



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

IMPLEMENTING THE ROADMAP FOR AN ASEAN COMMUNITY 2015



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For inquiries, contact:
Public Outreach and Civil Society Division
The ASEAN Secretariat
70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja
Jakarta 12110
Indonesia
Phone : (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991
Fax : (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504
E-mail : public.div@asean.org

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15 December 2008 would be a date that would always be etched in the minds of the people of ASEAN. That was the date, a year after signature, that the ASEAN Charter came into force. A gathering of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers was held at the

ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta to mark this very historic occasion for ASEAN.

The work has begun on carrying out the responsibilities of integration and community-building as mandated by the Charter. To help the region in this effort, the ASEAN Leaders at the 14th ASEAN Summit in Cha-am, Thailand, signed off on the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015). Meant to replace the Vientiane Action Programme, the Roadmap constitutes the Blueprints for the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan 2.

Inter-connected, these documents would instruct and guide us in moving towards an ASEAN Community by 2015.

We have also been addressing other challenges. In the period of time since the fateful events of Cyclone Nargis striking the Irrawaddy Delta in Myanmar on 2 May 2008, the ASEAN-led coordinating mechanism has facilitated full access and coordination of delivery relief aid and early recovery assistance to 2.4 million people throughout the Delta and Yangon. The operations were significant as it brought humanitarian and development actors together. And it was historical as it provided an integrated and sequenced approach to humanitarian, including relief and early recovery, and medium to long-term recovery needs.

Cyclone Nargis marks the dawning of a new ASEAN, an ASEAN that plays a major role in humanitarian response, an ASEAN that plays proactive roles in bridging the need of the affected communities with international assistance and an ASEAN that is increasingly competent in coordinating major humanitarian operations. It has put substance to the ASEAN Charter. It has also brought ASEAN closer to the people. ASEAN will use the experiences and lessons learnt to further strengthen regional disaster mechanisms and transform these lessons learnt into tools and practices to be applied in other parts of the ASEAN region.

Based on the experience in coordinating humanitarian operations in Myanmar after Cyclone Nargis, the ASEAN Leaders at the 14th ASEAN Summit in early March 2009 have designated the Secretary-General of ASEAN to serve as ASEAN's humanitarian assistance coordinator. This is to be activated any time at the request of the affected ASEAN Member State in the event of a major disaster, be it a natural disaster or a pandemic.

We have also been busy on the economic front in the face of spiraling oil and food prices especially in the later half of 2008 and early 2009. Recognising the importance of having a strategic approach towards long term food security in the region, we have now in place an ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Food Security. The ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement aimed to minimise exposure to an emergency situation has also been signed. Amidst the backdrop of the current global economic turmoil, ASEAN's best strategy is to stay focused on its economic integration, on regional cooperation and on wider ASEAN Community building.

Efforts on this front will now be driven by the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement and the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement. ASEAN also entered into its single most comprehensive economic agreement with its Dialogue Partners to date through the signing of the Agreement establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area.

The challenge brought about by the on-going Influenza A(H1N1) pandemic has also put ASEAN to the test. Responding collectively, an ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Special Meeting convened in Bangkok in early May 2009 committed to key policies to address the situation.

All these challenges, and I am sure there will be more, will surely put ASEAN under the microscope, and along with it, the ASEAN Secretariat. To ensure that we rise to the challenge, I have carried out a restructuring of the Secretariat with the aim to respond more efficiently and effectively to the challenges of building the ASEAN Community. There will be four departments, one for each pillar of the ASEAN Community, while the fourth department will focus on community and corporate affairs. This will help us better coordinate cross-sectoral linkages within and across the three communities. It is my hope that by 2015, the ASEAN Secretariat will be the nerve centre of a strong and confident ASEAN Community that is globally respected for acting in full compliance with its Charter and in the best interests of its people.

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan



The 14th ASEAN Summit, Thailand

The Heads of State/Government of the ASEAN Member States gathered in Cha-am/Hua Hin, Thailand, for the 14th ASEAN Summit on 28 February and 1 March 2009, under the theme “**ASEAN Charter for ASEAN Peoples**”.

The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ASEAN Charter, which entered into force on 15 December 2008. They also signed the Cha-am/Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015), which consist of the three Blueprints of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), in addition to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Strategic Framework and IAI Work Plan 2 (2009-2015). All of these Blueprints and Work Plan are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing. The Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) shall replace the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP).

The ASEAN Leaders also noted the progress in the establishment of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) in Jakarta. The CPR will be instrumental in strengthening cooperation among the ASEAN Member States, improving coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat and enhancing relations with external partners. They welcomed the appointments of a growing number of non-ASEAN Ambassadors to ASEAN.

In an extensive discussion of the global economic and financial crisis and its adverse impacts on the region, they stressed the importance of macroeconomic policy coordination and stood firm against protectionism. To ensure food and energy security in times of crisis, the ASEAN Leaders pledged to strengthen cooperation to enhance food security on both the production and distribution fronts and welcomed the ongoing effort to establish an ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) as a permanent mechanism.

The ASEAN Leaders also underlined the importance of ASEAN energy cooperation to ensure greater security and sustainability of energy through diversification, development and conservation of resources, the efficient use of energy as well as the wider application of environmentally-sound technologies. In this regard, the ASEAN Leaders welcomed the signing of the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA), which will help contribute to energy security. The Leaders also stressed the need to strengthen cooperation on the development of renewable and alternative energy including hydropower and bio-fuels.

They also renewed their commitment to build a people-oriented ASEAN through greater peoples’ participation in the region’s community-building process.



Signing ceremony of the 14th ASEAN Summit, Thailand

“The ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint and the IAI Work Plan 2 (2009-2015) shall constitute the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015).”

Heads of State/Government of ASEAN–
Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the
Roadmap for the ASEAN Community
2009-2015



Representing the youth of ASEAN



Flag Hoisting Ceremony on ASEAN Day, 8 August 2008, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta

WELCOMING THE ASEAN CHARTER

The ASEAN Charter, which was signed on 20 November 2007 in Singapore, entered into force on 15 December 2008. The Charter provides the legal and institutional framework for ASEAN to be a more rules-based, effective and people-oriented organisation.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN met on 15 December 2008 at the ASEAN Secretariat to welcome the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter. The newly designated ASEAN Anthem was played for the first time at an official ASEAN function.

H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, delivered the keynote address at the welcoming ceremony. The event was witnessed by Ambassadors from ASEAN Member States, ASEAN's partners, representatives from regional and international organisations as well as Indonesian dignitaries.

In his address, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono emphasised that the "Charter can be the basis for speeding up and strengthening our regional integration. By virtue of its provisions, we can enhance the process by which we are transforming ASEAN from a loose association to an ASEAN Community resting on the pillars politico-security cooperation, economic cooperation and socio-cultural cooperation. It also provides for ASEAN's elevation into a rules-based and people-oriented organisation with a legal personality."

In his remarks, H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, pledged to protect and uphold the ASEAN Charter in letter and in spirit for the benefits of all the peoples of ASEAN.



ASEAN Secretariat welcomes the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter



Flags of ASEAN Member States

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE ASEAN COORDINATING COUNCIL

After the ceremony and celebration of the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers convened the Inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council. The historic Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Mun Patanotai, Minister of Information and Communication Technology and the Special Envoy of the Royal Thai Government, representing the ASEAN Chair.

The Meeting reiterated the commitment of all ASEAN Member States to fully implement the provisions of the Charter. They discussed ways and means of speeding up the establishment of the new organs under the ASEAN Charter, namely the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to ASEAN in Jakarta, and the three ASEAN Community Councils for the Political-Security, Economic and Socio-Cultural Communities.

The Meeting also exchanged views on other aspects of the implementation of the ASEAN Charter and the strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat, including the appointment of the two new openly-recruited Deputy Secretaries-General of ASEAN.



Indonesian President H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and ASEAN FMs celebrating the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter

The ASEAN Charter has been fully ratified in all the ten ASEAN Member States. ASEAN Charter has become a legally binding agreement among the ten ASEAN Member States and will also be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations, pursuant to Article 102, Paragraph 1 of the Charter of the United Nations.

With the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN will henceforth operate under a new legal framework and establish a number of new organs to boost its community-building process.

KEY MILESTONES OF THE CHARTER PROCESS

November 2004	The ASEAN Charter is listed as a goal in the Vientiane Action Programme
December 2005	Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter was signed by ASEAN Leaders
January 2007	Cebu Declaration on the Blueprint of the ASEAN Charter was signed by ASEAN Leaders
20 November 2007	Singapore Declaration on the ASEAN Charter
15 December 2008	The entry into force of the ASEAN Charter

RATIFICATION OF THE ASEAN CHARTER

Member State	Date on Instrument of Ratification	Date of Deposit of Instrument of Ratification
Singapore	18 December 2007	7 January 2008
Brunei Darussalam	31 January 2008	15 February 2008
Malaysia	14 February 2008	20 February 2008
Lao PDR	14 February 2008	20 February 2008
Viet Nam	14 March 2008	19 March 2008
Cambodia	2 April 2008	18 April 2008
Myanmar	11 July 2008	21 July 2008
Philippines	5 May 2008 (by the President) 7 October 2008 (by the Senate)	3 November 2008
Indonesia	11 November 2008	13 November 2008
Thailand	15 November 2008	15 November 2008

“ASEAN’s cooperation in political development aims to strengthen democracy, enhance good governance and the rule of law, and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, with due regard to the rights and responsibilities of the Member States of ASEAN.”

ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint

At the 13th ASEAN Summit in Singapore in November 2007, the ASEAN Leaders signed the ASEAN Charter, which represents ASEAN Member States’ collective commitment to intensifying community-building through enhanced regional cooperation and integration. In line with this, they tasked their Ministers and officials to draft the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint.

The APSC Blueprint is guided by the ASEAN Charter and the principles and purposes contained therein. The APSC Blueprint builds on the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action, the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), as well as relevant decisions by various ASEAN sectoral bodies. The ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action is a principled document, laying out the activities needed to realise the objectives of the ASEAN Political-Security Community, while the VAP lays out the measures necessary for 2004-2010.

The APSC Blueprint provides a roadmap and timetable to establish the APSC by 2015. It also leaves room for flexibility to continue programmes/activities beyond 2015 in order to retain its significance and have an enduring quality.

The APSC Blueprint was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009 in Cha-am/Hua Hin, Thailand. The APSC Blueprint envisages ASEAN to be a rules-based Community of shared values and norms; a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security; as well as a dynamic and outward-looking region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world.

The ASEAN Leaders have called for the full implementation of the Blueprint in order to help promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region and to protect the interests and welfare of the peoples of ASEAN. In addition, the APSC Council has been tasked to set priorities for actions and activities to realise the objectives of the APSC in accordance with the principles and purposes of the ASEAN Charter.

“ The AEC Blueprint will transform ASEAN into a single market and production base, a highly competitive economic region, a region of equitable economic development, and a region fully integrated into the global economy. ”

ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint

ASEAN has a vision – an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015; a blueprint to achieve the vision; a scorecard to monitor the implementation of the blueprint; and a communications plan to inform and engage all stakeholders in the AEC building exercise.

A key characteristic of the AEC is a single market and production base. Progress was made in this area with the signing of three key agreements: the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement, the Protocol to Implement the 7th Package of Services Commitments, and the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement, at the 14th ASEAN Summit in Thailand. These agreements provide a streamlined, consolidated, predictable and transparent set of rules to achieve the goal of a single market and production base by 2015.

Building a highly competitive economic region is another prominent feature of the AEC. To promote fair competition and business practices, efforts are underway to support the ASEAN Member States to put in place competition policies and laws. Recognising that a robust infrastructure is vital to a region's competitiveness, three key agreements relating to air freight services, air services and inter-state transport were signed in 2008. Other elements that contribute towards this goal are intellectual property rights, consumer protection, taxation and e-commerce.

Narrowing the development gap in ASEAN and the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are key to achieving equitable economic development in the region. The second

work plan for the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (2009-2015), or IAI Work Plan 2, was developed to drive efforts in narrowing the development gap towards AEC by 2015. Strategies will also be developed to engage and enhance the competitiveness of SMEs. In the pipeline is a stock-taking exercise of the ASEAN Policy Blueprint for SME Development (2004-2014).

Recognising the interdependency with world economies and the importance of an outward-looking posture, ASEAN continues to pursue full integration into the global economy. ASEAN recently signed a comprehensive economic agreement with Australia and New Zealand collectively, and an investment agreement with the Republic of Korea.

In addition, ASEAN endeavours to maintain ASEAN centrality by strengthening its commitment towards achieving the AEC by 2015. This process is facilitated by the AEC Scorecard mechanism which tracks the implementation of measures contained in the blueprint and the progress towards the vision. The participation of key stakeholders in the process is also crucial, and this is where the AEC Communications Plan plays a part – to inform and engage them in community building. In conjunction with the AEC Awareness Year 2008, several activities have been carried out by the ASEAN Member States such as seminars, forums and the production of information materials.

Amidst the backdrop of the global economic turmoil, ASEAN's best strategy moving forward is to stay focused on economic integration, on regional cooperation and on wider ASEAN Community building.

“ ASEAN is committed to enhancing the well-being and the livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN through alleviating poverty, ensuring social welfare and protection, building a safe, secure and drug free environment, enhancing disaster resilience and addressing health development concerns. ”

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint

The collective commitment made by the ASEAN Leaders at the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu City, Philippines on 13 January 2007 to accelerate the establishment of the ASEAN Community from 2020 to 2015 called for a new strategic approach to hasten the pace of integration and narrow the development gap. Consequently, the Blueprint for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009 in Cha-am, Hua Hin, Thailand.

The ASCC Blueprint represents the human dimension of ASEAN cooperation and upholds ASEAN commitment to address the region's aspiration to lift the quality of life of its peoples. The goals of the ASCC are envisaged to be achieved by implementing a set of 340 concrete and productive actions that is people-centred and socially responsible. This set of cooperative activities has been developed based on the assumption that the three pillars of the ASEAN Community are interdependent and interrelated and that linkages are imperative to ensure complementarity and unity of purpose.

It is less than 7 years between now and 2015 and certainly there will be a number of challenges that ASEAN will face in building the ASCC Community. While difficult, these challenges can be addressed by:

- Strengthening the role of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council to provide policy guidelines for the implementation of ASCC Blueprint;
- Promoting cross-sectoral cooperation among the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies through enhancing the role of the Coordinating Conference on the ASCC Community (SOC-COM);
- Strengthening the coordination between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the ASEAN National Secretariats, as well as between the ASEAN National Secretariats and the line ministries at national level in implementing the action lines in the ASCC Blueprint;

- Promoting exchange of best practices on cross-cutting and emerging issues in the region among the relevant ASEAN bodies, such as emerging infectious diseases, climate change, poverty eradication and narrowing development gaps;
- Utilising a programme-based and multi-sectoral approach to development cooperation;
- Increasing the level of commitments from all ASEAN Member States to implement the various actions and mobilise resources accordingly;
- Streamlining the action lines of the ASCC Blueprint with the national developments plans to ensure synergy between national and regional efforts;
- Promoting Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and GO-NGO cooperation and coordination to ensure an inclusive and people-oriented ASEAN;
- Deepening cooperation between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners and other interested partners in implementing the various action lines in the Blueprint; and
- Embarking on an integrated, comprehensive and sustained public outreach programme to bring ASEAN to its people, raise awareness, enhance the involvement of the public and other ASEAN stakeholders, and support for the community building process.

As the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community is critical to bring ASEAN closer to peoples' heart and to promote a caring and sharing ASEAN Community, let us all join hands and work together towards achieving the goals set forth in the ASCC Blueprint.



SG Surin meets participants of the ASEAN volunteers' programme in Myanmar

In early May 2008, Cyclone Nargis made landfall in Myanmar, causing extensive damage in Yangon and the Irrawady Delta, causing widespread destruction and taking nearly 140,000 lives. One year later, much has been achieved in responding to this disaster and much of this can be attributed to the work of the Yangon-based Tripartite Core Group (TCG) consisting of ASEAN, the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations.

Following the establishment of the TCG, the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) was conducted. The PONJA, which was released during the occasion of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in July 2008 in Singapore, provided a clearer picture of the situation on the ground to facilitate continued relief and of the requirements for both immediate humanitarian assistance needs and medium to longer-term recovery.

Following the launch of the PONJA, the TCG put in place various measures to start the recovery programme, strengthen coordination at the township level, and monitor humanitarian needs on the ground on a periodic basis. It completed the first round of two community monitoring exercises, namely

the Periodic Review and Social Impact Monitoring (SIM) and published the reports in December 2008. The Periodic Review monitored the humanitarian needs of the affected people on the ground six months on from the cyclone while the SIM assessed the social dimensions of the impacts of Nargis and of aid delivery from the perspectives of affected communities. The second round of these community monitoring exercises is currently ongoing. The reports, which will provide progress of humanitarian work on the ground one year after the cyclone, are scheduled to be published at the end of July 2009.

The TCG also launched the Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan or PONREPP in early February 2009 to restore productive, healthy and protected lives of the survivors of Cyclone Nargis. The PONREPP essentially provides a framework for the recovery of the Delta over the next three years (2009-2011), focusing on eight (8) key sectors, including nutrition, health, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and water, sanitation and hygiene. The PONREPP estimates that US\$691 million will be required to recover and build back better the lives and assets of the affected people.



Members of the TCG meet the young victims of Cyclone Nargis

As part of its response after the Cyclone Nargis, ASEAN has also pioneered its first ever ASEAN volunteers' programme. The first pilot project in Seik Gyi village in Yangon Township was completed in November 2008 and has contributed to its recovery. The second pilot project in Pyapon Township involving an INGO, i.e. International Development Enterprise (IDE) Myanmar and a group of ASEAN volunteers, was completed in April 2009. The third project in Bogale Township, which involves a local NGO, i.e. Mingalar Myanmar, and another group of ASEAN volunteers, aiming to raise community awareness on disaster risk reduction, will end by August 2009. Another ASEAN volunteer project has just been initiated in Labutta Township in May 2009 to ensure that affected villagers have access to permanent shelter, drinking water and sanitation and that their livelihoods are restored.

ASEAN'S YEAR IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(June 2008-May 2009)

European Union (EU)

- The EU has announced that all its 27 Member States and the European Commission will appoint Ambassadors to ASEAN. So far, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, the United Kingdom have appointed Ambassadors to ASEAN.
- In addition to the €70 million EU-supported development cooperation programme for ASEAN from 2007-2013, four programmes, namely the ASEAN-EU Programme for Regional Integration Support Phase II (APRIS II), ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), ASEAN-EU Migration and Border Management Programme and ASEAN-EU Statistical Capacity-Building Programme are on-going.
- The 17th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting was held on 27-28 May 2009 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Russian Federation

- Russia appointed H.E. Alexander A. Ivanov as Russia's Ambassador to ASEAN.
- ASEAN and Russia are working on a draft Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between ASEAN and Russia with the aim to sign the Agreement at the PMC+1 Session with Russia in July 2009 in Thailand.
- A Work Plan on Countering Terrorism and Transnational Crime has been officially endorsed at the 5th SOMTC-Russia Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime held on 3 July 2009 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- ASEAN and Russia are working on the draft MoU on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre in Moscow.
- Two ASEAN-Russia cooperation projects were completed. Five other projects are in the pipeline for implementation.

India

- India has appointed H.E. Neelakantan Ravi as India's Ambassador to ASEAN.
- India has allocated US\$5 million for the establishment of the ASEAN-India Green Fund and US\$1 million for the establishment of the ASEAN-India Science & Technology Development Fund. ASEAN and India are working on the draft Rules for Operation and Management of the two Funds.
- Negotiations on the ASEAN-India FTA are on-going.
- ASEAN and India continue to implement activities under the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity.

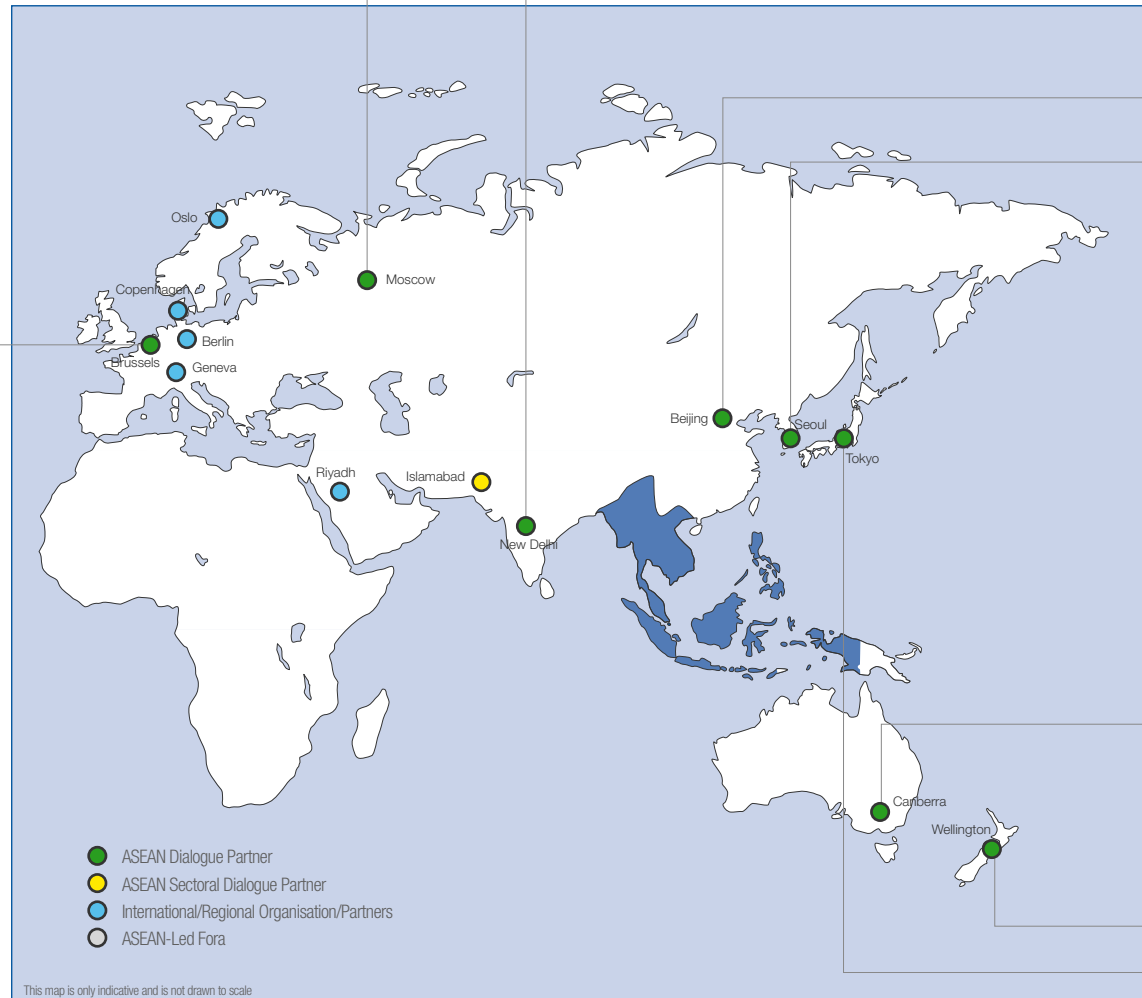
ASEAN-Led Fora

ASEAN Plus Three (APT)

- The 9th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Foreign Ministers Meeting on 22 July 2008 launched the APT Cooperation Fund (APTCF) with an initial contribution of US\$3 million from ASEAN, China, Japan and the ROK.
- The Special APT Finance Ministers' Meeting on 22 February 2009 in Phuket, Thailand stressed the importance of operationalising the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) and agreed on several key elements, including to increase the size of the CMIM from US\$80 billion to US\$120 billion and to develop a more robust and effective surveillance mechanism to support the operation of the CMIM.

East Asia Summit (EAS)

- The Inaugural EAS Environment Ministers Meeting was held in October 2008 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Meeting issued a Ministerial Statement which, among others, actualised the vision of the EAS Leaders on environmental cooperation and discussed ways and means to put these ideas into practice through regional cooperative efforts and activities.
- The Second EAS Energy Ministers Meeting (EMM) was held in August 2008. The Energy Ministers noted with satisfaction the developments in the three energy cooperation work streams namely (a) energy efficiency and conservation (b) bio-fuels for transport and other purposes and (c) energy market integration. The Ministers expressed their strong support and commitment to advance cooperation activities under the three streams.
- The Inaugural Governing Board Meeting of the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) was held in June 2008 in conjunction with the establishment of ERIA.



Denmark

- Denmark appointed Mr. Børge Petersen as Denmark's Ambassador to ASEAN.
- ASEAN has cooperated with Denmark in the areas of transnational crime and capacity building in Trade in Goods for the new members of ASEAN.

Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

- The ASEAN Secretariat and the IDB are working on a Work Plan to operationalise the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ASEAN Secretariat and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) which was signed on 13 September 2008.

ASEM

- The 7th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 7) was held in Beijing on 24 and 25 October 2008.
- The 9th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting was held on 25-26 May 2009 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam with the theme "Forging Closer Asia-Europe Partnership to Address the Financial and Economic Crisis and Other Global Challenges".

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- The 1st ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting was held on 29-30 June 2009 in Bahrain. Significant outcomes of the Meeting include: (1) Agreements to explore the possibility of establishing an ASEAN-GCC cooperation framework and a trade agreement; (2) to foster people-to-people ties and tourism; (3) adopted an ASEAN-GCC Joint Vision which aspires to build a new ASEAN-GCC partnership; and (4) a MoU between the ASEAN Secretariat and the GCC Secretariat General was signed. The MoU provides for enhanced cooperation in wide areas of cooperation.
- The Ministers agreed that the ASEAN Ambassadors in Riyadh or in neighboring countries in the Gulf shall be accredited to the GCC Headquarters in Riyadh, while the GCC Ambassadors in Jakarta or in neighboring ASEAN Member States shall be accredited to ASEAN.

Norway

- Norway provided US\$1 million to support activities related to the humanitarian efforts of ASEAN in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis that hit the Irrawaddy Delta of Myanmar.

Germany

- Germany appointed H.E. Baron Paul Von Maltzahn as Germany's Ambassador to ASEAN.
- Germany funded €3,500,000 to a project to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the ASEAN Charter and regional cooperation and integration among the ASEAN Member States.

Pakistan

- Pakistan contributed US\$1 million to the ASEAN - Pakistan Cooperation Fund on 12 June 2007.
- A Joint Feasibility Study on an ASEAN-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is at the final stages of completion.

China

- China appointed H.E. Xue Hanqin as China's Ambassador to ASEAN.
- Progress has been made in the implementation of the ASEAN-China Trade in Goods Agreement and the ASEAN-China Trade in Services Agreement. ASEAN and China have concluded the ASEAN-China Investment Agreement, which is targeted to be signed soon.
- The 1st ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI)+China was held on 16 October 2008 in Nanning. The Ministers signed an MOU on information and media cooperation, laying a solid foundation for the strengthening of cooperation in these areas.
- The ASEAN Secretariat signed a Memoranda of Cooperation (MOC) with Hubei on 11 May 2008 and Guangdong on 5 September 2008, and initiated the MOC with Shaanxi on 27 November 2008.
- The 5th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit was held in October 2008 in Nanjing, China. The Summit showcased the progress of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the theme of "Broader Vision, Common Action".

Republic of Korea (ROK)

- The ROK appointed H.E. Kim Ho-young as the ROK's Ambassador to ASEAN.
- The ASEAN-ROK Eminent Persons Group (EPG) that has been established will submit its final report with recommendations to the ASEAN-ROK Summit in Thailand later this year.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Republic of Korea and the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Establishing the ASEAN-Korea Centre entered into force on 3 December 2008. The official opening of the Centre was held on 13 March 2009 in Seoul, the ROK. The Centre plays a pivotal role to increase the volume of trade, accelerate investment flow, invigorate tourism and enrich cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the ROK.
- The ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit was held on 1-2 June 2009, on Jeju Island, the ROK, to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Partnership.
- Progress has been made in the implementation of the ASEAN-ROK Trade in Goods Agreement.

Canada

- Canada appointed H.E. John Holmes as Canada's Ambassador to ASEAN.
- ASEAN and Canada agreed to work towards the adoption of a Joint Declaration at the PMC+1 Session with Canada in July 2009 in Thailand. The Joint Declaration aims to launch an ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership that is comprehensive, action-oriented and forward-looking. The Partnership will comprise political and security, economic, social-cultural and technical development cooperation.
- Cooperation under the ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Work Plan 2007-2010 is on-going.

United States of America (US)

- The US appointed H.E. Scot Marciel as the U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN.
- The US Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton visited the ASEAN Secretariat on 18 February 2009 during which ASEAN was informed that the US had launched its inter-agency process to pursue accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation of 1976 (TAC).
- The ASEAN-US cooperation is on-going under the ASEAN Cooperation Programme (ACP) and the ASEAN Development Vision to Advance National Cooperation and Economic Integration (ADVANCE).

Australia

- Australia appointed H.E. Ms. Gillian Bird as Australia's Ambassador to ASEAN.
- The Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) was signed on 27 February 2009. The Agreement covers trade in goods and services (including financial services and telecommunications), investment, electronic commerce, movement of natural persons, intellectual property, competition policy and economic cooperation.
- ASEAN and Australia continue to implement activities under the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership.
- ASEAN and Australia are working on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding of the second phase of the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme (AADCP II). The A\$57 million-programme would support ASEAN to implement its economic integration policies and priorities.

New Zealand

- New Zealand appointed H.E. Phillip Gibson as New Zealand's Ambassador to ASEAN.
- The Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) was signed on 27 February 2009. The Agreement covers trade in goods and services (including financial services and telecommunications), investment, electronic commerce, movement of natural persons, intellectual property, competition policy and economic cooperation.
- Cooperation under the ASEAN-New Zealand Framework For Cooperation 2006-2010 is on-going.

MERCOSUR

- The 1st ASEAN – MERCOSUR Ministerial Meeting was held on 24 November 2008 in Brasilia. Major outcomes of the Meeting include an agreement on a coordinated approach to alleviate the negative impact of the current global financial crisis.
- The Meeting of the Senior Officials of ASEAN and MERCOSUR will be held in the second half of 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to prepare a Region-to-Region Roadmap and Action Plan on the agreed areas of cooperation.

Japan

- Japan appointed H.E. Yoshinori Katori as Japan's Ambassador to ASEAN.
- The ASEAN-Japan Eminent Persons Group (EPG) was established to take stock of ASEAN-Japan relations and to recommend future directions for ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations. The EPG will submit its final report with recommendations to the ASEAN-Japan Summit in Thailand later this year.
- The 6th ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers' Meeting (ATM+Japan) in November 2008 in the Philippines, endorsed two important capacity building initiatives: the ASEAN-Japan Regional Road Map for Aviation Security (RRMAS) and the Guideline for ASEAN-Japan Transport Logistics Capacity Building (A-J TLCP).
- In March 2009, Japan made an additional contribution of approximately US\$90 million to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). The new contribution will be utilised to implement cooperation activities under the following three components, namely: "Disaster Management and Emergency Response in the ASEAN Region"; "Emergency Assistance Related to Financial Crisis in the ASEAN Region"; and "Japanese Language Training Courses for Nurses and Certified Careworkers".

A Year of ASEAN Cooperation

June 2008-May 2009



By Sayakane Sisouvong
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN
for ASEAN Political-Security Community

The ASEAN Political-Security Community has its genesis of over four decades of close cooperation and solidarity. It is envisaged that the APSC will bring ASEAN's political and security cooperation to a higher plane. The APSC will ensure that the peoples of ASEAN live in peace with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment. The APSC has the following three key characteristics:

- a) A Rules-based Community of shared values and norms;
- b) A Cohesive, Peaceful, Stable and Resilient Region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security; and
- c) A Dynamic and Outward-looking Region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world.

The APSC shall promote political development in adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, respect for and promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, with due regard to the rights and responsibilities of ASEAN Member States, as inscribed in the ASEAN Charter.

The APSC subscribes to a comprehensive approach to security, which acknowledges the interwoven relationships of political, economic, socio-cultural and environmental dimensions of development. It prohibits aggression and the threat or use of force or other violent actions in any manner inconsistent with international law, and calls for reliance of peaceful settlement of disputes. It also seeks to address non-traditional security issues and is committed to conflict prevention/confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy, and post-conflict peace building.

The APSC seeks to strengthen the mutually beneficial relations between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners and other external friends. In doing so, it also maintains the centrality and proactive role of ASEAN in the emerging regional architecture that is open, transparent and inclusive, while remaining actively engaged, outward-looking and non-discriminatory.

To effectively realise the APSC, the adopted APSC Blueprint is an action-oriented document with a view to achieving results and recognises the capacity and capability of ASEAN Member States to undertake the stipulated actions in the Blueprint.



41st AMM Retreat, 21 July 2008, Singapore



15th ARF Retreat, 24 July 2008, Singapore



Meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers with the High Level Panel on the ASEAN Human Rights Body, 21 July 2008, Singapore

ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING (AMM)

Established	1967, meets annually, with informal meetings and retreats in between
Last Meeting	41 st AMM, 20-21 July 2008, Singapore
Senior Officials	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)

The 41st ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM) was held on 20-21 July 2008 in Singapore. The theme of this AMM was “*One ASEAN at the Heart of Dynamic Asia*” and the Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their collective commitment to the establishment of an ASEAN Community of peace, stability, prosperity and social progress.

The 41st AMM endorsed the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and agreed that each ASEAN Member State would appoint their Permanent Representative to ASEAN at the level of Ambassador in Jakarta at an early date. Subsequently, the CPR held its Inaugural Meeting on 21 May 2009 at the ASEAN Secretariat to discuss its Rules of Procedures and exchanged views on its role and functions in supporting ASEAN Community building and overseeing the operations of the ASEAN Secretariat.

Having committed to promoting and protecting human rights, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers set up a High Level Panel (HLP) on an ASEAN Human Rights Body to draft the terms of reference for the ASEAN Human Rights Body in accordance with Article 14 of the ASEAN Charter. The draft TOR is expected to be presented to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers for consideration at the 42nd AMM in Phuket, Thailand in July 2009.

To make ASEAN a more rules-based organisation, the Ministers also established a High Level Legal Experts’ Group (HLEG) as a follow-up to the ASEAN Charter to study issues relating to legal personality of ASEAN, dispute settlement mechanisms, privileges and immunities and other legal issues. HLEG is expected to submit its final report and recommendations to the Ministers at the 42nd AMM.

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 24 July 2008, becoming the 15th non-regional State to have done so.

In terms of ASEAN’s involvement in the delivery humanitarian assistance to the survivors of Cyclone Nargis, the Ministers agreed that the ASEAN-led mechanism should continue for another year until 2010 to support the humanitarian effort in Myanmar’s Irrawady Delta.

Recognising Southeast Asia as one of the most natural disaster prone regions, the Ministers called for the early full ratification of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and called upon the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and the ASEAN Secretariat to work towards the establishment of a fully functional ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management in Jakarta.

The Ministers underscored the importance of further deepening and broadening the cooperation in various fields with all ASEAN Dialogue Partners as a critical part of ASEAN’s efforts to build a closely integrated community. In particular, they looked forward to the appointment of Ambassadors to ASEAN from Dialogue Partners. They agreed that the cooperation with Dialogue Partners should focus on key high-priority areas such as energy and food security, terrorism and transnational crimes, poverty reduction, sustainable forest management and climate change, communicable diseases and disaster relief and response.

As a result of the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers now wear two additional new “hats” in addition to being members of the AMM and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). They are members of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council and the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC).

COMMISSION ON THE SOUTHEAST ASIA NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE ZONE (SEANWFZ COMMISSION)

Established	24 July 1999, meets annually
Last Meeting	SEANWFZ Commission, 21 July 2008, Singapore
Senior Officials	The Meeting of the Executive Committee of the SEANWFZ Commission

Progress on the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and its Plan of Action was reviewed by both the Meeting of the Commission for the Treaty on SEANWFZ held on 21 July 2008 in Singapore and the Inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council convened on 10 April 2009 in Pattaya, Thailand. Both bodies agreed that ASEAN would continue to encourage the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to accede to the Treaty’s Protocol.

On the same issue, the UN General Assembly, on 10 January 2008, adopted the ASEAN-sponsored Resolution on the Treaty on the SEANWFZ which, among other things, encouraged the NWS and States Parties to the Treaty to continue to work constructively with a view to ensuring the early accession of the NWS to the Protocol to the Treaty.

ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS MEETING (ADMM)	
Established	2006, meets annually
Last Meeting	3 rd ADMM, 25-27 February 2009, Pattaya, Thailand
Senior Officials	ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting (ADSOM)

The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) is the highest defence mechanism within ASEAN. The annual ADMM facilitates the ASEAN defence ministers to discuss and exchange views on current defence and security issues and challenges faced. The ADMM also aims to promote mutual trust and confidence through greater understanding of defence and security challenges as well as enhancement of transparency and openness.

Cooperation in the ASEAN defence sector has grown steadily since its inception in 2006 with the ASEAN Defence Ministers adopting concept papers on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, linkages with extra-regional partners and also on engagement with civil society organisations.

The Concept Paper on the Use of ASEAN Military Assets and Capacities in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) aims at accelerating ASEAN Militaries' operational effectiveness in HADR, while the Concept Paper on ADMM-Plus: Principles for Membership, is a follow-up to the ADMM-Plus Concept Paper adopted at the 2nd ADMM in November 2007. The Concept Paper on Defence Establishments and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Cooperation on Non-Traditional Security outlines the framework and guidelines for engagement with the CSOs on Non-Traditional Security issues. The three Concept Papers were all adopted at the 3rd ADMM held in Pattaya, Thailand in February 2009.

The ADMM also continues to exchange views on addressing non-traditional security challenges and discusses the need to strengthen and take more practical steps in defence cooperation in order to make further contribution to regional peace and stability. The Meeting also reiterated its commitment to increase interactions at all levels and build a strong foundation to support the establishment of the ASEAN Community as indicated in the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint.

To better respond to Non-Traditional Threats, the 3rd ADMM Joint Declaration on Strengthening ASEAN Defence Establishments to Meet the Challenges of Non-Traditional Security Threats was signed in Pattaya, Thailand. The 4th ADMM will be hosted by Viet Nam in 2010.

ASEAN LAW MINISTERS MEETING (ALAWMM)	
Established	1986, meets once in 36 months
Last Meeting	7 th ALAWMM, 20 October 2008, Bandar Seri Begawan
Senior Officials	ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM)

The ALAWMM has been very much involved in the development of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT), soon to be elevated to become a regional treaty. The Treaty sets a standardised basis for legal cooperation and assistance considered pivotal for the prosecution of transnational crime. It will serve as a platform in collaborative cooperation among ASEAN Member States and most importantly in support of existing regional agreements such as the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT).

In terms of other areas, the Recommendations on Harmonising the Arbitration Laws and Practices of ASEAN Member States has been endorsed by the 7th ALAWMM held in Brunei Darussalam in October 2008.

Looking ahead, the role envisaged for ALAWMM based on the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint entrusts ALAWMM to develop cooperation programmes to strengthen the rule of law, judicial systems, and legal infrastructure.

ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME (AMMTC)	
Established	1997, meets once in two years
Last Meeting	6 th AMMTC, 5-8 November 2007, Bandar Seri Begawan
Senior Officials	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)

As the leading ASEAN body in combating transnational crime, the AMMTC oversees the work of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) and the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM).

Within the past year, SOMTC has made considerable progress. This included the adoption of the Terms of References (ToR) for the Working Groups on Counter Terrorism (CT) and Trafficking in Persons (TIP) respectively and for the ASEAN-Russia Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime. SOMTC has also agreed to institutionalise AMMTC Consultations with China and recommended the same for Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK).

Under the framework of the ASEAN-Japan CT Dialogue, which has been established as part of the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration for Fight Against International Terrorism, a number of projects are soon to be implemented covering several priority areas of cooperation, namely, transport security; border control / immigration; law enforcement; maritime security; public involvement in countering terrorism; and capacity-building on legal affairs.

SOMTC has also been taking measures against Trafficking in Persons through the Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons (ARTIP) project. Curricula of the ASEAN Training Course on TIP for Front Line Law Enforcement Officials and for Specialist Investigators, have been developed and piloted in the project countries. The translated versions of these curricula would be incorporated into the training components of law enforcement training facilities in these countries. In addition, ASEAN is now working towards developing an ASEAN Hand Book on Legal Cooperation in Trafficking in Persons Cases.

Significant cooperation has already been undertaken with the ROK and more consolidated collaboration is expected in the future especially in the area of cyber crime and cyber security. SOMTC also convened its first consultations with New Zealand in 2008 and a work programme has been jointly developed.

Under the ASOD mechanism, the ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Drugs Manufacturing, Trafficking and Abuse is expected to be finalised this year. The Work Plan shall serve as guidelines in achieving a drug-free ASEAN by 2015.

Achievements are also made within the DGICM framework. A three-year ASEAN-EU Migration and Border Management Programme worth €5.13 million has commenced since January 2009. The Programme supports the development of a comprehensive regional Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) by adopting train-the-trainers approach to combat cross-border crimes.

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF)	
Established	1994, meets annually
Last Meeting	15 th ARF, 24 July 2008, Singapore
Senior Officials	ARF Senior Officials' Meeting (ARF SOM)

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) has continued to evolve since its inception in 1994 amidst a dynamic and changing regional and global environment. Not only does the length and breadth of issues that the ARF covers continue to grow, but other challenges such as managing the expectations of its 27 participants and maintaining its relevance as a premier entity in the evolving regional security architecture also remain.

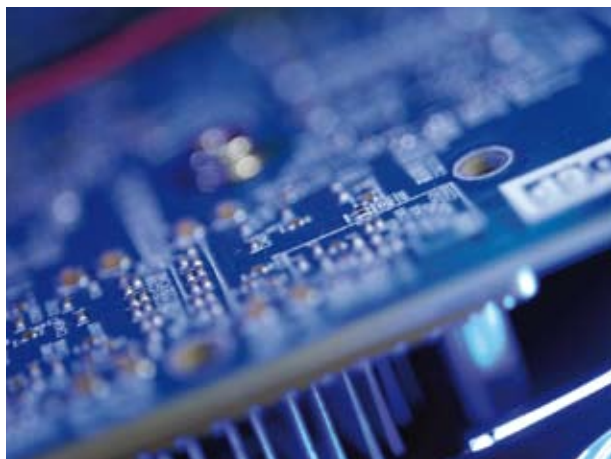
As the ARF becomes more mature, the demands on the Forum to produce more concrete and action-oriented outcomes have been inevitably increasing. It is against these challenges that ARF is now undertaking a major transformation process to bring forward its deliberation into concrete actions.

Its approach has now shifted from a short term ad-hoc response to emerging issues to a long-term approach that would enable continued monitoring and follow through of issues. An example of the implementation of this new approach is the development of the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime and the ARF Work Plan for Disaster Relief. These work plans provide guidance on how ARF could move forward in some practical priority areas of cooperation. With these work plans in place, the progress and follow-ups on various areas of cooperation could be monitored.

Separately, in view of moving the ARF process from discussion into action, ARF activities in the format of desktop or field exercises have taken place. The ARF Voluntary Demonstration of Response on Disaster Relief (VDR), the first ever field exercise in the area of disaster relief, was conducted in Central Luzon, Philippines in May 2009.

Going forward, a Vision Statement would be adopted by the 16th ARF in July 2009 in Thailand. The Vision Statement is built on the ARF's objective to promote peace and security in the Asia Pacific region and reaffirm ARF's commitment to achieve mutual confidence and greater transparency in the region. The Vision Statement lays the groundwork for ARF to fulfil this commitment.





Information technology as a tool towards globalisation



Agriculture as the main economic sector



Healthy food for healthy people

By Pushpanathan Sundram
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN
for ASEAN Economic Community

The past year has both been an exciting and challenging time for ASEAN with the unraveling of the global economic and financial crisis, a reality the world economies are grappling with now. Amidst this backdrop, ASEAN remains steadfast in its commitment to achieve the vision of an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015 and is determined to stay on track.

In February 2009, three regional agreements on goods, services and investment were signed. These agreements are integral to sharpen ASEAN's competitive edge as the preferred destination to do business and invest in, and to establish ASEAN as a single market and production base by 2015. Maintaining its outward-looking posture, ASEAN also entered into its single most comprehensive economic agreement with its Dialogue Partners to date through the signing of the Agreement establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area. Furthermore, in the finance arena, ASEAN took a big leap forward with the expansion of the foreign reserve pool under the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) from US\$80 billion to US\$120 billion and the substantive conclusion of the elements of the CMIM at the ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting (AFMM) Plus Three in May 2009 in Bali, Indonesia. The CMIM is expected to be implemented before the end of the year.

The year 2008 also witnessed the high fluctuation of commodity prices which have since become more stable. Recognising the need for a strategic approach towards long-term food security in the region, ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Food Security at the 14th ASEAN Summit. The ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement was also signed to enhance petroleum security and minimise exposure to an emergency situation.

As ASEAN moved forward with its economic integration agenda, it was hence timely that the ASEAN Economic Community Council, one of the three Community Councils formed under the ASEAN Charter, met for the first time in February 2009. Together with the twelve Sectoral Ministerial Bodies under its purview, the AEC Council will work towards deepening and broadening economic integration and strengthening ASEAN's regional external economic linkages with its Dialogue Partners. This would certainly support ASEAN's efforts to respond to the various global economic challenges.

ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS (AEM)	
Established	1975, meets annually
Last Meeting	40 th AEM, 25-26 August 2008, Singapore
Senior Officials	ASEAN Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM)

Following the signing of the Declaration on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint at the 13th ASEAN Summit, an AEC Scorecard mechanism was developed to track the implementation of measures in the Blueprint and progress towards establishing the AEC by 2015. In line with the AEC Awareness Year 2008, the AEM endorsed the AEC Communications Plan to promote the awareness of AEC to key stakeholders. Throughout 2008, several activities were undertaken by ASEAN Member States including seminars, forums and the production of information materials.

Progress has also been achieved in specific areas of ASEAN's economic integration agenda.

Trade in Services

On 26 February 2009, the AEM signed the Protocol to Implement the 7th Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services to further deepen and broaden ASEAN Member States' commitments in the various services sectors. ASEAN Member States have submitted improvements and new commitments in their 7th Packages and will continue efforts to complete the 7th Package by the 41st AEM meeting in August 2009.

The AEM also signed the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on medical practitioners and dental practitioners and an MRA Framework on Accountancy Services, which complete the current series of negotiations on MRAs in trade in services. ASEAN Member States are now working on full implementation of the signed MRAs in order to facilitate greater mobility of qualified professionals in the region and to promote trust and adoption of best practices in these services.

Consumer Protection

The inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCCP) held on 24-25 June 2008 in Malaysia saw the establishment of three working groups, namely (i) Rapid Alert System and Information Exchange, (ii) Cross Border Consumer Redress, and (iii) Training and Education. The TORs and work programmes will be finalised at the second meeting in August 2009.

Competition Policy

Since its inception in 2008, the ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (AEGC) has pursued several key activities: (a) commissioning of a foundation-laying study on competition policy and options in ASEAN; (b) a series of capacity building

activities with a focus on investigative and enforcement aspects, and on the enforcement and outreach priorities of newly established competition authorities; and (c) developing Regional Guidelines for Competition Policy in ASEAN and Handbook on Competition Policy and Law in ASEAN for Business by 2010. In the medium term, AEGC will focus on promoting closer and more diversified linkages among the competition authorities within and outside ASEAN; promoting greater public awareness and professional education on competition in ASEAN; and, collaborating and networking with private sector bodies within and outside the region.

Intellectual Property (IP) Rights

The ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC) reported several key achievements in 2008, namely: (a) studies on the economic contribution of copyright industries in several ASEAN Member States, (b) seminars and studies on the Madrid System for the International Registration of Trademarks; (c) soft launch of pilot projects (proposed for 2009) on Patent Search and Examination and ASEAN Business Development Services Directory; and (d) sharing of policy experiences on membership of existing IP treaties and agreed accession to common IP treaties. Efforts were also ongoing to simplify and harmonise various procedures and regulations (e.g. in design filing); to monitor Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) compliance of ASEAN Member States; and, to enhance IP-related coordination and private sector engagement in ASEAN.

Dispute Settlement Mechanism

To enhance public awareness of the ASEAN dispute settlement system, a series of socialisation workshops was carried out during June-July 2008. The workshops were attended by legal and other professionals as well as representatives from private sector bodies, media and academia from ASEAN Member States. Issues arising from these workshops were taken into consideration by the ASEAN Task Force on Dispute Settlement Mechanism.

Small and Medium Enterprises Development

In line with the commitments in the AEC Blueprint and the ASEAN Policy Blueprint for SME Development 2004-2014, the ASEAN SME Agencies Working Group (ASMEWG) have implemented several projects with ongoing activities in the monitoring and evaluation of various SME-related programmes and projects; enhancing private-public sector engagement and partnership; developing a Strategic Plan of Action; and, developing an ASEAN White Paper and Statistics for SMEs by 2010. A platform was also established for the regular exchange of information on SME policies and development with SME Agencies in the Plus Three Countries. The ASMEWG is also working on the formation of a SME Council which would address ASEAN SME development issues in a holistic manner.

Private Sector Engagement

The AEM viewed trade fairs as an important vehicle to engage the private sector in community building. Thematic consultations with the private sector will also be pursued.

External Economic Relations

ASEAN continued to make progress in expanding its linkages with the global economy. On 27 February 2009, the AEM signed the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area, making it the most comprehensive agreement ever concluded by ASEAN with a Dialogue Partner.

During this period, the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Services Agreement entered into force. In addition, three Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) have been concluded – the ASEAN-Korea Investment Agreement was signed at the ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit in June 2009, and the ASEAN-China Investment Agreement and ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement are expected to be signed at the 41st AEM meeting in August 2009.

Statistics Cooperation

ASEAN cooperation in statistics took on a more coordinated and integrated approach with ASEANstats assuming a leading role. The ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting (AHSOM) endorsed a Broad Sustainable Framework for the Development of ASEAN Statistics in January 2009 which covered all areas in statistics. The Framework also called for the institutional strengthening of AHSOM and ASEANstats and defined the major statistical processes and outputs in support of the three pillars of the ASEAN Community.

Among the concrete actions taken were the initial steps in the formulation of a strategic plan on statistics; sustained updating of the ASEAN Brief, ASEAN Statistical Yearbook and AEC Chartbook; and publication of the ASEAN Community in Figures. Other measures taken included having a more coordinated effort towards improvement of the availability and comparability of statistics in trade in goods, trade in services, and investment, as well as basic statistics on manufacturing, distributive trade and population and national accounts statistics.

ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA (AFTA) COUNCIL

Established	1992, meets annually
Last Meeting	22 nd Meeting of AFTA Council, 26 August 2008, Singapore
Senior Officials	ASEAN Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM)

ASEAN, through the AFTA, moved closer towards the elimination of barriers to trade.

Tariff Elimination

As of August 2008, 95.55% of products in ASEAN has been brought into the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Inclusion List (IL), of which 95.46% have tariffs reduced to 0-5%. In the ASEAN 6 (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippine, Singapore, Thailand), 99.71% of products in the IL have 0-5% tariffs, while in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV), 89.05% of the products in the IL have tariff rates of between 0-5%.

Average tariff for the ASEAN 6 under the CEPT Scheme has been brought down to 1.32% from 1.59% in 2007, while that for the CLMV has been reduced from 4.4% in 2007 to 3.69% by end of 2008. More importantly, ASEAN has removed tariffs on 84.94% of products in the IL of ASEAN 6 and 31.03 % in the CLMV.

The region pushed forward with its plan to enhance the CEPT-AFTA Rules of Origin to further facilitate the integration of ASEAN into a single production base and enhance competitiveness.

Non-Tariff Barrier (NTB) Elimination

Verification and cross-verification of non-tariff measures applied in the Member States continue to take place with a view to identify non-tariff measures (NTM) that are posing as barriers to trade. The identified barriers would then be removed in line with the implementation of the Work Programme on NTB Elimination endorsed previously by the AFTA Council. In addition to the current approach, efforts to eliminate NTBs are also undertaken through assessment of "type of NTMs" with a view to identify the barrier element of each type of the measure. Such element would subsequently be removed.

Customs Reforms and Modernisation

ASEAN customs administrations amended the ASEAN Customs Vision 2020 into the ASEAN Customs Vision 2015 in line with the Declaration on the AEC Blueprint. They have also continued implementing the Strategic Plan of Customs Development including measures such as the implementation of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document, the establishment of the

ASEAN Customs Transit System and the regional framework of risk management. Furthermore, ASEAN customs administrations also strengthened cooperation in customs enforcement and compliance and in putting into place a regional alert system as well as enhancing the communication mechanisms of information exchange to combat customs offences, and to protect the environment and Intellectual Property Rights.

ASEAN Single Window

After two years working on the establishment of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW), three of the six ASEAN Member States (expected to operationalise National Single Windows before the end of 2008) have already started activation of their Single Windows. ASEAN has also established the regional data set and adopted the criteria of classification of data elements based on international standards.

The ASEAN Exchange Gateway, one technical initiative at the regional level, has entered into operation since the middle of 2008. It facilitates the exchange of information among various National Single Windows. The ASW technical prototype is being developed.

Trade Facilitation

An ASEAN Work Programme on Trade Facilitation was endorsed by the 22nd AFTA Council as a living document. The Work programme consolidates existing trade facilitation measures, with a view to adopt a holistic and comprehensive approach in enhancing trade facilitation in ASEAN, thus maximising its impacts. Its implementation requires a comprehensive collaboration of various sectors and economic operators. To ensure effective monitoring of the Trade Facilitation initiatives, ASEAN is currently developing an ASEAN Trade Facilitation Framework.

ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)

ASEAN integration in trade in goods has been governed by a number of separate regional legal instruments. The goal of a single market and production base with free flow of goods by 2015, envisaged in the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint, requires ASEAN to adopt a holistic approach by integrating various existing trade-in-goods related legal texts and adopting new necessary measures into a comprehensive framework. It is also expected that the new legal instrument further strengthens the implementation of these commitments.

In line with this, the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) was signed by the ASEAN Economic Ministers in February 2009. ATIGA will bring AFTA into a rules-based system, and expected to enhance the confidence of the business community as well as foreign investors, and ensure relevance of AFTA in relation to the various ASEAN FTAs with Dialogue Partners.

Standards and Compliance

The ASEAN Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Inspection of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products was signed by Member States during the 14th ASEAN Summit. The MRA calls for the mutual recognition of GMP certifications which will be used as the basis for granting of approvals or licences to the manufacturer, supporting post-market assessments of conformity of these products and providing information on the manufacturer's facilities including the testing laboratories.

ASEAN INVESTMENT AREA (AIA) COUNCIL

Established	1998, meets annually
Last Meeting	AEM-11 th AIA Council Meeting, 26 August 2008, Singapore
Senior Officials	Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM)/ Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI)

The period under review marked an important milestone for ASEAN in its efforts to enhance the investment climate of the region. The negotiations undertaken by ASEAN Member States in 2008 to revise and consolidate the existing ASEAN investment agreements, culminated in the signing of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA) on 26 February 2009, at the sidelines of the 14th ASEAN Summit in Hua Hin - Cha-Am, Thailand by the ASEAN Economic Ministers.

The ACIA is a comprehensive investment agreement which amends and merges the two existing ASEAN Investment Agreements: the 1987 Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments or known as the Investment Guarantee Agreement (ASEAN IGA) and the 1998 Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA Agreement) and its related Protocols. ACIA also contains additional features aimed to make the region more competitive in further attracting foreign direct investments (FDI) as well as intra-ASEAN investment flows. This is in line with the goals of achieving regional integration under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and its Strategic Schedule.

Currently, ASEAN Member States are completing domestic procedures for the entry into force of the ACIA and are preparing the Reservation Lists to be annexed to the ACIA.

ASEAN FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING (AFMM)	
Established	1997, meets annually
Last Meeting	13 th AFMM, 9 April 2009, Pattaya, Thailand
Senior Officials	ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting (AFDM)

ASEAN finance cooperation intensified in the face of the global financial crisis. In April 2009, the ASEAN Finance Ministers (AFMM) agreed to further enhance regional economic monitoring through the proposed establishment of a new Macroeconomic and Finance Surveillance Office (MFSO) at the ASEAN Secretariat. The new office will strengthen the surveillance capacity of the Secretariat to implement the ASEAN Surveillance Process and assist in building the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

Efforts to achieve financial integration in ASEAN were also strengthened. A "Study on Assessing the Financial Landscape in ASEAN" was endorsed by the Finance Ministers. The study will provide a comprehensive and comparative analysis of financial sector regimes in the region and make relevant recommendations to achieve meaningful financial integration and liberalisation in ASEAN. The 5th Round of Negotiations for Liberalisation of Financial Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) was launched and is expected to be concluded in 2010. A consolidated approach to ensure that the objectives of the 5th Round are in accordance with the AEC Blueprint is also being explored.

An "Implementation Plan to Promote the Development of an Integrated Capital Market to Achieve the Objectives of the AEC Blueprint 2015" was completed by the ASEAN Capital Market Forum and endorsed by the AFMM in April 2009. The Implementation Plan serves as a roadmap for ASEAN to achieve capital market integration with clear milestones and strategies to be implemented in a phased approach. For 2009-2010, focus will be on: (i) facilitating cross-border securities offerings; (ii) reduction of restrictions pertaining to cross-border investments; and (iii) infrastructure integration and facilitation of cross-border service. Capacity building efforts and exchange of views on capital account policies were also further pursued to encourage freer flow of capital in the region. In addition, two high-level investor events were held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and in Bali, Indonesia that promoted ASEAN as an asset class.

Recognising the critical role of the private sector in the financial development of the region, a World Bank-ASEAN Partnership to establish an Infrastructure Finance Network (IFN) was launched in April 2009. In May, the 1st IFN Seminar was organised in Bali, Indonesia as part of strengthening policy dialogue and capacity building for infrastructure financing in the region.

Meanwhile, efforts were intensified in other areas such as anti-money laundering and countering terrorism financing, customs administration, and development of an insurance supervisory and regulatory framework.

Cooperation within the ASEAN Plus Three finance process also gathered momentum. An enlarged US\$120 billion swap arrangement under the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) was finalised in May and is expected to be activated before the end of 2009. The CMIM signifies the most significant collective response of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea to the global financial crisis. In line with the newly endorsed roadmap of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), regional efforts continued to focus on promoting key issuance of local-currency denominated bonds, facilitating demand of local-currency denominated bonds, improving the regulatory framework, and improving the infrastructure for bond markets. In May, the ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers agreed to establish the Credit Guarantee and Investment Mechanism (CGIM) to improve the quality of bond issuance especially corporate bonds, thus allowing qualified private sector enterprises to participate in and benefit from regional bond market development.

ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY (AMAF)	
Established	1979, meets annually
Last Meeting	30 th AMAF, 23 October 2008, Ha Noi
Senior Officials	Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF)

Due to fluctuations in commodity prices, underpinned by the food-fuel crisis and the global financial downturn, there has been a much greater effect on basic food production systems and forestry management options in the region during the year under review. In addition, the imminent impact of climate change has also loomed large over the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors with repercussions on regional food security.

In the face of high food and fuel prices in early 2008, the region established the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and its medium-term Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Food Security (SPA-FS). This would ensure that appropriate actions that are undertaken in strengthening food security in ASEAN, will also contribute to stabilising the supply of food in global markets. In line with this, a landmark event –the ASEAN-FAO Regional Conference on Food Security– was held on 27-28 May 2009 in Bangkok Thailand, aiming to expand the awareness and seek collaboration on AIFS and SPA-FS with a wider range of partners and within the larger geographical areas of Asia and the Pacific region.

Responding to the impact of climate change, two initiatives, namely an ASEAN Strategy in Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and ASEAN Networking for Agriculture Vulnerability to Extreme Climate have been established as platforms to further develop a more comprehensive and broader strategy. Linked with the ongoing effort on food security, the outline for an ASEAN multi-sectoral framework on climate change and food security is now in place.

Other activities in 2008-2009 include measures to enhance agricultural product competitiveness, harmonisation of quality and standards of produce, assurance of food safety, and a work plan for strengthening forest law enforcement and governance.

ASEAN MINISTERS ON ENERGY MEETING (AMEM)	
Established	1980, meets annually
Last Meeting	26 th AMEM, 7 August 2008, Bangkok
Senior Officials	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME)

Guided by previous ASEAN Plans of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC), ASEAN energy cooperation in the year under review continued to ensure greater energy security and sustainable energy development in the region. The energy sector is now finalising the third cycle of its energy cooperation implementation plan, namely APAEC 2010-2015, with an objective to support the realisation of the ASEAN Community towards 2015 and beyond.

The implementation of the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP) project advanced further with a total length of approximately 2,300 km of eight bilateral gas pipeline inter-connection on-going projects. The TAGP aims to inter-connect the gas pipeline infrastructure of ASEAN Member States and to enable gas to be transported across the borders of the Member States.

To enhance collective energy security in the region, the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA) on Coordinated Emergency Response Measures (CERM) was signed on 1 March 2009 during the 14th ASEAN Summit. The new APSA sets strategic options to enhance the ability to respond to an energy emergency situation, either individually or collectively, and minimise exposure to an emergency situation. The CERM mechanism, meanwhile, is designed to facilitate the activation/deactivation of emergency measures to assist the ASEAN Member States in distress and foster close cooperation among the ASEAN Member States and the oil industry.

In the electricity sector, the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), a flagship programme mandated in 1997 by the Heads of State/Government

under the ASEAN Vision 2020 towards ensuring energy security in the region, is progressing well with inter-connection projects being carried out until 2015.

A significant increase of activities have been undertaken in the ASEAN energy efficiency and conservation cooperation sector as well as in renewable energy. These activities now involve numerous institutional capacity building programmes, increasing private sector involvement and in expanding markets for them. The APAEC 2010-2015 sets a target for ASEAN to pursue the aspirational goal of reducing regional energy intensity of at least 8% by 2015 based on 2005 levels and to achieve a 15% collective target for regional renewable energy in the total power installed capacity by 2015.

In terms of energy cooperation with Dialogue Partners, joint programmes under the ASEAN Plus Three and the East Asia Summit (EAS) energy cooperation frameworks have been enhanced to mutually seek the mitigation of the economic impacts of increasing energy costs. The activities being undertaken include (i) formulation of an Oil Stockpiling Roadmap (OSRM) for ASEAN Plus Three as a way forward and long-term measure against unstable prices and supply of oil; (ii) ASEAN Plus Three and EAS Energy Outlook which serves as a guidance to identify options to ensure energy security in the ASEAN Plus Three and EAS region; and (iii) adoption of the Asia Biomass Energy Principles as one way to promote production and utilisation of biofuels which also take into account food security considerations. Another activity is the formulation of energy efficiency goals and action plan in East Asia which shows serious recognition and efforts of the East Asia countries in dealing with energy security and climate change.

ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MINERALS (AMMin)	
Established	2005, meets at least once in three years
Last Meeting	2 nd AMMin, 16 October 2008, Manila
Senior Officials	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals (ASOMM)

ASEAN cooperation in minerals plays an important supporting role in stimulating and enhancing business and trade integration in the ASEAN Member States. Despite being in the early stages of regional cooperation in this area, an AEC ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Scorecard 2009-2011 has been adopted. This scorecard, which serves as the integration plan in transforming the ASEAN minerals sector as a vital force for greater economic growth and social well being in the region, has several priority actions. They include facilitating and enhancing trade and investment in minerals, capacity building, strengthening the ASEAN minerals database system, promoting environmentally and socially sustainable development of minerals and enhancing private sector participation in its development.

To underscore the regional policy agenda, the Manila Declaration on Intensifying ASEAN Minerals Cooperation has been adopted. The Declaration would pave the way for timely implementation of the cooperation programmes and activities under the AEC ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Scorecard.

For the implementation of joint activities and projects, the ASEAN Mineral Trust Fund was established to support the cooperative programmes, projects and activities. Past activities have included workshops and seminars on Development of ASEAN Minerals Information and Database System and on Rules and Regulations for Minerals Resources Development in ASEAN.

ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in this sector was active for the year under review with several joint activities such as workshops and seminars on corporate social responsibility in the mining industry, mineral resources assessment and management and on geo-information sharing. Training programmes have also been held on minerals/metals recovery and recycling.

The Forum on Private Sector Cooperation in Minerals in ASEAN, through the ASEAN Federation of Mining Association (AFMA), continued as a platform to foster trade and investment through joint venture projects and creative partnerships.

ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AMMST)	
Established	1980, meets annually (including informal meetings)
Last Meeting	5 th Informal AMMST (IAMMST-5), 7 July 2008, Manila
Senior Officials	Committee on Science and Technology (COST)

Cognizant that science & technology (S & T) has a crucial role to play in building the ASEAN Community, a study on the state of S&T development in ASEAN will soon be conducted in order to determine the S&T capacities of Member States. The study, which would also identify possible technology niches in each Member State, would have recommendations on strategic approaches to ensure that S&T would be relevant to the realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

Collaboration with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners continues to play an important part especially in research and development. In this regard, both ASEAN on one side and its partners in the S&T sector, namely, Australia, China, the European Union (EU), Japan, India and the ROK, have agreed that access to facilities or research laboratories in the Dialogue Partners' industry or private institutions and expertise would facilitate research and technology development. A mechanism by which such resource

could be tapped by ASEAN is envisaged to be developed. Specific guidelines on sharing Intellectual Property (IP) in ASEAN to promote technology transfer have also been advocated.

Separately, India has contributed US\$1 million to the ASEAN-India S&T Development Fund (AISTDF) to support joint S&T cooperation activities in the areas of renewable energy, functional food, intellectual property rights (IPR), and R&D innovation management. Cooperation with Japan was also initiated in mid-2009.

The ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST)'s ASEAN Plan of Action on S&T (APAST) 2007-2011 has also been expanded to include health and climate change as two additional flagship programmes. The Plan had initially identified four flagship programmes, namely an Early Warning System for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Development and Application of Open Source System, Functional Food and Biofuels.

ASEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND IT MINISTERS MEETING (TELMIN)	
Established	2001, meets annually
Last Meeting	8 th TELMIN, 28-29 August 2008, Bali, Indonesia
Senior Officials	ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM)

The telecommunications and IT sector in ASEAN continue to work collectively to enhance high speed connectivity between the ASEAN Member States. Focus has been placed on improving broadband access, cost effective communications and deployment of advanced ICT infrastructure in the ASEAN region. The local digital content is considered as a driving force for broadband which can help to bridge the digital divide and contribute to a stronger and integrated ASEAN Community.

The work received a boost when the ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting adopted the "Bali Declaration on High Speed Connection to Bridge the ASEAN Digital Divide" in August 2008, which aims, amongst others, to deepen and strengthen regional initiatives and activities toward enhancing the enabling infrastructure of an ASEAN information society. The Ministers also stressed the importance of establishing the foundation for ICT applications, services and solutions in the ASEAN region.

A wide spectrum of projects have been proposed which focuses, among others, on information infrastructure and e-commerce. Projects in the pipeline for implementation in 2009-2010 include on ICT accessibility and affordability as well as the use of ICT applications to increase the quality of life of people in the ASEAN region.

Many capacity building activities have been and will continue to be conducted to support these initiatives, in particular on the next generation network (NGN), information and network security, e-commerce readiness, early-warning ICT system for tsunami, green ICT, digital dividend and ICT skills standardisation. Other trade-related ICT regulations are being reviewed for improvement, e.g. mobile roaming charges and Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for telecommunications equipment, which would put in place a regulatory environment to support the integration and development of a regional ICT market.

The need for a competitive and business-friendly environment across all ASEAN Member States has also been highlighted. This would enable cost effective communications and facilitate interaction among public sector agencies, industries and citizens in ASEAN. For this purpose, a comprehensive regional ICT regulatory framework has already been established and is reviewed annually.

The ASEAN Virtual ICT Centre and ASEAN ICT Fund have been set up to provide support for regional ICT projects. To strengthen the ICT sector's role in the ASEAN Economic Community, an ASEAN ICT Master Plan (2015) to set common directions and goals is also in the making.

ASEAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM)	
Established	1996, meets annually
Last Meeting	14 th ATM, 6 November 2008, Manila
Senior Officials	ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM)

Transport plays an important role in achieving the development of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). Intensified ASEAN transport cooperation will result in an efficient and integrated multimodal system connected to the global economy, improved competitiveness, a flourishing tourism sector, and liberalised air and maritime transport services. Therefore, intensifying efforts in the timely implementation of the AEC Transport Strategic Schedule and Scorecard including the formulation of the supporting ASEAN Strategic Transport Plan (ASTP) 2011-2015 is critical.

The ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on Air Services and the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on the Full Liberalisation of Air Freight Services, which were concluded recently, are seen as landmark agreements as they shape the route for a single aviation market in ASEAN. These Agreements will provide the competitive space for greater expansion and opportunities for air travel within the ASEAN region, in terms of more destinations, increased capacities and lower fares. In addition, work is now underway for the expansion of the ASEAN Multilateral

Agreement on Air Services to include all other cities in the region. This development will constitute a solid foundation for ASEAN to negotiate and conclude open skies agreements with key Dialogue Partners such as China and India.

In further strengthening transport facilitation and the logistics environment, the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport (AFAFIST) has also been concluded. These three agreements combined will greatly facilitate seamless regional cargo transportation. The Agreement puts in place the final enabling framework to support a harmonised, integrated and efficient transport logistics and facilitation environment in ASEAN.

In the area of maritime transport, the Roadmap towards an Integrated and Competitive Maritime Transport is being implemented to foster competition in shipping markets, improve market access and further enhance seamless logistics within the region.

It is generally regarded that rapid urbanisation and motorisation in ASEAN places a heavy strain on the health, mobility and safety of the population. In this regard, ASEAN will pursue sustainable transport programmes to improve road safety, as well as increase energy efficiency and reduce consumption and emissions in the transport sector. This will be done through concerted multi-sectoral collaboration and partnerships among different government institutions, private and business sectors and civil societies as well as relevant international organisations.

In terms of collaboration with Dialogue Partners, cooperation has been stepped up in the area of transport with Japan, aviation with India and in the areas of maritime safety, security and environmental protection with China.

MEETING OF ASEAN TOURISM MINISTERS (M-ATM)	
Established	1998, meets annually
Last Meeting	12 th M-ATM, 8 January 2009, Ha Noi
Senior Officials	Meeting of the ASEAN National Tourism Organisations (NTOs)

As part of the integration of the tourism sector towards the establishment of the ASEAN Community 2015, an ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2011-2015 will be formulated. The plan is the successor to the Roadmap for Integration of the Tourism Sector (2004-2010) of which more than 90 per cent of the measures has been accomplished.

Total international visitor arrivals into ASEAN in 2008 was in positive growth with more than 63 million, a year-on-year increase of more than 1.7 % compared to 2007.

Anticipating the global economic slowdown in 2009, ASEAN will focus on Intra-ASEAN travel and has declared 2009/2010 as the “Youth Travellers’ Year”. In line with this, a tactical programme including cost effective tour packages for Intra-ASEAN travellers and other key markets of ASEAN will be worked out.

The promotion in main tourist source markets was carried out by the ASEAN Promotional Chapter for Tourism (APCT) in Sydney, Seoul and Shanghai. APCT promoted ASEAN tourism through joint activities including participation in international tourism events in source markets. In the region, the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF), which was held in Ha Noi from 5 to 12 January 2009, was attended by more than 46 buyers and more than 590 sellers in ASEAN.

To enhance travel facilitation and connectivity within ASEAN, the tourism sector has collaborated with the region’s transport officials on the development of common ASEAN tourism road signage, and cruise tourism. Developing opportunities for air travel within the ASEAN region, in terms of more destinations, increased capacities and lower fares through the ASEAN Open Skies is also on the cards.

To increase the equality of tourism human resources and facilitate the mobility of professionals in tourism within the region, ASEAN has finalised the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Tourism Professionals. This development is supported by the completion of the ASEAN Common Competency Standards for Tourism Professionals and the Common ASEAN Tourism Curriculum. Future work required on the MRA include capacity development at the regional and national level and the provision of learning resources and supporting materials for the delivery of assessment and training in the workplace and educational institutions.

ASEAN MEKONG BASIN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (AMBDC)	
Established	1996, meets annually
Last Meeting	10 th Ministerial Meeting on AMBDC, 29 August 2008, Singapore
Senior Officials	AMBDC Steering Committee Meeting

The AMBDC provides a critical and important link to the development cooperation framework of the Mekong riparian states. The AMBDC’s overall objectives are to advance ASEAN integration by enhancing economically sound and sustainable development of the Mekong Basin; encourage a process of dialogue and common project identification to achieve economic partnerships for mutual benefit; and strengthen inter-connections and economic linkages between ASEAN Member States and Mekong riparian countries.

To date there are 45 projects being implemented in the areas of infrastructure, trade and investment, agriculture, forestry and minerals, industry, tourism, human resource development and science and technology.

As it has been recognised that the AMBDC process needs to be realigned and synchronised with the building of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), a Study to Realign the AMBDC Process with the ASEAN Economic Community has been completed. The study, with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), looked at ways to strengthen the cooperation and support to regional integration efforts under the AEC.

In view of the many sub-regional frameworks operating in the Mekong region, a stock-taking exercise to rationalise the operations of the sub-regional frameworks is to be undertaken. This would allow for a holistic approach towards developing the Mekong region and create synergies to better utilise resources.

High priority continued to be placed on AMBDC’s flagship projects such as the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) and the highway and energy networks. An SKRL Conference and Exhibition will be held in Kuala Lumpur in 2010 to promote investment opportunities for the SKRL.



By Dr. Soeung Rathchavy
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN
for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

ASEAN remains strongly committed to realise ASEAN Leaders' vision to establish the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) by 2015. The ASCC represents ASEAN's aspirations to contribute to building an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented and socially responsible with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the nations and peoples of ASEAN by forging a common identity and building a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and harmonious, where the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the peoples are enhanced.

As guided by the ASCC Blueprint, ASEAN cooperation activities to build the ASCC are focused on the following characteristics that support the other ASEAN Community goals: (i) Human development; (ii) Social welfare and protection; (iii) Social justice and rights; (iv) Ensuring environmental sustainability; (v) Building ASEAN identity; and (vi) Narrowing the development gap.

Overall, ASEAN Member States have made good progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) particularly in primary education, gender equality as well as combating infectious diseases. Recognising the need to support some ASEAN Member States in overcoming challenges to fully achieve the MDGs, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the Joint Declaration on the Attainment of the MDGs in ASEAN at the 14th Summit in Cha-am, Hua Hin, Thailand.

Milestones of ASEAN in its efforts to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms are heartening. The ASEAN Committee on Women together with the ASEAN Senior Officials on Social Welfare and Development are working towards the establishment of an ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children.

Separately, the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW) which was established in September 2008 is also preparing an instrument for the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in ASEAN.

Going forward, the ASCC will continue to intensify cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation and strengthen partnership with civil society, academia and private sector. Building a caring and



Information dissemination on HIV/AIDS



Cultural night - Commemorating 20 years of ASEAN-ROK relations



Raising an ASEAN awareness among high school students

sharing community is challenging, but ASEAN remains strongly determined and committed towards the well-being of its people, especially the vulnerable groups.

ASEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMATION (AMRI)	
Established	1989, meets once in 18 months
Last Meeting	9 th AMRI, 24 May 2007, Jakarta
Senior Officials	Senior Officials Meeting Responsible for Information (SOMRI)

One of the main aims of the information sector is to raise ASEAN awareness and towards this end, the 4th ASEAN Quiz at the national level is being held in all ten ASEAN Member States. This will be followed by an ASEAN Quiz at the regional level. The Quiz targets students from both private and public high schools and seeks to expose them to the cultural, political, economic and social developments in the region.

The information sector is also developing an interactive ASEAN computer game that takes the player on a mission through the ten ASEAN Member States. Through the computer game, the player will learn about ASEAN, its people and cultures. The game is expected to be completed in 2009.

The promotion of ASEAN awareness is also reflected in recurring projects such as the ASEAN in Action XIV and the ASEAN Television News XIV, which promotes an exchange of news about the region among radio and television broadcasters respectively.

Work is progressing in the area of digital broadcasting cooperation in the region with officials recommending ASEAN to adopt a phased approach towards analogue switch-off, among other things.

More exchanges between the media in ASEAN and Dialogue Partners took place in the past 12 months. ASEAN journalists visited China and India and the media from the Republic of Korea (ROK) visited ASEAN Member States and vice-versa.

On 16 October 2008, ASEAN and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Information and Media Cooperation in Nanning, China. The MoU covers three areas: human resource development, media exchanges and co-productions and information and media network. A work plan is being developed to implement the MoU.

ASEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (AMCA)	
Established	2003, meets once in two years
Last Meeting	3 rd AMCA Meeting, 10-13 January 2008, Nay Pyi Taw
Senior Officials	Senior Officials Meeting for Culture and Arts (SOMCA)

Two more performances of the Best of ASEAN Performing Arts series were held in Jakarta, following the launch of the series on 6-7 May 2008 by Indonesia, with the theme of "Mosaic Archipelago". Thailand showcased the "Tapestry of Thai Beauty and Grace" on 8 August 2008, which coincided with ASEAN's 41st anniversary, while Singapore showcased "Cultural Crossings" on 30 April 2009. Both were performed before an audience ranging from the diplomatic corps in Jakarta to members of the public. The Best of ASEAN Performing Arts is a series to promote ASEAN awareness through the region's rich and diverse cultures.

Other wide-ranging activities that took place to create ASEAN awareness in culture include the production of a coffee table book, "Water: A Unifying Force in ASEAN", and a workshop that gathered experts from the region to discuss the prevention of illicit transfer and illegal trafficking of cultural properties in the region.

On the policy front, work plans on cooperation activities in human resources development in the cultural context, networking on ASEAN cultural heritage, and small and medium-sized cultural enterprises and industry have been completed. The work plans aim to priorities the activities to be implemented over the next three years to build capacity and for networking purpose.

To promote cultural ties with the Republic of Korea (ROK), the ASEAN-Korea traditional music orchestra has been formed. The orchestra was launched at the Commemorative Summit on 1-2 June 2009 in Jeju to mark 20 years of ASEAN-ROK dialogue relations. An ASEAN-ROK cultural night to commemorate the anniversary in Jakarta was also held on 5 June 2009.

To enhance networking and collaboration with ASEAN Plus Three countries, the ASEAN Plus Three Forum on Risk Preparedness for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage has also been held.

ASEAN EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING (ASED)	
Established	2006, meets annually
Last Meeting	4 th ASED Meeting, 5-8 April 2009, Phuket, Thailand
Senior Officials	Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOMED)

ASEAN views education as the vehicle to raise ASEAN awareness, inspire the “we feeling”, and create a sense of belonging to the ASEAN Community and understanding of the richness of ASEAN’s history, languages, culture and common values, particularly among the youth through education and culture. ASEAN Member States also encourage the development of life-long education as well as the use of ICT as a means to promote ASEAN education and ASEAN awareness, particularly for those living in underprivileged and marginalised areas.

Various projects for primary and secondary schools have been implemented. Towards the development of a common curriculum framework on ASEAN for reference by primary and secondary school teachers, an assessment on ASEAN-related content in primary and secondary school curricula and instructional materials has been conducted.

The ASEAN Primary School Sport Olympiad (APSSO) was successfully conducted for the second time in November 2008 in Jakarta. Primary school students from around the region participated in several disciplines such as athletics, football, chess, badminton and table tennis.

The Southeast Asia School Principals Forum conducted its First Conference in August 2008 in Jakarta to strengthen network and regional collaboration among school principals.

Numerous university-level forums have also been convened. The 8th ASEAN Student Exchange Programme was convened in November 2008 in Kuala Lumpur. The ASEAN Plus Three Higher Education Policy Dialogue was organised by Thailand in March 2009. The presidents and representatives of 31 participating universities agreed to establish a network and meet regularly to foster joint collaboration, research and development and promote greater mobility of students and faculty members. Members of the ASEAN University Network (AUN) participated in the 2nd AUN Rectors’ Conference on “A Strategic Management and New Challenges Ahead for University Collaboration” in January 2009 in Brunei Darussalam. The participating rectors had a dialogue on ways to advance education development and regional collaboration. Numerous ASEAN universities also joined the 1st Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Rectors Conference in October 2008 in Berlin, Germany.

ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT (AMMDM)	
Established	2004, meets as necessary
Last Meeting	1 st AMMDM, 7-8 December 2004, Phnom Penh
Senior Officials	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM)

Guided by the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), various initiatives were implemented over the year to help realise the vision of a safer and disaster-resilient ASEAN.

The annual ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) was successfully conducted in August 2008 in Thailand. ARDEX-08, which was the fourth of its kind, simulated a typhoon disaster scenario causing a chemical spill and explosion in Rayong Province, Pattaya, Thailand. The exercise was preceded by a national disaster simulation exercise, code-named CIMEX. Apart from participating teams from ASEAN Member States, teams from the UN, Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement also took part. ARDEX-09, which will simulate a volcanic eruption scenario, will be held in the Philippines in October 2009.

As in the previous year, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), in collaboration with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), organised joint activities to commemorate the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management in conjunction with the International Day for Disaster Reduction. The ACDM and UNISDR organised, for the first time, a regional drawing competition for school children with the theme of a “Safer Community: Hospital, School and House of My Dreams.” ACDM plans to hold another drawing competition in 2009.

Activities in the past year have also focused on disaster information sharing and communication, and capacity building. Activities are being undertaken to improve inter-connectivity among countries, address infrastructure and communication gaps and improve the availability and compatibility of communication devices. The ACDM has also completed the two-year ASEAN-Hyogo Framework for Action Capacity Development Programme by accomplishing five priority training activities to improve regional capacity in disaster preparedness and response. These were: training on contingency planning; training on damage and needs assessment, training for scenario building and conduct of simulation exercises, training on emergency logistics management and international exchange programme for mid-level managers.

In addition, the ASEAN Secretariat has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for a Five-Year Collaboration Project on Disaster Risk Reduction with UNISDR and the World Bank. The tripartite programme lays a framework for technical support from the UN and the World Bank to help ASEAN implement action plans for disaster risk reduction.

The ACDM is also now developing a work programme to operationalise AADMER for the period 2009-2010.

ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE ENVIRONMENT (AMME)	
Established	1981, formal meetings every three years, annual informal meetings in between
Last Meeting	11 th Informal AMME, 8 October 2008, Ha Noi
Senior Officials	ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN)

Celebrations for the ASEAN Environment Year (AEY) 2009 with the theme “Ecotourism: Our Nature, Our Culture”, was successfully held at Champasak Province, Lao PDR on 30-31 March 2009.

In a first for ASEAN, ten cities/townships/districts in the region that have shown exemplary efforts towards environmental sustainability were awarded the inaugural ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City Award (ESC Award).

The ESC Award, aims to encourage cities to share best practices and make greater efforts to achieve high standards of environmental sustainability. Future ESC Awards will be offered on a more competitive basis across States and will include other criteria such as health and sanitation, good governance, public understanding and awareness.

The issue of “environmentally sustainable cities” was also highlighted as one of the immediate priority areas for environmental cooperation within the East Asia Summit process.

There was also welcome progress in the region’s initiatives on climate change with the proposed establishment of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change to foster greater regional cooperation on this issue.

Concerted and focused on-the-ground actions to tackle the transboundary smoke haze problem through the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution continued to be implemented. Regional frameworks such as the Sub-Regional

Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution comprising Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, and the Mekong Technical Working Group comprising Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, added further impetus to tackling forest fires and smoke haze in the respective regions.

The region’s efforts on ensuring marine water quality made progress with the publication of the “ASEAN Marine Water Quality Management Guidelines and Monitoring Manual”. The publication will assist the relevant institutions in ASEAN to build their capacity for monitoring, measurement and analysis and work towards the long-term goal of harmonising water quality standards in ASEAN.

To effectively implement the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan 2008-2012 (AEEAP), a Working Group on Environmental Education (AWGEE) was established and five priority actions identified for immediate implementation, namely (i) Promotion of ASEAN Green Schools; (ii) ASEAN Environmental Education for Sustainable Development Leadership Training; (iii) Promotion of ASEAN Environmental Education Inventory Database (AEEID); (iv) ASEAN Youth for Sustainable Environment Network; and (v) ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Development Film Festival.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP) TO THE ASEAN AGREEMENT ON TRANSBOUNDARY HAZE POLLUTION	
Established	2003, meets at least once every year
Last Meeting	COP-4, 8 October 2008, Ha Noi
Senior Officials	Committee under COP to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution

Since the last major episode of transboundary haze pollution in 2006, there were no serious occurrence of forest fires and transboundary haze pollution thus far. The Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution, comprising the five ASEAN Member States most affected by the haze – Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand – has continued to implement focused and concrete on-the-ground activities to tackle land and forest fires. Indonesia has further strengthened national and provincial level activities through its Plan of Action in Dealing with Transboundary Haze Pollution. The MSC Member States are assisting Indonesia in fire-prone districts/regencies to enhance its capacity to deal with land and forest fires. Singapore provides technical assistance to Jambi Province, while Malaysia provides assistance to Riau Province.

A comprehensive work programme for the implementation of the Haze Agreement is to be developed. A major initiative on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia is due to commence implementation in July 2009. The four-year project received a grant of US\$4.3 million from GEF and will mobilise an additional US\$10.2 million in co-financing during the implementation phase. The project will promote sustainable use of peatlands, promote alternate livelihoods and help to reduce poverty among local communities while at the same time prevent land and forest fires. Peatlands are major sources of sustained smoke haze.

In addition, a Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (TWG Mekong) has agreed on a series of key activities to be implemented in the sub-region, among others enhancement of fire suppression capacity; fire monitoring and prediction; and training workshops covering monitoring of open burning and haze, forest fire prevention and suppression, peatland management and best agricultural practices. The TWG Mekong has also agreed to set targets on hotspots reduction and air quality for the Mekong sub-region.

ASEAN HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING (AHMM)

Established	1980, meets once in two years
Last Meeting	9 th AHMM, 9-10 October 2008, Manila
Senior Officials	Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD)

Regional cooperation in the health sector has focused on issues that are cross-sectoral in nature, such as the prevention and control of communicable diseases, including pandemic preparedness and response, HIV and AIDS and other emerging infectious diseases. Enhancing food safety and pharmaceuticals development were also identified.

ASEAN has put into place regional systems, networks and procedures for communicable diseases including emerging infectious diseases through the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme. Under the guidance of the ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD) funded by the Australian Government (AusAID), the Programme has strengthened regional networks, communication and information sharing and capacity building through various ASEAN platforms, including the ASEAN Plus Three Partnership Laboratories. The revitalised Information Centre on Emerging Infectious Diseases in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries (www.aseanplus3-eid.info) has been an active source of information on EIDs, especially on the Influenza A(H1N1) outbreaks.

ASEAN Member States have also responded collectively to the recent outbreaks of Influenza A(H1N1). The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers convened its Special Meeting on 8 May 2009 in Bangkok and generated consensus and political commitment on key policies to address this serious situation. In addition, during the 62nd World Health Assembly in Geneva in mid May, ASEAN called for a review of the influenza pandemic stages and for the transparent, equitable, and fair access of virus sharing mechanisms, which will be the cornerstone of addressing an influenza pandemic.

Japan continues to support ASEAN in preparing for the potential pandemic through the ASEAN-Japan Project on the Stockpiles of Antivirals and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Against Potential Influenza Pandemic. The project has a regional stockpile of 500,000 courses of antivirals and PPE for 750,000 people. Throughout 2008, the Project also distributed an additional 500,000 courses of antivirals and PPEs for 350,000 people to ASEAN Member States for rapid response and containment purposes. In collaboration with World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office (WHO WPRO), national and/or regional training workshops on outbreak logistics have been conducted for all ASEAN Member States.

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other partner organisations, such as United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), United Nations System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC) and WHO have provided support to ASEAN in forging multi-sectoral collaboration for pandemic preparedness and response, especially with the non-health, essential services, and the private sector as well as civil society organisations.

To ensure the effectiveness of a regional system to prepare and respond to pandemics, ASEAN Member States have developed indicators for the assessment of national multi-sectoral pandemic preparedness and response measures in order to ensure the implementation of sound multi-sectoral pandemic preparedness and response plan on the national level. The ASEAN-wide assessment started in June 2009 with Indonesia as the pilot country.

In the area of HIV and AIDS, ASEAN has implemented key activities of the Third ASEAN Work Programme on HIV and AIDS (2006-2010) supported by UNAIDS, UNDP, USAID and other partners. UNDP has also supported ASEAN to implement key activities to address mobile populations and migrant workers, greater involvement and empowerment of people living with HIV

and a multi-stakeholder dialogue on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for migrant workers.

ASEAN LABOUR MINISTERS MEETING (ALMM)	
Established	1975, meets once in two years
Last Meeting	20 th ALMM, 8 May 2008, Bangkok
Senior Officials	ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM)

Over the past 12 months, the ASEAN cooperation on labour has focused on areas concerning progressive labour practices, occupational safety and health and migrant workers. To support the various activities, ASEAN continues to work closely with several Dialogue Partners such as China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

In the area of progressive labour practices, several activities were successfully carried out including the Seminar on Strengthening Social Protection Systems in ASEAN, which was conducted in August 2008. The Seminar recommended developing regional social protection measures and strengthening social protection systems at the national level. In addition, the Inaugural ASEAN Human Resources Summit was held in Singapore in October 2008 with the theme "Progressive Labour Practices to Enhance the Competitiveness of ASEAN". The Summit provided a forum for ASEAN Labour Ministers and other stakeholders such as labour administrators, the private sector, social partners and academics.

ASEAN's labour officials have also adopted a Work Plan for 2009-2010 highlighting nine priority areas, namely human resource, social security, industrial relations, skills development and networking, skills recognition, labour law, labour statistics, decent work and corporate social responsibility.

The ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET) continued to make progress in promoting Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in the region. Workshops and policy dialogues on the implementation of National Promotional Frameworks, OSH Management Systems and on Good OSH Practices have all been held recently.

Work has also begun in the wake of the adoption of the Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers by the ASEAN Leaders at their 12th Summit in January 2007. A specific body, namely, the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW), was established in September 2008. A workshop on the scope of coverage and rights of migrant workers has been held and a team under the ACMW assigned to draft the key principles for an ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the

rights of migrant workers has been established. The team has started its drafting process in early April 2009.

ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION (AMRDPE)	
Established	1997, meets once in two years
Last Meeting	6 th AMRDPE, 27 May 2009, Ha Noi
Senior Officials	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE)

ASEAN's efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the region continued unabated in the year under review. At the 14th ASEAN Summit held in Thailand in March 2009, the ASEAN Leaders, in the Joint Declaration on the Attainment of the MDGs in ASEAN, called for the development of a Roadmap on the MDGs. The Roadmap would serve as a framework for collective action among ASEAN Member States to achieve the MDGs focusing on five key areas, namely advocacy and linkages, knowledge, resources, expertise and regional cooperation and regional public goods.

To address the social impacts of the global financial crisis, the High-Level Forum on Reducing Vulnerability in the Face of Crisis was held in February 2009 at the ASEAN Secretariat. Attended by relevant government officials from the ASEAN Plus Three Countries and representatives from various international organisations, the Forum came up with a number of recommendations to be undertaken at both regional and national levels. As a follow up to the Forum, the ASEAN Assessment on the Social Impact of the Global Financial Crisis will be conducted in the second half of 2009 with the support of AusAID.

In addressing issues pertaining to rural development and poverty eradication and in narrowing the development gap in the region, a more concerted effort by Member States in the spirit of "ASEAN-Help-ASEAN" has been stressed. Such initiatives would include documenting best practices and challenges of ASEAN Member States in implementing their respective policies and programmes on rural development and poverty eradication to facilitate information sharing among Member States.

Various initiatives carried out under this sector mainly involve promoting community-driven activities and people-to-people interactions aimed at narrowing the development gap in the region. These include (i) the ASEAN Rural Youth Volunteers Movement to bring together youth professional volunteers from the region to support rural communities in their development efforts, (ii) ASEAN Plus Three Village Leaders Exchange

Programme in building the capacity of village leaders among Member States in promoting development in rural areas through building of networks, enhancing knowledge through study visits and exchanging of experiences, and (iii) the sharing of Thailand's best practices on the Baan Mankong Programme, which is a city-wide "Cities without Slums" housing development programme, and other grass roots economic development and poverty alleviation programmes, such the One Tambon One Product (OTOP), Urban Community and Village Fund (UCVF) and the Sufficiency Economy Fund.

ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (AMMSWD)	
Established	1979, meets once in three years
Last Meeting	6 th AMMSWD, 7 December 2007, Ha Noi
Senior Officials	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSVD)

ASEAN's cooperation in the area of social welfare has been guided by the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Social Welfare, Family and Population, both the first one for 2003-2006 and the second one for 2007-2010.

Numerous activities have been completed over the year to implement the Strategic Framework. Work is currently under way to develop the Term of Reference (TOR) to establish an ASEAN Consortium of Social Welfare Practitioners, Educators and Schools of Social Work.

Regional level workshops have been held on issues such as prevention of domestic violence with emphasis on community based programmes and on rehabilitation of perpetrators of domestic violence in ASEAN Member States, as well as institutional mechanisms, administration and technical aspects of the production and service delivery of low-cost assistive devices for people with disabilities have also been covered.

To promote regular dialogues and joint cooperation with civil societies, the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on social welfare and development has been held regularly since 2006 with the most recent one held in Manila in December 2008, which provided a set of recommendations in the areas of social protection, trafficking in persons and climate change. To further institutionalise the existence of the Forum, the TOR of the GO-NGO Forum is currently being drafted.

Projects with ASEAN Dialogue Partners also continued to be implemented over the period under review. The 6th ASEAN-Japan High Level Meetings on Caring Societies was held in September 2008 in Tokyo, Japan, with the theme "Healthy Next Generation: Strengthening Joint Collaboration between Health and Social

Welfare" where both sides shared experiences, lessons learnt and good practices on maternal and child health, insurance and social programme. Phase II (2006-2009) of the ASEAN-ROK Home Care for Older People in the ASEAN Countries Project has been completed and the implementation of Phase III (2009- 2011) has started.

The Project on Capacity Development in Disability and Development for CLMV Government Officers, which is coordinated by the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID), is on-going.

ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON YOUTH (AMMY)	
Established	1992, meets once in two years
Last Meeting	AMMY VI, 25 June 2009, Bangkok
Senior Officials	Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY)

Activities to promote young employability and entrepreneurship in the region have continued over the year under review. The ASEANpreneurs Youth Leaders Exchange was held in Singapore on 15-21 May 2008 where delegates were given the chance to understand the entrepreneurial scene in ASEAN.

Towards the establishment of a China-ASEAN Youth Entrepreneurs Association (CAYEA), the China-ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Forum was held on 20-25 October 2008 in Nanning, China, in conjunction with the 5th China-ASEAN Expo.

Youth activities in other areas, such as culture and arts, science, the environment, leadership and organisational skills, have also been implemented.

The ASEAN University Students Conference was convened in May 2009 bringing together university students and youth from the region to exchange views and ideas on how they could play an important role in enriching and preserving cultural heritage in ASEAN Member States. The Conference adopted a Joint Statement on "the Voice of ASEAN Students to Enrich and Preserve Cultural Heritage in Daily Life".

The ASEAN Plus Three Leadership Executive Programme was held from 29 March to 5 April 2009 in Singapore to provide an opportunity for youth leaders to build network, enhance capacity on leadership and exchange views on youth sector organisational development.

Singapore also hosted the ASEAN Plus Three Youth Festival, including an environmental photography competition, from 28 July to 3 August 2008. The ASEAN Youth Science Summit was hosted by the Philippines in July 2008 in Manila. Following the success implementation of the 14th ASEAN Youth Day Meeting in

February 2008 in Vientiane, the 15th Meeting is scheduled in the second half of 2009 in Yangon. The ASEAN Youth Awards will be presented in the Meeting to acknowledge the achievements of ten outstanding youth from ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN Youth Award is one of the permanent features of Youth@ASEAN Homepage (www.aseanyouth.org) hosted by Singapore.

Various youth exchange programmes are also to be continued between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners. The ASEAN-China Youth Camp 2009 was convened in May 2009 (with the theme “China and ASEAN youth join hands in responding to the challenges rising from the global economic crisis”) to promote closer friendships and exchange of ideas amongst youths through various fun activities, such as cultural exchange, tree-planting, environmental protection activity and visits to local economic productive bases and universities.

Implementation of the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths Programme (JENESYS) has been on-going with the sponsorship of Japan. Six thousand youths from the East Asia Summit (EAS) Countries are expected to be engaged under the Programme until 2012. This year also marks the 36th Ship for Southeast Asian Youth (SSEAYP) Programme.

The National Council of Youth Organisations in Korea (NCYOK) organised the 11th ASEAN-ROK Youth Exchange Programme on 19-26 February 2009 in Seoul and Gangwon-Do. The programme was aimed at recognising the need for youths of ASEAN and the ROK to gather and share insights on current issues that affect their lives and future. This year’s programme was held with a theme of “Development of Global Youth Leadership for Mutual Prosperity of Asia”.

ASEAN CONFERENCE ON CIVIL SERVICE MATTERS (ACCSM)	
Established	1980 (former name: ASEAN Conference on Reform in the Civil Service, ACRCS), meets every two years
Last Meeting	The Preparatory Meeting of the 15 th ACCSM, 28-29 April 2009, Vientiane
Senior Officials	Preparatory Meeting of the ACCSM

The issue of civil service accountability and good governance continue to be addressed by the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM). An ASEAN Forum on Civil Service Accountability and Good Governance, co-organised by Indonesia and Singapore, was held in Bukit Tinggi, Indonesia on 27 October 2008. The participants to the Forum exchanged views on future regional cooperation and shared their experiences on accountability and good governance.

For the period under review, the ACCSM also reviewed the status of implementation of activities of the ASEAN Resource Centres located in each ASEAN Member State and ACCSM projects to enhance quality of public service. The operationalisation of the ACCSM Work Plan (2008-2012), which was adopted in October 2007, was also reviewed taking into account actions related to ACCSM under the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan Phase 2.

The ACCSM also met for the first time with their counterparts from the Plus Three countries to explore the possibility to cooperate and share experiences on civil service matters.

ASEAN COMMITTEE ON WOMEN (ACW)	
Established	1976 (former name: ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women)
Last Meeting	7 th ACW, 22-23 October 2008, Ha Noi
Senior Officials	ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW)

As called for by the ASEAN Leaders in 2004, the establishment of an ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children is currently being worked on.

Significant efforts have been made to promote gender equality and to address violence against women. Workshops and seminars on domestic violence legislation, rights of women migrant workers and on family violence have all provided a platform for relevant stakeholders to share knowledge and best practice in the areas.

Activities with ASEAN Dialogue Partners have also been implemented. The Second China-ASEAN High Level Women’s Forum was hosted by China in Nanning in October 2008 in conjunction with the 5th China-ASEAN Expo. Following the success implementation of the 1st ASEAN Plus Three Human Security Symposium on Women and Poverty Eradication in 2007 in Tokyo, the Second Symposium is planned to be conducted in the second half of 2009.



ASEAN Calendar of Meetings

June 2008-May 2009



ASEAN SUMMIT		
28 February 2009	4 th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Summit	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
28 February 2009	5 th Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
28 February 2009	ASEAN Heads of State/Government Informal Meeting with ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Representatives	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
28 February 2009	ASEAN Heads of State/Government Informal Meeting with ASEAN Youth Representatives	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
28 February 2009	ASEAN Heads of State/Government Informal Meeting with ASEAN Civil Society Representatives	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
28 February 2009	ASEAN Heads of State/Government Informal Meeting with ABAC Leaders	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
28-29 February 2009	14 th ASEAN Summit	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY		
ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM)		
4 June 2008	Meeting of the 31 st Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force	Jakarta
4-6 June 2008	3 rd Meeting of the 41 st ASEAN Standing Committee (3/41 ASC)	Jakarta
17 July 2008	Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) Informal Working Dinner	Singapore
17 July 2008	ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC) Informal Working Dinner	Singapore
17 July 2008	Meeting of the 32 nd Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force	Singapore
18 July 2008	Meeting with Working Group for ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism	Singapore
18-19 July 2008	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)	Singapore
18-19 July 2008	4 th Meeting of the 41 st ASEAN Standing Committee (4/41 ASC)	Singapore
21 July 2008	41 st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM)	Singapore
21 July 2008	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting Retreat	Singapore
21 July 2008	ASEAN Foreign Ministers Working Lunch	Singapore
21 July 2008	ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting with the High Level Panel (HLP) on the ASEAN Human Rights Body	Singapore
21 July 2008	ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting with High Level Legal Experts Group (HLEG) on the ASEAN Charter	Singapore
21 July 2008	1 st Meeting of the High Level Panel on ASEAN Human Rights Body (HLP)	Singapore
21 July 2008	1 st Meeting of the High Level Legal Experts Group on the ASEAN Charter (HLEG)	Singapore
18 August 2008	Meeting of the 33 rd Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force	Bangkok
26 February 2009	ASEAN Directors-Generals Preparatory Meeting	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
27 February 2009	Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
27 February 2009	ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
27 February 2009	ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting with High Level Panel on the ASEAN Human Rights Body (HLP)	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
27 February 2009	ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting with High Level Legal Experts Group on Follow up to the ASEAN Charter (HLEG)	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
26 February 2009	ASEAN Senior Officials Preparatory Meeting	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
3 May 2009	Working Group to Draft the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit	Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
11-15 May 2009	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (ASEAN SOM)	Thailand
13-15 May 2009	12 th High Level Panel on ASEAN Human Rights Body	Ha Noi
SEANWFZ Commission		
17-18 July 2008	Meeting of the Working Group of the Executive Commission of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Commission	Singapore
21 July 2008	Meeting of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Commission	Singapore
11-15 May 2009	Executive Committee of SEANWFZ Commission	Thailand
ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)		
25-27 February 2009	3 rd ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)	Pattaya, Thailand
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)		
3-5 June 2008	Workshop, Training and Working Group Meeting on Facilitating the Entry into Force and Implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism	Jakarta
11-20 March 2009	52 nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)	Vienna
4-7 May 2009	7 th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC)	Ha Noi
12-16 May 2009	29 th ASEAN Chief of Police Conference (ASEANAPOL)	Ha Noi

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)		
23 July 2008	Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Defence Officials	Singapore
24 July 2008	15 th ASEAN Regional Forum	Singapore
24 July 2008	15 th ASEAN Regional Forum Retreat	Singapore
19-22 April 2009	ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBMs and PD)	Seoul
22-25 April 2009	ARF Seminar on Laws and Regulation on Disaster Relief Cooperation	Beijing
4-8 May 2009	ARF Voluntary Demonstration of Response on Disaster Relief	Central Luzon, Philippines
20 May 2009	ARF Senior Officials Meeting	Phuket, Thailand
18-22 May 2009	Peacekeeping Course for ARF Member Countries	New Delhi
20 May 2009	ARF Senior Officials Meeting	Phuket, Thailand
ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY		
ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM)		
24- 25 June 2008	1 st Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Consumer Protection (1 st ACCCP)	Kuala Lumpur
8-10 July 2008	55 th Meeting of ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS 55)	Ha Noi
31 July-1 August 2008	2 nd Meeting of ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (2 nd AEGC)	Singapore
3 August 2008	Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) Working Dinner	Brunei Darussalam
4-6 August 2008	4 th Meeting of the 39 th Senior Economic Officials Meeting (4/39 SEOM)	Brunei Darussalam
19-20 August 2008	14 th High Level Task Force Meeting	Kuala Lumpur
24 August 2008	Preparatory Senior Economic Officials Meeting	Singapore
26-27 August 2008	40 th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (40 th AEM)	Singapore
27 August 2008	ASEAN Economic Ministers-ASEAN Business Advisory Council Consultations (AEM-ABAC)	Singapore
27 August 2008	ASEAN Economic Ministers-US Advisory Business Council Consultations (AEM-US ABC)	Singapore
28 August 2008	ASEAN Economic Ministers Plus Six Working Lunch (AEM+6)	Singapore
9-10 September 2008	Special Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (Special AWGIPC)	Kuala Lumpur
30-31 October 2008	56 th Meeting of ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS 56)	Medan, Indonesia
3-7 November 2008	30 th Meeting of ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (30 th AWGIPC)	Hoi An, Viet Nam
4-5 November 2008	23 rd ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG) Meeting	Vientiane
5 November 2008	4 th Joint Consultation between the ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprises Agencies Working Group (SMEWG) and the SME Agencies of the Plus Three Countries	Vientiane
2-3 February 2009	Special Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (Special AWGIPC)	Jakarta
2-4 February 2009	2 nd Meeting of the 40 th Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM 2/40)	Bangkok
5 February 2009	Committee of the Whole for ASEAN Economic Community	Bangkok
6-7 February 2009	Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) Consultations with Dialogue Partners	Bangkok
9-11 February 2009	57 th Meeting on ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS 57)	Kuala Lumpur
26 February 2009	ASEAN Senior Economic Officials Preparatory Meeting	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
27 February 2009	Informal ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
27 February 2009	ASEAN Economic Council Meeting	Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand
25-26 March 2009	3 rd Meeting of ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (3 rd AEGC)	Kuala Lumpur
22-23 April 2009	Special Meeting of ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services (Special CCS)	Bali, Indonesia
20-21 May 2009	24 th ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG) Meeting	Putra Jaya, Malaysia
21 May 2009	5 th Joint Consultation between the ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprises Agencies Working Group (SMEWG) and the SME Agencies of the Plus Three Countries	Putra Jaya, Malaysia
25-27 May 2009	9 th Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Dispute Settlement Mechanism	Jakarta
ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council		
26 August 2008	ASEAN Economic Ministers-ASEAN Free Trade Area Council Meeting (AEM-AFTA)	Singapore
20-22 October 2008	28 th ASEAN Task Force on Rules of Origin (ROOTF)	Vientiane
23-25 October 2008	52 nd Coordinating Committee on the Implementation of the CEPT for AFTA (CCCA)	Vientiane
12-14 January 2009	29 th ASEAN Task Force on Rules of Origin (ROOTF)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
15-17 January 2009	53 rd Coordinating Committee on the Implementation of the CEPT for AFTA (CCCA)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
28-30 March 2009	30 th ASEAN Task Force on Rules of Origin (ROOTF)	Manila
31 March-2 April 2009	54 th Coordinating Committee on the Implementation of the CEPT for AFTA (CCCA)	Manila

16 May 2009	Special CCCA Session on ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR)	Singapore
17 May 2009	Joint Consultation between CCCA and CCC on Self-Certification	Singapore
ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council		
2-5 July 2008	7 th Working Group on ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement	Jakarta
6-7 July 2008	39 th Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI) Meeting	Jakarta
1-2 August 2008	8 th Working Group on ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement	Kuala Lumpur
13-15 August 2008	Legal Scrubbing of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement	Singapore
25 August 2008	Pre-ASEAN Economic Ministers – 11 th ASEAN Investment Area Council Meeting (Pre-AEM – AIA Council)	Singapore
26 August 2008	ASEAN Economic Ministers – 11 th ASEAN Investment Area Council Meeting (AEM – AIA Council)	Singapore
19-20 September 2008	Joint Coordinating Committee on Investment-Working Group on ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (Joint CCI-WG-ACIA) Meeting	Makati City, Philippines
8-10 October 2008	18 th ASEAN Working Group on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics	Luang Prabang, Lao PDR
20-22 November 2008	40 th Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI) Meeting	Singapore
11-13 March 2009	41 st Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI) Meeting	Myanmar
2-3 April 2009	19 th ASEAN Working Group on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (WGFDIS)	Singapore
16-17 April 2009	Special Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI) Meeting	Singapore
25-27 May 2009	42 nd Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI) Meeting	Bali, Indonesia
ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting (AFMM)		
5-6 June 2008	4 th Coordinating Committee on Customs Meeting (4 th CCC)	Jakarta
5-6 June 2008	17 th Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Directors-General (17 th ASEAN Customs DGs)	Vientiane
11-13 August 2008	6 th Meeting of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) Working Group on Technical Matters (6 th TWG)	Semarang, Indonesia
14-15 August 2008	3 rd Session of the Expert Group Meeting for ASEAN Single Window (ASW)	Semarang, Indonesia
18-19 August 2008	5 th Meeting of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) Working Group on Legal and Regulatory Matters (5 th LWG)	Semarang, Indonesia
22-24 September 2008	4 th Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group (4 th CECWG)	Manila
20-22 October 2008	7 th Meeting of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) Working Group on Technical Matters (7 th TWG)	Kuala Lumpur
23-24 October 2008	4 th Session of the Expert Group Meeting on ASEAN Single Window (ASW)	Kuala Lumpur
27-30 October 2008	5 th Meeting of Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (5 th CPTFWG Meeting)	Kuala Lumpur
5 November 2008	Council of Bureaux	Bandar Seri Begawan
6 November 2008	11 th ASEAN Insurance Regulators Meeting (AIRM)	Bandar Seri Begawan
20-21 January 2009	Taskforce on Chiang-Mai Initiative (CMI) Multilateralisation	Pattaya, Thailand
22 January 2009	Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) Taskforce Meeting on CGIM	Pattaya, Thailand
23 January 2009	Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) Co-Chair Coordination Meeting	Pattaya, Thailand
22-23 January 2009	ASEAN Capital Market Forum	Pattaya, Thailand
3 March 2009	Working Committee on Capital Account Liberalisation (WC-CAL)	Phuket, Thailand
4 March 2009	Working Committee on Financial Services Liberalisation (WC-FSL)	Phuket, Thailand
5 March 2009	ASEAN Infrastructure Financing Mechanism	Phuket, Thailand
5 March 2009	Working Committee on Capital Market Development (WC-CMD)	Phuket, Thailand
6 March 2009	ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Working Group Meeting (AFDM-WG)	Phuket, Thailand
7 March 2009	Technical WG on Economic and Financial Monitoring (ETWG)	Phuket, Thailand
8 March 2009	Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI) Task Force	Phuket, Thailand
9 March 2009	Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI) Steering Group Meeting	Phuket, Thailand
10-11 March 2009	Task Force on Chiang-Mai Initiative (CMI) Multilateralisation	Phuket, Thailand
11 March 2009	Group of Expert Meeting	Phuket, Thailand
5 April 2009	ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting Working Group (AFDM-WG)	Bangkok
6 April 2009	ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting (AFDM)	Bangkok
7 April 2009	ASEAN Central Bank Governors' Meeting	Bangkok
9 April 2009	13 th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM)	Pattaya, Thailand
1 May 2009	Special Working Level Meetings	Bali, Indonesia
2-5 May 2009	ASEAN Investment Day 2009	Bali, Indonesia
6 May 2009	ASEAN-IDB Technical Meeting	Jakarta
6-8 May 2009	23 rd ASEF Board of Governors (BOG) Meeting	Budapest

ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)		
24-28 June 2008	2 nd Cooperative Business Forum, the 14 th Meeting of ASEAN Centre for Development of Agricultural Cooperatives (ACEDAC) Board, 10 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Agricultural Cooperatives	Vientiane
8-10 July 2008	15 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Agriculture Training and Extension (AWGATE)	Bangkok
11-12 July 2008	Awareness Seminar on ASEAN Good Agricultural Practises (GAP)	Bandar Seri Begawan
14-18 July 2008	11 th Meeting of Expert Working Group on the Harmonization of PS Measures; and 15 th Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops	Nay Pyi Taw
29 July-1 August 2008	11 th Meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group on Herbal and Medicinal Plants; 10 th Meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group on Research and Development for Forest Products; 10 th Seminar on Current International Issues Effecting Forestry and Forest Products; 11 th Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF)	Kuala Lumpur
5-7 August 2008	Special SOM-29 th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture & Forestry (AMAF)	Chiang Mai, Thailand
23-25 September 2008	Meeting of ASEAN Ad hoc Taskforce on Food Security	Jakarta
20-21 October 2008	Senior Officials Meeting of the 30 th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture & Forestry (SOM-30 th AMAF)	Ha Noi
23 October 2008	30 th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (30 th AMAF)	Ha Noi
6-7 November 2008	11 th Meeting of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG)	Singapore
12-15 January 2009	Workshop on Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and the 13 th Meeting of Expert Working Group on Harmonization of MRLs of Pesticides	Nay Pyi Taw
20-22 January 2009	Meeting of Ad-hoc Task Force on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)	Jakarta
10-12 February 2009	2 nd Regional Knowledge Network on Forest Climate Change	Kuala Lumpur
6-7 April 2009	4 th Meeting of the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN)	Kuala Lumpur
8-9 April 2009	5 th Meeting of AEG on International Forest Policy Processes (IFPP)	Kuala Lumpur
8-9 April 2009	8 th Meeting of the ASEAN Ad-hoc WG on a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification	Bandar Seri Begawan
14-16 April 2009	5 th Meeting on Task Force on ASEAN Standards and for Horticulture Produce (MASHP)	Puerto Princesa, Philippines
28-30 April 2009	4 th Meeting of the ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
5-8 May 2009	8 th Meeting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Task Force Meeting and 17 th Meeting of the ASWG on Livestock	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
11-12 May 2009	4 th AARNET Steering Committee Meeting	Bangkok
18-19 May 2009	12 th Meeting of the Expert Working Group on Harmonisation of PS Measures	Manila
20-22 May 2009	16 th Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops	Manila
19-20 May 2009	6 th Meeting of the ASEAN Genetically Modified Food Testing Network	Jakarta
ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM)		
4 August 2008	26 th Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME)	Bangkok
7 August 2008	26 th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM)	Bangkok
13-14 May 2009	Special Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME)	Bangkok
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin)		
13 October 2008	6 th Working Group Meeting on Information and Mineral Database (WGMID)	Manila
13 October 2008	6 th Working Group Meeting on Sustainable Mineral Development (WGSMD)	Manila
13 October 2008	6 th Working Group Meeting on Capacity Building in Minerals (WGCBM)	Manila
13 October 2008	6 th Working Group Meeting on Trade and Investment in Minerals (WGTIM)	Manila
14 October 2008	9 th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals (ASOMM)	Manila
16 October 2008	2 nd ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Minerals (AMMin)	Manila
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST)		
1-2 July 2008	37 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Biotechnology (SCB)	Manila
1-2 July 2008	35 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Food Science and Technology (SCFST)	Manila
1-2 July 2008	35 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on S&T Infrastructure and Resources Development (SCIRD)	Manila
1-2 July 2008	34 th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Microelectronics and Information Technology (SCMIT)	Manila
1-2 July 2008	Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Marine Science and Technology (SCMSAT)	Manila
1-2 July 2008	35 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Non-Conventional Energy Research (SCNCER)	Manila
1-2 July 2008	17 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Space Technology and Application (SCOSA)	Manila
2 July 2008	12 th Meeting of the Advisory Body of the ASEAN Plan of Action on S&T (ABAPAST)	Manila

2 July 2008	13 th Meeting of the Advisory Body of the ASEAN Science Fund (ASF)	Manila
2 July 2008	2 nd Meeting of the Executive Committee on the ASEAN Science and Technology Week (ECASTW)	Manila
3-5 July 2008	55 th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST-55)	Manila
7 July 2008	5 th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST-5)	Manila
8 July 2008	Informal Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology between ASEAN and Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea	Manila
9-10 July 2008	ASEAN Youth Science Summit (AYSS)	Manila
1-2 November 2008	38 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Biotechnology (SCB)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
1-2 November 2008	36 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Food Science and Technology (SCFST)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
1-2 November 2008	36 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on S&T Infrastructure and Resources Development (SCIRD)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
1-2 November 2008	35 th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Microelectronics and Information Technology (SCMIT)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
1-2 November 2008	Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Marine Science and Technology (SCMSAT)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
1-2 November 2008	Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Materials Science and Technology (SCMST)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
1-2 November 2008	36 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Non-Conventional Energy Research (SCNCER)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
1-2 November 2008	18 th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Space Technology and Application (SCOSA)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
2 November 2008	13 th Meeting of the Advisory Body of the ASEAN Plan of Action on S&T (ABAPAST)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
2 November 2008	14 th Meeting of the Advisory Body of the ASEAN Science Fund (ASF)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
3-5 November 2008	56 th Meeting of Committee on Science and Technology (COST)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
25-30 May 2009	57 th Committee on Science and Technology (COST)	Bali, Indonesia
ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (TELMIN)		
18-20 June 2008	14 th ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council Meeting (ATRC)	Singapore
18-20 June 2008	ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council MRA Joint Sectoral Committee (JSC)	Singapore
1-4 July 2008	Special ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Senior Officials Meeting (Special TELSOM)	Manila
30 July 2008	3 rd ASEAN-China Working Group Meeting on Information Superhighway	Guangzhou, China
22-23 August 2008	Roundtable on ASEAN Information Infrastructure	Bali, Indonesia
25 August 2008	Telecommunications and IT Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM) Joint Working Group Meeting	Bali, Indonesia
25-27 August 2008	9 th Telecommunications and IT Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM) and Related Meetings (with China, Japan, Republic of Korea, India, International Telecommunication Union and European Commission)	Bali, Indonesia
23 October 2008	ASEAN ICT Business Forum	Nanning, China
21 November 2008	22 nd Meeting of the ASEAN Crisis Communications Team	Kuching, Malaysia
23-28 November 2008	ASEAN Cyberkids Camp	Selangor, Malaysia
12-13 January 2009	ASEAN ICT Skills Standard Development	Bangkok
12-23 February 2009	ICT to Empowering Homeworkers in ASEAN Countries	Bangkok
23-25 February 2009	ASEAN Certification in IPv6 Network Engineering and Application Development Training	Penang, Malaysia
4-5 March 2009	Telecommunications and IT Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM) Leaders Retreat	Bukittinggi, Indonesia
25-26 March 2009	Workshop on the ASEAN e-Network Project for CLMV Countries	New Delhi
26-29 April 2009	TELSOM Joint Working Groups, Working Groups Meetings and Related Meetings with Dialogue Partners	Hoi An, Viet Nam
18-19 May 2009	1 st Task Force Meeting on ASEAN ICT Master Plan for 2020	Singapore
21-22 May 2009	ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council (ATRC) Technical Working Group Meeting & Joint Sectoral Committee MRA Preparatory Meeting	Subic Bay, Philippines
27 May-5 June 2009	ASEAN Rural ICT Development Course	Seoul
ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM)		
5-6 August 2008	16 th Transport Facilitation Working Group Meeting (TFWG)	Singapore
12 August 2008	2 nd Meeting of the Fifth Round of ASEAN Air Transport Sectoral Negotiations (ATSN)	Kuala Lumpur
12-14 August 2008	18 th ASEAN Air Transport Working Group (ATWG) Meeting	Kuala Lumpur
20-21 August 2008	14 th ASEAN Land Transport Working Group (LTWG) Meeting	Bandar Seri Begawan
26-27 August 2008	16 th ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group (TFWG) Meeting	Singapore
9-11 September 2008	16 th ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) Meeting	Nha Trang, Viet Nam
3-4 November 2008	26 th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM)	Manila
6 November 2008	14 th ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting	Manila

10-12 March 2009	17 th ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) Meeting	Hue, Viet Nam
17 March 2009	3 rd Meeting of the Fifth Round of ASEAN Air Transport Sectoral Negotiations (ATSN)	Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia
18-20 March 2009	19 th ASEAN Air Transport Working Group (ATWG) Meeting	Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia
7-8 April 2009	17 th ASEAN Transport Facilitation Working Group (TFWG) Meeting	Singapore
6-7 May 2009	15 th ASEAN Land Transport Working Group (LTWG) Meeting	Bandar Seri Begawan
27-29 May 2009	27 th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM)	Da Nang, Viet Nam
Meeting of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM)		
6-7 July 2008	ASEAN Tourism Investment Forum	Manila
8 July 2008	24 th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development	Manila
8 July 2008	34 th Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Tourism Marketing	Manila
9-10 July 2008	28 th Meeting of the ASEAN National Tourism Organisations (NTOs)	Manila
11 July 2008	ASEAN National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) Retreat	Manila
19 November 2008	35 th Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Tourism Marketing	Kuching, Malaysia
19 November 2008	8 th Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Tourism Standards	Kuching, Malaysia
20 November 2008	25 th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development	Kuching, Malaysia
22 November 2008	20 th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Investment	Kuching, Malaysia
22 November 2008	9 th ASEAN Cruise Working Group Meeting	Kuching, Malaysia
23 November 2008	Meeting of the ASEAN NTOs Fund Project Management Committee	Kuching, Malaysia
23 November 2008	9 th Meeting of the Special Working Group on ASEAN Tourism Integration	Kuching, Malaysia
5-12 January 2009	ASEAN Tourism Forum: "ASEAN Tourism – Striving for a New Height"	Ha Noi
6 January 2009	29 th Meeting of the ASEAN National Tourism Organisations (NTOs)	Ha Noi
8 January 2009	12 th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM)	Ha Noi
28 April 2009	36 th Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Tourism Marketing	Yangon, Myanmar
29 April 2009	27 th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development	Yangon, Myanmar
29 April 2009	9 th Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Tourism Standards	Yangon, Myanmar
30 April 2009	21 st Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Investment	Yangon, Myanmar
30 April 2009	10 th ASEAN Cruise Working Group Meeting	Yangon, Myanmar
ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC)		
9 August 2008	ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) Steering Committee Meeting	Brunei Darussalam
29 August 2008	ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) Ministerial Meeting	Singapore
21-22 October 2008	Meeting of the 10 th Special Working Group on the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SWG SKRL)	Putrajaya, Malaysia
ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY		
ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI)		
1-3 July 2008	43 rd Meeting of the ASEAN-COCI	Nay Pyi Taw
12-13 January 2009	10 th Meeting of the ASEAN-COCI Sub-Committee on Information (SCI)	Pampanga, Philippines
ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA)		
1-3 July 2008	43 rd Meeting of the ASEAN-COCI/6 th Meeting of SOMCA	Nay Pyi Taw
20- 21 August 2008	2 nd Meeting of the WG-SMCE's	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
20- 21 October 2008	2 nd ASEAN SOMCA WG meeting on HRD in the Cultural Context	Singapore
20-21 November 2008	10 th Meeting of the ASEAN-COCI Sub-Committee on Culture (SCC)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
19-20 February 2009	7 th Meeting of the Advisory Group of the ASEAN Cultural Fund and the ASEAN Development Fund	Bali, Indonesia
ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED)		
19-20 January 2009	3 rd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOMED)	Bangkok
29-31 January 2009	24 th ASEAN University Network Board of Trustees Meeting (AUN-BOT)	Brunei Darussalam
29-31 January 2009	2 nd ASEAN University Network (AUN) Rectors' Conference	Brunei Darussalam
5-8 April 2009	Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the 4 th Senior Officials on Education Meeting (PrepSOM for the 4 th ASED)	Phuket, Thailand
5-8 April 2009	4 th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOMED)	Phuket, Thailand
8-12 April 2009	4 th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Education (4 th ASED)	Phuket, Thailand
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM)		
29 August 2008	12 th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM)	Pattaya, Thailand
1 December 2008	Informal Meeting of the ACDM	Kuala Lumpur
18-19 February 2009	13 th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM)	Nay Pyi Taw

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)		
19- 20 June 2008	12 th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Multilateral Environment Agreements (AWGMEA)	Kuala Lumpur
23-25 June 2008	8 th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Water Resource Management (AWGWRM)	Singapore
2-4 July 2008	18 th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
3-4 July 2008	9 th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal Marine Environment (AWGCME)	Manila
23-25 July 2008	6 th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC)	Palembang, Indonesia
4-6 August 2008	19 th Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN)	Singapore
8 October 2008	11 th Informal Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME)	Ha Noi
13 March 2009	Meeting of Ad Hoc ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change	Bangkok
30-31 March 2009	ASEAN Environment Year 2000	Champasak, Lao PDR
Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP)		
6 October 2008	3 rd Meeting of the Committee under the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COM-3)	Ha Noi
8 October 2008	4 th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP-4)	Ha Noi
28 April 2009	7 th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution (TWG Southern)	Bandar Seri Begawan
29 April 2009	7 th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution	Bandar Seri Begawan
21 May 2009	3 rd Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (TWG Mekong)	Ha Noi
ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM)		
7-8 October 2008	Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) for 9 th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM)	Manila
9-10 October 2008	9 th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM)	Manila
14-16 October 2008	24 th ASEAN Working Group on Pharmaceuticals Development (AWGPD)	Manila
3-5 November 2008	16 th Meeting of ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA)	Ha Noi
18-19 November 2008	6 th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE)	Singapore
12-16 January 2009	10 th Meeting of the ACCSQ Traditional Medicine and Health Supplement (TMHS PWG)	Bangkok
ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM)		
18- 20 August 2008	Seminar on Strengthening Social Protection Systems in ASEAN: The Way Forward	Kuala Lumpur
15-16 September 2008	1 st Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW)	Singapore
22-25 September 2008	ASEAN-ILO Workshop on Core International Labour Standards for ASEAN Countries	Singapore
25 November-4 December 2008	11 th Human Resource Development (HRD) Programme for Officials in ASEAN Countries	Seoul
18-19 February 2009	ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health (OSHNET) Workshop on Good OSH Practices	Singapore
26-27 February 2009	1 st Regional Seminar of the ASEAN-ILO/Japan Industrial Relations Project	Bogor, Indonesia
26-27 March 2009	ACMW Workshop on the Scope of Coverage and Rights of Migrant Workers	Manila
30 -31 March 2009	1 st Meeting of Senior Labour Officials Meeting Working Group (SLOM-WG) on Progressive Labour Practises to Enhance the Competitiveness of ASEAN	Bangkok
1 April 2009	1 st Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW)'S Instrument Drafting Team	Bangkok
8-9 April 2009	10 th ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (OSHNET) Coordinating Board Meeting (CBM)	Siem Reap, Cambodia
12-13 May 2009	6 th ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM)	Vientiane
ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE)		
25-26 May 2009	Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the 6 th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (PrepSOM for the 6 th AMRDPE)	Ha Noi
27 May 2009	6 th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (6 th AMRDPE)	Ha Noi

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY)		
23 June 2009	Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the 6 th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (PrepSOM for AMMY VI)	Bangkok
25 June 2009	6 th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY VI)	Bangkok
ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM)		
29-30 October 2008	14 th ACCSM Technical and Informal Meeting	Bukit Tinggi, Indonesia
6 December 2008	International Seminar on Public Administration and Public Governance in ASEAN Member Countries and Republic of Korea	Seoul
23 March 2009	ACCSM Working Group for the Operationalisation of the ACCSM Work Plan	Jakarta
28-29 April 2009	Preparatory Meeting for the 15 th ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM)	Vientiane
EXTERNAL RELATIONS		
ASEAN Plus Three		
8 July 2008	Informal ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST+3)	Manila
22 July 2008	ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting (ASEAN+3 SOM)	Singapore
22 July 2008	ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM+3)	Singapore
10 July 2008	13 th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea National Tourism Organizations (NTOs)	Manila
4-7 August 2008	5 th ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Environment (SOME)	Singapore
5 August 2008	7 th Senior Officials Meeting on Energy Plus Three (China, Japan and Korea) Consultations	Bangkok
7 August 2008	5 th ASEAN Plus Three Ministers on Energy Meeting	Bangkok
7 August 2008	Senior Economic Officials Meeting Plus Three Consultations (SEOM+3)	Brunei Darussalam
7 August 2008	5 th ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Environment (SOME)	Singapore
11-13 August 2008	ASEAN Plus Three Workshop on Development of Laboratory Based Surveillance – A Strengthening Regional Laboratory Networking	Kuala Lumpur
28-29 August 2008	8 th Telecommunications and IT Ministerial Meeting (TELMIN) and Related Meetings (with China, Japan, Korea and India)	Bali, Indonesia
29 August 2008	ASEAN Economic Ministers Plus Three Consultations (AEM+3)	Singapore
21-22 August 2008	Meeting to Develop Indicators for Monitoring National Preparedness and Response to Influenza Pandemic of ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme	Kuala Lumpur
16 September 2008	Meeting on Documentation of Good Practices of ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme	Bangkok
17-18 September 2008	ASEAN Plus Three Workshop on Healthy Tourism	Bangkok
22-24 September 2008	2 nd Consultative Meeting of the Project on Minimum Standards for Joint Outbreak Investigation of ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme	Phnom Penh
22-26 September 2008	Workshop on Finalisation of Report on Gender and Social Research of ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme	Manila
8 October 2008	Preparatory ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) for 3 rd ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministerial Meeting	Manila
9 October 2008	7 th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM)	Ha Noi
10 October 2008	3 rd ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting	Manila
14-18 October 2008	ASEAN Plus Three Workshop on Life Science	Beijing
15 October 2008	2 nd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals (ASOMM) Plus Three Consultations	Manila
22 October 2008	Senior Officials Meeting of the 8 th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (SOM-8 th AMAF Plus 3)	Ha Noi
24 October 2008	8 th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (8 th AMAF+3)	Ha Noi
22-24 October 2008	Regional Training on Risk Communication of ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) Programme	Kuala Lumpur
5 November 2008	3 rd Meeting of ASEAN COST Plus Three	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
8-9 December 2008	Workshop on Strengthening Animal and Human Health Collaboration of ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme	Luang Prabang, Lao PDR
16-17 December 2008	2 nd ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (OSHNET) Plus Three Policy Dialogue on OSH Management System	Genting Highlands, Malaysia
7 January 2009	14 th Meeting of the ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea (ROK) National Tourism Organisations (ASEAN Plus Three NTOs)	Ha Noi
8 January 2009	8 th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea (ROK) Tourism Ministers (MATM Plus Three)	Ha Noi
6 February 2009	ASEAN Plus Three Research Group Meeting	Seoul
20 February 2009	3 rd Meeting of the ACD Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting	Nay Pyi Taw
22 February 2009	Special ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers Meeting	Phuket, Thailand

7 March 2009	ASEAN Plus Three Research Group Meeting	Phuket, Thailand
20 March 2009	ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials' Meeting	Bangkok
21-22 March 2009	ASEAN Plus Three Higher Education Policy Dialogue	Phuket, Thailand
7 April 2009	Formal ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting Plus Three	Pattaya, Thailand
8 April 2009	Informal ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting Plus Three	Pattaya, Thailand
2 May 2009	ASEAN Plus Three Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting (AFDM+3)	Bali, Indonesia
3 May 2009	ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM+3)	Bali, Indonesia
8 May 2009	Special Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Ministers of Health on Influenza A(H1N1)	Bangkok
5-7 May 2009	5 th Small and Medium sized Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG) Consultations with Plus Three Countries	Kuala Lumpur
14 May 2009	ASEAN Plus Three Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM)	Vientiane
19 May 2009	Special ASEAN Plus Three SOM	Phuket, Thailand
25 May 2009	Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the 1 st ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (PrepSOM for the 1 st AMRDPE+3)	Ha Noi
26 May 2009	2 nd Senior Officials Meeting for the 6 th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Plus Three (2 nd SOMRDPE+3)	Ha Noi
27 May 2009	1 st ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (1 st AMRDPE+3)	Ha Noi
24 June 2009	PrepSOM for the 3 rd AMMY+3	Bangkok
26 June 2009	2 nd AMMY+3	Bangkok
ASEAN – Australia		
23 July 2008	ASEAN-Australia Ministerial Meeting	Singapore
8 August 2008	Senior Economic Officials Meeting-AUSTR Consultations (SEOM-AUSTR)	Brunei Darussalam
ASEAN – Canada		
23 July 2008	ASEAN-Canada Ministerial Meeting	Singapore
26-27 March 2009	3 rd Meeting of ASEAN-Canada Informal Coordinating Mechanism (ICM) and the Drafting Meeting on the Joint Declaration on an ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership	Vancouver
ASEAN – China		
5 July 2008	5 th Meeting of ASEAN China Joint Science and Technology Committee (ACJSTC-5)	Manila
23 July 2008	ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting	Singapore
29-30 July 2008	30 th ASEAN-China Trade Negotiating Committee (30 th ACTNC)	Hangzhou, China
30 July 2008	3 rd ASEAN-China Working Group Meeting on Information Superhighway	Guangzhou, China
7 August 2008	Senior Economic Officials Meeting-Ministry of Commerce of China Meeting Consultations (SEOM-MOFCOM)	Brunei Darussalam
28 August 2008	ASEAN Economic Ministers-Ministry of Commerce of China Meeting Consultations (AEM-MOFCOM)	Singapore
18-20 September 2008	1 st Implementation Meeting on the ASEAN-China Maritime Transport Agreement	Beijing
10 October 2008	2 nd ASEAN Plus China Health Ministers Meeting	Manila
15-16 October 2008	ASEAN Minister Responsible for Information (AMRI) + 1 with China	Nanning, China
19-20 October 2008	1 st ASEAN-China Senior Officials Meeting on Port Cooperation Mechanism	Guilin, China
20-24 October 2008	China-ASEAN Seminar on Customs Automation	Ningbo, China
22 October 2008	China-ASEAN ICT Ministerial Forum	Nanning, China
22-24 October 2008	4 th Meeting on ASEAN-China Maritime Consultation Mechanism	Boao, China
22-25 October 2008	3 rd ASEAN-China ICT Week	Nanning, China
22-25 October 2008	5 th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO)	Nanning, China
23 October 2008	ASEAN-China Radio Spectrum Management Workshop	Nanning, China
27 October-1 November 2008	3 rd China-ASEAN Cultural Industry Forum	Nanning, China
5 November 2008	7 th ASEAN and China Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM+China)	Manila
7 November 2008	7 th ASEAN and China Transport Ministers (ATM+China) Meeting	Manila
9 November 2008	Intersessional ASEAN-China Trade Negotiating Committee	Jakarta
10-15 November 2008	China-ASEAN Workshop for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Cooperation Coordination	Beijing
23-25 March 2009	31 st ASEAN-China Trade Negotiating Committee (31 st ACTNC)	Nanning, China
11 May 2009	10 th ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Working Group	Brunei Darussalam
ASEAN – EU		
25-27 June 2008	5 th ASEAN-EU Free Trade Area Joint Committee Meeting	Manila
6 July 2008	ASEAN-EU Consultation Meeting on Science and Technology	Manila
7 July 2008	Informal ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST+EU)	Manila
23 July 2008	ASEAN-European Union Ministerial Meeting	Singapore

15-17 October 2008	6 th ASEAN-EU Free Trade Area Joint Committee Meeting	Ha Noi
27-28 November 2008	Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI): Workshop on Cybercrime Legislation in ASEAN Member States	Kuala Lumpur
3 February 2009	ASEAN-EU Senior Officials Meeting	Prague
6 February 2009	17 th ASEAN-EC Joint Cooperation Committee	Phnom Penh
4-5 March 2009	7 th ASEAN-EU Free Trade Area Joint Committee Meeting	Kuala Lumpur
27-28 May 2009	17 th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting	Phnom Penh
ASEAN – India		
6 July 2008	6 th Meeting of the ASEAN-India Working Group on Science & Technology (AIWGST-6)	Manila
23 July 2008	ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting	Singapore
7 August 2008	Senior Economic Officials Meeting-India Consultations (SEOM-India)	Brunei Darussalam
28 August 2008	ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations (AEM-India)	Singapore
27-31 December 2008	ASEAN-India Cooperation on 16 th Participation of National Children Congress	Nagaland, India
7 January 2009	4 th ASEAN-India Tourism Working Group Meeting	Ha Noi
12-16 January 2009	2 nd ASEAN India Trade Negotiating Group/Trade Negotiating Committee Working Group on Investment (TNG/TNC-WGI)	New Delhi
12-16 January 2009	3 rd ASEAN-India Trade Negotiating Group/Trade Negotiating Committee Working Group on Services (TNG/TNC-WGS)	New Delhi
28-29 April 2009	15 th ASEAN-India Working Group (AIWG) Meeting, the 11 th ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee (AIJCC) Meeting and the 11 th ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting (AISOM)	New Delhi
ASEAN – Japan		
10-11 June 2008	6 th ASEAN-Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) Leaders Conference	Chiba, Japan
23 July 2008	ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting	Singapore
5 August 2008	9 th Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME)-Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI) Consultations	Bangkok
7 August 2008	Senior Economic Officials Meeting-Ministry of Economic, Trade & Industry Consultations (SEOM-METI)	Brunei Darussalam
28 August 2008	ASEAN Economic Ministers-Ministry of Economic, Trade & Industry Consultations (AEM-METI)	Singapore
29 August 2008	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam-Ministry of Economic, Trade & Industry Consultation (CLMV-METI)	Singapore
8-12 September 2008	6 th ASEAN-Japan High Level Meeting on Caring Societies, Healthy Next Generation: under the Tight Collaboration between Health & Social Welfare	Tokyo
5 November 2008	7 th ASEAN and Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM+Japan)	Manila
7 November 2008	6 th ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers (ATM+Japan) Meeting	Manila
17 February 2009	ASEAN Secretariat-Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-Government of Lao PDR Workshop for Pilot Program for Narrowing the Gap toward ASEAN Integration	Jakarta
24-26 February 2009	ASEAN-Japan Information Security Policy Meeting	Tokyo
18-19 March 2009	16 th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-MITI Japan Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC) Working Group on HRD	Siem Reap, Cambodia
15 May 2009	ASEAN-Japan HRD Collaboration Programme Phase Planning and Evaluation Working Group	Vientiane
11 May 2009	Project Coordinating Committee of ASEAN/ILO Japan Industrial Relations Project	Vientiane
5-7 May 2009	4 th Small and Medium sized Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG) Consultations with Japan	Kuala Lumpur
ASEAN – Republic of Korea		
23 July 2008	ASEAN-Republic of Korea Ministerial Meeting	Singapore
7 August 2008	Senior Economic Officials Meeting-Republic of Korea Consultations (SEOM-ROK)	Brunei Darussalam
28 August 2008	ASEAN Economic Ministers-Republic of Korea Consultations (AEM-ROK)	Singapore
3-7 November 2008	ASEAN-ROK Workshop on Aviation Meteorology	Seoul
4-5 May 2009	13 th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Dialogue	Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
ASEAN – New Zealand		
23 July 2008	ASEAN-New Zealand Ministerial Meeting	Singapore
ASEAN – Russian Federation		
4 July 2008	4 th Meeting of the ASEAN-Russia Working Group on Science and Technology (ARWGST-4)	Manila
8 July 2008	Informal ASEAN-Russia Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST)	Manila
7 January 2009	2 nd ASEAN-Russia Tourism Consultations	Ha Noi
21-22 April 2009	ASEAN-Russia Senior Officials Meeting	Philippines

ASEAN – US		
23 July 2008	ASEAN-US Ministerial Meeting	Singapore
22-23 August 2008	ASEAN-US Technical Assistance & Training Facility II (TATF II): Roundtable on ASEAN Information Infrastructure	Bali, Indonesia
4-5 December 2009	10 th ASEAN-US Informal Coordinating Mechanism (ICM)	Singapore
18-19 March 2009	1 st ASEAN-US Working Group Meeting	Jakarta
16-17 April 2009	1 st ASEAN-US Joint Cooperation Committee (AUJCC) Meeting	Seattle, USA
ASEAN – CER (Australia and New Zealand)		
8 August 2008	Senior Economic Officials Meeting-CER Consultations (SEOM-CER)	Brunei Darussalam
28 August 2008	ASEAN Economic Ministers-CER Consultations (AEM-CER)	Singapore
EAST ASIA SUMMIT		
22 July 2008	Ad-Hoc Consultations among East Asian Summit (EAS) Senior Officials	Singapore
22 July 2008	East Asian Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers Informal Consultations	Singapore
7 August 2008	2 nd EAS Energy Ministers Meeting (EMM)	Bangkok
9 October 2008	Inaugural East Asian Summit (EAS) Environment Ministers Meeting	Ha Noi
11-15 May 2009	EAS Ad-hoc Consultation	Thailand
OTHER MEETINGS		
23 September-3 October 2008	ASEAN Exchange Programme for Mid-Level Managers	Singapore
24-25 October 2008	7 th ASEM Summit	Beijing
8-9 December 2008	ASEM Workshop on ICT for Development	Vientiane
23-24 May 2009	ASEM Senior Officials Meeting	Ha Noi
25-26 May 2009	9 th ASEM FMM	Ha Noi



Soprano

ASEAN Anthem – “The ASEAN Way”

Lyricist : Payom Valaiphatchra

Music: Kittikhun Sodprasert
& Sampao Triudom

Arr.: Kittikhun Sodprasert

Allegretto Maestoso ♩=100

5 **A**

Raise our flag high, sky high Em-brace the pride in our
mp

9 heart A-SEAN we are bonded as one Look - in out to the world. For

B 14 peace, our goal from the ve - ry start And pros - pe ri ty to last. We

mf po co a po co cresc. -----

C 18 dare to dream we care to share. To - ge - ther for A - SEAN we

f ----- *mf*

22 dare to dream we care to share for it's the way of A - SEAN

f rit. ----- *ff*



The ASEAN emblem represents a stable, peaceful, united and dynamic ASEAN. The colours of the emblem – blue, red, white and yellow – represent the main colours of the crests of all the ASEAN Member States.

Blue represents peace and stability. Red depicts courage and dynamism. White shows purity and yellow symbolises prosperity.

The ten stalks of padi represent the dream of ASEAN's Founding Fathers for an ASEAN comprising all the ten countries in Southeast Asia bound together in friendship and solidarity. The circle represents the unity of ASEAN.

The specification of Pantone Colour adopted for the colours of the ASEAN emblem are:

Blue : Pantone 286
Red : Pantone Red 032
Yellow : Pantone Process Yellow

For four-colour printing process, the specifications of colours will be:

Blue : 100C 60M 0Y 6K (100C 60M 0Y 10K)
Red : 0C 91M 87Y 0K (0C 90M 90Y 0K)
Yellow : 0C 0M 100Y 0K

Specifications in brackets are to be used when an arbitrary measurement of process colours is not possible.

In Pantone Process Colour Simulator, the specifications equal to:

Blue : Pantone 204-1
Red : Pantone 60-1
Yellow : Pantone 1-3

The font used for the word "ASEAN" in the emblem is lower-case Helvetica in bold.

One Vision, One Identity, One Community
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