the Sensitive Track.

Article 16

Annexes and Future Legal Instruments

1. The Annexes and Appendices shall form an integral part of this Agreement.
2. The Parties may adopt legal instruments in the future pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement. Upon their respective entry into force, such instruments shall form part of this Agreement.

Article 17

Amendments

The provisions of this Agreement may be modified through amendments mutually agreed upon in writing by the Parties.

Article 18

Relations to Other Agreements

Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, this Agreement or any action taken under it shall not affect or nullify the rights and obligations of a Party under the existing agreements to which it is a party.

Article 19

Dispute Settlement

Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, any dispute concerning the interpretation, implementation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved through the procedures and mechanism as set out in the Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism under the Framework Agreement.

Article 20

Depositary

For the ASEAN Member Countries, this Agreement shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof, to each ASEAN Member Country.

Article 21

Entry into Force

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on 1 July 2006, provided that at least one ASEAN Member Country and Korea are among the Signatory Countries that have by then notified all the other Parties in writing of the completion of their internal procedures. In the event this Agreement does not enter into force on 1 July 2006, it shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the latter date on which at least one ASEAN Member Country and Korea have notified all the other Parties in writing of the completion of their internal procedures.
2. A Party shall, upon the completion of its internal procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement, notify all the other Parties in writing.
3. Where a Party is unable to complete its internal procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement by the date as set out in paragraph 1, this Agreement shall come into force for that Party upon the date of notification of the completion of its internal procedures. The Party concerned, however, shall be bound by the same terms and conditions of this Agreement, including any further commitments that may have been undertaken by the other Parties under this Agreement by the time of such notification, as if it had notified all the other Parties in writing of the completion of its internal procedures before the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement on Trade in Goods under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation among the Governments of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations³ and the Republic of Korea.

³The Parties agree that the Kingdom of Thailand may sign this Agreement at a later date provided that she complies with all conditions required of a Party and submit all necessary documents required of a Party to Korea and ASEAN Secretariat

DONE at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on this twenty fourth day of August 2006 in duplicate copies in the English language

For the Government of Brunei Darussalam
LIM JOCK SENG
Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the Royal Government of Cambodia
CHAM PRASIDH
Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia
MARI ELKA PANGESTU
Minister of Trade

For the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
NAM VIYAKETH
Minister of Industry and Commerce

For the Government of Malaysia
RAFIDAH AZIZ
Minister of International Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Union of Myanmar
U SOE THA
Minister for National Planning and Economic Development

For the Government of the Republic of the Philippines
PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary of Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Republic of Singapore
LIM HNG KIANG
Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
TRUONG DINH TUYEN
Minister of Trade

For the Government of the Republic of Korea
KIM HYUN-CHONG
Minister for Trade

ANNEX 1

MODALITY FOR TARIFF REDUCTION AND ELIMINATION FOR TARIFF LINES PLACED IN THE NORMAL TRACK

- Tariff lines placed by each Party in the Normal Track shall have their respective applied MFN tariff rates gradually reduced and eliminated according to the following Schedules. The first date of implementation shall be the date of entry into force of the Agreement. The tariff reduction will be in accordance with the rate provided for that year in the schedule.

(i) ASEAN 6 and Korea

X = applied MFN tariff rate	ASEAN-Korea FTA Preferential Tariff Rate (not later than 1 January)				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
$X \geq 20\%$	20	13	10	5	0
$15\% \leq x < 20\%$	15	10	8	5	0
$10\% \leq x < 15\%$	10	8	5	3	0
$5\% < x < 10\%$	5	5	3	0	0
$X \leq 5\%$	Standstill			0	0

(ii) Socialist Republic of Viet Nam ("Viet Nam")

X = applied MFN tariff rate	ASEAN-Korea FTA Preferential Tariff Rate (not later than 1 January)							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2011	2013	2015	2016
$X \geq 60\%$	60	50	40	30	20	15	10	0
$40\% \leq X < 60\%$	45	40	35	25	20	15	10	0
$35\% \leq X < 40\%$	35	30	30	20	15	10	0-5	0
$30\% \leq X < 35\%$	30	30	25	20	15	10	0-5	0
$25\% \leq X < 30\%$	25	25	20	20	10	7	0-5	0
$20\% \leq X < 25\%$	20	20	15	15	10	7	0-5	0
$15\% \leq X < 20\%$	15	15	15	10	7	5	0-5	0
$10\% \leq X < 15\%$	10	10	10	8	5	0-5	0-5	0
$7\% \leq X < 10\%$	7	7	7	7	5	0-5	0-5	0
$5\% \leq X < 7\%$	5	5	5	5	5	0-5	0	0
$X < 5\%$	Standstill						0	0

(iii) Kingdom of Cambodia ("Cambodia"), Lao People's Democratic Republic ("Lao PDR"), and Union of Myanmar ("Myanmar")

X = Applied MFN Tariff Rate	ASEAN-Korea FTA Preferential Tariff Rate (Not later than 1 January)						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2012	2015	2018
$X \geq 60\%$	60	50	40	30	20	10	0
$45\% \leq X < 60\%$	45	40	35	25	15	10	0
$35\% \leq X < 45\%$	35	30	30	20	15	5	0
$30\% \leq X < 35\%$	30	30	25	20	10	5	0
$25\% \leq X < 30\%$	25	25	20	20	10	5	0
$20\% \leq X < 25\%$	20	20	15	15	10	0-5	0
$15\% \leq X < 20\%$	15	15	15	10	5	0-5	0
$10\% \leq X < 15\%$	10	10	10	8	5	0-5	0
$7\% \leq X < 10\%$	7*	7*	7*	7*	5	0-5	0
$5\% \leq X < 7\%$	5	5	5	5	5	0-5	0
$X < 5\%$	Standstill						0

* Myanmar shall be allowed to maintain ASEAN-Korea FTA preferential tariff rates at no more than 7.5% until 2010.

2. The tariff rates specified in the relevant Schedules in paragraph 1 only set out the level of the applicable ASEAN-Korea FTA preferential tariff rates to be applied by each Party for the tariff lines concerned in the specified year of implementation and shall not prevent any Party from unilaterally accelerating its tariff reduction or elimination at any time if it so wishes.
3. The tariff lines in the Normal Track, which are subject to specific tariff rates, shall have such specific tariff rates reduced to zero, in equal proportions in accordance with the timeframes provided in the Schedules set out in paragraph 1.
4. For all tariff lines placed in the Normal Track where the applied MFN tariff rates are at 0%, they shall remain at 0%. Where they have been reduced to 0%, they shall remain at 0%. No Party shall be permitted to increase the tariff rates for any tariff line, except as otherwise provided in this Agreement.
5. As an integral part of its commitments to reduce and/or eliminate the applied MFN tariff rates in accordance with the relevant Schedules in paragraph 1, each Party hereby commits to undertake further tariff reduction and/or elimination in accordance with the following thresholds:
 - (a) Korea
 - (i) Korea shall eliminate its tariffs for at least 70% of the tariff lines placed in the Normal Track upon the entry into force of this Agreement.
 - (ii) Korea shall eliminate its tariffs for at least 95% of the tariff lines placed in the Normal Track not later than 1 January 2008.
 - (iii) Korea shall eliminate all its tariffs for tariff lines placed in the Normal Track not later than 1 January 2010.
 - (b) ASEAN 6
 - (i) Each Party shall reduce its applied MFN tariff rates for at least 50 % of the tariff lines placed in the Normal Track to 0-5 % not later than 1 January 2007.
 - (ii) Each Party shall eliminate its tariffs for at least 90 % of the tariff lines placed in the Normal Track not later than 1 January 2009.
 - (iii) Each Party shall eliminate its tariffs for all tariff lines placed in the Normal Track not later than 1 January 2010, with flexibility to have tariff lines, not exceeding 5% of all the tariff lines or as listed in an agreed Schedule, eliminated not later than 1 January 2012.
 - (iv) Each Party shall eliminate all its tariffs for tariff lines placed in the Normal Track not later than 1 January 2012.
 - (c) Viet Nam
 - (i) Viet Nam shall reduce its applied MFN tariff rates for at least 50% of the tariff lines placed in the Normal Track to 0-5% not later than 1 January 2013.
 - (ii) Viet Nam shall eliminate its tariffs for at least 90% of the tariff lines placed in the Normal Track not later than 1 January 2015.
 - (iii) Viet Nam shall eliminate its tariffs for all tariff lines placed in the Normal Track not later than 1 January 2016, with flexibility to have tariff lines, not exceeding 5% of all the tariff lines, eliminated not later than 1 January 2018.
 - (iv) Viet Nam shall eliminate all its tariffs for tariff lines placed in the Normal Track not later than 1 January 2018.
 - (d) Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar
 - (i) Each Party shall reduce their respective applied MFN tariff rates for at least 50% of the tariff lines placed in the Normal Track to 0-5% not later than 1 January 2015.
 - (ii) Each Party shall eliminate their respective tariffs for at least 90% of the tariff lines placed in the Normal Track not later than 1 January 2017.
 - (iii) Each Party shall eliminate their respective tariffs for all tariff lines placed in the Normal Track not later than 1 January 2018, with flexibility to have tariff lines, not exceeding 5% of all the tariff lines, eliminated not later than 1 January 2020.
 - (iv) Each Party shall eliminate its tariffs for tariff lines placed in the Normal Track not later than 1 January 2020.
6. If an exporting Party places a tariff line in the Normal Track, that exporting Party shall enjoy the tariff concessions which an importing Party has made for that tariff line as specified in and applied pursuant to the relevant Schedules—either in this Annex or Annex 2 together with the undertakings and conditions set out therein. This right shall be enjoyed for so long as that exporting Party adheres to its own commitments for tariff reduction and elimination for that tariff line.
7. Each Party shall eliminate all its tariffs for the tariff lines given flexibility in paragraph 5, not later than January 2012.
8. Each Party shall notify the other Parties its tariff lines placed in the Normal Track along with the tariff elimination schedule for each tariff line in accordance with paragraph 5, not later than the date when the commitment of the Party commences with respect to the tariff lines.

ANNEX 2

MODALITY FOR TARIFF REDUCTION/ELIMINATION FOR TARIFF LINES PLACED IN THE SENSITIVE TRACK

1. The number of tariff lines which each Party can place in the Sensitive Track shall be subject to a maximum ceiling of:
 - (i) ASEAN 6 and Korea:

10% of all the tariff lines and 10% of the total value of imports from Korea or from the ASEAN Member Countries as a whole, as appropriate, based on 2004 trade statistics;
 - (ii) Viet Nam:

10% of all the tariff lines and 25% of the total value of imports from Korea based on 2004 trade statistics; and
 - (iii) Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar:

10% of all the tariff lines.

2. Tariff lines placed by each Party in the Sensitive Track shall be further classified into the Sensitive List and the Highly Sensitive List. The number of tariff lines which each Party can place in the Highly Sensitive List shall be subject to a maximum ceiling of:
- (i) ASEAN 6 and Korea:

200 tariff lines at the HS 6-digit level or 3% of all the tariff lines at the HS digit level of each Party's own choice and 3% of the total value of imports from Korea or from the ASEAN Member Countries as a whole, as appropriate, based on 2004 trade statistics.
 - (ii) Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam:

200 tariff lines at the HS 6-digit level or 3% of all the tariff lines at the HS digit level of each Party's own choice.
3. The Parties shall reduce and, where applicable, eliminate the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in the Sensitive List according to the following Schedules:
- (i) ASEAN 6 and Korea shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in their respective Sensitive Lists to 20% not later than 1 January 2012. These tariff rates shall be subsequently reduced to 0-5% not later than 1 January 2016.
 - (ii) Viet Nam shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in their respective Sensitive Lists to 20% not later than 1 January 2017. These tariff rates shall be subsequently reduced to 0-5% not later than 1 January 2021.
 - (iii) Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in their respective Sensitive Lists to 20% not later than 1 January 2020. These tariff rates shall be subsequently reduced to 0-5% not later than 1 January 2024.
4. The tariff lines placed in a Party's Highly Sensitive List shall be categorised into five groups. For each group of their respective tariff lines in the Highly Sensitive List, the Parties undertake the following commitments:
- (i) Group A (Tariff lines subject to 50% tariff rate capping):

ASEAN 6 and Korea shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in Group A to not more than 50% not later than 1 January 2016. Viet Nam shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in Group A to not more than 50% not later than 1 January 2021. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in Group A to not more than 50% not later than 1 January 2024.
 - (ii) Group B (Tariff lines subject to tariff reduction by 20%):

ASEAN 6 and Korea shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in Group B by not less than 20% not later than 1 January 2016. Viet Nam shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in Group B by not less than 20% not later than 1 January 2021. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in Group B by not less than 20% not later than 1 January 2024.
 - (iii) Group C (Tariff lines subject to tariff reduction by 50%):

ASEAN 6 and Korea shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in Group C by not less than 50% not later than 1 January 2016. Viet Nam shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in Group C by not less than 50% not later than 1 January 2021. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar shall reduce the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in Group C by not less than 50% not later than 1 January 2024.
 - (iv) Group D (Tariff lines subject to TRQs):

The parties shall apply the tariff rate quotas on imports of the goods of tariff lines placed in Group D from the entry into force of this Agreement, in accordance with the conditions set out in their respective Schedule.
 - (v) Group E (Tariff lines exempted from tariff concession):

Each Party reserves the rights to maintain the applied MFN tariff rates of tariff lines placed in Group E. The number of tariff lines which each Party can place in Group E shall be subject to a maximum ceiling of 40 tariff lines at the HS 6-digit level.
5. Tariff lines in the Sensitive Track, which are subject to specific tariff rates, shall have such tariffs reduced in accordance with the timeframes provided for in paragraphs 3 and 4. The proportion of tariff reduction for these tariff lines shall be equal to the average margin of tariff reduction of the tariff lines with ad-valorem tariff rates under the Sensitive Track, which are subject to tariff reduction in the same year.
6. Notwithstanding the Schedules in paragraphs 3 and 4, any Party may unilaterally accelerate the tariff reduction and/or elimination for its tariff lines placed in the Sensitive Track at any time if it so wishes. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent any Party from unilaterally transferring any tariff line from the Sensitive Track into the Normal Track at any time if it so wishes.
7. The reciprocal tariff rate treatment of tariff lines placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track, excluding Group E, while the same tariff lines are placed by the importing Party in the Normal Track, shall be governed by the following conditions:
- (i) the tariff rate for a tariff line placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track, excluding Group E, must be at 10% or below and the exporting Party has given notification to that effect to the other Parties in order for that exporting Party to enjoy reciprocity;
 - (ii) the reciprocal tariff rate to be applied to a tariff line placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track shall be either the tariff rate of that exporting Party's tariff line, or the Normal Track tariff rate of the same tariff line of an importing Party from whom reciprocity is sought, whichever is higher;
 - (iii) notwithstanding sub-paragraph (ii), the importing Party can, on its discretion, apply its Normal Track tariff rate even if such rate is lower than the tariff rate of the exporting Party; and
 - (iv) the reciprocal tariff rate to be applied to a tariff line placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track shall in no case exceed

the applied MFN rate of the same tariff line of an importing Party from whom reciprocity is sought.

8. The tariff lines placed by each Party in the Sensitive List and the Highly Sensitive List under the Sensitive Track based on the modality set out in this Annex are respectively listed in Appendices 1 and 2.

Joint Media Statement of the 4th Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea (AEM-ROK)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24 August 2006

1. The Fourth Consultations of the Economic Ministers from ASEAN and the Republic of Korea was held on 24 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia and H.E. Kim Hyun-Chong, Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea co-chaired the Consultations.
2. The Ministers are pleased to note that trade between ASEAN and Korea continues to grow. Trade flows between ASEAN and Korea stood at more than US\$50 billion in 2005 registering a 15 percent increase compared to the 2004 trade flows. They also noted that Korea remains as one of the top ten investors in ASEAN. In 2005, Korea's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to ASEAN was at US\$628 million.
3. Recalling the signing of the Agreement on Trade in Goods (TIG) under the ASEAN-Korea Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation in Makati City in May 2006, the Ministers noted that nine ASEAN Member Countries have signed the Agreement. They expressed hope that further consultations on the outstanding issues between Thailand and Korea would be concluded as soon as possible and that Thailand could join the other Parties in the Agreement on Trade in Goods.
4. The Ministers looked forward to the immediate implementation of the TIG Agreement as an impetus to further invigorating trade and investment relations among the Parties. The Agreement is also anticipated to stimulate greater interest from businessmen and investors.
5. The Ministers of the Parties to the Agreement also signed an exchange of notes on ASEAN's support to Korea's initiative to develop the Gaesong Industrial Complex.
6. The Ministers noted the progress of the negotiations for the agreements on trade in services and investment and encouraged all Parties to expedite their completion. The Ministers stressed that the challenges in negotiating the two agreements could be overcome with greater understanding of each others' circumstances and through the exercise of greater flexibility to move forward the negotiations in services and investment, and bring them to fruition.
7. The Ministers noted the initial outcomes of the inaugural meeting of the ASEAN-Korea Working Group on Economic Cooperation and emphasised the important role of economic cooperation in supporting and facilitating the realisation of the free trade area between ASEAN and Korea.

The Meeting was attended by:

Mr. Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Mr. Kim Hyun-Chong, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea; H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Peter B. Favila, Secretary of Trade and Industry, The Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; Ms. Apiradi Tantraporn, Director-General, Ministry of Commerce Thailand; H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN

Joint Ministerial Statement of the ASEAN Economic Ministers – Republic of Korea Consultations for the ASEAN – Republic of Korea Summit

Cebu, Philippines, 11 January 2007

1. We, the Economic Ministers representing the ASEAN Member Countries and Korea, met on 9 December 2006 in Cebu, the Philippines, to discuss the economic relationship between the ASEAN Member Countries and Korea, including the progress of the on-going negotiations to establish the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area since the signing of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation among the Governments of the ASEAN Member Countries and the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as the "Framework Agreement") on 13 December 2005.
2. We are encouraged by the successful preparations for the entry into force at the earliest time possible of the Trade in Goods Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "TIG Agreement") that was signed on 24 August 2006. We called on Thailand and Korea to find possible solutions to enable Thailand to join the TIG Agreement.
3. In particular, we welcomed the early establishment of the AKFTA Sub-Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures which shall deal with issues relating to the implementation of Article 8 of the TIG Agreement and Article 14 of the Economic Cooperation Annex under the Framework Agreement in the areas of TBT and SPS. We also welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN-Korea Tariffs and Rules of Origin Sub-Committee which shall be responsible for handling technical issues relating to tariff concessions and rules of origin. We underscored the importance of the efficient work of these bodies in achieving the shared goal of ensuring the free flow of goods between the ASEAN Member Countries and Korea. We are confident that we are paving the way for the successful implementation of the TIG Agreement and remain committed to work toward this end.
4. We also noted the establishment of the Working Group on Economic Cooperation for the implementation of the Annex on Economic Cooperation under the Framework Agreement and its agreement on the following economic cooperation projects and activities. We encourage all Parties to actively participate in these activities to ensure that maximum gains are derived there from:

- a. Executive Training Program for ASEAN SMEs;
 - b. ASEAN-Korean Women SMEs Cooperation Network;
 - c. Study visit to ROK by ASEAN officials concerning four environmental areas: (i) Solid Waste Management, (ii) Environmentally Sound Technology and Clean Production (iii) Biodiversity and (iv) Environmental Awareness and Education;
 - d. Project on Natural Gas Vehicles;
 - e. FTA Negotiations Capacity Building for CLMV; and
 - f. ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Workshop for the Facilitation of Trade of Broadcasting Services in the Digital Economy.
5. We welcomed the significant progress in the negotiations on the Services Agreement, including the substantial agreement on the main text and the constructive discussion on Korea's proposals related to the annexes on financial services and telecommunication services and the reference paper on co-production of broadcasting programs.
 6. We took note of the status of the on-going negotiations for the Investment Agreement and emphasized the need to reach a prompt agreement on the threshold issues including the modality and approach for investment liberalization and the scope of the agreement.
 7. We recognize that, due to the significant amount of detailed technical work required to move forward the negotiations, the target date for the completion of negotiations on services and investment will have to be extended. In this regard, we agreed to recommend to the Leaders that the target date for the finalization of the Agreements be moved to November 2007. We emphasize that our agreed high level of ambition to realize substantial expansion of flows in services trade and investment to mutual benefit between the ASEAN Member Countries and Korea shall remain unchanged.
 8. We urge our negotiators to find creative solutions and exercise flexibility in resolving the remaining issues to expedite the negotiation process and thus bring the negotiations to a successful and timely conclusion.

Finally, we took this opportunity provided by the Consultations to congratulate Viet Nam for officially becoming the 150th member of the WTO.

Chairman's Statement of the 10th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit

Cebu, Philippines, 14 January 2007

1. The Tenth ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit chaired by H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines, was held successfully on 14 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines. The Heads of State/Government of the ASEAN Member Countries had a productive meeting with H.E. Roh Moo-hyun, President of the Republic of Korea.
2. We had a productive exchange of views on wide-ranging regional and international issues of common interest and concern.
3. We welcomed, with pride, the assumption of former ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs Ban Ki-Moon as the new UN Secretary-General, and expressed confidence that he will inject the Asian perspective in his leadership of the United Nations.
4. We expressed concern about the situation caused by the DPRK's recent missile launches and the nuclear test. We also reaffirmed the need for full implementation of the UNSC Resolutions 1695 and 1718 by all UN Member States as well as their commitment to the peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula through dialogue and negotiation. We called for concrete and effective steps toward the full implementation of the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We emphasized the importance of addressing the issue of humanitarian concerns of the international community, and that ASEAN could play a constructive role in order to build bridges to North Korea, helping create an environment of trust and confidence conducive to Six-Party Talks.
5. We noted the possible role that the ASEAN Regional Forum may play in the future in helping promote dialogue and interaction with the DPRK.
6. We noted with satisfaction the steady progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration of Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership signed by the Leaders in November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
7. The ASEAN Leaders expressed appreciation to the ROK for its support of ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap and accelerating ASEAN integration, through the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). They thanked the ROK for being the top contributor to the IAI and for indicating its willingness to provide more funding for IAI projects. Heeding the call of concerned ASEAN Member Countries, the ROK said that it would look into how it can assist in the construction of missing links in the Singapore-Kunming Railway Link (SKRL).
8. The ASEAN Leaders, therefore, welcomed the ROK announcement that it will double Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to ASEAN Member Countries by 2009.
9. The ASEAN Leaders requested the ROK to embark on tangible programs and projects to support other sub-regional cooperation frameworks, such as Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), and the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC).
10. The ASEAN Leaders also requested the ROK to share its best practices and know-how in small-and- medium scale enterprises (SMEs), and providing capacity building, including entrepreneurial skills for ASEAN SMEs.
11. We acknowledged the ROK's leadership in ICT and expressed confidence that sharing best practices will redound to the benefit of the entire region.
12. We recognized the contribution of ICT in intensifying efforts to address key issues such as the Avian Flu, disaster management and other transnational concerns. We agreed that ICT can be a valuable tool for good governance and in combating corruption, and will further explore how ASEAN and the ROK can strengthen cooperation in these areas.

13. We endorsed the recommendation of our Economic Ministers to extend the deadline for the Agreements in Trade in Services and Trade in Investment to November 2007. We expressed the hope that these Agreements would enter into force in 2008.
14. In the meantime, we agreed that we should pursue the establishment of an ASEAN-ROK Center, for which the ROK has already made a feasibility study. In addition to trade, investment and tourism promotion, the proposed center can promote socio-cultural cooperation, which has much potential given the popularity of Korean culture, including the so-called "Korean Wave."
15. We highlighted, with appreciation, the massive volume of South Korean tourists that flock to the region every year and acknowledge their contribution to helping foster mutual understanding and awareness.
16. We noted the contributions that the ROK may offer in the promotion and future production of alternative and renewable sources of energy. ASEAN and ROK have plenty of room to enhance collaboration to respond more effectively to international energy problems.
17. We recalled the holding of the first ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) + ROK Consultation in June 2006 in Bali, Indonesia, including the decision to launch the ASEAN-ROK Knowledge Transfer Program on Narcotic Crimes in Laos in 2007. The ROK informed the Meeting that it hopes to extend the Program to other ASEAN Member Countries by 2009.
18. The ASEAN Leaders acknowledged the innovative and pioneering role of the ROK in East Asia community – building, beginning with the formation of the East Asian Vision Group (EAVG) in 1999. They thus welcomed the proposal of the ROK to establish an ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science.
19. We reaffirmed our commitment to harnessing the ASEAN-ROK dialogue partnership for building the ASEAN Community and a future East Asian community.

ASEAN - RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Co-Chairs Press Release of the 4th Russia-ASEAN Joint Planning and Management Committee Meeting

Moscow, Russia, 22 June 2006

The Fourth Russia-ASEAN Joint Planning and Management Committee Meeting took place on June 21-22, 2006 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation with the participation of representatives of Russian Federal Ministries and Agencies and Ministries of Foreign Affairs of ASEAN member countries and ASEAN Secretariat. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Alexander Ivanov, Director, Department of ASEAN and Asia-Pacific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Mr. Jacky Foo, Director General, ASEAN-Singapore, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

The meeting served as reaffirmation of the intention of Russia and ASEAN to develop and deepen their dialogue partnership. The

status and dynamics of cooperation were analyzed after the first ASEAN-Russia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on December 13th, 2005.

The meeting discussed a wide range of cooperation issues between Russia and ASEAN. Particular attention was paid to the realization of joint projects under the Comprehensive Programme of Action to Promote Cooperation between the ASEAN and the Russian Federation in 2005-2015 and the Agreement on Economic and Development Cooperation signed in Malaysia. Presentations were made and the meeting agreed to recommend the projects to the ASEAN-Russia Joint Cooperation Committee (ARJCC) for approval after further review.

The meeting endorsed the draft Terms of References for the Joint Cooperation Committee and the Dialogue Partnership Financial Fund that would oversee Russia-ASEAN cooperation and agreed to recommend the two Terms of References to the ARJCC for approval.

The meeting reviewed the list of celebration activities on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Russia-ASEAN dialogue partnership and approved the decision to hold in Moscow on 5 July 2006 the Commemorative Meeting of the Russian government and non-government representatives as well as the Ambassadors of ASEAN Member Countries in Russia, to organize the Russian and ASEAN Cuisine Festivals respectively in Kuala Lumpur and Moscow, and to launch the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Magazine at the Post Ministerial Conference+1 meeting with Russia in July in Kuala Lumpur.

Among the participants in the JPMC meeting were the representatives of ASEAN member countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation and other ministries and agencies concerned as well as the "Oriental Dimension", Russian public movement, and the Russia-ASEAN Cooperation Foundation.

It was agreed that the Fifth JPMC meeting will take place in the Philippines in 2007.

The meeting was held in the cordial atmosphere, inherent in Russia-ASEAN relations.

ASEAN - UNITED STATES

Joint Press Statement of the 19th ASEAN-US Dialogue

Bangkok, Thailand, 23 May 2006

1. The Nineteenth ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue was held on 23 May 2006 in Bangkok. Delegates from the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and the United States attended the Meeting. Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat also participated.
2. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Krit Garnjana-Goonchorn, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, underlined the importance of the long-standing ASEAN-U.S. dialogue relations and emphasized that the relationship was a solid foundation in maintaining peace, security, and prosperity in the overall regional

architecture. He also highlighted the upcoming 30th anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. dialogue relations and the establishment of the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership, which contributed to the further promotion of this vibrant relationship.

3. In his opening remarks, the Honorable Christopher R. Hill, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, emphasized the flourishing relations between ASEAN and the U.S. and the importance of the region and of ASEAN to the U.S. He pointed out the landmark developments in ASEAN-U.S. relations over the past year, especially the release of the Joint Vision Statement on the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership and the work being done on the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership. He welcomed and supported ASEAN's efforts to establish the ASEAN Community, promote ASEAN integration, and reduce the development gap. He also underscored the common interest of ASEAN and the U.S. to further develop economic relations when the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Agreement (TIFA) is concluded and to promote regional stability and security.
4. The Meeting welcomed the announcement of the Joint Vision Statement on the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership on 17 November 2005 in all ASEAN capitals and Washington D.C., which reaffirmed the strength of ASEAN-U.S. relations, underlined the U.S. contribution in the evolving regional architecture and set the direction for future cooperation in regional and global context. The Meeting also noted that 2007 will mark the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. dialogue partnership and agreed to undertake joint activities to mark the occasion through various activities, including exploring an ASEAN-U.S. Commemorative Summit similar to that convened with Japan and China.
5. The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the progress in drafting the Plan of Action to effectively implement the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership called for in the Joint Vision Statement. It was agreed that the draft Plan of Action would be submitted to Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ASEAN and the U.S. Secretary of State for adoption and signing at the Post Ministerial Conference Session with the U.S. in Kuala Lumpur in July 2006.
6. The Meeting emphasized the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as a code of conduct governing relations in the region for the promotion of regional peace and stability. The Meeting noted that Papua New Guinea, China, India, Japan, Pakistan, Russia, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand and Australia have already acceded to the TAC and that France has recently announced its decision to sign the TAC. In this connection, the ASEAN side indicated that it would welcome the U.S. accession to the TAC.
7. The Meeting reaffirmed ASEAN's goal of establishing the ASEAN Community, consisting of political and security, economic and socio-cultural pillars, through the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and the subsequent plans to achieve ASEAN Vision 2020. The Meeting also discussed developments in ASEAN, as well as support for the integration of ASEAN and for the reduction of the development gap within ASEAN through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and existing sub-regional cooperation frameworks, such as Ayeyawady- Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), West-East corridor, and Cambodia-Lao PDR- Viet Nam (CLV) Development Triangle.
8. The Meeting was briefed by Malaysia on the outcome of the 1st East Asia Summit (EAS) and its role as an ASEAN-driven and Leaders-led forum to discuss strategic issues based upon the basic principle of openness, transparency and inclusiveness. The U.S. expressed its views on the importance for regional institutions to complement and not compete with one another.
9. The Meeting underscored the importance of a peaceful, comprehensive solution to the issue of the Korean Peninsula to peace and security of the Asia-Pacific region. The Meeting expressed a sense of urgency and support for the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks and the implementation of the September 2005 agreement and noted that ASEAN, particularly the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), could play a supportive role to help create a more conducive atmosphere and to provide humanitarian assistance to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).
10. The Meeting exchanged views on the latest developments in the Middle East. The Meeting agreed that peace and stability in the region lies on a comprehensive, durable and just resolution to the conflict. It expressed support for the Road Map and relevant UN resolutions. The Meeting also supported the establishment of a peaceful and democratic Palestinian state existing side-by-side with Israel within secure and recognized borders.
11. The Meeting was briefed by the U.S. on the situation in Iraq, especially with regard to the political process, security situation and reconstruction efforts. The Meeting condemned the continued acts of violence that have affected innocent civilians, religious leaders and Iraqi authorities. The Meeting expressed hope for increased efforts to restore peace and stability in Iraq and also expressed hope for all parties to complete the successful political reconstruction of Iraq.
12. The Meeting noted the concern over Iran's nuclear programme, emphasized the desire to see this problem addressed through diplomatic means and called on Iran to fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and be more transparent.
13. The Meeting expressed determination to further enhance the economic relations between ASEAN and the U.S. through the consultations between the Economic Ministers of ASEAN Member Countries and U.S. Trade Representative. The Meeting expressed the hope that the negotiations on the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Agreement (TIFA), which could lead to a future Free Trade Agreement, would make substantial progress. The Meeting recognized the importance of strong inter-regional economic linkages and committed to increase the volume of trade and investment between ASEAN and the U.S. It also exchanged views on the economic outlook in ASEAN and the U.S. It welcomed the nomination of the new U.S. Trade Representative and hoped that the envoy would further strengthen ASEAN-U.S. economic relations.
14. The Meeting recognized the role of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in promoting prosperity and fostering economic cooperation in the region. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the successful outcome of the APEC Leaders Meeting to be held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam in November 2006 and the convening of a meeting between U.S. and ASEAN Leaders on its sideline. The Meeting welcomed Cambodia's desire to become a member of APEC when the moratorium is lifted. The Meeting exchanged views on the proposal to establish cooperation between ASEAN and APEC.

15. The Meeting discussed the progress of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations and emphasized the importance of a successful and ambitious outcome of the Doha Round of negotiations, including its development agenda. The Meeting supported the early accessions to the WTO by Viet Nam and Lao PDR and welcomed the recent conclusion of the U.S.-Viet Nam bilateral negotiations on Viet Nam's WTO membership. In this connection, the U.S. side expressed strong support for the early establishment of Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) with Viet Nam.
16. The Meeting called for enhanced cooperation to combat the threats of international terrorism. It reaffirmed the importance of information sharing, exchange of best practices, and strengthening law enforcement to tackle this issue. The Meeting highlighted the role of the ARF as an active forum to coordinate and enhance regional effort in cooperation on counter-terrorism and to address regional security issues.
17. The Meeting agreed to enhance cooperation to fight transnational crime, including narcotics, trafficking in persons, illegal arms smuggling and money-laundering. The Meeting pointed out that technical assistance and capacity-building were important for ASEAN to deal with these problems effectively.
18. The Meeting supported full utilization of existing regional and international institutions, such as the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Kuala Lumpur, the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC), and the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) in Hawaii to prepare personnel of the agencies concerned to effectively cooperate with each other in combating terrorism and transnational crime.
19. The Meeting emphasized the importance of closer cooperation on avian influenza, including the training of personnel, establishment of information sharing system and coordination of national pandemic preparedness plans. It discussed the possibility to establish a surveillance diagnosis centre to serve as a regional information centre. The Meeting also noted the outcome of the ACMECS Special SOM on Avian Influenza Pandemic Preparedness in Bangkok on 8 May 2006 as an example of cooperation for the countries in the region to jointly control and prevent the outbreak of avian influenza through a concrete action plan.
20. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment of ASEAN and the U.S. to the promotion of sustainable development, protection of the environment and cooperate on global environmental issues, such as on climate change and clean development mechanism, haze and environmental sustainability.
21. The Meeting expressed concern over the continued increase of the price of oil which could undermine economic development of countries in the region. The Meeting discussed increased cooperation in this area to promote adequate access to energy services, energy efficiency, affordable technologies for renewable and alternative energy, and financing for investment opportunities in the region's energy sector.
22. The Meeting discussed cooperation on disaster management and emergency response. It recognized the importance of establishing a network of national and regional Tsunami early warning systems. The Meeting took note of the establishment of the UNESCAP Tsunami Regional Trust Fund and recognized the standby arrangements for disaster relief and emergency response in ASEAN and encouraged its establishment of linkages with other global and regional arrangements.
23. The Meeting was briefed by Thailand on the progress in intensifying efforts in support of ASEAN's candidate for the position of United Nations Secretary-General.
24. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of the ASEAN Cooperation Plan (ACP) producing concrete results through numerous projects in various fields, which have increased since the inception of the ACP.
25. The Meeting invited the members of the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council (USABC) to the session on economic issues and welcomed the interaction with representatives of the U.S. private sector during the working luncheon, in which these representatives presented issues aimed at improving the business climate and strengthening U.S. businesses in ASEAN. The Meeting exchanged views with the members of the USABC about ASEAN economic integration, trade and investment facilitation, as well as the expansion of U.S. business ventures in ASEAN.
26. The Meeting agreed to convene the next ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue in the U.S. in 2007.

Framework Document for the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27 July 2006

RECALLING the launch of the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership as a comprehensive, action-oriented, and forward-looking initiative, comprising political and security cooperation, economic cooperation, and social and development cooperation, which was accepted at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Session with the United States of America on 28 July 2005 in Vientiane;

FURTHER RECALLING the simultaneous announcement of the Joint Vision Statement on the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership on 17 November 2005 in the capitals of ASEAN Member Countries and of the United States of America, which called on the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the U.S. Secretary of State, with the assistance of the Senior Officials, to develop a Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership;

WELCOMING the constructive result of discussions on the draft Plan of Action in the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations framework, most recently during the 6th ASEAN-U.S. Informal Coordinating Mechanism (ICM) Meeting on 3-4 March 2006 and the 19th ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Meeting on 23 May 2006;

ASEAN Member Countries and the United States of America hereby accept the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership, as attached, to bring forward cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

DONE at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty-Seventh Day of July in the Year Two Thousand and Six, in two original copies in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
Lim Jock Seng
Second Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Trade

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
Hor Namhong
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation

For the Republic of Indonesia:
DR. N. Hassan Wirajuda
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For Malaysia:
Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Union of Myanmar:
Nyan Win
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of the Philippines:
Alberto G. Romulo
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of Singapore:
George Yong-Boon Yeo
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
Dr. Kantathi Suphamongkhon
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
Pham Gia Khien
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the United States of America
Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State

To support ASEAN integration to attain the end-goal of the establishment of the ASEAN Community, consisting of three pillars, namely political and security, economic and socio-cultural, through, *inter alia*, the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and the subsequent plans to achieve the ASEAN Vision 2020 as elaborated in the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II.

In the light of the above, ASEAN and the U.S. endeavour to pursue the following joint actions and measures, in accordance with their respective laws and regulations:

I. Political and Security

1. Deepening Political Cooperation

- 1.1 Explore the possibility of convening an ASEAN-U.S. Summit in the future;
- 1.2 Convene a meeting of U.S. and ASEAN Leaders on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting in Ha Noi in 2006;
- 1.3 Organize special activities to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations in 2007;
- 1.4 Continue to hold annual meetings and consultations within the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations framework, *i.e.*, ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC+1) Session with the U.S. and the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue to discuss international and regional issues of mutual interest;
- 1.5 Enhance cooperation at the United Nations on issues of mutual interest and common concern, including, *inter alia*, UN reform, matters affecting international peace and security, terrorism, and development cooperation;
- 1.6 Cooperate to strengthen the multilateral system as well as expand and deepen interaction and coordination within multilateral frameworks, including the United Nations and other bodies within the UN system, WTO, APEC, and, when deemed appropriate, carry out consultations between ASEAN and the U.S. at the margins of those fora; and
- 1.7 Cooperate to realize programmes for mutual support and assistance among ASEAN Member Countries to strengthen the rule of law and judiciary systems and legal infrastructure, good governance in public and private sectors and effective and efficient civil services;

2. Deepening Security Cooperation

- 2.1 Strengthen confidence-building measures through, *inter alia*, facilitating dialogue, exchange and cooperation among defense officials where appropriate;
- 2.2 Promote greater transparency and understanding of defence policies and security outlook; and
- 2.3 Enhance regional political and security dialogue and cooperation through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), with ASEAN as the primary driving force, enhance the role of the ARF in promoting peace and stability in the region, and work jointly to strengthen the ARF process;

Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

To realize the goals and objectives set forth in the Joint Vision Statement on the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership issued by ASEAN and the U.S. Leaders on 17 November 2005 at each of the capitals of ASEAN Member Countries and of the United States of America, this Plan of Action is formulated to serve as the master plan to enhance ASEAN-U.S. relations and cooperation in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial manner for the next 5 years (2006-2011). In order to continue to advance this partnership, negotiations for a new 5 year plan for the period 2011 and 2016 are scheduled to begin in 2010.

3. Enhancing Communications

- 3.1 Increase exchanges of high-level visits of representatives of government agencies of ASEAN Member Countries and of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the U.S.;
- 3.2 Improve channels of communication between government agencies of ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.; and
- 3.3 Increase meetings and contacts between the ASEAN Washington Committee and U.S. government officials;

4. Supporting a Peaceful and Stable Region

- 4.1 Promote deeper understanding of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as a Code of Conduct governing inter-state relations in the region to promote peace and stability;
- 4.2 Forge closer cooperation in line with the mutual recognition of the importance of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects in Southeast Asia; and
- 4.3 Forge closer cooperation on the issue of non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) within the framework of national legislation and international laws, agreements and protocols, including cooperation among law enforcement agencies and strengthen commitment towards combating illicit production, usage and trafficking of WMDs, their means of delivery and related programmes;

5. Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Issues

- 5.1 Promote implementation of the World Customs Organization Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade and other international efforts to promote port and container security;
- 5.2 Enhance technical assistance and capacity-building in support of efforts to address traditional and non-traditional security issues;
- 5.3 Enhance maritime cooperation on safety of navigation, environmental protection and maritime security through, *inter alia*, the promotion of capacity-building, information sharing, and technology cooperation projects, such as through training personnel in search and rescue and other areas, where applicable;
- 5.4 Forge closer cooperation in fighting against sea piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking, and smuggling;
- 5.5 Hold ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)-U.S. Consultations on a case-by-case basis;
- 5.6 Deepen and broaden cooperation in combating terrorism, including cooperation among law enforcement agencies, based on the ASEAN-U.S. Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism and the ASEAN-U.S. Work Plan on Combating Terrorism;

- 5.7 Enhance institutional linkages and cross-sectoral coordination between all relevant ASEAN bodies and U.S. agencies, and strengthen the networking of national agencies concerned with the fight against terrorism and other transnational crimes;
- 5.8 Strengthen cooperation among law enforcement agencies, in relation to extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the domestic law of the respective ASEAN countries and the U.S. and relevant treaties;
- 5.9 Undertake necessary measures to enhance cooperation in combating terrorism on the basis of relevant conventions, protocols and UNSC resolutions, and support becoming party to and implementing the relevant counterterrorism UN conventions and protocols;
- 5.10 Ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism are adopted in accordance with international laws, in particular, where applicable, international human rights, displaced persons, and humanitarian laws;
- 5.11 Strengthen cooperation in the field of border management to jointly address matters of common concern, including forgeries of identification and travel documents, by enhancing the use of relevant technologies to effectively stem the flow of terrorists and criminals, to monitor and curb their means of operations as well as enhancing cooperation to prevent the organization, instigation and support for groups that carry out acts that are detrimental to ASEAN and U.S. security and stability;
- 5.12 Strengthen cooperation in legal migration, combat trafficking in persons and actively support the comprehensive implementation of the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children including cooperation among law enforcement agencies;
- 5.13 Implement measures consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relevant to preventing and suppressing money laundering and illegal money transfer, in particular the revenues obtained by criminal organizations and terrorist groups, to ensure that access to financial support is denied and the resources and assets of terrorists are confiscated;
- 5.14 Develop regional capacities in detection, monitoring and reporting practices of illegal money transfer and promote the international standards to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, including measures initiated by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) implemented regionally through the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG);
- 5.15 Take measures to protect non-profit organizations and well-meaning donors from having their funds abused by terrorist financiers, including, *inter alia*, the regulation of alternative remittance systems consistent with the Financial Action Task Force recommendations and guidance;
- 5.16 Enhance cooperation in information sharing on terrorist and transnational criminal organizations, including on their leaders and members, operational methods and

supporting infrastructures, linkages, as well as criminal activities;

- 5.17 Enhance regional capacities in combating terrorism and transnational crime through training programmes, workshops and seminars, seeking to improve capacity among the participants, and when possible fully utilizing existing regional and international institutions, such as the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCCT) in Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC), and the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) in Hawaii;
- 5.18 Cooperate to support development initiatives aimed at enhancing quality of life, rule of law, good governance and community awareness in order to reduce the conditions that terrorists seek to exploit;
- 5.19 Further strengthen cooperation and render mutual assistance in preventing and suppressing trafficking in illicit drugs, including cooperation among law enforcement agencies, as called for under UN counter-narcotics conventions, including controlling of precursor substances, enhancing demand reduction efforts through training and sharing of information and best practices on epidemiology, treatment and rehabilitation, as well as through the promotion of sustainable alternative development, including for illicit cultivation of poppy, marijuana and cannabis as a means to prevent and eliminate illicit drugs;
- 5.20 Assist ASEAN in attaining the Drug Free ASEAN 2015 goals;
- 5.21 Strengthen cooperation, render mutual assistance, and enhance capacity-building for preventing and suppressing illegal proliferation, smuggling, and trade of small arms and light weapons (SALW);
- 5.22 Strengthen cooperation and render mutual assistance in combating and suppressing cyber crimes and international economic crime, including cooperation among law enforcement agencies, taking account of the need to develop in each country laws to address cyber crimes; and
- 5.23 In the framework of applicable national and international law, intensify cooperation to combat corruption, including denying a safe haven to those guilty of public corruption and those who corrupt them, and cooperate in the recovery and return of the proceeds of corruption, as well as cooperate in the extradition and prosecution of those engaged in bribery, including in international business transactions, according to the means of each concerned country;

II. Economic Cooperation

1. Trade and Investment

- 1.1 Continue to implement the Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative (EAI) and endeavour to conclude the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) to serve as a mechanism to enhance trade and investment flows

between ASEAN and the U.S., taking into account the different levels of economic development among ASEAN countries, as well as hold ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) - United States Trade Representative (USTR) Consultations on a regular basis in accordance with the ASEAN-U.S. TIFA;

- 1.2 Strengthen cooperation in the multilateral trading system, especially the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and support the early accession of Lao PDR and Viet Nam to the WTO;
- 1.3 Jointly pursue the successful conclusion of the negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) while ensuring that the development dimension of the DDA is embodied in a comprehensive package that would deliver real and effective development benefits to all developing countries;
- 1.4 Consider to support the admission of ASEAN Countries that are not members of APEC to join APEC when the membership moratorium is lifted;
- 1.5 Endeavour to provide support for the realization of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and other sub-regional endeavours such as Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Greater Mekong Sub Region (GMS), West-East corridor, and the Cambodia-Lao PDR- Viet Nam (CLV) Development Triangle to narrow the development gaps in ASEAN in order to expedite regional integration;
- 1.6 Undertake immediate and appropriate measures aimed at promoting understanding of each other's legislation and regulations on trade and investment, including anti dumping, tariff and non-tariff measures, such as Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT);
- 1.7 Promote the transparency of policies to facilitate and expand trade and investment flows, such as those governing business environment enhancement, business visa and travel facilitation between ASEAN and the U.S. and vice versa, and trade financing;
- 1.8 Encourage U.S. and ASEAN companies to explore joint and cooperative business and trade opportunities, enhance interaction and networking, promote exchange of visits of business associations and private sectors involved in trade and investment, and promote the activities and role of bilateral business promotion organizations;
- 1.9 Facilitate mutual investment promotion missions by respective business communities;
- 1.10 Promote the cooperation and information exchange between investment promotion agencies with the aim of capacity-building and facilitating investment activities, where appropriate; and
- 1.11 Encourage ASEAN initiatives on the exchange of statistical information and promotion of capacity-building activities for national statistical bodies;

2. Financial Cooperation

- 2.1 Explore cooperation to reform, improve and strengthen international financial institutions and architecture, taking into account the development needs and special requirements of developing market economies to avert problems similar to the Asian financial crisis;
- 2.2 Forge closer cooperation in sharing of macroeconomic and financial information where disclosure of information is permitted by domestic laws and regulations of respective countries; and
- 2.3 Strengthen cooperation in capacity-building and human resources development, through activities such as the promotion of joint projects in technical training, workshops, seminars and conferences to further strengthen the competitiveness of ASEAN and U.S. financial institutions;

3. Industry

- 3.1 Promote cooperation and collaboration in industrial sectors, through, inter alia, sharing of information, exchange of experiences and best practices between the state authorities/private sector, where applicable, responsible for industrial promotion in the U.S. and ASEAN Member Countries;

4. Standards and Conformance

- 4.1 Enhance cooperation and mutual support aimed at facilitating ASEAN integration and improving national and regional capacity for standards, conformity assessment procedures and technical regulations as they relate to industrial and agricultural products, or other sectors of mutual interest including conducting workshops and training programmes, and forging close coordination and linkages between relevant parties, including the private sector;
- 4.2 Cooperate to support ASEAN's efforts to adopt and use international standards as the basis for technical regulations, as appropriate and consistent with WTO principles;
- 4.3 Cooperate to support ASEAN efforts in capacity building related to standards and conformity assessment, and adopting and using practices based on rules and principles of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade;
- 4.4 Exchange information with ASEAN on the importance of the principles of openness and transparency regarding development of standards, conformity assessment procedures and technical regulations, including ways in which domestic implementation of WTO TBT agreements occurs; and
- 4.5 Undertake appropriate measures to ensure greater participation and contribution of ASEAN Member Countries in the international standards setting bodies related to standards and conformance;

5. Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)

- 5.1 Undertake appropriate measures to strengthen IPR regimes in order to encourage the development of Intellectual Property (IP) industries, the commercialization of IP, and technology transfer per Article 66.2 of the WTO TRIPS Agreement and promote greater public awareness of IP and IPR issues;
- 5.2 Strive to harmonize IP laws and systems to enhance trade and investment in ASEAN;
- 5.3 Promote cooperative activities to assist ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S. to achieve levels of IP protection and enforcement consistent with mutually agreed international standards, international agreements to which ASEAN and the U.S. are parties, taking into account, where appropriate, evolving best practices in IPR enforcement, and
- 5.4 Encourage activities and capacity-building efforts and training programs to increase the level of knowledge among a broader section of government officials and IP professionals so that they may contribute to business growth and development;

6. Transport

- 6.1 Hold senior official-level consultations on transport with a view to strengthening ASEAN integration in the transport sector, including further liberalization of civil aviation, in line with the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Air Travel Sector (RIATS);
- 6.2 Forge closer cooperation to enhance transport infrastructure, networks and operations, including air, maritime, road, rail, and multi-modal transport, for fast, efficient, safe, and secure movement of people and goods, as well as for clean urban transport, in and among ASEAN Member Countries and between ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.;
- 6.3 Exchange of information, experiences, and best practices in transport operation, infrastructure development, and safety measures, including the application of satellite navigation technologies in transportation systems to improve efficiency and reduce costs;
- 6.4 Enhance cooperation in the development of new transportation systems, such as "Intelligent Transportation System-ITS," promotion of public transport, road networks and structures, environment-friendly maintenance, technological development and regulations, road safety management and disaster prevention;
- 6.5 Assist and promote the use of clean fuels and new vehicle technologies, with a particular focus on lowering the sulfur content in fuels and completing the phase out of leaded gasoline in ASEAN Member countries;
- 6.6 Enhance cooperation in capacity-building and human resources development, e.g., through seminars, workshops, study visits/exchanges, etc., in the areas of transport policy, planning and regulation and in transferring and sharing of technology as mutually agreed; and

- 6.7 Enhance cooperation in observing international rules on safety in air, land, and maritime transport according to international laws;

7. Energy

- 7.1 Hold senior official level consultations on energy cooperation and on efforts to increase diversification of energy supply and to develop sustainable alternative sources of energy, with a view to further develop ASEAN's energy sector;
- 7.2 Encourage the exchange of information on technology, regulations, successful renewable energy development cases, energy pricing, and market stabilizing initiatives to better manage the risks of international oil market volatility, on a voluntary basis;
- 7.3 Forge closer cooperation in research, development, production and use of alternative, renewable and other low-emitting sources of energy, such as solar, wind, sea tides and waves, hydro, geothermal, bio fuels, biomass, marsh gas and others;
- 7.4 Enhance cooperation in energy security, including the stability of energy supply and prevention of energy shortages;
- 7.5 Cooperate in capacity-building to promote energy conservation and energy efficiency, as well as the use of clean and environmentally friendly technology;
- 7.6 Endeavour to create a more favourable investment climate to enable greater investment in energy infrastructures and facilities; and
- 7.7 Explore means of supporting the national rural electrification programmes of concerned ASEAN Member Countries;

8. Agriculture

- 8.1 Enhance cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry in key areas of mutual interest, such as agriculture techniques and management, horticultural plants cultivation, biotechnology application, fertilizer, water management, post-harvest technology, food security, food safety, food defence, aquaculture, livestock breeding, organic farming, and sustainable management of forest resources with an aim to enhancing productivity of ASEAN's agriculture products and their accessibility to global markets;
- 8.2 Promote technology transfer, as mutually agreed, and research and development in the agricultural sector, especially in food standards, food safety and food defence, and promote capacity building and technical assistance involving SPS;
- 8.3 Promote networking between government authorities concerned, as well as between agriculture and food experts, laboratories, and agricultural and food-related academic institutions of ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.;

- 8.4 Undertake to cooperate in strengthening agricultural markets and agricultural infrastructure, such as upgrading irrigation systems, in ASEAN Member Countries;

- 8.5 Enhance capacity-building and human resources development in agriculture through training courses, seminars, workshops, job attachment and scholarship schemes; and

- 8.6 Provide opportunities for ASEAN farmers, including young farmers, and agribusinesses to learn and develop more efficient farming practices and management skills through information sharing with U.S. farmers;

9. Tourism

- 9.1 Work together, where possible, to promote the development of tourism, through enhancing linkages and cooperation between tourism industries, including tourism schools and institutions, and other related industries of ASEAN and the U.S., where applicable;

- 9.2 Promote linkages and cooperation between relevant tourism authorities where applicable, as well as encourage private sector involvement with a view to increasing tourism activities in ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.;

- 9.3 Identify and promote mutual assistance in capacity building and human resources development of ASEAN Member Countries in the tourism sector;

- 9.4 Promote and strengthen tourism information exchange and cooperation among national tourism organisations covering areas such as policies and laws; and

- 9.5 Encourage flows of tourism and attract foreign visitors by exploring the possibility to enhance cooperation in promoting eco-tourism, adventure tourism, cultural tourism and long-stay in ASEAN Member Countries;

10. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

- 10.1 Recognize the role of the business community as a driving force and explore the possibility to establish a common platform for cooperation in the area of SME development;

- 10.2 Establish a conducive business environment through information linkages to share and exchange knowledge in both public and private sectors on policies relating to SMEs, general management, finance, marketing, business development services and production technology, including but not limited to research and best practices;

- 10.3 Forge cooperation in capacity-building of SMEs and encourage youth entrepreneurship, through mutually agreed technology transfer, mentoring, market research, management skill training, study/factory visits, entrepreneur's exchange and internship schemes, workshops, seminars and conferences, and encourage opportunities for ASEAN SMEs and public sector to participate in U.S. training programmes;

- 10.4 Facilitate meetings and exchanges between potential ASEAN and U.S. SMEs with the aim of encouraging joint promotion and strengthening business ties through business matching sessions, exhibitions, trade fairs and investors clubs;
- 10.5 Promote business partnership and e-commerce cooperation, so as to enhance the collaboration, partnership, and internationalisation of the ASEAN and U.S. SMEs;
- 10.6 Jointly identify and overcome barriers in SME business partnerships; and
- 10.7 Endeavour to facilitate the expansion of trade and development of SMEs within ASEAN and the U.S. by means of advisory, referral, and business matching services;

11. Minerals

- 11.1 Forge closer cooperation in sustainable minerals and mining development and enhance institutional capacity in managing mineral resources;
- 11.2 Explore cooperation in the assessment of undiscovered mineral resources and promote exchange of experiences and best practices in mining and mineral processing; and
- 11.3 Provide assistance in strengthening the regulatory framework in the mineral sector, taking into account, *inter alia*, sustainable development and poverty reduction;

12. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

- 12.1 Enhance consultations in the area of ICT, and convene meetings between senior-level officials of ASEAN and the U.S. in charge of ICT policy, as appropriate;
- 12.2 Promote cooperation activities, particularly in the areas of bridging the digital divide, telemedicine, e-government, e-commerce, distance education, network and information security, digital content and media, digital trade and for mutual recognition of electronic signatures for cross-border transactions;
- 12.3 Enhance cooperation to enable improved ICT connectivity between ASEAN and the U.S., as well as cost-effective and widespread broadband access to ICT enabled services and applications, such as video conferencing facilities and infrastructure;
- 12.4 Forge closer cooperation in capacity building and human resources development in the area of ICT, including WTO-related ICT issues, through, *inter alia*, exchange of information and best practices, training courses, e-learning, workshops, seminars, exchange of visits of ICT experts and officials; and

- 12.5 Strengthen cooperation in cyber-security, security and emergency response, and in prevention of cyber crimes;

13. Competition Law and Policy

- 13.1 Promote dialogue in the area of competition law and policy, taking into account the different levels of economic development among the ASEAN Member Countries; and
- 13.2 Undertake capacity building with emphasis on methodological know-how, institutional structure;

III. Social and Development Cooperation

1. Disaster Management and Emergency Response

- 1.1 Forge closer cooperation and coordination on disaster risk management at the global and regional levels;
- 1.2 Develop and endeavour to establish regional and global standby arrangements for disaster relief and emergency response;
- 1.3 Support a national and regional network of early warning systems for Tsunamis and other hazards, including through real-time information sharing and public awareness campaigns;
- 1.4 Render assistance to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, especially on risk identification, assessment and monitoring, prevention and mitigation, disaster preparedness, emergency response, rehabilitation, and technical and research cooperation; and
- 1.5 Increase ASEAN capacity in disaster risk management and emergency response including through exchange of know-how and technology transfer as mutually agreed, exchange of information on experiences and best practices among agencies involved, particularly through seminars, workshops, training schemes and exchange of visits;

2. Reconstruction and Rehabilitation

- 2.1 Develop cooperation in reconstruction and rehabilitation by undertaking human resources development and capacity building, assisting in institutional building and promoting popular participation, educational exchanges and curriculum reform, and promotion of a culture of peace;

3. Public Health

- 3.1 Strengthen cooperation in capacity building for government authorities and members of the private sector, institutions, laboratories, and experts in the area of public health;
- 3.2 Promote sharing and exchange of information, know-how, experiences, and best practices in the area of public health as well as support for information sharing infrastructure

for early warning on outbreaks of infectious diseases of public health importance;

- 3.3 Promote networking among government authorities and members of the private sectors of ASEAN and the U.S., including between laboratories, research institutions and experts;
- 3.4 Promote research and development and human resources development in the areas related to public health, including joint research and development, seminars, workshops and training courses both in scientific and management aspects of public health, exchange of visits and scholarships for officials and experts;
- 3.5 Enhance cooperation and technical assistance at the global and regional levels to prevent, control and reduce the impact of communicable and pandemic diseases, including HIV/AIDS, SARS and influenza, particularly avian influenza;
- 3.6 Promote research and development of anti-viral drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics for influenza viruses with human pandemic potential, particularly avian influenza, and establish a network of anti-viral drug stockpiles;
- 3.7 Continue to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, including planning and implementing thereof; and
- 3.8 Increase accessibility to safe and effective medication;

4. Science and Technology

- 4.1 Hold consultations between authorities concerned in the area of science and technology with the goal of establishing an ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology Agreement to broaden and expand relations between the scientific and technological communities in ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.;
- 4.2 Enhance cooperation in capacity-building for ASEAN's science and technology authorities, institutions and laboratories, through, *inter alia*, exchange of information and best practices, training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences, research attachment, and exchange of visits by scientists and government officials; and
- 4.3 Strengthen joint scientific research and development activities, especially in the areas of agricultural biotechnology, food science and technology, macroeconomics and information technology, energy technology, material science, seismology, geoscience, space technology and geoinformatics, and marine science;

5. Environment

- 5.1 Hold consultations on environmental matters on a regular basis;
- 5.2 Forge closer cooperation in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable use of natural resources;

- 5.3 Forge closer cooperation in the following areas:
 - a. transboundary environmental pollution reduction, particularly transboundary haze pollution,
 - b. biological diversity and natural heritage conservation,
 - c. application of advanced and environment-friendly technologies and best practices,
 - d. sustainable water resource management, including groundwater,
 - e. coastal and marine environment,
 - f. sustainable forest management, including combating activities associated with illegal encroachment and destruction of forest resources,
 - g. urban environmental management and governance, especially the ASEAN Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Cities,
 - h. responsible mining and minerals development,
 - i. public awareness and environmental education,
 - j. multilateral environmental agreements, in particular climate change and chemical and chemical waste related conventions and partnerships, and
 - k. air quality management;
- 5.4 Enhance cooperation in capacity building for ASEAN in the area of environment through the following:
 - a. exchanges of knowledge and experiences between and among government authorities, institutions and experts,
 - b. provision of training courses and scholarships,
 - c. undertaking joint research and development and networking among research/academic institutions;
- 5.5 Establish a framework for long-term cooperation in maritime scientific research, between the U.S. and ASEAN Member Countries;
- 5.6 Strengthen cooperation with regional and international institutions on environment-related matters; and
- 5.7 Promote sustainable development as a means to reduce negative aspects of development on the environment;

6. Education and Human Resources Development

- 6.1 Increase ASEAN capacity in the field of education, including primary, secondary and higher education, as well as technical education and vocational training;
- 6.2 Encourage investments in education and training in concerned countries, especially to accelerate learning opportunities for out-of-school children and youth and to upgrade the quality of educational institutions, including those for teacher training;
- 6.3 Enhance cooperation in human resources development, especially teachers, lecturers and administrative personnel of ASEAN Member Countries, through fellowship programmes, training courses, seminars and exchange of visits;
- 6.4 Promote collaboration and networking including R&D among schools, colleges, universities, and government authorities involved in education in ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.;

- 6.5 Increase linkages between universities in ASEAN and universities in the U.S., including through the ASEAN University Network (AUN);
- 6.6 Encourage educational exchange programmes, especially under the AUN and the University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP);
- 6.7 Promote and facilitate credit transfer between universities in ASEAN and the U.S.;
- 6.8 Organize exchange programmes for representatives of ASEAN Member Countries to visit the U.S. to address Enhanced Partnership issues;
- 6.9 Launch a research scholarship programme for ASEAN Member Country scholars and professionals focused on bilateral and regional aspects of the ASEAN-U.S. relationship;
- 6.10 Facilitate visa application procedures for students and intellectuals of ASEAN Member Countries who travel to the U.S. for academic purposes;
- 6.11 Promote ASEAN studies in the U.S. and American studies in ASEAN Member Countries; and
- 6.12 Cooperate in the development of a Sea Grant network, based on the model of applied research, outreach, and education, which will strengthen marine research and resource management capabilities in the region, and promote partnerships among universities and government agencies that encourage increased education and technology transfer related to marine issues, as mutually agreed;
- 7.6 Promote interaction, networking, and exchange of visits between government authorities involved in cultural affairs, as well as between cultural institutions, museums, archives and libraries, as well as artists, experts, practitioners in theatre, music, acrobatics, dance, folk art, and cinematography;
- 7.7 Render mutual assistance and cooperation for the protection, preservation, and restoration of cultural and historical heritage, both tangible and intangible, according to the laws and regulations of each country, enhance cooperation to combat pillage, illicit trafficking and smuggling of moveable cultural property between the ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.;
- 7.8 Promote closer cooperation and collaboration between cultural, creative and design industries of ASEAN Member Countries and of the U.S., including joint venture and co-production;
- 7.9 Encourage the showing of ASEAN and U.S. films in appropriate venues and the holding of film festivals, as a means to promote cultural understanding;
- 7.10 Increase cooperation in the area of journalism, including press, radio, and television, through recommendations of policies, practices and exchange of personnel;
- 7.11 Promote cooperation in human resources development, especially media personnel of ASEAN Member Countries, through training courses and workshops; and
- 7.12 Encourage exchange of youth who are engaged in various sectors, and in particular consider convening an ASEAN-U.S. Young Leaders Forum;

7. Culture and People-to-People Contact

- 7.1 Cooperate in the promotion of people-to-people contacts involving, inter alia, parliamentarians, government officials, academia, youth, media, cultural experts, sports persons and representatives of business, industries, and think tank institutions;
- 7.2 Promote education, access to justice, and the empowerment of moderates in various religions as well as promote interfaith and inter-cultural dialogue to enhance mutual understanding among different cultures and religions, as well as promote universal ideals of religious moderation and tolerance, and, when possible, consider utilizing existing institutions such as the Jogjakarta International Center for Cultural and Religious Cooperation;
- 7.3 Support efforts to engage civil society in developing a people-centered ASEAN Community;
- 7.4 Encourage consultations in the field of culture;
- 7.5 Promote greater awareness of each other's culture, including through regularly held cultural festivals, art exhibitions and other events;

8. Promoting Development of Vulnerable groups

- 8.1 Support efforts to provide special care to vulnerable groups, such as children, youth, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities;
- 8.2 Support efforts to ensure access of persons with disabilities to opportunities and protection against all forms of discrimination;
- 8.3 Support efforts to promote equitable participation of women in the development process by eliminating all forms of discrimination against them; and
- 8.4 Strengthen cooperation in addressing violence against women, in the areas of cross-country data collection systems, involving men in related activities, and interventions designed to reduce gender-based violence and gender inequalities, and as a result minimizing the impact of HIV/AIDS in the region;

9. Training and Technical Assistance to the ASEAN Secretariat

- 9.1 Continue U.S. assistance to the ASEAN Secretariat through the ASEAN-U.S. Training and Technical Assistance Facility;

10. ASEAN-U.S. Development Assistance

- 10.1 Support development projects aimed at narrowing the development gap within ASEAN, reducing poverty, eliminating socio-economic disparity and achieving social justice and elevating standards of living;
- 10.2 Support ASEAN efforts in realizing the VAP implementation through the provision of training and technical assistance to ASEAN, as mutually agreed; and
- 10.3 Support, where possible, the activities and projects of the ASEAN Foundation in promoting ASEAN integration and awareness, and people-to-people contacts;

IV. Follow-up Mechanism

1. a. ASEAN Secretariat and the U.S. to develop a schedule and time frame for implementation of the Plan of Action;
- b. Conduct joint projects to advance the objectives of this Plan;
- c. Explore ways of establishing and developing a funding modality to help implement the Plan of Action;
- d. Regularly review this Plan of Action through the existing mechanisms, including the ASEAN-U.S. Informal Coordinating Mechanism (ICM) and the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue; and
- e. Submit progress reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action to the annual ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) + 1 Session with the United States of America.
2. When implementing the above measures, due consideration will be given to ensure gender equitable participation of all ASEAN Member Countries at regional workshops/seminars and exchange programmes, especially for activities in the social development field; and
3. Where appropriate, sub-regional activities and cooperative efforts that further the goals and objectives set forth in this Plan of Action will be encouraged.

Joint Media Statement of the Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the United State Representative (AEM-USTR)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 August 2006

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the United States Trade Representative met on 25 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and held productive discussions on a wide range of regional and global trade issues. The consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia and Ambassador Susan C. Schwab, the United States Trade Representative.

ASEAN-US Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA)

2. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance attached to bringing the ASEAN region and the United States closer by signing a Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA), which will serve as the platform for further deepening and broadening their trade and investment relations. Under the TIFA, they will establish a formal dialogue to address issues between them, to coordinate on regional and multilateral trade issues, and to undertake a Work Plan that will support regional integration and help build on the already strong trade and investment ties between them. Trade between ASEAN and the United States, grew from US\$ 136 billion in 2004 to US\$ 152.9 billion in 2005, an increase of 12.4 percent. Foreign direct investment also continued to rise.
3. The Ministers agreed that at the initial stage the Work Plan will include initiatives to support the development of the ASEAN Single Window, which will facilitate the flow of goods within ASEAN and between ASEAN and the United States. It also will include cooperation on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues to foster additional trade in specific agricultural goods as well as cooperation on pharmaceutical regulatory issues aimed at speeding the delivery of innovative medicines to ASEAN countries.
4. A Joint Council on Trade and Investment will be formed under the TIFA to provide direction on the implementation of the TIFA and the Work Plan. The TIFA supports the objectives laid down in the Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative (EAI) announced by U.S. President George W. Bush in October 2002 and the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership, signed by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the U.S. Secretary of State in Kuala Lumpur on 27 July 2006.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

5. The United States and ASEAN Members expressed regret on the suspension of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations following the failure of WTO Members to demonstrate the necessary flexibility to provide momentum for the final push to conclude the negotiations.
6. They pledged to continue their close cooperation on all WTO issues, from the accession of Vietnam and Laos to putting the Doha Development Round back on track before the end of 2006. As close partners and members of APEC, they reaffirmed their longstanding commitment to the success of the Doha Round and agreed to work together to see how to best restart the negotiations and achieve the necessary breakthroughs in agriculture and non-agricultural market access. They noted that the solutions are complex and require contributions from all WTO Members. They declared their readiness to make tangible contributions because a successful conclusion of the Round will be critical to the continuing economic growth of their economies. Improved market access and creating new trade flows whilst ensuring the development dimension are effectively addressed will be the litmus test for success.
7. They agreed to work to put the negotiations back on track and to ensure that the flexibility provided for in NAMA and agriculture do not undermine substantially improved market access. ASEAN and the United States have a history of working together and the ASEAN and U.S. Economic Ministers will instruct their officials in Geneva to intensify their efforts and report to them on their progress before the APEC meeting in Ha Noi in November. ASEAN called on the major players in the WTO to provide the leadership and political will to push the momentum in the negotiations.

8. They noted the work they have done together to bring Viet Nam into the WTO this year and expressed their support for the early accession of Lao PDR to the WTO.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

9. The Ministers welcomed and reiterated their continuing support for Viet Nam's successful hosting of APEC 2006.

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility

10. The Ministers welcomed the progress achieved and outputs of the ASEAN-U.S. Technical Assistance and Training Facility since its inception in October 2004. They also acknowledged that the facility reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to engage ASEAN in constructive ways and assist in the integration process in the region. The ASEAN Ministers expressed appreciation for the \$4.5 million regional capacity building assistance and nearly \$40 million bilateral trade capacity building the United States has provided to ASEAN members countries in 2005.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia, Chairperson; H.E. Ms. Susan Schwab, United States Trade Representative, Co-chairperson; H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Elmer C. Hernandez, Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Somkid Jatusripitak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN

Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement between the United States of America and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 August 2006

The United States of America and the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (hereinafter "the Participants"),

CONSIDERING the Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative (EAI), which calls for the enhancement of trade and investment relations between the Participants;

DESIRING to contribute to the attainment of the objective set forth in the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership to deepen the relationship and enhance coordination between the Participants;

RECOGNIZING that the expansion of trade and investment, including through the reduction of related barriers and the fostering of an open and predictable environment for international trade and investment, can promote economic growth and development;

RECOGNIZING the essential role of investment, both domestic and foreign, in furthering economic growth and development, creating jobs, expanding trade, encouraging technological advances, and enhancing living standards;

DESIRING to reinforce the multilateral trading system;

RECOGNIZING that effective protection of intellectual property rights encourages technological innovation and investment;

DESIRING to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive in the furtherance of sustainable development;

RECALLING the observance of the declarations of the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conferences on internationally recognized core labor standards, referred to in these declarations and recognizing the importance of providing adequate and effective protection and enforcement of worker rights in accordance with each Participant's own labor laws;

DESIRING to promote transparency and good governance, including by combating and preventing unlawful activities in international trade and investment;

RECOGNIZING the contribution that the 1990 Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Governments of ASEAN Member Countries has made in building a partnership between the Participants; and

DESIRING to establish a Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement between the Participants;

ENDEAVOUR to implement the following arrangement:

Section One

The Participants will consider ways to enhance trade and investment between them.

Section Two

Subject to their respective laws and regulations, the Participants hereby establish a Joint Council on Trade and Investment ("Joint Council").

Section Three

1. The Joint Council Chair for the United States will be the United States Trade Representative (USTR). The Joint Council Chair for the ASEAN Member Countries will be designated by the Economic Ministers of the ASEAN Member Countries. Each Chair may delegate its authority to senior officials.
2. The Joint Council may establish ad hoc working groups that may meet concurrently with or separately from the Joint Council to facilitate its work.

Section Four

The Joint Council will meet on dates determined by the Participants, which should be at least annually, to:

1. oversee the implementation of this Arrangement;

2. review the trade and investment relationship between the Participants and identify appropriate opportunities to enhance trade and investment between the Participants;
3. seek to resolve amicably any issues that might arise from interpretation and implementation of this Arrangement; and
4. establish a work program on trade, investment, and related issues and monitor the progress of implementation of the work program.

Section Five

The work program referred to in Section Four:

1. will address such subjects as the Participants may decide; and
2. be implemented through existing mechanisms or by establishing working groups.

Section Six

This Arrangement is without prejudice to the laws and regulations of the United States or the ASEAN Member Countries, or the rights and obligations of any Participant under any international agreement to which it is a party, including any existing or future agreements between the United States and any ASEAN Member Country.

Section Seven

The Participants may modify this Arrangement by mutual consent in writing. Any such modification would constitute a part of this Arrangement.

Section Eight

The Participants intend to commence implementation of this Arrangement upon its signature.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Arrangement.

Done at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty Fifth Day of August in the Year Two Thousand and Six, in a two original copy in the English Language.

For the United States of America:
SUSAN C. SCHWAB
United States Trade Representative

For Brunei Darussalam:
LIM JOCK SENG
Second Minister for
Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the Kingdom of Cambodia
CHAM PRASIDH
Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

For the Republic of Indonesia
MARI ELKA PANGESTU
Minister of Trade

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
NAM VIYAKETH
Minister of Industry and Commerce

For Malaysia:
RAFIDAH AZIZ
Minister of International Trade
and Industry

For the Union of Myanmar:
U SOE THA
Minister for National Planning
and Economic Development

For the Republic of the Philippines:
ELMER C. HERNANDEZ
Undersecretary, Department of
Trade and Industry

For the Republic of Singapore:
LIM HNG KIANG
Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
SOMKID JATUSRIPITAK
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Commerce

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
TRUONG DINH TUYEN
Minister of Trade

Joint Press Statement on Follow-Up to the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership

17 November 2006

ASEAN Member Countries and the United States of America have agreed to continue to advance the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership and the Plan of Action to Implement the Enhanced Partnership. Our cooperation also builds upon the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement.

In the coming year, ASEAN and the United States have resolved to focus our cooperation on a range of priority areas including political, security and economic cooperation, health, scholarships, information and communications technology, transportation, energy, disaster management and environmental management. These eight thrusts will continue and support the ASEAN-U.S. endeavour to create an enabling regional environment in ASEAN conducive to sustained economic growth, enhanced economic interaction and stronger linkages between ASEAN and the United States. Our efforts will build upon various ongoing programmes such as the Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative (EAI), ASEAN Cooperation Plan (ACP), ASEAN-U.S. Technical Assistance and Training Facility and USAID initiatives.

Specific priority measures for ASEAN-U.S. cooperation in 2007 include:

Economic Cooperation

- Cooperation to promote good governance and work to combat corruption.
- Initiatives to promote intellectual property rights protection, and to promote the use of internationally adopted standards, increased transparency, and simplification of rules and procedures.
- Planned study on collaboration of ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprises and U.S. companies.

Health Cooperation

- Programs will be implemented to improve ASEAN's capacity to combat emerging infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

Scholarships

- The U.S. will announce the launch of a new scholarship research program for ASEAN Member Countries under the Fulbright Program, starting from 2007.

Cooperation in Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

- A regular dialogue of telecommunications officials, whose priority will be to bridge the digital divide, promote the use of ICT for development, and improve the regulatory framework conducive to this effort in ASEAN.

Cooperation in Transport

- To improve transportation links between ASEAN and the U.S.

Energy Cooperation

- Joint studies and workshops for the development of alternative, renewable and clean energy sources.

Cooperation in Disaster Management

- A capacity-building program to improve ASEAN's capability to prevent, respond to, and recover from the impact of natural disasters.

Cooperation in Environmental Management

- An expansion of our cooperation on sustainable development, including further development of the ongoing "Model Sustainable Cities" project.

The year 2007 marks the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations. ASEAN Member Countries and the United States plan to use this opportunity to increase awareness of ASEAN in the United States and of ASEAN-U.S. cooperation in the ASEAN region.

ASEAN - CER (AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND)

Joint Media Statement of the 11th AEM-CER Consultations

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 August 2006

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Ministers from Australia and New Zealand (Closer Economic Relations - CER) held their Eleventh Consultations on 25 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Consultations was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; the Hon. Mark Vaile, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade of Australia; and the Hon. Phil Goff, Minister of Trade of New Zealand.

ASEAN-CER Trade and Investment Relations

2. Ministers noted that ASEAN-CER (Australia and New Zealand combined) bilateral trade continue to post significant gains which provides good momentum for establishing the ASEAN-Australia and New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA). Goods trade between ASEAN, and Australia and New Zealand combined expanded in 2005 by 23 per cent (i.e. from US\$28.84 billion in 2004 to US\$35.56 billion in 2005). Trade in services between Australia/New Zealand and ASEAN also experienced strong growth over the same period.
3. Ministers noted that in contrast to the substantial trade relationship, ASEAN-CER investment links are still relatively weak and exchanged views on how the ASEAN-CER investment relationship can be further strengthened.

The ASEAN-Australia and New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA)

4. Ministers noted the progress of the negotiations for the Free Trade Agreement between ASEAN, and Australia and New Zealand. They noted that negotiations have transcended the confidence-building stage and are now in the substantive critical phase with discussions focused on the draft texts of the various chapters of the agreement, including economic cooperation provisions, and modalities for market access negotiations.
5. Ministers recognised that with the right level of ambition and commitment to concluding the negotiations as a single undertaking, a comprehensive FTA could be done in 2007. Ministers acknowledged that there could be some difficulties encountered in the negotiations given the diverse economic circumstances and broad range of interests of the participating countries.
6. Ministers tasked the Trade Negotiating Committee to find creative solutions to close the gap on difficult issues. Ministers also called on participating countries to exercise greater flexibility in dealing with the difficult issues. Ministers re-affirmed the need to ensure sufficient flexibility to accommodate the need of some ASEAN Member Countries in the FTA.
7. ASEAN Ministers welcomed the technical assistance and capacity-building programmes given by Australia and New Zealand to facilitate the participation of all ASEAN Member Countries in the FTA negotiations.

8. On the whole, Ministers are looking forward to the conclusion of the negotiations emphasising that the FTA should build on the economic linkages between the two regions and deliver greater economic benefits to each participating country.

AFTA-CER Closer Economic Partnership Work Programme

9. Ministers noted the economic cooperation initiatives implemented under the AFTA-CER Closer Economic Partnership Work Programme. The ASEAN Ministers thanked Australia and New Zealand for their long-standing support and cooperation to the region, which Ministers noted to be flexible and responsive to the development requirements and evolving priorities of ASEAN.

AFTA-CER Business Council

10. Ministers recognised the need to strengthen collaboration and related networking activities between ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand business communities. They support the call for the revitalisation of the AFTA-CER Business Council, including the refocusing of its activities to foster greater links between the private sector from ASEAN and CER.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

11. Ministers expressed regret on the suspension of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations and its negative implications for the future of the multilateral trading system. Ministers noted with disappointment that WTO Members were unable to demonstrate the necessary flexibility to provide momentum for the final push to conclude the negotiations.
12. They stressed that despite the current stalemate in the negotiations, WTO Members must use this time to reflect and re-assess their positions as well as to consult intensively among themselves, with the aim of resuming negotiations as soon as possible. Ministers called on all WTO Members to show flexibility, and for key Members to exercise leadership needed to kickstart the negotiations. WTO Members need to exercise collective responsibility to bring the talks to a successful conclusion. Results must reflect substantial improvements in market access, while taking into account flexibilities for developing countries. A viable deal will also need to deliver real reform of agricultural subsidies.
13. The future of the multilateral trading system and the continued growth and development of many developing countries rest on the continuing efficacy of the system. Hence, the way forward can only be for all WTO Members to exercise efforts to seek a conclusion to the negotiations. In the interim, WTO Members must not lose progress made in the last four years but push on with necessary technical work in preparation for the resumption of negotiations.
14. They noted the work they have done together to bring Viet Nam into the WTO this year and expressed their support for the early accession of Lao PDR to the WTO.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

15. The Ministers welcomed and reiterated their continuing support for Viet Nam's successful hosting of APEC 2006.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia, Chairperson; Hon. Mr. Mark Vaile, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Australia, Co-chairperson; Hon. Mr. Phil Goff, Minister for Trade, New Zealand, Co-chairperson; H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; Mr. Herry Soetanto, Director-General of International Trade Cooperation, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Elmer C. Hernandez, Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; Ms Apiradi Tantraporn, Director-General, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam; Mr. Nicholas Tandil Dammen, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN.

VI. OTHERS

Memorandum of Understanding between Secretariat of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Secretariat of Economic Organisation (ECO)

18 January 2006

The Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organisation, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

HAVING IN MIND the Bangkok Declaration of 1967 and the 1990 Treaty of Izmir which sets out the aims and purposes of ASEAN and the objectives of ECO respectively;

NOTING the role that the Parties have been assigned and the responsibilities of their respective Secretaries-General by the 1976 Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Secretariat and the 1990 Treaty of Izmir;

DESIRING to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the two Parties for the benefit of their Member Countries;

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

Areas of Cooperation

The Parties shall cooperate in the following areas through exchange of information, best practices and experiences;

a) Trade and Investment

- i) Implementation of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and Economic Cooperation Organisation Trade Agreement (ECOTA);
- ii) Exchange of information on the rules and practices pertaining to trade and investment in ASEAN and ECO;
- iii) Investment policies and investment agreements in ASEAN and ECO;
- iv) Trade and investment promotional activities in ASEAN and ECO;
- v) Development of customs reforms and procedures;
- vi) Development in standards and conformity assessment and Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs);
- vii) Other trade facilitation activities; and
- viii) Implementation of dispute settlement mechanism (DSM) and exchange of information on the Rules of Origins (ROO) in Free Trade Area in ASEAN and ECO.

b) Narcotics Control

- i) Compile/exchange of information on national laws, regulations and practical matters between ASEAN and ECO to suppress illicit drug trafficking and promote projects/activities on drug matters;

- ii) Promotion of civic awareness on the danger of drugs, development of community-based drug prevention and drug abuse control programmes in ASEAN and ECO;
- iii) Development of drug demand reduction programmes in both regions;
- iv) Promoting law enforcement cooperation in ASEAN and ECO;
- v) Formulating alternative development programmes/illicit crop replacement; and
- vi) Consider the possibilities of organising joint workshops, training courses, study visits for drug law enforcement officers and other authorities in charge of drug matters in relevant fields.

c) Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

- i) Devising regional and intra-regional strategies and programmes for the competitive development and internationalisation of SMEs and business creation for SMEs;
- ii) Supply-side capacity building in critical areas of production and management, especially among the first and second tier SME sub-contractors to export buyers or merchandisers and to transnational corporations;
- iii) Providing business development services for SMEs, especially those relating to export marketing (including e-commerce), technology upgrading, venture and other business financing, and inter-firm networking and linkages; and
- iv) Sharing data concerning the business environment and requirements in the two regions, including the development of business registries and database for inter-firm networking purposes, and the facilitation of networking trade missions involving SME entrepreneurs from the two regions.

d) Tourism

- i) Development of tourism infrastructure and facilities in ASEAN and ECO;
- ii) Encouraging the involvement of private sector and tour operators associations in fostering regional cooperation in tourism;
- iii) Consider organising tourism fairs to familiarise travel agents, tour operators, travel writers with the tourism potential of regions; and
- iv) Identifying investment opportunities in tourism in ASEAN and ECO.

Article 2

Modes of Cooperation

Both Parties shall draft a working programme to implement the above-mentioned areas of cooperation.

Any further specific technical and sectoral cooperation shall be accommodated by supplementary Exchange of Letters between the two Parties as mutually agreed upon.

To enable a more effective and mutually beneficial cooperation, both Parties agree to undertake yearly consultations, or as and when necessary, preferably on the sidelines of or back-to-back with existing meetings.

Article 3 Provisions

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be regarded as an administrative arrangement between the two Parties. The two Parties shall implement this Memorandum of Understanding in conformity with their respective regulations, rules and administrative practices.

Article 4 Amendment, Entry into Force, Duration and Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended in writing by mutual consent of both Parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on 18 January 2006. It shall be valid for 5 years and shall subsequently continue to be in force thereafter, unless terminated by either side at any time, by written notification.

Article 5 Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute or difference between the parties arising from this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled amicably through consultations or negotiations.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, authorised representatives, have signed the present Agreement.

DONE on this 18 day of January 2006, in two original copies in the English language, all texts being equally authentic.

For the Secretariat of the Association
of Southeast Asian Nations:
ONG KENG YONG
Secretary-General of ASEAN

For the Secretariat of the Economic
Cooperation Organisation:
ASKHAT ORAZBAY
Secretary-General of ECO

Press Release ASEAN Candidate for United Nations Secretary-General

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24 July 2006

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), comprising Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, invited H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and the ASEAN Candidate for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations (UNSG), to attend a session with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on 24 July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur. The session was chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and Chairman of the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM)/Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC)/13th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and attended by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, by the ASEAN Candidate for the post of UNSG and by the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

At the session, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers were briefed by the ASEAN Candidate on the latest developments in the coordinated ASEAN campaign for the post of UNSG. These developments include, inter alia,

the joint action undertaken by ASEAN Committees in Third Countries and ASEAN Embassies worldwide in support of the coordinated campaign for the ASEAN Candidate and, most recently, the participation of the ASEAN Candidate at the Special Session of the Executive Council of the African Union (AU) and the AU Summit on 30 June-2 July 2006 in The Gambia, and the meeting between the ASEAN Candidate and all regional groups at the United Nations in New York on 6-11 July 2006. These activities are widely regarded as re-emphasizing the ASEAN Candidate's adherence to global good governance and transparency in sparing no efforts to meet as many UN Member States as possible to hear their views and their concerns on UN reform, social and international issues throughout the campaign. Consequently, there has been an increase in the momentum of support for the ASEAN Candidate as well as for Asia's turn for the post of UNSG.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the decision taken by the ASEAN Leaders at the 10th Summit in Vientiane on 29 November 2004, expressing their support and endorsement of Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai as the ASEAN Candidate for the post of UNSG, who remains the only candidate to receive endorsement of a regional grouping. They and the ASEAN Candidate discussed and agreed on a coordinated campaign strategy to be pursued in the next critical months, bearing in mind the beginning of informal consultations on the UNSG issue in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the conducting of a straw poll by the UNSC on this issue this month. In this connection, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers also agreed to collectively and individually help seek support for the ASEAN Candidate from ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other countries in the various PMC and other meetings here in Kuala Lumpur and beyond.

As part of the continuing efforts to promote global good governance and transparency, the ASEAN Candidate is scheduled to hold bilateral consultations with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other countries during the 39th AMM/PMC/13th ARF in order to share his vision of the United Nations and UN reform and exchange views on aspirations and concerns of UN Member States who are all stakeholders in the UN.

Press Release of the 10th ASEAN-ECO Joint Ministerial Meeting

New York, United States, 26 September 2006

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) held their 10th Joint Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York today. The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. U Nyan Win and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, on behalf of their respective organizations.

The co-Chairmen welcomed the Foreign Ministers and Representatives of ASEAN and ECO member states and thanked them for their interest in strengthening relations between the two organizations. They noted the convergence of interests in important areas which would make the relationship mutually beneficial. Both regional organizations could gain from sharing of experiences and good practices, and would further intensify cooperation to that end.

The Secretaries-General of ASEAN and ECO reviewed past contacts and the progress made in relations in the light of the previous Joint Ministerial meetings. They expressed satisfaction at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations in January this year. Cooperation in trade and investment, tourism, development of small and medium sized enterprises and also in narcotic control would add greater substance to relations.

Both sides emphasized the need for early implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. An effective Work Programme would be prepared for that purpose. Necessary modalities would be worked out in consultation between the two Secretariats.

The Ministerial meeting also expressed interest in initiating joint projects in the agreed areas of mutual cooperation. The subject would be discussed further by ASEAN and ECO officials.

ASEAN Chairman's Statement on Congratulating Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon

Manila, Philippines, 6 October 2006

It is indeed a happy occasion to see that an Asian candidate has emerged as the Security Council's nominee for the post of Secretary General of the United Nations. This will be the first time that Asia will occupy that seat, since Secretary General U Thant left office in 1971.

On behalf of the member countries of ASEAN, we are pleased to extend our sincere congratulations to Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon of the Republic of Korea, for his imminent appointment to the post of UN Secretary General. We have worked closely with Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon, and have full confidence in his commitment and his ability to lead the United Nations in these very challenging times.

We also thank Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai for his vigorous campaign as ASEAN candidate.

Joint Announcement of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN ISDR)

**“ASEAN celebrates ASEAN Day for Disaster
Management in conjunction with the International Day
for Disaster Reduction on 11 October 2006”**

ASEAN and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) will organise joint collaborative activities to commemorate the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management and the International Day for Disaster Reduction on 11 October 2006. The joint activities will be held at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok. The ASEAN Committee on Disaster

Management (ACDM) will contribute to the exhibition on Education for Disaster Risk Management through posters detailing regional and ASEAN Member Countries' activities in disaster risk management. The ACDM will also participate as a panellist in a panel discussion focusing on the role of education for disaster risk reduction that is being organised by the ISDR Asia Partnership in Bangkok and hosted by UNESCAP.

The ASEAN Ministers responsible for disaster management decided in December 2004 to celebrate the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management in conjunction with the International Day for Disaster Reduction. “Celebrating our ASEAN Day in conjunction with the International Day signifies our commitment that disaster risk reduction is increasingly becoming a major global concern that can only be effectively addressed by coordinated action at the national, regional and global level,” said H.E. Ong Keng Yong, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, in his message on the occasion of the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management 2006. “We shall always endeavour to be prepared and ready to act in times of disaster. All these are meant for ASEAN to achieve its vision of resilient nations and a safer region by the year 2020,” he further added.

Apart from the joint regional celebration in Bangkok, ASEAN Member Countries are also commemorating the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management through various events and activities. Indonesia, for example, has been conducting disaster awareness socialisation to schools, and convened a national disaster awareness week during the period of 18-23 September 2006. Lao PDR has been disseminating messages about the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management and the International Day for Disaster Reduction along the main road of its capital city, Vientiane, and through its national TV, radios and newspapers. Singapore is scheduled to organise an Emergency Preparedness Day on 14 October 2006 and conduct an exercise for grassroots' volunteers and residents to familiarise them with emergency procedures in case of large-scale emergencies within their neighbourhood. Thailand is conducting public relation campaigns through mass media and disaster management agencies both in government and non-government sectors. Other ASEAN Member Countries will conduct celebratory activities as part of their national disaster management activities.

Thailand as the lead shepherd country for the celebration of the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management is joining forces with the ASEAN Secretariat and UN ISDR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok to showcase ASEAN's as well as Member Countries' initiatives and achievements in disaster risk reduction. Photos, stories and videos showing the recent ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX-06) held on 27 September 2006 in Cambodia will be the centrepiece of ASEAN's display. The exercise was conducted by the ASEAN Committee for Disaster Management as a prelude to the observance of ASEAN Day for Disaster Management.

Statement by the ASEAN Chairman on Nuclear Tests by the DPRK

12 October 2006

At our meeting in Kuala Lumpur in July, the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN emphasized that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is essential in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region. We

reaffirmed the importance of dialogue among all parties for the peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue.

We are therefore deeply concerned by North Korea's announcement that they have conducted a nuclear test. Such a test is inconsistent with the DPRK's commitments under the Joint Statement of September 2005, and threatens the peace and security of East Asia.

We protest such testing, and strongly urge the DPRK to desist from conducting further tests, and appeal to all parties concerned to exercise restraint, and to refrain from taking action that will aggravate the tension. We call on the DPRK to abide by the provisions of UNSC Resolution 1695, particularly on its return to the Six Party Talks, to work towards the expeditious implementation of the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement, and to return at an early date to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Memorandum of Understanding for Administrative Arrangement between ASEAN and Asian Development Bank

24 August 2006

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) will form the basis of cooperation between The Association of Southeast Asian Nation Secretariat and Asian Development Bank

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, (hereinafter referred to as "Both sides"), have a mutual interest in fostering partnership to promote regional cooperation and integration in ASEAN. With the central role of ASEAN in East Asia, and the unique role of ADB as a regional development bank and knowledge center, an enhanced relationship between ADB and the ASEAN Secretariat in particular and ASEAN in general will be pivotal in achieving economic growth and poverty reduction in ASEAN through its broader and deeper cooperation and integration in Asia.
2. Both sides are already collaborating in a number of areas, including support from ADB for the ASEAN Surveillance Process. This experience has been mutually beneficial and both organizations now see further advantage in setting out strategic directions for future cooperation.
3. Both sides will seek to collaborate in identified areas of mutual interest, pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding.

I. AIM AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

4. Both sides acknowledge that the aim of their collaboration is to help accelerate the ASEAN regional cooperation and integration process in Asia.
5. Collaboration between both sides will be guided by the following principles. Regional cooperation and integration will center around three main pillars, namely:
 - (i) Pro-poor sustainable economic growth; (ii) Inclusive social

- development; and (iii) Good governance for effective policies and institutions; and
- (ii) Mutual assistance for regional institution-building in the pursuit of regional cooperation and integration activities.

II. ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED COOPERATION AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

6. Both sides will focus on the following shared strategic and cooperation priorities:
 - (i) Support, as appropriate, the implementation of key ASEAN regional cooperation and integration initiatives such as those in the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) which was adopted by the Ninth ASEAN Summit in Bali in October 2003, the Vientiane Action Programme adopted by the Tenth ASEAN Summit in November 2004, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration launched at the Fourth ASEAN Informal Summit in November 2000, and recommendations of the East Asian Vision Group adopted by the Sixth ASEAN+3 Summit in Cambodia in November 2002;
 - (ii) Support regional cooperation and integration in ASEAN through, among others: a) subregional cooperation programmes such as the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Program, Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam (CLV) Growth Triangle; and the Brunei-Darussalam Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA); b) trade and investment; c) money and finance; d) private sector development; e) energy; f) management of shared natural resources; and g) provision of selected regional public goods such as prevention of communicable diseases (Avian Flu and HIV/AIDS), environmental protection, and disaster prevention and mitigation;
 - (iii) Support ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers process, including the ASEAN+3 Economic Review and Policy Dialogue Process, the Chiang Mai Initiative, and the Asian Bond Markets Initiative; and
 - (iv) Conduct and disseminate joint studies based on mutually-agreed priorities as identified by both sides in consultation with member countries.

In addition, both sides will

- (v) share knowledge of lessons learned and evaluations of development in the Asia-Pacific, as appropriate;
- (vi) consult each other on regional and subregional policy dialogue and programming for regional and subregional activities, where feasible and appropriate;
- (vii) explore the potential of co-financing regional and subregional programmes and projects; and
- (viii) consider the possibility of exchanging staff, appropriate, where feasible and

III. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

7. Both sides recognize that effective collaboration depends upon open, comprehensive, and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. They agree to make appropriate arrangements to:
 - (i) deposit copies of relevant publications and public documents of each organization in both sides' main libraries, to be maintained as reference documents; and

- (ii) give notice, through information posted on the web sites of each organization, of
 - (a) regional conferences, seminars, and workshops being organized or sponsored;
 - (b) Policies, strategy documents, programmes, and lessons learned relevant to promoting regional cooperation and integration.

IV. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

8. Both sides recognize that appropriate representation is important to emphasize their common interests, purpose, and intentions; and to facilitate all aspects of effective cooperation. Such cooperation is expected to entail close consultations through meetings, conferences, seminars, and workshops relevant to the identified areas of cooperation.

V. CONSULTATIONS

9. Both sides recognize that periodic consultations between ASEAN Secretariat and ADB are important to review the planning, implementation, and outcomes of their cooperation activities. Both sides, therefore, agree to hold such consultations periodically as required, at least once a year.

VI. FOCAL POINTS

10. Both sides agree to designate the following focal points to coordinate activities generated as a result of this MOU:
- (i) for ADB:
Head Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI)
Asian Development Bank
6 ADB Avenue
Mandaluyong City
1550 Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephone: (632) 632-4444, Fax: (632) 636-2444
Email: information@adb.org
 - (ii) For the ASEAN Secretariat:
Principal Director, Bureau for External Relations and Coordination (BERC)
The ASEAN Secretariat
70A, Jalan Sisingamangaraja
Jakarta 12110
Indonesia
Tel: (6221) 7262991, 7243372, Fax: (6221) 7398234, 7243504

The respective focal points will be responsible for

- (i) establishing effective communication and liaison with other focal points;
- (ii) facilitating the implementation of all aspects of this MOU;
- (iii) promoting this MOU and the cooperation activities undertaken under it;
- (iv) facilitating the attendance of representatives at meetings, workshops, and seminars held by both sides;
- (v) convening periodic consultations related to the MOU; and
- (vi) monitoring the implementation of the MOU.

VII. PREPARATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF JOINT WORK ACTIVITIES

11. Both sides will prepare:
- (i) a list of planned cooperation activities involving the two organizations for the next budget year, within 2 months of the signing of the MOU; and
 - (ii) an indicative list of planned cooperation activities for 2 subsequent years, within one year after the signing of the MOU.
12. Both sides agree that
- (i) the appropriate programme managers in the organizations will be responsible for the implementation of cooperation activities within their areas of responsibility;
 - (ii) the appropriate programme managers will provide inputs as necessary to ADB/OREI and the ASEAN Secretariat/BERG to prepare reports on the status of implementation of all cooperation activities that are within their areas of responsibility;
 - (iii) ADB/OREI and the ASEAN Secretariat/BERG will prepare joint reports as necessary on the implementation status of the cooperation activities;
 - (iv) the responsible programme managers will prepare annual assessments of the results achieved from the cooperation activities;
 - (v) the assessments will be reviewed by ADB/OREI and the ASEAN Secretariat/BERG when considering further cooperation activities; and
 - (vi) Both sides will conduct joint evaluations of the overall development impact of the cooperation undertaken under this MOU.

VIII. PROMOTION OF THE COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

13. Both sides acknowledge the role and contribution of each organization to the cooperation projects and activities in all public information documentation relating to the instances of cooperation; and
14. Both sides agree to use ADB and ASEAN logos in documentation related to the cooperation projects and activities in accordance with the current policies of each organization.

IX. TERMS AND REVIEW

15. The term of the MOU will be from January 2006 to December 2010. The MOU may be extended and/or amended by both sides in mutual agreement.
16. A joint mid-term review will be carried out after two and half years with any necessary amendments to the MaU, taking into account ADB's Medium Term Strategy (2006-2010) and the equivalent Vientiane Action Programme of ASEAN from 2004- 2010.

X. DEALING WITH PROBLEMS

17. During the course of this MOU, the respective focal points will be promptly notified of all problems that impact adversely on the

potential of the two organizations to collaborate effectively. The focal points will take appropriate actions to seek an amicable resolution. If the focal points are unable to resolve the problem to the satisfaction of both sides, the signatories to this MOU will take whatever action they consider appropriate to achieve an amicable resolution.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

18. This MOU will take effect from the date on which it is signed by the authorized representatives of both sides.
19. This MOU is not intended to create legal relations between the two organizations or to impose formal obligations on them.
20. Any specific activities identified under this MOU as opportunities for collaboration between the two organizations will be the subject of additional written agreements entered into in accordance with the practices and procedures of the two organizations.
21. This MOU may be terminated by either side, giving 6 months notice in writing to the other.
22. In keeping with the administrative nature of these arrangements, no provision of this MOU will be construed to interfere in any way with the independent decisionmaking autonomy of both sides with regard to their respective affairs and operations.

Dated 24 August 2006

ASEAN Secretariat
Ong Keng Yong
Secretary-General of ASEAN

Asian Development Bank
Haruhiko Kuroda
President

