



ASEAN DOCUMENTS SERIES 2001

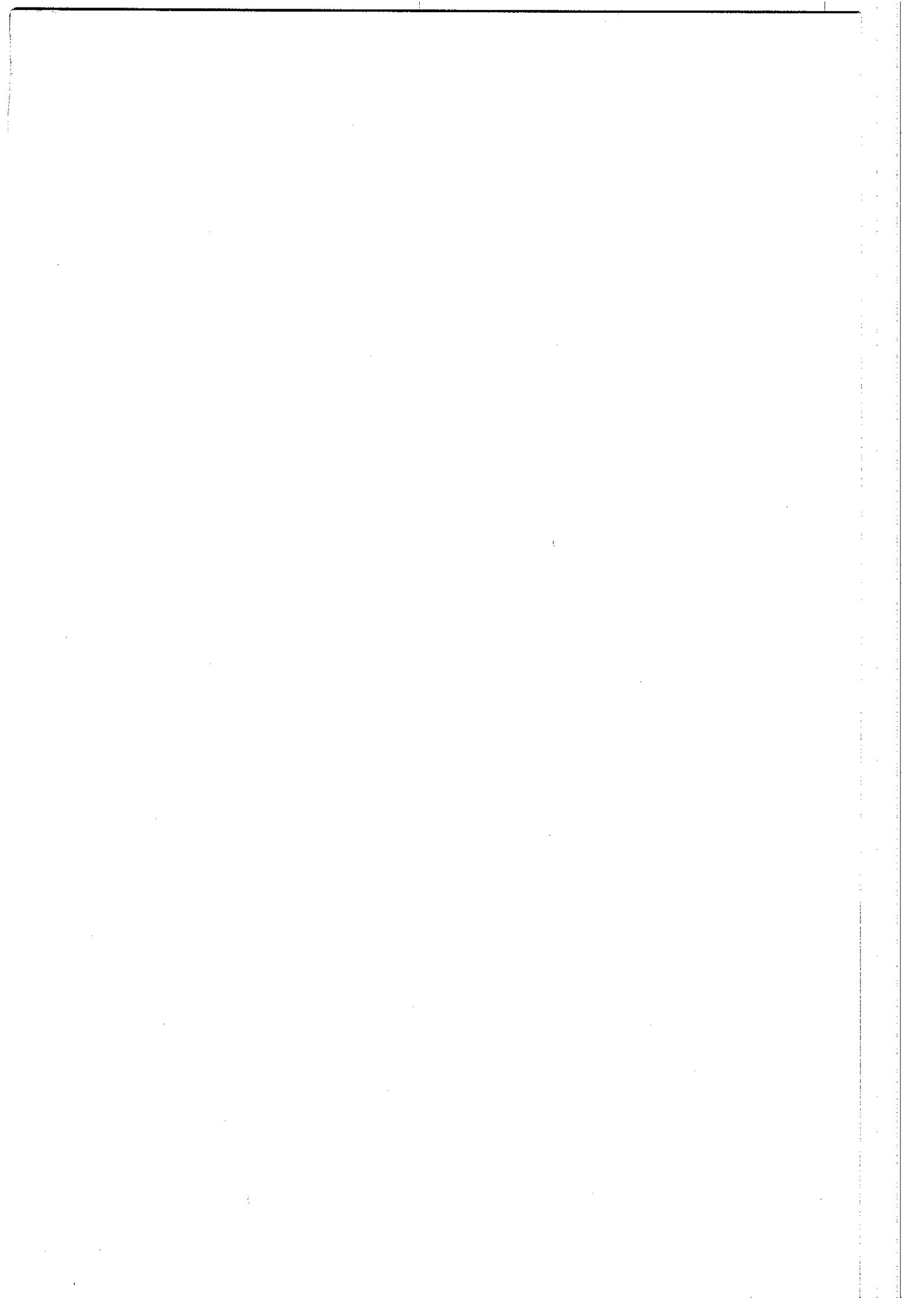


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I. ASEAN SUMMIT

2001 ASEAN DECLARATION ON JOINT ACTION TO COUNTER TERRORISM

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 5 NOVEMBER 2001

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) gathered in Bandar Seri Begawan for the Seventh ASEAN Summit,

Recalling the agreement among Heads of State/Government during the Second Informal Summit in December 1997 in Kuala Lumpur to take firm and stern measures to combat transnational crime,

Reaffirming our primary responsibility in ensuring the peaceful and progressive development of our respective countries and our region,

Deeply concerned over the formidable challenge posed by terrorism to regional and international peace and stability as well as to economic development,

Underlining the importance of strengthening regional and international cooperation in meeting the challenges confronting us,

Do hereby,

Unequivocally condemn in the strongest terms the horrifying terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington DC and Pennsylvania on 11 September 2001 and consider such acts as an attack against humanity and an assault on all of us;

Extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to the people and Government of the United States of America and the families of the victims from nations all around the world, including those of our nationals;

View acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed wherever, whenever and by whomsoever, as a profound threat to international peace and security which require concerted action to protect and defend all peoples and the peace and security of the world;

Reject any attempt to link terrorism with any religion or race;

Believe terrorism to be a direct challenge to the attainment of peace, progress and prosperity of ASEAN and the realisation of ASEAN Vision 2020;

Commit to counter, prevent and suppress all forms of terrorist acts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other international law, especially taking into account the importance of all relevant UN resolutions;

Ensure that, in observing the above, all cooperative efforts to combat terrorism at the regional level shall consider joint practical counter-terrorism measures in line with specific circumstances in the region and in each member country;

Recommit ourselves to pursue effective policies and strategies aimed at enhancing the well-being of our people, which will be our national contribution in the fight against terrorism;

Note that, towards this end, ASEAN had established a regional framework for fighting transnational crime and adopted an ASEAN Plan of Action that outlines a cohesive regional strategy to prevent, control and neutralise transnational crime;

Approve fully the initiatives of the Third ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) held in October 2001 to focus on terrorism and deal effectively with the issue at all levels and endorse the convening of an Ad Hoc Experts Group Meeting and special sessions of the SOMTC and AMMTC that will focus on terrorism;

Warmly welcome Malaysia's offer to host the Special AMMTC on issues of terrorism in April 2002. This meeting would represent a significant step by ASEAN to the United Nations' call to enhance coordination of national, sub-regional and international efforts to strengthen a global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security;

In strengthening further ASEAN's counter-terrorism efforts, we task our Ministers concerned to follow-up on the implementation of this declaration to advance ASEAN's efforts to fight terrorism by undertaking the following additional practical measures.

1. Review and strengthen our national mechanisms to combat terrorism;
2. Call for the early signing/ratification of or accession to all relevant anti-terrorist conventions including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism;
3. Deepen cooperation among our front-line law enforcement agencies in combatting terrorism and sharing "best practices";
4. Study relevant international conventions on terrorism with the view to integrating them with ASEAN mechanisms on combating international terrorism;
5. Enhance information/intelligence exchange to facilitate the flow of information, in particular, on terrorists and terrorist organisations, their movement and funding, and any other information needed to protect lives, property and the security of all modes of travel;
6. Strengthen existing cooperation and coordination between the AMMTC and other relevant ASEAN bodies in countering, preventing and suppressing all forms of terrorists acts. Particular attention would be paid to finding ways to combat terrorist organisations, support infrastructure and

funding and bringing the perpetrators to justice;

7. Develop regional capacity building programmes to enhance existing capabilities of ASEAN member countries to investigate, detect, monitor and report on terrorist acts;
8. Discuss and explore practical ideas and initiatives to increase ASEAN's role in and involvement with the international community including extra-regional partners within existing frameworks such as the ASEAN + 3, the ASEAN Dialogue Partners and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), to make the fight against terrorism a truly regional and global endeavour;
9. Strengthen cooperation at bilateral, regional and international levels in combating terrorism in a comprehensive manner and affirm that at the international level the United Nations should play a major role in this regard.

We, the Leaders of ASEAN, pledge to remain seized with the matter, and call on other regions and countries to work with ASEAN in the global struggle against terrorism.

Adopted this Fifth Day of November 2001 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

7TH ASEAN SUMMIT DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 5 NOVEMBER 2001

[1] **WE** the Heads of State and Government of the Association of South East Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN):

[2] **RECALLING** that the ASEAN Vision 2020, adopted by the 2nd ASEAN Informal Summit held in Kuala Lumpur in December 1997, envisioned ASEAN as a concert of South East Asian nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies;

[3] **RECALLING** the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the 26th Special Session of the General Assembly in June 2001 that secured a global commitment to enhancing coordination and intensification of national, regional and international efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in a comprehensive manner;

[4] **DEEPLY CONCERNED** that the HIV/AIDS pandemic is a threat to human security and a formidable challenge to the right to life and dignity that affects all levels of society without distinction of age, gender or race and which undermines social and economic development;

[5] **RECOGNISING** that at least 1.6 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in the ASEAN region, and that the number is increasing rapidly through risk behaviors exacerbated by economic, social, political, financial and legal obstacles as well as harmful attitudes and customary practices which also hamper awareness, education, prevention,

care, support and treatment efforts, particularly to vulnerable groups;

[6] **REITERATING** the call of the Ha Noi Declaration adopted by the Sixth ASEAN Summit in December 1998 that we shall make sure our people are assured of adequate medical care and access to essential medicines and that cooperation shall be stepped up in the control and prevention of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS;

[7] **NOTING** the Joint Declaration for a Socially Cohesive and Caring ASEAN adopted at the 33rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok in July 2000, to strengthen people-centered policies that will promote a positive environment for the disadvantaged, including those who are in ill health;

[8] **COMMITTED** to realizing a drug-free ASEAN, as called for by the Joint Declaration for a Drug-Free ASEAN adopted by the 33rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in July 2000 and the Bangkok Political Declaration in pursuit of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 adopted by the International Congress "In Pursuit of a Drug Free ASEAN" held in October 2000;

[9] **ENCOURAGED** by the notable progress of the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS in responding to the call by the Fourth ASEAN Summit held in Singapore in February 1992, to implement regional activities on health and HIV/AIDS aimed at curbing and monitoring the spread of HIV by exchanging information on HIV/AIDS, particularly in the formulation and implementation of joint policies and

programs against the deadly disease;

[10] **REALISING** that prevention is the mainstay of the response to HIV infection and that there are opportunities for the ASEAN region to prevent the wide-scale spread of HIV/AIDS by learning from the experiences of some ASEAN Member Countries, which have invested in prevention programs that have reduced HIV prevalence or maintained a low prevalence;

[11] **ACKNOWLEDGING** that prevention, treatment, care and support for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements that must be integrated in a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic;

[12] **STRESSING** that gender equality and the empowerment of women are fundamental elements in the reduction of the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS, and that youth are especially vulnerable to the spread of the pandemic and account for over fifty percent of new infections;

[13] **AFFIRMING** that a multisectoral response has resulted in a number of effective actions for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and minimization of the impact of HIV/AIDS;

[14] **AWARE** that resources commensurate with the extent of the problem have to be allocated for prevention, treatment, care and support;

[15] **EMPHASISING** that the epidemic can be prevented, halted and reversed with strong leadership, political commitment, multi-sectoral collaboration and partnerships at the national and regional levels;

Hereby **DECLARE TO:**

LEADERSHIP

[16] **LEAD AND GUIDE** the national responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a national priority to prevent the spread of HIV infection and reduce the impact of the epidemic by integrating HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment and support and impact mitigation priorities into the mainstream of national development planning, including poverty eradication strategies and sectoral development plans;

[17] **PROMOTE** the creation of a positive environment in confronting stigma, silence and denial; elimination of discrimination; addressing the prevention, treatment, care and support needs

of those in vulnerable groups and people at risk, particularly young people and women; and strengthening the capacity of the health, education and legal systems;

[18] **INTENSIFY** and **STRENGTHEN** multisectoral collaboration involving all development ministries and mobilising for full and active participation a wide range of non governmental organisations, the business sector, media, community based organisations, religious leaders, families, citizens as well as people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in the planning, implementation and evaluation of national responses to HIV/AIDS including efforts to promote mutual self help;

[19] **INTENSIFY** inter-ministerial collaboration at the national and international levels to implement HIV/AIDS programmes;

[20] **SUPPORT** strongly the mobilization of technical, financial and human resources to adequately advocate for and implement national and regional programs and policies to combat HIV/AIDS, including efforts to promote mutual self-help;

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

[21] **CONTINUE** collaboration in regional activities that support national programs particularly in the area of education and life skills training for youths; effective prevention of sexual transmission of HIV; monitoring HIV, STDs and risk behaviors; treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV; prevention of mother to child transmission; creating a positive environment for prevention, treatment, care and support; HIV prevention and care for drug users and strengthening regional coordination among agencies working with youths;

JOINT REGIONAL ACTIONS

[22] **STRENGTHEN** regional mechanisms and **INCREASE** and **OPTIMISE** the utilisation of resources to support joint regional actions to increase access to affordable drugs and testing reagents; reduce the vulnerability of mobile populations to HIV infection and provide access to information, care and treatment; adopt and promote innovative inter-sectoral collaboration to effectively reduce socioeconomic vulnerability and impact, expand prevention strategies and provide care, treatment and support;

[23] **MONITOR** and **EVALUATE** the activities at all levels and systematically conduct periodic reviews

and information sharing with the full and active participation of non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, people living with HIV/AIDS, vulnerable groups and caregivers;

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

[24] **URGE** ASEAN Dialogue Partners, the UN system organisations, donor agencies and other international organisations to support greater action and coordination, including their full participation in the development and implementation of the actions contained in this Declaration, and also to support the establishment of the Global HIV/AIDS and health fund to ensure that countries in the region would have equal opportunity to access the fund;

ASEAN WORK PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

[25] **ADOPT** the ASEAN Work Programme on HIV/AIDS and work together towards accomplishing the regional activities in support of national programs and joint regional actions.

ADOPTED on this Fifth Day of November 2001 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 7TH ASEAN SUMMIT AND THE 5TH ASEAN+3 SUMMIT

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 5 NOVEMBER 2001

1. ASEAN leaders held a very productive meeting this morning following a working dinner last night. It was our seventh summit since 1976 and the first working summit since we decided in Singapore last year to devote more time to important matters of substance and reduce ceremonial proceedings. We also held a very good meeting with leaders from China, Japan and Korea this afternoon. This was our fifth "ASEAN+3" summit since 1997.

Addressing immediate concerns

2. In the current climate of intense global uncertainty, Southeast Asia faces its biggest, if not the biggest, challenge since ASEAN was founded in 1967. The twofold challenge of addressing a severe world economic slowdown while contributing to international efforts to combat terrorism is without precedent. Moreover, this new challenge has emerged as many of us were just starting to recover from the financial shocks of 1997 and 1998.
3. In the shorter term, stimulating our domestic economies is an urgent priority to cushion the impact of reduced external demand. Appropriate fiscal and monetary policies are crucial. At the same time, traditional policy responses must be accompanied by a renewed commitment to structural reforms that ASEAN members have been pursuing in response to the Asian financial crisis. In some areas, these

reforms can be deepened if we take a more cooperative and integrated approach.

4. Reflecting our deep concern over the formidable challenge to regional and international peace and stability as well as economic development, we issued the 2001 ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism. To advance ASEAN's efforts to fight terrorism, we instructed ministers to take various practical measures. ASEAN is committed to countering, preventing and suppressing all terrorist acts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, especially taking into account all relevant UN resolutions.
5. We raised many ideas on how to address the issue. These include working on a regional operational convention or agreement to combat terrorism, holding a multilateral seminar on emergency response to terrorist threats, looking into a bilateral legal assistance agreement to enhance cooperation in combating terrorist acts and deliberating on various aspects of the issue in a comprehensive manner including its definition and root causes. Leaders instructed the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime which will meet next April, and officials, to study these proposals. In reiterating their condemnation of the terrorist attacks, leaders expressed their concern for the welfare of

innocent people as a result of the military action on Afghanistan and considered extending humanitarian assistance

6. In responding to the strategic challenges, we emphasized the importance of strengthening security, solidarity and cooperation to promote ASEAN's competitiveness and regional influence. The ASEAN Regional Forum should continue to be strengthened, especially in view of the changing strategic situation.
7. While addressing these immediate concerns, we agreed on the need to identify new priorities and respond decisively to longer term challenges facing Southeast Asia. We should be able to say that our people are in control of regional affairs and can look to the future with confidence.

Identifying new priorities

8. We endorsed the Mid-Term Review of the Hanoi Plan of Action. The six-year plan we adopted in 1998 remains an important roadmap for our long-term vision for ASEAN. Adjustments reflect recent developments and the priority needs of members. New priorities include the integration initiative we launched in Singapore last year. Other priorities include information and communications technology along with human capacity building. We also endorsed a Report Card on last year's summit. This new document will become a permanent checklist to assess progress in our work.
9. We agreed to review the ASEAN secretariat's terms of reference to strengthen its function and role. We recognized the presence of the secretary general in summit meetings. In order to promote ASEAN+3 cooperation further, a proposal was made to establish an ASEAN+3 secretariat. We also considered the idea of convening 10+1 summits with our dialogue partners, in particular India.

Responding to long-term challenges

10. ASEAN must improve its credibility as a regional organization and respond decisively to challenges. Among recent worrying developments are a decline in foreign investment in ASEAN countries and the erosion of our competitiveness resulting from the emergence of new markets. These concerns have been compounded by the global

economic downturn and further uncertainty arising from the terrorist attacks in the United States in September. Another risk is a widening of the development gap in ASEAN which could undermine regional solidarity.

Accelerating regional integration

11. These challenges offer a unique opportunity for ASEAN to work even closer together. We are determined to strengthen our competitiveness and accelerate regional integration. In this regard, we welcomed a decision by our economic ministers in Hanoi in September to commission an ASEAN Competitiveness Study. The study will be undertaken by a well-known international consulting firm and we look forward to reviewing their assessment next year.
12. We also discussed pushing the frontiers of our economic cooperation beyond existing commitments for free-trade and investment areas. We agreed to go beyond the ASEAN Free Trade Area and the ASEAN Investment Area by deepening market liberalization for both trade and investment. We specifically agreed to speed up negotiations on liberalising intra-ASEAN trade in services and to start negotiations on mutual recognition arrangements for professional services. We decided to encourage interested countries to form a critical mass to accelerate the liberalization of services such as transport and tourism. We also agreed on the need to work harder to harmonise and coordinate our rules and regulations.
13. Under our vision for ASEAN in 2020, we agreed on the need for a Roadmap for Integration of ASEAN (RIA) charting milestones along the way including specific steps and timetables. The competitiveness study will be an integral part of the road map. We agreed to instruct all ministers and senior officials to start work on the roadmap and submit their final proposals to our meeting in Cambodia next year.
14. To bring our business people into the mainstream of our economic activities, we encourage the private sector to convene a regular ASEAN Business Summit in conjunction with our meetings, starting in Cambodia next year. We also agreed to set up an ASEAN Business Advisory Council. We also encouraged the holding of trade fairs.

Embarking on far-reaching economic cooperation

15. In working even closer together, we agreed to embark on activities for far-reaching economic cooperation in many areas. To strengthen cooperation in industry sectors, we decided to ask our ministers to develop concrete plans in the fields of energy, tourism, agriculture and telecommunications. We considered a suggestion for an ASEAN tourism agreement. We recognized the need to take advantage of increased trade between ASEAN members to generate growth. We therefore emphasized the importance of further developing regional transport and communications infrastructure while exploring the potential for barter trade.
16. We also discussed exciting flagship projects from pan-ASEAN open skies to regional highway networks, power grids and gas pipelines. We agreed to ask our ministers to come up with more concrete plans in these fields, and report back to us next year. We reaffirmed the Singapore-Kunming rail link as a priority project, and endorsed the routes agreed to by our ministers.

Bridging the development gap

17. Bridging the development gap is crucial for regional integration and part of our confidence-building efforts to help members cope with challenges. Our priorities are developing human resources, infrastructure and information technology, especially with the private sector and our dialogue partners. In this regard, we noted the decision by our foreign ministers in Hanoi in July to initiate ASEAN projects in these areas and agreed to focus on self-help programs for human resources development.
18. We reaffirmed the importance of our sub-regional growth areas in ASEAN development and integration. We also discussed ways to revitalize these growth areas, including those centered on Brunei, Indonesia Malaysia and the Philippines as well as the Mekong River basin. We reaffirmed our support for the important role of growth triangles in the integration of ASEAN and we supported the idea of strengthening our security cooperation. This is important to restore investor confidence and improve the sub-regional business climate. We welcomed the Asian Development Bank as a regional development advisor and

we agreed to encourage greater private-sector involvement in these sub-regional growth areas. We decided to ask our ministers to convene a high-level meeting to explore how these areas can make a stronger contribution to regional growth. We welcomed the participation of dialogue partners and noted that it would be useful to have the ASEAN secretariat provide technical and administrative support. We instructed our officials to report to us next year on progress in this area. We also welcomed the convening of summit of the Greater Mekong Sub-region in Cambodia next year,

19. Other efforts to narrow the development gap include an ASEAN Integration System of Preferences for our newer members. This will allow Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam to gain tariff-free access to the more developed ASEAN markets earlier than the agreed target date of 2010 for all members. We agreed to implement this by the beginning of January next year.
20. We agreed that other significant issues such as promoting greater community spirit within ASEAN and strengthening our institutional capacity could be examined in more detail in Cambodia next year.

Making HIV/AIDS a national and regional priority

21. In response to an initiative in Singapore last year, we convened a session on HIV/AIDS to send a strong signal that this battle is now a national and regional priority across Southeast Asia. HIV/AIDS is not just a health problem but can have devastating socio-economic consequences.
22. As a reflection of our new political will, we adopted the Seventh ASEAN Summit Declaration on HIV/AIDS to express our strongest support for national, regional and international efforts in this area. We also endorsed the second phase of an ASEAN Work Program for the period from 2001 to 2004. We thanked UNAIDS for helping us to prepare for the summit session and look forward to their continued support in implementing the program. We agreed to invite our dialogue partners and other international agencies to support the work program. We also thanked the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS and the contributions from non-government

organizations including those representing people living with HIV/AIDS.

23. By acknowledging this new priority, we are determined to commit the necessary resources to deal with prevention, care, support and alleviating the impact of HIV/AIDS. ASEAN must lobby for issues of common concern such as access to cheaper drugs for the millions of people who cannot afford such treatment. At the same time, we must strengthen exchanges and adapt technical expertise while gaining experience and learning from successful strategies within the region.

Building a closer East Asian partnership

24. With our colleagues from China, Japan and Korea, we exchanged views on terrorism and strongly condemned the recent attacks in the United States. We affirmed that terrorism is an attack on humanity and that the United Nations should play a major role in combating terrorism. We also reaffirmed our commitment to enhance international and regional cooperation against terrorism and called for the early signing and ratification of all 12 counter-terrorism conventions. We confirmed that political stability, economic well being and development in the region is a crucial foundation in our fight against international terrorism.
25. We are determined to strengthen consultation, cooperation and coordination between relevant authorities to fight terrorism. Effective counter-terrorism measures could include regular exchanges of information and intelligence as well as enhanced regional capacity building. The Northeast Asian partners supported the thrust of the ASEAN declaration, especially additional practical measures to be taken. The leaders agreed to minimize the adverse effects of the terrorist attacks on the regional economy through close cooperation among economic policy and financial authorities.
26. We considered the Report of the East Asia Vision Group and once again warmly thanked President Kim for launching the initiative in 1999. The report contains key proposals and concrete measures to broaden East Asia cooperation. Some are bold yet feasible such as establishing an East Asia Free Trade Area and liberalizing trade well ahead of APEC's goals. President Kim also highlighted proposals to set up an East Asia forum and the possibility of an East Asian summit. The study group we agreed to set up last year is now assessing the proposals. We look forward to their final report in Cambodia next year.
27. China, Japan and Korea supported our efforts to accelerate ASEAN integration, especially in the areas of human resource development, infrastructure and information technology. We welcomed the various offers by our Northeast Asian neighbours to undertake programmes of activities to promote people-to-people exchanges and human resource development including a seminar on energy security. To help narrow the digital divide between ASEAN members, our Northeast Asian partners announced plans to contribute new computers to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam.
28. As a follow-up to our initiative in Manila in 1999, Brunei Darussalam offered to continue support to the ASEAN+3 Young Leaders Forum. Inaugurated in Bandar Seri Begawan in August last year, the forum brought together youth leaders, academics and government officials from 13 countries to exchange ideas on strategic and political issues in the region and promote better understanding among our people.

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 7TH ASEAN SUMMIT AND THE THREE ASEAN+1 SUMMITS

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 6 NOVEMBER 2001

1. The ASEAN leaders held three separate meetings with the leaders of China, Japan and Korea. We held fruitful discussions resulting in several important initiatives with all three countries.

ASEAN and China

2. In the meeting with Premier Zhu, we noted that China has been an important partner of ASEAN over the past decade. Our close relations have much to offer for regional peace and prosperity. We also noted that China's accession to the World Trade Organisation will create market opportunities for both ASEAN and China, building on the momentum of our rapidly growing ties. At the same time, we are deeply grateful for China's support in efforts to recover from the recent economic crisis.
3. We considered a study by the ASEAN-China Expert Group, set up in response to the suggestion by Premier Zhu at our meeting in Singapore last year. We endorsed the proposal for a Framework on Economic Cooperation and to establish an ASEAN-China Free Trade Area within 10 years with special and differential treatment and flexibility to the newer ASEAN members. The agreement should also provide for an "early harvest" in which the lists of products and services will be determined by mutual consultation. With a combined market of 1.7 billion people, a free trade area between ASEAN and China would have gross domestic product of \$2 trillion and two-way trade of \$1.23 trillion. We agreed to instruct our ministers and senior officials to start negotiations with a view to conclude the agreement as soon as possible.
4. In addition, China agreed to grant special preferential tariff treatment for some goods from Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, the least developed members of ASEAN.
5. We identified agriculture, information technology, human resources development, investment and Mekong River basin development as five priority areas for cooperation in the early part of the new century. We agreed to work towards a consultation mechanism with the involvement of government officials, business people and academics. In this regard, we decided to convene a meeting of ASEAN and Chinese transport ministers. China also offered \$5 million to help navigation along the upper stretches of the Mekong River in Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.
6. We agreed to strengthen cooperation in the information technology sector by holding a follow-up seminar to the one hosted by China last year.
7. We also agreed to cooperate in the area of HIV/AIDS and work closely together to combat the menace of drugs through ASEAN-China

Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs.

8. As part of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration launched last year, we explored new possibilities for increasing China's participation in various projects in the Mekong River basin area. We invited China to participate in the sub-regional growth areas of ASEAN.
9. In strengthening our political dialogue and cooperation in the region, we welcomed China's readiness to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and to sign the protocol of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty. On the South China Sea, we reaffirmed our resolve to address the issue through dialogue and consultations.

ASEAN and Japan

10. In the meeting with Prime Minister Koizumi, we had a very useful exchange of views. We reaffirmed that ASEAN-Japan relations are very important and we all agreed that there is a need to strengthen our cooperation further.
11. We called that Japan was one of ASEAN's oldest dialogue partners. Our relationship is based on friendship and cooperation as well as shared interests in peace, prosperity and development in the region. We noted that Japanese support to various ASEAN initiatives had been invaluable. Japan has contributed significantly to the national development of ASEAN members, and was at the forefront of international efforts to help Southeast Asia adjust to the financial shocks of 1997.
12. We also noted that Prime Minister Koizumi was exerting his utmost efforts to reform the Japanese economy. The return to a sustainable growth path would be a welcome development for all ASEAN countries. We expressed our hope that his efforts help reverse the economic downturn in the region and encourage new flows of Japanese investment towards Southeast Asia.
13. To boost both trade and investment, our ministers are examining ways to forge a closer economic partnership between ASEAN and Japan. In this regard, we welcomed the establishment of a group of experts to study how ASEAN's economic partnership with Japan can be deepened. We agreed to give our full support to this group in fostering a closer economic partnership as a means of strengthening ASEAN-Japan cooperation.

14. On the integration initiative launched in Singapore last year, ASEAN leaders welcomed Japan's assistance to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam. We are pleased that Japan will continue its commitment to assist ASEAN in priority areas of economic integration. We also welcomed Japan's interest in developing the Mekong River basin, especially in the area of infrastructure.

15. We supported Japan's offer to set up an ASEAN Information and Human Network for Infectious Diseases Control and expressed our appreciation to Japan for offering new information technology projects at the ASEAN Promotion Centre in Tokyo. The center is well positioned to promote trade, investment and tourism between Southeast Asia and Japan. We also viewed Japan's idea of stepping up environmental cooperation as important.

16. We were glad to hear of Japan's continued commitment to help ASEAN in the field of training and education. We asked Prime Minister Koizumi to explore the possibility of setting up training and education institutions in various ASEAN countries. The ASEAN leaders also expressed the hope that Japan would continue offering study trips for high-school students from Southeast Asia. By giving our youth such valuable opportunities to visit Japan, such trips further enhance understanding among all of our people. They also help to raise ASEAN awareness in Japan.

ASEAN and Korea

17. In the meeting with President Kim, leaders noted that relations between ASEAN and Korea had strengthened in recent years. We expressed our deep appreciation for his commitment to this process. Development cooperation between ASEAN and Korea has progressed well and is also unique. Most activities are future-oriented and involve youth or people working in the fields of media and culture.

18. In view of such progress, we agreed to broaden the bases of cooperation and promote awareness of the importance of relations among the people of Southeast Asia and

Korea. Leaders also agreed to explore ways to enhance trade and economic links while encouraging the participation of the private sector in bilateral cooperative efforts.

19. We expressed our appreciation of Korea's offer of assistance in the areas of human resources development, information technology, health and the environment. As a world leader in information technology, Korea is particularly well placed - its expertise and know-how can make a major contribution towards bridging the digital divide in ASEAN countries. The ASEAN leaders also welcomed Korea's commitment to provide additional contributions of \$2 million to the ASEAN-Korea special fund for next year.
20. Korea conveyed its intention to carry out projects to bridge socio-economic gaps both within ASEAN and between Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia. We invited Korea to participate in ASEAN's various sub-regional growth areas. In this regard we invited Korea to be a core member of ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation. The ASEAN leaders also welcomed specific Korean proposals for an artist fellowship program and an international network and web design network.
21. ASEAN leaders reaffirmed their support for Korea's policy of engagement and the continuation of the reconciliation process between the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. They look forward to the strengthened inter-Korean dialogue including the holding of the Second Inter-Korean Summit.

II. ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 34TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 23-24 JULY 2001

We, the Foreign Ministers of the ten ASEAN Member Countries, met in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, on 23-24 July 2001 under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The Meeting was also attended by the Secretary-General of ASEAN. Present at the Opening Ceremony of the Meeting were the representative for Papua New Guinea as Observer and the representative of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor as guest of the host country. His Excellency Mr. Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam delivered the Keynote Address at the Opening Ceremony of the Meeting.

1. We reviewed the recent political-security developments in the world, particularly the relationship among the major powers which might influence political and security situation in East Asia. We noted there were challenges but believed that positive trends towards peace, stability and cooperation still prevailed.
2. We discussed the challenges facing ASEAN, in particular the global economic outlook, the impact of globalization and the region's political and economic situation that could undermine ASEAN's development and progress.
3. We expressed concern over the global economic outlook, especially the economic downturn in the U.S., Japan and Europe, which in turn could hamper the prospects for

continued growth in the ASEAN region. We resolved to accelerate existing cooperative endeavours to enhance ASEAN's dynamism and competitiveness.

4. We exchanged views on how ASEAN could best position itself to reap the benefits and meet the challenges of globalization including the need to address the development gap and digital divide. We also discussed the need to promote regional stability, sustain economic growth, enhance ASEAN's competitiveness and strengthen cooperation within ASEAN and between ASEAN and the rest of the world. We shared the view that in order to effectively meet these challenges, the ASEAN Member Countries must continue to be stable, united, integrated and outward-looking. We reaffirmed the fundamental principles of ASEAN and the importance of working together to meet the challenges and further enhance mutual trust and confidence. In line with these we also reaffirmed our commitment to accelerate the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA) with a view to realizing the ASEAN Vision 2020.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI)

5. We were gratified to see good progress in the follow-up to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) which ASEAN Leaders put forth at the 4th ASEAN Informal Summit in Singapore last November. We commended the IAI Task Force

and the ASEAN Standing Committee for taking the lead in the coordination and implementation of the IAI. On our part we adopted at this 34th AMM the Ha Noi Declaration on Narrowing Development Gap for closer ASEAN Integration, which reiterates the common commitment in ASEAN to integrate Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam into ASEAN economic mainstream and prescribes concrete measures for this crucial and long-term process focusing on three priority areas, namely infrastructure, information and communication technology and human resource development. In this connection, we expressed our appreciation for all the assistance that ASEAN's friends and partners have extended to the IAI endeavor and expressed our strong belief that progress in the IAI would continue to contribute significantly to peace, prosperity and progress in the region.

6. To complement existing bilateral assistance extended to CLMV and facilitate request for funding support from interested Dialogue Partners and other sources, we agreed that the Member Countries of ASEAN should jointly initiate "ASEAN IAI Projects" based on the priority areas identified by the IAI Task Force.

ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' RETREATS

7. We stressed the importance of engaging in frank and open discussion as well as enhancing mutual trust and confidence with a view to further strengthening cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries in order to seek avenues to address the above-mentioned challenges. In this connection, we agreed to meet more often in a less formal atmosphere. Following the United Nations Millennium Summit, we held an ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in informal retreat style in New York on 18 September 2000 to coordinate ASEAN position at the UN.
8. We held, for the first time, a Retreat separate from the regular ASEAN Ministerial Meetings, in Yangon, Myanmar, on 30 April 2001. We had frank discussions on regional and international developments, and renewed ASEAN's commitment to further deepen cooperation and play a more important role in enhancing regional security.
9. We also held a Retreat in Ha Noi on 23 July 2001, during the 34th ASEAN Minister Meeting;

We discussed the future direction of ASEAN and measures to enhance the Association's contribution and active role in cooperation with its Dialogue Partners and other parties.

10. We noted, with appreciation, Thailand's offer to host the next ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in the first quarter of 2002.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

11. We reiterated the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC), which serves as a framework governing relations within ASEAN and between ASEAN and countries in other parts of the world. We welcomed the entry into force of the Second Protocol to the TAC following the ratification of the Protocol by Papua New Guinea (PNG). We adopted the Rules of Procedure of the High Council of the TAC and renewed our call for extra-regional states, particularly the major powers, to accede to the TAC.
12. We welcomed the progress in the implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty, stressed the importance of direct consultation between ASEAN, and the Five Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) and considered this a significant progress towards encouraging the accession of the Nuclear Weapon States to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty. In this connection, we welcomed the first direct consultation between ASEAN and the NWS in Ha Noi on 19 May 2001, reaffirmed our support to this process and called for continued consultations with the NWS. We also welcomed the participation for the first time of the Philippines as a full member of the SEANWFZ Commission, having recently deposited its instrument of ratification.
13. We noted positive developments in the ARF process through various activities at both Track I and Track II level. We were encouraged that 8th ARF would be adopting three Papers, namely the Paper on Concepts and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy, the Terms of Reference for the ARF Experts/Eminent Persons Register and the Paper on the Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair. This would mark a significant achievement for the ARF process. We also noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the overlapping measures between Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and Preventive Diplomacy (PD). Over the past year numerous discussions and talks have been held to enhance mutual

understanding among nations and promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region. In this regard, we appreciated activities undertaken by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as the ARF Chair through formal and informal contacts with ARF participants as well as regional and international organizations, particularly the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Non-Aligned Movement. We commended the activities of the ARF Intersessional Support Group (ISG) on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), and the convening of the ARF Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on Transnational Crimes, particularly in examining transnational crimes of concern to the region.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

14. We held in-depth and wide-ranging discussions on recent regional and international political and security developments, particularly situations that affect regional security environment and noted that the overall security environment remained relatively stable and was marked by a number of positive developments including greater interactions and exchanges between and among countries. We agreed that the stability of relationship among the major powers, particularly the US and China, is important to the region. We reiterated the important role played by the major powers and called upon them to continue to make their contribution to strengthening peace, security, cooperation and development in the region and throughout the world.
 15. We welcomed positive developments in the Asia-Pacific region including the establishment of the Boao Asia Forum. We also noted with satisfaction the Inaugural Ministerial Meeting of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) held in March 2001 in Santiago, Chile. The Meeting was instrumental in setting out the directions for future East Asia-Latin America cooperation.
 16. We exchanged views on new developments in East Timor and welcomed the progress towards the restoration of stability in East Timor and acknowledged the role of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) in the transitional period and reiterated the need for the support of the international community in playing an active role in the nation-building efforts of East Timor.
- We welcomed the registration process of East Timorese refugees which had been undertaken successfully without incident. We supported the on-going efforts of the Government of Indonesia in cooperating with relevant international humanitarian organizations in facilitating the return and resettlement of the refugees. We also welcomed the successful completion of the UNSECOORD mission which is essential in facilitating the role of the U.N. in resolving the problem of the East Timorese refugees.
17. We noted encouraging developments in the Union of Myanmar and appreciated the efforts of the Government of Myanmar towards these developments and reiterated our support to the on-going process of national reconciliation in this country
 18. We welcomed the political transition and election of President Megawati Soekamoputri in Indonesia. We expressed our hope that this orderly and peaceful transition would lead to political stability and speedy economic recovery in Indonesia. We reiterated our support for the territorial integrity and national unity of Indonesia. We believed that the stability and prosperity of Indonesia would contribute positively to the peace, stability and prosperity of the region.
 19. We reaffirmed our commitment to our "one China" policy and expressed our hope for further positive developments in the Cross-Straits relations.
 20. We reviewed developments in the South China Sea and welcomed the progress in the consultations between ASEAN and China towards the adoption of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. We encouraged the continued exercise of self-restraint by all the parties concerned and the promotion of confidence building measures in this area and welcomed their commitment to resolving disputes in the South China Sea by peaceful means in conformity with recognized principles of international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. (UNCLOS) as well as to ensuring the freedom of navigation in the area.
 21. We recalled the historic inter-Korean Summit in June 2000 and follow-up steps taken to implement the North-South/South-North Joint Declaration and welcomed continued efforts

- for positive developments in the Korean Peninsula. We expressed our hope that their momentum would be sustained by all the parties concerned, particularly the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) with a view to achieving peaceful national reunification and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.
22. We reiterated our support to the Middle East Peace Process and expressed our concern over the escalating tension and continuing violence in Gaza and the West Bank. We called for immediate measures to prevent the situation from further deteriorating and called on the parties involved to refrain from resorting to violence and work towards achieving a comprehensive and lasting solution to the Middle East problem.
 23. We reaffirmed our support for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and stressed the importance of enhancing the movement's capacity to be a unifying forum for cooperation among developing countries, effectively representing aspirations and interests of the developing world. We expressed our hope that recent NAM initiatives to strengthen the South-South cooperation would be implemented successfully.
 24. We welcomed the successful outcome of the United Nations Millennium Summit held in New York on 6-8 September 2000. We were of the view that the Summit was a success since it reaffirmed the UN Member Countries' commitment to the UN process, and to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration adopted by the Summit in which the world leaders pledged to make the right to development a reality for all. We agreed that ASEAN should work with the rest of the world community to implement the Millennium Declaration.
 25. We exchanged views on the reform of the United Nations and reiterated that the reform of the UN and the UN Security Council should be undertaken in conformity with the principles of strengthening representativeness, effectiveness, transparency and accountability with a view to enhancing the role of the UN in the service of all nations, particularly developing ones.
 26. We stressed the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and called on the Nuclear Weapon States to make further efforts towards the elimination of all nuclear weapons.
 27. We noted the progress that has been made in negotiating a Protocol on the verification of the Biological Weapon Convention (BWC) and looked forward to the 5th Review of the BWC in November 2001.
 28. We also noted the outcome of the UN Conference on Small and Light Weapons in all its aspects held in New York on 9-20 July 2001 and expressed our hope that the Program of Action adopted by this conference would be implemented effectively.
 29. We noted the recent dialogues among the major powers and concerned states on the NMD and expressed our hope that such dialogues would narrow down the differences and bring new constructive approaches to address the issues related to the NMD in the interest of maintaining world security and stability.
 30. We recalled the decision made by the 26th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore on 23-24 July 1993 to consider the establishment of an appropriate regional mechanism on human rights and noted the consultations between the ASEAN Senior Officials and the Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism. We acknowledged the efforts of the Working Group in realizing this objective, including the convening of a Workshop for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism in Jakarta, Indonesia on 5-6 July 2001. In this connection, we agreed that ASEAN-ISIS should also be involved in the discussions especially in the broader context of a People's ASEAN.
 31. We should endeavour to find a common position in the regional and international form. On the WTO, we recognized the need for a balanced and broad-based agenda for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, taking into account the interests of developing countries. The agenda should include capacity building for developing countries to better cope with the challenges of liberalization and carry out the various commitments under WTO. We refined our conviction that cooperation in a rule-based multilateral trading system plays

- a vital role in alleviating poverty of ASEAN. Furthermore, we reiterated ASEAN's wish to see the WTO speed up the process for the accession of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam to the organization. We were likewise of the view that the early accession of China to the WTO would be a significant contribution to the multilateral trading system.
32. We expressed our concern over the decline of commodity prices in the international market. Recalling the importance of the commodity sector to the economies of Member Countries, we expressed our support for efforts by ASEAN to continue to formulate a common stand and course of action to effectively address trade distorting practices of developed countries, such as export subsidies and domestic support measures, that continue to plague international trade in commodities.
 33. We reiterated ASEAN's call for support for the participation of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar in APEC's Working Groups pending their eventual admission into APEC. We welcomed China's APEC chairmanship for the year 2001 and expressed our full support for the realization of the theme "Meeting New Challenges in the New Century: Achieving Common Prosperity through Participation and Cooperation".
 34. We noted the successful conclusion of 3rd Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM) in Beijing, China, on 14-25 May 2001, and reaffirmed our commitment to ASEM process. We reiterated our support for the early admission of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar into ASEM. We agreed to work towards a more interactive and informal dialogue at future ASEM meetings in order to reinvigorate the comprehensive Asia-Europe Partnership in the post crisis era. In this context, we looked toward to the 4th ASEM FMM in Spain in June 2002 and the ASEM IV Summit in Copenhagen in September 2002.
 35. We attached high importance to the Greater Mekong Sub-regional Cooperation program (GMS), which aims to increase intra-regional, cross border trade through better physical linkages to create more positive investment climate; and to strengthen labor force and markets through human resource development initiatives. In this regard, we noted that there is a natural complementarity between the aims of the GMS programs and the ASEAN's interest and activities in the Mekong sub-region including through the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), which underlines the need for closer cooperation and coordination between the two bodies.
 36. Welcoming the success of the First Ministerial Meeting on Mekong-Ganga Cooperation in Vientiane on 11-13 November 2000, we considered this cooperation as complementary efforts to exploit the potential of the region and expressed the hope that this cooperation, which in the initial stage would focus on tourism promotion and development, would bring about tangible results, contributing to the efforts to integrate the Mekong sub-region to the region. We looked forward to the success of the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Mekong-Ganga cooperation, in Hanoi, on 28 July 2001.
- #### ECONOMIC COOPERATION
37. We were encouraged by the continued economic recovery in ASEAN, but also recognized the urgent need to continue with structural reforms in view of the slowdown in the global economy. We emphasized the importance of continuing regional economic integration as a measure to reduce costs and attract investment.
 38. We welcomed the efforts to expedite the accomplishment of AFTA and emphasized the important milestone it represents for regional economic integration. We lauded the important move by the original signatories in accelerating the implementation of the CEPT scheme. We expressed support for efforts to publicize AFTA and welcomed the CEPT Outreach Program conducted from 21 March 2001 to 6 April 2001 in five ASEAN capitals to disseminate information on the benefits of AFTA to the business community.
 39. We were encouraged by significant progress in the implementation of AICO. We stressed the importance of ASEAN's trade facilitation initiatives, particularly in terms of customs and standards for intra-ASEAN trade. We recalled that the Sixth ASEAN Summit in December 1998 had called for a second round of negotiations in services. We strongly urged the relevant ASEAN bodies to ensure that substantive offers in air transport, business services, construction, finance, maritime transport, telecommunications and tourism be made before the end of this year. We urged an

early implementation of the Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA).

40. We noted the significant progress made in the implementation of the regional financing arrangements particularly the enlargement of the ASEAN Swap Arrangement and its expansion to include all 10 ASEAN Member Countries, and the conclusion of several substantial agreements on bilateral swap arrangements among ASEAN Member Countries, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea under the Chiang Mai Initiative.
41. We lauded the decision taken by the ASEAN Economic Ministers to establish an ASEAN-GSP Scheme to accord preferential treatment to export goods from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam on a bilateral basis, and expressed our belief that this would bring immediate trade benefits to these newer Member Countries.
42. We were pleased with the progress in the implementation of e-ASEAN Framework Agreement signed by ASEAN Leaders at the 4th ASEAN Informal Summit in Singapore last November, particularly the development of a reference framework for e-commerce legal infrastructure. We welcomed the holding of the e-ASEAN Business leaders Forum in April 2001 to validate the Framework Agreement's attractiveness to leading ICT multinational corporations and invite their active participation. We were pleased with the successful outcome of the First ASEAN Telecommunication Ministers' Meeting (TELMIN) in Kuala Lumpur on 13 - 14 July 2001 including its decision to participate actively in the realization of e-ASEAN and other ICT related activities in ASEAN.
43. We stressed the importance of the tourism industry to the economies of Member Countries and reiterated our support for the Visit ASEAN Campaign (VAC) launched in Brunei Darussalam and expressed our hope that the VAC would give ASEAN a stronger brand name as a single tourism destination.
44. We recognized the importance of those sub-regional groupings/growth areas such as BIMPE-EAGA, IMT-GT, IMS-GT, the AMBDC and the West-East Corridor in hastening regional integration and believed that a well-balanced development in sub-regional groupings/growth

areas could serve as a solid foundation for ASEAN Economic Integration. In this regard, we lauded the convening of a seminar in Brunei Darussalam aimed at developing a common strategy for revitalizing these sub-regional groupings/growth areas. We appreciated the support and assistance being given to newer Member Countries including those through development projects/programs in the AMBDC. We reiterated our call to gather support and assistance from ASEAN Member Countries and from the rest of the international community for the development of ASEAN sub-regional cooperation.

FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION

45. We noted that the ASEAN-Australia Safety Nets Project commenced implementation in May 2001 and expressed appreciation to Australia for its support for ASEAN's endeavour. We considered this an important step forward in improving the region's capacity to design social safety nets and to assess the social impact of economic and other setbacks. We also noted that two activities under the Framework ASEAN Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication were being implemented with support from the UNDP.
46. We welcomed the measures taken by the ASEAN Health Ministers to improve the competitiveness of health service and health-related products in ASEAN, and to provide the peoples of ASEAN with a better access to cheaper drugs.
47. We noted with satisfaction the progress in the preparation for the special session on HIV/AIDS on the occasion of 7th ASEAN Summit in November 2001 in Brunei Darussalam, including the active participation of UNAIDS and other parties in the formulation of the ASEAN Work Program on HIV/AIDS II (2001-2004). We also noted that the ASEAN regional response to HIV/AIDS was in line with the Declaration of commitments on HIV/AIDS adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS on 25-27 June 2001 in New York.
48. We welcomed the Yangon 2000 Declaration on Preparing ASEAN Youth For the Challenges of Globalization, announced at the 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY), held in Yangon in November 2000, which provided

- guidance for preparing and empowering the region's youth to make use of the opportunities and meet challenges created by globalization.
49. We noted the importance of the on-going efforts to combat forest fires and haze problems in the region. These include the implementation of the Regional Haze Action Plan and Immediate Action Plan; monitoring of forest fires and haze; and negotiations on the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, which was expected to be concluded by the end of this year. We emphasized the importance of strong commitments among the Member Countries, increased public and community awareness and participation, and continued support from donors to ensure success and sustainability of activities. In this regard, we expressed our appreciation for the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), some international organizations and Dialogue Countries.
 50. We were pleased with the activities of the 36th ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI) in developing a regional identity and a sense of community among ASEAN's people. In this connection we lauded the efforts of COCI in promoting regional understanding and interaction among the youth, artists, experts and representatives of the mass media. We also acknowledged the importance of the ASEAN Kindness Movement as a new initiative to further promote the awareness of ASEAN and its standing in the international community.
 51. Recalling the recommendations of the ASEAN Eminent Persons Group to develop more and broader linkages among educational institutions at all levels and to raise the standards of education in the whole of ASEAN, we reaffirmed the importance of student and academic exchanges among the universities of the ASEAN Member Countries. In this connection, we recognized the important role of the ASEAN University Network (AUN) as a pillar of the human resource development in the region, and requested the AUN to explore the acceleration of credit transfer among its member universities. We also requested relevant ASEAN bodies to continue to explore the establishment of common professional and technical standards in ASEAN and the setting up of benchmarks in the field of education.
 52. We expressed support for efforts of the Committee on Science and Technology (COST) to develop cooperation with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea within the ASEAN+3 framework.
 53. We noted the progress being made towards the adoption of work program to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime. We also welcomed the efforts to intensify ASEAN cooperation against transnational crimes through convening of workshops on specific issues among law enforcement officers, thus creating closer networking and better understanding among them.
 54. We were pleased to note that the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs had endorsed the Institutional Framework and Plan of Action which institutionalize cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries on Immigration matters. We also noted the progress in the use of smart card to facilitate travel within ASEAN and the harmonization of ASEAN immigration regulations.
 55. We welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) Plan of Action by the International Congress in Pursuit of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015, which was jointly organized by Thailand, ASEAN and the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention on 11-13 October 2000 in Bangkok, Thailand. We were gratified by the agreement to strengthen coordination in proactively advocating awareness of the danger of drugs and response building consensus and sharing best practices on demand reduction, strengthening the rule of law through improved law enforcement cooperation and legislative review, and eliminating the supply of illicit drugs by boosting alternative development program and community participation in the eradication of illicit crops. Mindful that illegal drugs and narcotics trafficking is not only of concern to each ASEAN Member Country and ASEAN as a whole, but also to the entire international community, we agreed to designate 2002-2003 as "ASEAN Drugs Awareness Years" in order to help raise the awareness of the peoples of ASEAN on the danger of illicit drugs and narcotics trafficking and mobilize their support for further strengthening the region's efforts in the fight against narcotic drugs. In this regard,

we agreed to request the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) to consider how to implement such measures, including the possibility of establishing an appropriate ASEAN mechanism to combat illegal drugs and narcotics trafficking.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

56. We expressed our satisfaction with the progress of cooperation within the framework of ASEAN+3 with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea in all fields, particularly trade, investment and finance. Considering that the enhancement of these cooperative activities was of great significance in restoring economic dynamism in East Asia in general and South East Asia in particular, we encouraged further cooperative efforts with priority to be given to infrastructure, ICT and human resource development. In this connection, we welcomed the establishment of the East Asia Study Group (EASG) and initiatives to boost this cooperation. We also encouraged the participation of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea and other Dialogue Partners in the implementation of ASEAN initiatives such as the IAI and measures highlighted in the Hanoi Declaration on Narrowing Development Gap for Closer ASEAN Integration.
57. We reaffirmed that ASEAN's relations with its Dialogue Partners are the most significant aspect of ASEAN's external relations and expressed appreciation for their support for the implementation of the HPA and other ASEAN plans of action. We called upon the Dialogue Partners to continue the assistance especially after the review of the HPA by the ASEAN Summit in November 2001 in Brunei Darussalam, which would identify priority areas that ASEAN should focus on.
58. In the context of ASEAN overall development cooperation with Dialogue partners, we reiterated that the principle of non-discrimination should be upheld and respected in the Dialogue Partners' relations with ASEAN and agreed that development cooperation activities in the dialogue process should involve ASEAN as one regional entity.
59. We recalled the successful convening of the 13th ASEAN-European Union Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) on 11-12 December 2000 in Vientiane. We expressed ASEAN's desire to further strengthen its relations and to promote dialogue with the EU in all sectors of mutual interest. We looked forward to the next AEMM in Europe.
60. We stressed ASEAN's continued interest in enhancing closer cooperation with the United Nations, inter-governmental and regional organizations and welcomed the ASEAN Secretariat's efforts to coordinate closer cooperation with these organizations.

HA NOI DECLARATION ON NARROWING DEVELOPMENT GAP FOR CLOSER ASEAN INTEGRATION

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 23 JULY 2001

WE, the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member countries representing Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the benefits of globalization are at present unevenly distributed and that the development gap among nations and regions would be further widened without effective measures to address the negative impact of globalization;

RECALLING the commitment of the ASEAN leaders, proclaimed in the ASEAN Vision 2020 at the Second informal ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur in 1997, to promote equitable economic development and the reduction of poverty and economic disparities in the ASEAN region and in the Hanoi Plan of Action adopted at the 6th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi; in 1998 prescribing concrete measures to reduce the development gap among ASEAN Member Countries and to promote the economic integration of the new Member Countries into ASEAN; and

EVOKING the decision of the ASEAN leaders on the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) adopted at the Fourth Informal Summit in Singapore in 2000, giving direction to and sharpening the focus of collective efforts in ASEAN to narrow the development gap within ASEAN as well as between

ASEAN and other parts of the world;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

1. We resolve to promote, through concerted efforts, effective cooperation and mutual assistance to narrow the development gap among ASEAN Member Countries and between ASEAN and the rest of the world for the sake of dynamic and sustained growth of our region and prosperity of all our peoples.
2. We shall work together to identify, through research, analysis and consultation, the comparative strengths of our economics and their potential for complementary, with a view to promoting regional economic integration and a sense of community and shared responsibility among our nations.
3. We shall devote special efforts and resources to promoting the development of the newer Member Countries of ASEAN (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Viet Nam or CLMV) with priority given to infrastructure, human resource development, and information and communication technology.
4. We renew our call for the development of the region through sub-regional cooperative programmes, including the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation, the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN

Growth Area, the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth triangle, the Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore Growth triangle and the West-East Corridor across Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar. We encourage contact and coordination among the different frameworks as well as among the relevant regional organizations in order to benefit from their best practices.

5. We shall continue to expand and deepen our linkages with the rest of the world, particularly with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea within the ASEAN+3 framework, and with the other Dialogue Partners of ASEAN.
6. We are determined, for these purposes, to mobilize resources in partnership with other Dialogue Partners, the international community including the private sector to develop the following priority areas:

Infrastructure

7. We shall strengthen our transportation linkages through developing and implementing more extensive land, sea and air infrastructural projects in order to facilitate the flow of goods and people and to generate higher income for people in the region. Such projects include the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link and the ASEAN Highway Network. We urge the international community to provide technical support to and participate in these major infrastructural projects.
8. We look forward to the expeditious implementation of the trans-ASEAN energy networks consisting of the ASEAN Power Grid and the trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline projects; which would help ensure the security and sustainability of energy supplies in ASEAN.

Human Resource Development

9. We place the highest priority on the development of human resources as the key to economic growth, social stability and human fulfillment.
10. We are encouraged by the assistance being extended by ASEAN Member Countries to the newer Member Countries in various areas of human resource development including under the IAI framework.
11. We attach great importance to the

establishment and strengthening of training institutes and programmes in CLMV and their linkage with those in the other ASEAN Member Countries for mutual assistance.

12. We strongly encourage efforts to promote and upgrade the Use of English as a tool of communication among all peoples of ASEAN in order to make ASEAN competitive in the knowledge-based economy.
13. We recognize the need to explore the setting up of benchmarks and time-tables in the field of education to ensure the development of skills and attitudes of our people required by the knowledge-based economy and the information age.
14. We welcome the comprehensive assessment being undertaken of the training needs of government officials in CLMV, and urge international support to meet these training needs while mobilizing our own resources for this endeavour.

Information and Communication Technology

15. ASEAN is determined to use information and communication technology (ICT) as a tool for narrowing the development gap and closing the digital divide within and among Member Countries as well as between ASEAN and the rest of the world. We reaffirm the importance for ASEAN to promote the development and the use of ICT for raising people's income, especially in the rural areas, for improving the system of public education, and for enhancing the benefits of public health and medical care for the poor. Therefore, we call for the urgent implementation of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement and the Asian IT Belt initiative.
16. We look forward to the expeditious liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment in the ICT sector to ensure the widespread availability and use of inexpensive ICT goods and services, and to adopt concrete measures aimed at facilitating e-commerce in the region.
17. We reaffirm the importance of the assessment to be conducted, with international support, of the needs of CLMV in terms of their e-readiness, especially the level of ICT skills and infrastructure requirements. We call on the international community including the private sector to cooperate with ASEAN in meeting

those needs effectively.

Regional Economic Integration

18. We fully support the measures being undertaken to integrate CLMV into ASEAN as a regional economy, including the ASEAN Free Trade Area, the ASEAN Investment Area and liberalization of trade in services.
19. We especially welcome the decision by the ASEAN Economic Ministers on the extension of unilateral preferential treatment by the six older ASEAN Member Countries to imports from CLMV on bilateral basis.
20. We call for renewed resolve to conclude the remaining protocols necessary to implement the ASEAN Agreement on Goods in Transit so as to facilitate land transport in Southeast Asia and lower its cost. We look forward to the early conclusion of the ASEAN multi-modal and inter-state transport agreements.
21. We reaffirm the importance of expanding more efficient air services in our region for the freer movement of people and goods. This would greatly help integrate the ASEAN region, foster commercial and human contacts, and stimulate broad-based economic activities and growth. In this light, we reiterate ASEAN's resolve to develop a Competitive Air Services Policy which may be a gradual step towards an Open Sky Policy in ASEAN.
22. We reiterate the call of our Governments on members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to expedite the accession of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam to the Organization so as to enable them to benefit more fully from the multilateral trading system in the world market.
23. We shall step up our efforts to make possible the participation of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar in the working groups of APEC and ASEM with a view to their eventual full membership in those forums.
24. We shall convene a workshop in Cambodia to develop a comprehensive and coherent programme for the Mekong development cooperation, especially for the integration of CLMV into the ASEAN economic mainstream. We likewise support the convening of a seminar in Brunei Darussalam on "Complementing Regional Integration through Sub-regional Groupings / Growth Areas such as the BIMP-

EAGA, IMS-GT, IMT-GT and the Greater Mekong Sub-region".

25. We shall establish an IAI Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat to enhance its capability in coordinating and supporting ASEAN's efforts in realizing the objectives of this Declaration.

CHAIRMAN'S PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 2ND ASEAN+3 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 24 JULY 2001

1. The Second Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN with the Foreign Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ASEAN+3 FMM) was held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 24 July 2001. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.
2. The Foreign Ministers reiterated the importance of the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation adopted by the ASEAN+3 Summit in Manila in 1999 and the decisions made by the ASEAN+3 Summit in Singapore in 2000.
3. The Foreign Ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues affecting peace, stability and development in the region. The discussions were held in a candid and friendly atmosphere. The Foreign Ministers held the views that peace, stability in the region continued to be further strengthened. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the election of President Megawati Soekarnoputri in Indonesia in an orderly and peaceful manner. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction that the exchange and cooperation between South and North Korea have registered progress in various fields, following the North-South Summit on June 15, 2000 and underscored the importance of holding the second inter-Korean Summit in consolidating peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.
4. The Foreign Ministers reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the follow-up actions to the decisions of the ASEAN+3 Summit in Singapore, in November 2000. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction that the cooperation between ASEAN and the three Northeast Asian countries was strengthened and expanded especially in such areas as economic, financial, human resources, information technology and development cooperation.
5. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the endorsement of the 6 priority projects at the recent ASEAN+3 Economic Ministers Meeting and expressed the hope for early materialisation of these projects.
6. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers welcomed the efforts of China, Japan and the ROK to assist ASEAN in promoting regional integration through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and especially the new Member Countries in this endeavour for regional integration in 3 priority areas of the human resources, information technology and the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC). They also encouraged the three Northeast Asian countries for more assistance and cooperation in this regard.

7. The Foreign Ministers recognized that the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation had become one of the major areas within the framework of ASEAN+3 cooperation. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers welcomed the participation of the Plus Three countries in the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation as reflected by the sending of study missions and survey teams to the regional countries. The ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers were briefed on the activities of the Financial Experts Group within the AMBDC framework. The Plus Three Foreign Ministers took note of ASEAN's proposal on the establishment of a Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat for monitoring and coordinating Mekong Basing development projects.
8. The Foreign Ministers agreed to further intensify and expand the development cooperation projects in the region.
9. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the formal launching of the EASG and the establishment of the Working Group of the EASG and took note of the progress of the EASG by the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the EASG. The Foreign Ministers appreciated the efforts by the Members of the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) in preparing the Report to be submitted to the ASEAN+3 Summit in November 2001 in Brunei Darussalam.
10. The Foreign Ministers encouraged the EASG to consider the recommendations included in the Report of the EAVG in order to identify feasible ones for submission to the ASEAN+3 Summit with a view to developing the process of the ASEAN+3 cooperation in the interest of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
11. The Foreign Ministers also discussed the preparations for the ASEAN+3 Summit, which will be held on 5-6 November 2001 in Brunei Darussalam.

III. ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 8TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 25 JULY 2001

1. The Eighth Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held in Hanoi, Capital of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on 25 July 2001. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers of all ARF participating countries or their representatives. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also present. The list of Delegates appears as ANNEX A.

Overview of the ARF Process

3. The Ministers recognized that during the last inter-sessional year, the ARF process continued to make progress and play an important role in maintaining peace and stability in the region, particularly in enhancing and promoting dialogue and cooperation on political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Over the past year, exchanges of views on regional and international issues have become even more candid and inclusive, in view of the full participation of all countries in the ARF's geographical footprint. In this context, the Ministers noted with satisfaction that the ARF was the key forum for participating countries to address actively and constructively key political and security issues, including newly emerged issues as result of globalization that have a bearing on regional peace and stability.
4. The Ministers acknowledge the contributions

of the ARF to the regional peace and stability and emphasised that confidence building is of essential importance to and remains the foundation and main thrust of the whole ARF process. They agreed that this process be further strengthened and more confidence building measures be encouraged. The Ministers appreciated the progress in strengthening the four measures in the overlap between CBM and Preventive Diplomacy (PD) which would contribute to the enhancement of the effectiveness of the ARF process.

5. The Ministers reaffirmed that the ARF will continue to develop at a pace comfortable to all ARF participants and emphasised the importance of ARF making decision by consensus and on the basis of non-interference into one another's internal affairs. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) continued to play its leading role in the ARF and expressed their support for this continued role in the ARF process. At the same time, the Ministers noted that each ARF Participant had contributed more actively to advancing the ARF process.
6. In recalling the decision of the Sixth ARF in July 1999 on the overlap between CBMs and PD and that of the Seventh ARF in July 2000 on the enhanced role of the ARF Chair, the Ministers expressed their appreciation to Viet Nam who, as the ARF Chair, had continued and expanded informal contacts with other

international and regional organisations, particularly with the United Nations, the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the non-Aligned Movement. They agreed that such contacts were fruitful in promoting exchange of information and sharing of experience between ARF and these organisation and that these links should be further expanded in the future.

7. The Ministers acknowledged with satisfaction that the ARF Chair had been successful in serving as conduit for information sharing in between ARF meetings, particularly between participants who had no bilateral diplomatic contacts, thus enabling the ARF participants to exchange information relevant to the ARF in a timely manner, and on a voluntary basis. In this regard, the Ministers agreed to adopt the Paper on the Enhanced Role of ARF Chair which appears in ANNEX B and also expressed their appreciation for the excellent work done by Japan in preparing and finalising this Paper.
8. The Ministers welcomed further progress on the ARF Register of Experts/Eminent Persons to be available for use by ARF participants on the voluntary basis. The Ministers agreed to adopt the Paper on the Terms of Reference for ARF Experts/Eminent Persons which appears in ANNEX C. In this regard, they commended the excellent work done by the ISG on CBMs, particularly by the Co-Chairs of ISG-CBMs, i.e. Malaysia and the Republic of Korea, in finalising the Terms of Reference for the ARF Experts/Eminent Persons. The Ministers also encouraged the ARF participants to nominate their experts/eminent persons for the Register on a voluntary basis with the ARF Chair serving as a focal point.
9. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Singapore for its valuable contribution in preparing the Paper on the Concept and Principles of PD and to all ARF participants for their inputs to the Paper. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the progress in the discussion on the PD Paper in the ARF and commended the work in this regard by ISG-CBM. The Ministers agreed to adopt the PD Paper as a snapshot of the state on current discussion on PD in the ARF and that the ISG would continue to discuss PD in the next inter sessional year and focus on those issues where there remain divergence of views. The paper on the Concept and Principles of PD appears in ANNEX D. Noting with satisfaction the

remarkable progress in the discussion and eventual adoption of the above-mentioned progress in the discussion and eventual adoption of the above-mentioned papers, the Ministers recognised that these developments represent a significant step forward in the ARF process in the last inter-sessional year.

10. The Ministers commended ARF participants for their contributions to the Annual Security Outlook (ASO) on a voluntary basis and welcomed the second volume of the ARF ASO compiled without editing by the ARF Chair. Noting that the ASO could contribute to the promotion of mutual trust and understanding as well as facilitating the exchange of views among ARF participants, the Ministers agreed that the current and future ASOs would not be treated as confidential. The Ministers encouraged ARF participants to submit ASO in the coming year.
11. Noting the importance of the participants of defence and military officials in the ARF process, the Ministers welcomed the contribution of greater and active interaction among defence and military officials towards the promotion of mutual understanding. In this regard, the Ministers agreed to endorse the recommendation by the ARF SOM that Defence Officials Luncheon be included as a regular feature of the ISG.

Highlights of Issues Discussed

12. The Ministers had in-depth and extensive discussion on the political and security situation in the Asia-Pacific since the Seventh ARF in July 2000, particularly on the major developments that affect the regional security environment. Conducted in the ARF traditional open and candid atmosphere, the exchange of view among the Ministers was very substantive and focussed, this helping create better understanding of the security perceptions and concerns among ARF participants.
13. The Ministers shared the views that on the whole, the situation in the Asia-Pacific region remained relatively stable. The Ministers noted that despite certain challenges and uncertainties, and differences in political and strategic perceptions, the region continues to enjoy peace and stability. The Ministers acknowledge the importance of peaceful and stable relations between major powers as key

to regional peace and security, and believed that the major powers would continue their efforts to improve and develop their relations so as to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

14. The Ministers exchanged views on the accelerated globalisation and were of the view that under the multi-faceted impacts of globalisation as well as those of technologies, economic security is fast becoming a major concern of all nations, both developing and developed alike. They particularly noted with concern the widening gap between developed and developing countries and determination by the world Head of State and Government expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to "create an environment at the national and global levels alike which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty."
15. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the recent positive development of overall situation on the Korean Peninsula including increased dialogue and on operation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Summit on June 15, 2000 in Pyongyang. They further encouraged both the DPRK and the ROK to build on the success of the Summit to continue the peace process and emphasised the importance of holding the second Inter-Korean Summit with a view to establishing lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. The Ministers also took note of the DPRK's position concerning the DPRK-US Agreed Framework of 1994. They welcomed continued efforts by the international community to contribute to the above endeavours including the recent visit by H.E. Mr. Goran Persson, the President-in-Office of the European Council and Prime Ministers of Sweden, to both the DPRK and the ROK. The Ministers were of the view that outstanding security and humanitarian issues would be addressed through increased dialogues. The Ministers appreciated the active participation by the DPRK in ARF activities in the last year and considered this a contribution towards strengthening the ARF process and advancing the cause of regional peace and security.
16. The Ministers noted that the situation in Southeast Asia on the whole has been peaceful and stable. The Ministers exchanged views on the recent developments in the South China Sea and welcomed the progress in the consultations between ASEAN and China to develop a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. The Ministers encouraged of self-restraint by all countries concerned and the promotion of confidence-building measures in this area, and welcomed the commitment of countries concerned to resolve disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the recognised principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as well as to ensure the freedom of navigation in the area.
17. The Ministers noted that the 4th ASEAN Informal Summit (AIS) held in Singapore in November 2000 was one of the most significant events that had taken place in the region since the ARF 7. At the Summit, the ASEAN leaders agreed on the need to address ASEAN's cohesion as that would be an important factor for stability in the region. They also agreed to push forward proposals that would enable closer integration and help reduce development within ASEAN. Another key outcome of the Summit was the decision by the ASEAN leaders of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea to start moving towards closer East Asia cooperation. The Ministers shared the views by the ASEAN+3 leaders that a gradual approach towards closer East Asian Cooperation would contribute to the peace, stability and prosperity of the region. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the creation of the East Asia cooperation.
18. The Ministers recognised the purposed and the principles contained in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as a basis for the promotion of cooperation, amity and friendship within Southeast Asia and between ASEAN and ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and other ARF participants. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the High Council of TAC by the ASEAN member countries at the 34th AMM in July 2001 in Ha Noi. They noted the consideration by non - Southeast Asian countries to accede to the TAC.
19. The Ministers welcomed the progress regarding the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) as a contribution to global efforts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the continued progress made in the consultation between the State Parties to the SEANWFZ Treaty and the Nuclear Weapon States regarding the latter's accession to the Protocol

- to the Treaty. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the progress made at the recent Direct Dialogue between the State Parties and the Nuclear Weapon States held in Ha Noi May 2001. The Ministers welcomed the P5 Joint Statement concerning security assurances for Mongolia and support the Nuclear-Weapon Free Status of Mongolia.
20. The Ministers welcomed the election of President Megawati Soekarnoputri in Indonesia which had been conducted in a democratic constitutional and peaceful manner. The Ministers expressed the hope that this orderly and peaceful transition would lead to political stability and accelerated economic recovery in Indonesia. They reiterated support for the territorial integrity and political unity of Indonesia. The Ministers believed that the stability and prosperity of Indonesia would contribute positively to the peace, stability and prosperity of the region.
 21. The Ministers noted the cooperation between East Timor and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and reiterated the need for the support of international community including ASEAN to play in active role in the nation building efforts of East Timor up to and beyond the territory's independence. They supported the efforts to resolve the problem of East Timorese refugees in East Nusa Tenggara province in a comprehensive manner in order to ensure peace and harmony of all Timorese. They welcomed the plan to hold election for the Constituent Assembly on 30 August 2001.
 22. The Ministers welcomed the encouraging developments in Myanmar, the process of national reconciliation in particular. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the efforts in this regard by the Government of the Union of Myanmar, as well as those of ASEAN, the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Myanmar, the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General.
 23. The Ministers noted the situation in Fiji and Solomon Islands, welcomed positive development towards a resolution of the Bouganville conflict and expressed the hope for positive outcome of the Fijian elections to be held in August 2001 and the efforts of the International Peace Monitoring Team in Solomon Islands.
 24. The Ministers discussed issues relating to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery as well the implications of missile defence systems. They noted expressions of support for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the core of the global non-proliferation regime. The Ministers also took note the call for all states to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and to accede to the NPT. The Ministers urged all states to maintain existing moratoria on nuclear testing. They also took note of the call made in the NPT Review Conference Final Document on the Conference in Disarmament to agree on a programme of work which includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty. The Ministers further emphasised the importance of systematic and progressive efforts by Nuclear Weapon States on nuclear disarmament and called on all states to work towards the objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons.
 25. The Ministers expressed their hope that the Protocol strengthening the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) would be finalised before the 5th BTWC Review Conference and urged all countries to speedily conclude their negotiations on the said Protocol.
 26. The Ministers recognised that the transnational crimes could not only have potentially serious impacts on regional peace and stability, but also pose a threat to the national economic development and social well-being of all states. In this regard, they noted the serious implications of drug production and trafficking and underscored the need to address this critical issue and other transnational crimes such as piracy, illegal migration, illicit trafficking of small arms, money laundering, terrorism, and cyber crime. The Ministers underlined the importance of greater bilateral, regional and international cooperative efforts in this regard.
 27. The Ministers welcomed the Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols and encouraged ARF participating countries to sign and ratify them soon. The Ministers expressed their supports for results of the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in all its aspects which was held in New York from 9

to 20 July 2001 and believed ARF participants would promote the Regional cooperation pursuant to the UN Programme of Action on SALW. In this context, the Ministers noted the Australian proposal for an ARF Declaration on small arms.

**Reports of Track I and II Activities
for the Current Inter-sessional Year
(July 2000 – July 2001)**

Track I

28. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the successful implementation of Track I and II activities during 2000 – 2001 inter-sessional year. They noted in particular the Co-Chairmen's Summary Report of the Meetings of the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence-Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), co-chaired by the Republic of Korea and Malaysia, held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea 1 – 3 November 2000 and in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 18 – 20 April 2001 (ANNEX E). The Ministers commended the work of the ISG on CBMs in contributing the advancement of the ARF process and endorsed the recommendation contained in the above mentioned report.
29. The Ministers also noted that the following Track I activities took place under the auspices of the ISG on CBMs:
 - 29.1. Combined Humanitarian Assistance Response Training (CHART) in Singapore in August 2000;
 - 29.2. Fourth Meeting of Heads of Defence College, Universities and Institutions in China in September 2000;
 - 29.3. Seminar on Defence Conversion Cooperation in Beijing in September 2000 as well as the establishment of the ARF Regional Maritime Information Center (ARF-RMIC);
 - 29.4. Seminar on Approaches to Confidence Building in Helsinki in October 2000;
 - 29.5. Workshop on Anti-Piracy in Mumbai in October 2000;
 - 29.6. ARF CMBs Seminar on Conventional Weapons in Phnom Penh in February 2001; and
 - 29.7. Seminar on Civil Military Cooperation in Peacekeeping Operations in Seoul in May 2001.

29.8. Workshop on Environmentally Sound Management of Shipboard Generated Waste in Washington in June 2001

30. The Ministers endorsed the following proposals on the implementation of CBM activities as Basket I CMBs in the next inter-sessional year:
 - 30.1. Japan's proposal to host the 5th ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defense Colleges/Institutions in late August to early September 2001;
 - 30.2. Thailand's proposal to host the 2nd Seminar on the Law of Armed Conflict: "the relevance of the Law of Armed Conflict to Peacekeeping" in Bangkok on 7 – 10 August 2001;
 - 30.3. US and Brunei's proposal to host a workshop for Mid-level ARF Civilian and Defense Officials on Preventive Diplomacy in September 2001;
 - 30.4. Vietnam's proposal to host a Seminar on Economic Security for Asia-Pacific in the First Decades of 21st Century on 26 – 28 February 2002;
 - 30.5. Russia's proposal to host the 6th ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defense Colleges/Institution in 2002; and
 - 30.6. Canada's proposal for an ARF Peacekeeping Seminar to be co-sponsored with India and Malaysia in March 2002.

Track II

31. The Ministers took note of the CSCAP Maritime Cooperation Working Group Meetings in the Philippines, China and Malaysia in 2000 – 2001 inter-sessional year and the CSCAP's draft Memorandum on a Common Understanding of the Law of the Sea in the Asia-Pacific; the 8th Meeting of CSCAP Working Group on Transnational Crime and the 9th Meeting of CSCAP Working Group on Comprehensive and Cooperative Security. The Ministers also noted that informal contacts between ARF Chair and Track II for a could provide important inputs for discussions at Track I level.
32. The Ministers welcomed efforts made by ASEAN and Russia relating to Pacific Concord and encouraged them to continue their consultations.

**Programme of Work
for the Next Inter-sessional Year
(July 2001 – July 2002)**

33. The Ministers agreed that the ISG on CBMs continue their work and welcomed the offers by Viet Nam and the Republic of India to co-chair the ISG on CBMs in the next inter-sessional year.
34. While noting that the Expert Groups Meetings on transnational crime (EGMs) in the inter-sessional year 2000 – 2001 had generally been useful in helping the ARF to address transnational crimes, the Ministers endorsed the recommendation of the ARF SOM and ISG on CBMs that those transnational crimes could be discussed in alternative formats such as ad-hoc workshop, seminars or symposia.
35. The Ministers agreed that the ISG on CBMs continue their work and welcomed the offers by Viet Nam and the Republic of India to co-chair the ISG on CBMs in the next inter-sessional year.
36. While noting that the Expert Groups Meetings on transnational crime (EGMs) in the inter-sessional year 2000 – 2001 had generally been useful in helping the ARF to address transnational crimes, the Ministers endorsed the recommendation of the ARF SOM and ISG on CBMs that those transnational crimes could be discussed in alternative formats such as ad-hoc workshop, seminars or symposia.
37. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress in exploring the overlap between CBMs and PD and strengthening of the four CBM/PD overlap proposals already agreed upon, namely the adoption of the paper on an enhanced role of the ARF Chair and the paper on the ARF Register of Experts/Eminent Persons, the Annual Security Outlook, and voluntary background briefing on regional security issues. The Ministers agreed that the ARF continues its work on these measures as well as on further exploring the overlap between CBMs and PD.

Future Direction of the ARF Process

35. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to further develop the ARF as an effective forum for dialogue and cooperation on political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. While reiterating that the ARF continue to follow an evolutionary approach in its development from Promotion of Confidence-Building Measures to Development of Preventive Diplomacy (PD) to elaboration of approaches to conflict, the Ministers agreed that the ARF continues to move at a pace comfortable to all ARF participants and on the basis of consensus. They expressed their continued support for ASEAN's role as the driving force in the ARF process.
36. The Ministers emphasised the importance of confidence-building as the foundation and the primary focus of the whole ARF process. The Ministers also agreed that while moving towards PD, the ARF should continue to strengthen its confidence-building process so as to substantially enhance mutual trust, confidence and understanding as well as cooperation among the ARF participants. They concurred that these efforts would lay a firm ground for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific as a well as for the next stages of the ARF. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made in the discussion on the concept and principles of PD within the ARF's context based on the Paper on ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy. In this regard, the Ministers requested the ISG on CBMs to intensify its efforts in discussing PD,

IV. ECONOMIC AND FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION

ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS AND THE MINISTERS OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, JAPAN AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SIEMREAP, CAMBODIA, 4 MAY 2001

1. The Third Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers and Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea was held in Siemreap, Cambodia on 4 May 2001.
2. The Ministers discussed the Leaders' initiatives from the ASEAN + China, Japan and Korea Summit held on 25 November 2000 in Singapore, exchanged views on international economic issues such as APEC and the WTO, and endorsed six projects in IT, environment, SMEs, Mekong Basin development and standards and conformity assessment for implementation by member countries.
3. The Ministers noted that bilateral trade between ASEAN and the three Northeast Asian countries grew by 38.2% between the first half of 1999 to the first half of 2000. The volume of trade grew from US \$ 66.5 billion in Jan-June 1999 to US \$ 91.9 during the same period in 2000. The Ministers agreed that, with the increased level of cooperation among countries in the region, there was a huge potential for further expanding trade and investment flows among the countries of East Asia.
4. The Ministers agreed on the need for enhanced cooperation in IT, given the importance given by the Leaders to the New Economy and the ongoing efforts by ASEAN to implement the e-ASEAN initiative. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed the inclusion of officials from China, Japan and Korea in the e-ASEAN + 3 Working Group, which will serve as a focal point for ICT collaboration between ASEAN and Northeast Asia. The ASEAN Ministers also welcomed the various initiatives being taken by China, Japan and Korea to assist ASEAN in fostering the New Economy, particularly through human resource development in the IT sector. In this connection,

Progress of Cooperation.

the Ministers noted with interest the proposal for public and private sectors to donate used ICT equipment to high schools, particularly in the newer ASEAN Member Countries.

5. The Ministers recalled the decision at their second meeting in October 2000 for Senior Economic Officials to submit projects proposals in priority areas of cooperation and welcomed the large number of proposals drawn up by member countries. They endorsed the following six project proposals recommended by the senior economic officials.
 - a. *Strengthening the Competitiveness of ASEAN SMEs*: To address the challenges and opportunities of globalisation, the project would allow SMEs to establish SME networks and gain experience in technical and managerial skills to further enhance their productivity.
 - b. *Training Programme on Practical Technology for Environmental Protection*: The project offers practical training in environmental protection, in particular on water pollution treatment.
 - c. *Asian Common Skill Standard Initiative for IT Engineer*: By adopting a common skill standard for IT engineers, countries would be in a better position to address the shortage of IT personnel. The project will allow countries to share information in setting such standards, in particular, the development of IT Engineer Examinations.
 - d. *Conformity Assessment Development Program in Industrial Standard*: The project will enhance the competency of countries' conformity assessment system, especially in the areas of testing, inspection and quality/environment management, to ensure their products and services would meet international standards. Such competency would also promote greater participation on the part of ASEAN and Northeast Asian countries in international mutual recognition arrangements.
 - e. *Software Development in the Mekong Basin Project*: Human resource development is crucial for countries in the Mekong Basin to continue to attract foreign direct investment and trade to help in their development. The project offers courses on laws and practices pertaining to international trade and investment and English language training to further

enhance human resources in the Mekong Basin.

- f. *ASEAN Satellite Image Archive and Environmental Study*: One of the important challenges facing the region is the impact of rapid modernization and industrialization on environment such as deforestation, water quality, flood, longer dry seasons and public health. The project will allow countries to share existing resources in remote sensing and satellite image archives to study, manage and resolve these environmental problems.

6. The Ministers urged the early implementation of the six projects, which should be shepherded and coordinated by the proposing countries, in order to ensure that progress can be reported to the ASEAN + China, Japan and Korea Summit in November 2001 in Brunei Darussalam. The Ministers hoped that, besides the above six projects, additional projects may be proposed and discussed by senior economic officials.

International Economic Issues

7. The Ministers considered a wide range of international and regional economic matters of common interest. They agreed on the importance of shaping the discussions in APEC and the WTO given the need to reduce the risks to economic growth in the region as a result of the slowdown in global economic activity.

APEC

8. The Ministers welcomed China's APEC chairmanship for the year 2001 and expressed their full support for the realization of the theme - "Meeting New Challenges in the New Century: Achieving Common Prosperity through Participation and Cooperation" - to ensure that all member economies are in a better position to reap the benefits of globalisation and the new economy.
9. The Ministers expressed their full support for the forthcoming meeting of the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade which will be held in Shanghai, China on 6-7 June 2001. The Ministers agreed that APEC economies should work collectively to face up to the challenges posed by globalisation, the digital divide, the development of the new economy and the multilateral trading system. In particular, they

affirmed APEC's role in enhancing cooperation as important to meeting the downturn in the global economy and to preventing the recurrence of economic difficulties.

10. The Ministers were briefed on the preparations for the upcoming APEC High-Level Meeting on Human Capacity Building to be held on 15-16 May 2001 in Beijing, People's Republic of China. The meeting will bring together members of the business community, academics and public sector in the region to address the challenges to human resources development given economic globalisation and the rapid development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The Ministers fully supported the initiative and will ensure the participation of their respective private sectors and academics in the meeting.

World Trade Organization

11. Reflecting on the likely slowdown in global economic activity, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the strengthening of the rules-based multilateral trading system and expressed support for its primacy.
12. The Ministers welcomed deepening of mutual understanding on the possible agenda for a new round of the WTO, such as anti-dumping and investment, through the sessions held in Kuala Lumpur by member countries in January 2001. The Ministers strongly affirmed that these efforts made by member countries would be an important contribution to developing a balanced and sufficiently broad based agenda, including anti-dumping, and to launching a new round in Doha.
13. The Ministers agreed that developing country concerns must be seriously addressed in the new round. The Ministers emphasized the need for more enhanced capacity building for the implementation of the WTO Agreements. The Ministers also agreed that the WTO should respond to the needs and challenges of the global economy in the 21st century.
14. The Ministers welcomed the impending accession of the People's Republic of China and supported the acceleration of the accession process for Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam.

Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

15. The Ministers agreed to convene again in September 2001 during the Thirty-Third Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

- a. H.E. Dr. Adisai Bodharamik, Chairman of AEM and Minister of Commerce, Thailand;
- b. H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- c. H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;
- d. H.E. Mr. Shi Guangsheng, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, People's Republic of China;
- e. H.E. Mr. Nazaruddin Nasution, Indonesian Ambassador to Cambodia;
- f. Mr. Hidehiro Konno, Vice Minister, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan;
- g. H.E. Mr. Hwang Doo-Yun, Minister of Trade, Republic of Korea;
- h. H.E. Mr. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Industry and Handicraft, Lao PDR;
- i. Mr. Sidek Hassan, Deputy Secretary-General (Trade), Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;
- j. H.E. Brigadier General David O. Abel, Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Myanmar;
- k. Mr. Thomas Aquino, Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines;
- l. H.E. B.G. (NS) George Yeo, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- m. Mr. Luong Van Tu, Vice Minister, Ministry of Trade, Viet Nam; and
- n. H.E. Mr. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr., Secretary-General of ASEAN.

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 2ND CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS AND THE EU TRADE COMMISSIONER

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 12 SEPTEMBER 2001

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the European Trade Commissioner held their Second Consultation on 12 September 2001 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Consultation was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade of Viet Nam and H.E. Mr. Pascal Lamy, European Trade Commissioner.

ASEAN-EU TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS

2. The Ministers exchanged views on recent developments in ASEAN and EU. The Ministers noted that ASEAN-EU trade had grown to US\$ 94.67 billion in 2000 or an increase of 4.7 % compared to 1999. ASEAN informed Mr. Lamy on the latest developments regarding the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), ASEAN Investment Area (AIA), e-ASEAN initiative and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). Mr. Lamy briefed the ASEAN Ministers on recent developments in the EU, including most visible sign of the achievement of European Monetary Union (EMU), the introduction of Euro notes and coins.
3. The Ministers noted that despite the significant economic growth and optimism in year 2000, the average growth rates in both ASEAN and EU could be lower this year due to the global economic slowdown. The Ministers noted a decline in EU foreign direct investment flows into ASEAN and agreed on the need to engage EU investors through, amongst others, more active investment efforts.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

World Trade Organisation

4. The Ministers reiterated their support for the launch of the new WTO round as expressed in the Chair's Statement of the Third ASEM Economic Ministers Meeting on 11 September 2001.

ASEAN-EU ECONOMIC COOPERATION INTENSIFIED

5. The Ministers agreed on the urgency of intensifying ASEAN-EU economic cooperation and expressed support for continued cooperation to further reduce non-tariff barriers so as to facilitate trade flows between the two regions. The Ministers requested senior officials from both sides to broaden the scope of SEOM-EU consultations and to identify possible areas of cooperation to address the challenges of globalisation and the facilitation

of trade flows between the ASEAN and EU.

6. The Ministers agreed to expedite implementation of existing cooperation schemes, including the ASEAN-EC Cooperation Programme on Standards, Quality and Conformity Assessment and ASEAN-EC Intellectual Property Rights Cooperation Programme.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The meeting was attended by:

- i. H.E. Mr. Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam;
- ii. H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- iii. H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;
- iv. H.E. Mr. Pascal Lamy, European Union Trade Commissioner;
- v. H.E. Ms. Rini M.S. Soewandi, Minister of Industry and Trade, Indonesia;
- vi. H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;
- vii. H.E. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Industry and Handicrafts, Lao PDR;
- viii. H.E. Brigadier General David O. Abel, Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Myanmar;
- ix. H.E. Dr. Thomas G. Aquino, Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, Philippines;
- x. H.E. Brigadier General (NS) George Yeo, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- xi. H.E. Mr. Adisai Bodharamik, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; and
- xii. H.E. Mr. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr., Secretary General of ASEAN.

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 4TH ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS AND THE MINISTERS OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, JAPAN AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONSULTATION

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 12 SEPTEMBER 2001

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers and Ministers from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their fourth consultation in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 12 September 2001. The consultation was co-chaired by H. E. Mr. Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade of Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Sun Zhenyu, Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, People's Republic of China; H.E. Mr. Takeo Hiranuma, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan; and H.E. Mr. Hwang Doo-Yun, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the global economic climate and recent developments in ASEAN and Northeast Asian countries. The Ministers noted the continued growth in trade volume between ASEAN and China, Japan and Korea which grew by 27.5 % from US \$ 158.2 billion in 1999 to US \$ 201.7 billion in 2000. The Ministers also noted that despite the positive economic growth and optimism in the year 2000, there is a growing consensus that the trend would not continue in view of the slow down in the US, EU and Japan. In this regard, the Ministers underlined their commitment to maintain outward looking policies to attract trade and investment and bolster economic

growth. The Ministers further underlined the importance of continuing regional economic integration as a means to promote trade and investment flows.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROJECTS

3. The Ministers noted the implementation status of the six economic cooperation projects endorsed during the Third AEM+3 Meeting held in Siemreap, Cambodia on 4 May 2001:
 - a. *Strengthening the Competitiveness of ASEAN SMEs*: To address the challenges and opportunities of globalisation, the project would allow SMEs to establish SME networks and gain experience in technical and managerial skills to further enhance their productivity.
 - b. *Training Programme on Practical Technology for Environmental Protection*: The project offers practical training in environmental protection, in particular on water pollution treatment.
 - c. *Asian Common Skill Standard Initiative for IT Engineer*: By adopting a common skill standard for IT engineers, countries would be in a better position to address

the shortage of IT personnel. The project will allow countries to share information in setting such standards, in particular, the development of IT Engineer Examinations.

- d. *Conformity Assessment Development Program in Industrial Standard:* The project will enhance the competency of countries' conformity assessment system, especially in the areas of testing, inspection and quality / environment management, to ensure their products and services would meet international standards. Such competency would also promote greater participation on the part of ASEAN and Northeast Asian countries in international mutual recognition arrangements.
 - e. *Software Development in the Mekong Basin Project:* Human resource development is crucial for countries in the Mekong Basin to continue to attract foreign direct investment and trade to help in their development. The project offers courses on laws and practices pertaining to international trade and investment and English language training to further enhance human resources in the Mekong Basin.
 - f. *ASEAN Satellite Image Archive and Environmental Study:* One of the important challenges facing the region is the impact of rapid modernization and industrialization on environment such as deforestation, water quality, flood, longer dry seasons and public health. The project will allow countries to share existing resources in remote sensing and satellite image archives to study, manage and resolve these environmental problems.
4. The Ministers considered and endorsed the project on "Asia e-Learning Initiative", which involves sharing information on the latest e-learning trends and technologies, building consensus on interoperability of e-learning system, and effective utilisation of e-learning in Asia.
 5. The Ministers requested the Senior Economic Officials to further expedite the implementation of the approved projects .

e-ASEAN initiative

6. The Ministers recalled their decision to establish an e-ASEAN +3 Working Group

during the last meeting which would serve as a forum for ICT collaboration between ASEAN and Northeast Asia. The Ministers welcomed the successful outcome of the first meeting of the e-ASEAN+3 Working Group held on 5 July 2001 in Siemreap, Cambodia, including initiatives to accelerate the implementation of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

7. The Ministers exchanged views on international and regional economic issues of concern, including the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) .

World Trade Organisation

8. The Ministers supported the launch of a new round of WTO negotiations. The Ministers renewed their commitment to the strengthening of the rules-based multilateral trading system and expressed strong determination to formulate a balanced and broad-based agenda, including among others, antidumping, market access and giving effect to special and differential treatment, for the new round and to launch the round in Doha. The Ministers agreed that the concerns of developing countries must be seriously considered and emphasized the need for more enhanced capacity building to assist implementation. The Ministers welcomed recent developments regarding implementation issues in Geneva, including the TRIMS extension package, and agreed to work further on these issues.
9. The Ministers reiterated the importance of more enhanced capacity building for the implementation of the WTO Agreements and appreciated the developments to date on the realization of the Strategic APEC Plan for WTO Capacity Building .The Ministers expressed support for the early accession of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam to the WTO. The Ministers noted the progress made in the accession of China to the WTO and looked forward to China's full participation as a WTO member at the Doha Ministerial Conference.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation

10. The Ministers welcomed the preparations being undertaken by China for the forthcoming

APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM) in Shanghai, China on 20-21 October 2001. The Ministers also welcomed the outcomes of the APEC High-Level Meeting on Human Capacity Building, which was held in Beijing, China on 15-16 May 2001.

Asia Europe Meeting

11. The Ministers noted with appreciation Viet Nam's chairmanship of the Third Asia-Europe Economic Ministers Meeting held on 10-11 September 2001 in Ha Noi. The Ministers underlined the importance of ASEM and expressed their strong support for the realization of its theme calling for "Asia-Europe Partnership for Prosperity and Stability in the New Millennium".

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASEAN+3 AND ASEAN+1 SUMMITS

12. The Ministers were pleased with the preparations being undertaken by Brunei Darussalam for the ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+1 Summits, which will be held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam from 5-6 November 2001.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The meeting was attended by:

- i. H.E. Mr. Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade, Vietnam;
- ii. H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- iii. H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;
- iv. H.E. Mr. Sun Zhenyu, Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, Peoples Republic of China;
- v. H.E. Ms. Rini M.S. Soewandi, Minister of Industry and Trade, Indonesia;
- vi. H.E. Mr. Takeo Hiranuma, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan;
- vii. H.E. Mr. Hwang Doo-Yun, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea;
- viii. H.E. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Industry and Handicrafts, Lao PDR;
- ix. H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;

- x. H.E. Brigadier General David O. Abel, Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Myanmar;
- xi. H.E. Dr. Thomas G. Aquino, Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, Philippines;
- xii. H.E. Brigadier General (NS) George Yeo, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- xiii. H.E. Mr. Adisai Bodharamik, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; and
- xiv. H.E. Mr. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr., Secretary General of ASEAN.

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 8TH CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS AND THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF JAPAN

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 12 SEPTEMBER 2001

1. The Eighth Consultation between the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan was held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 12 September 2001. The Consultation was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade of Viet Nam and H.E. Mr. Takeo Hiranuma, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

ASEAN-JAPAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS

2. The Ministers exchanged views on recent developments in ASEAN and Japan. The Ministers noted that ASEAN exports to Japan grew by 38.1 % from US\$ 37 billion in 1999 to US\$ 52 billion in 2000 while imports grew by 19.7% from US\$ 51 billion to US\$ 62 billion for the same period. Both ASEAN and Japan recognised the importance of further promoting bilateral trade and investment between both parties.
3. The Ministers further noted that despite positive economic growth and optimism in ASEAN in year 2000, there is a consensus that these would be tempered by a number of downside risks this year, in particular the slowing down

of the global economy.

4. ASEAN informed Japan of some of the measures she is taking to counter the effect of the global economy slowdown including the acceleration of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), ASEAN Investment Area (AIA), e-ASEAN initiative and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). Japan also briefed the ASEAN Ministers on the measures she is taking to restructure and revitalise her economy.

ASEAN-JAPAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION INITIATIVES

AMEICC

5. H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia and H.E. Mr. Takeo Hiranuma, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan as Co-Chairs of the AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC) briefed the Ministers on the outcome of the Fourth AMEICC Meeting in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, held on the same day. The Ministers noted with appreciation that the projects under AMEICC have been implemented in a timely and effective manner, in particular, the

strengthening of the Centers of Excellence (COEs) in ASEAN and their networking, and the dispatch of experts and deployment of equipment to COEs in the new member countries of ASEAN.

6. The Ministers noted and welcomed the results of the Overall ASEAN Industrial Competitiveness Study conducted by the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE -JETRO) of Japan.

ASEAN-JAPAN Closer Economic Partnership (CEP) Experts Group

7. Pursuant to the decision of the 7th AEM-METI consultation in Chiang Mai, Thailand to conduct an economic integration study on ASEAN-Japan, the Ministers endorsed the terms of reference and the establishment of the ASEAN-Japan CEP Experts Group. They tasked the Experts Group to report the outcome of its Study to the next AEM-METI consultation in 2002,

Energy Cooperation

8. The Ministers welcomed the successful cooperation in energy matters through the SOME-METI Consultation and expressed the hope that the cooperation would be deepened further.

New Cooperation Initiatives

9. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed Japan's new Initiatives to support the development of local industries in the new ASEAN member countries and to support the development of standards and conformance system in ASEAN.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The meeting was attended by:

- i. H.E. Mr. Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade, Vietnam;
- ii. H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- iii. H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;
- iv. H.E. Ms. Rini M.S. Soewandi, Minister of Industry and Trade, Indonesia;

- v. H.E. Mr. Takeo Hiranuma, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan;
- vi. H.E. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Industry and Handicrafts, Lao PDR;
- vii. H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;
- viii. H.E. Brigadier General David O. Abel, Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Myanmar;
- ix. H.E. Dr. Thomas G. Aquino, Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, Philippines;
- x. H.E. Brigadier General (NS) George Yeo, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- xi. H.E. Mr. Adisai Bodharamik, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; and
- xii. H.E. Mr. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr., Secretary General of ASEAN.

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 33RD ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 15 SEPTEMBER 2001

1. The Thirty-Third Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers was held on 15 September 2001 in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The Meeting was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM), the Third ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council Meeting and the Fifteenth ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council Meeting.

Opening Ceremony

2. The Meeting was formally opened by H.E. Mr. Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of Viet Nam. In his Opening Address, the Prime Minister highlighted that the global economic slowdown had affected ASEAN economies. He called for continued and reinforced economic reforms, including intensification of ASEAN economic cooperation, to enhance the competitiveness and the attractiveness of the region for trade and investment.
3. The Prime Minister called for the strengthening of economic relations with the rest of the world. He welcomed initiatives for closer economic partnerships between ASEAN and China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand. The Prime Minister stressed that ASEAN should also bolster existing economic bonds with the US, Europe and other regions. He expressed that the ministerial consultations with these partners should aim to explore effective ways to intensify economic cooperation in the interest of all sides.

Initiatives for ASEAN Integration

4. In response to the Initiative on ASEAN Integration (IAI) launched by the ASEAN Leaders during the Fourth ASEAN Informal Summit, the Ministers welcomed the decision of the 15th AFTA Council to unilaterally extend tariff preferences to ASEAN's new members beginning 1 January 2002. The ASEAN Integration System of Preferences (AISP) would be implemented on a bilateral and voluntary basis and would be based on products proposed by ASEAN's new Members. They agreed that the AISP would be regularly monitored and reviewed by the Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) and reported to the Ministers.
5. The Ministers noted that the AISP would benefit ASEAN's new Members by extending preferences to nearly US \$ 400 million worth of their exports a year.

ASEAN-China FTA

6. At the Summit in November 2000, the Leaders of ASEAN and China agreed to look into ways to enhance economic cooperation and integration, including the possibility of establishing a free trade area between ASEAN and China. At the 33rd AEM, the Ministers considered a draft report by the ASEAN-China Experts Group on Economic Cooperation, which recommends, among others, an ASEAN-

China FTA. The Ministers considered the benefits that an FTA would bring to both China and ASEAN. The Ministers agreed that the Experts Group had put up a good report but requested for refinement of the proposal on an ASEAN-China FTA for presentation to the ASEAN-China Summit in November 2001.

e-ASEAN

7. The e-ASEAN Framework Agreement was signed by the ASEAN Heads of Government at the 4th ASEAN Informal Summit in Singapore on 24 November 2000 to establish a free trade area for goods, services and investments for the information and communications technology (ICT) industries. Mindful of the need for the early realisation of e-ASEAN to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the revolution in ICT and electronic commerce, the Ministers urged the member countries that were ready to accelerate the implementation of Articles 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement thereof, to do so by 2002, and to assist other member countries to undertake capacity building.
8. The Ministers discussed the progress and the future plans of the various e-ASEAN activities under the key elements of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement. The Ministers noted in particular the following e-ASEAN activities that are being undertaken:
 - a. In the area of facilitation of the establishment of an ASEAN Information Infrastructure; progress is being made on the setting up of an ASEAN Regional Internet Exchange (ARIX), which will drive the development of more efficient and accessible Internet traffic flow in the region. In support of this effort, an ASEAN Internet Service Providers Association (ARISPA) is being established to facilitate collaboration among ASEAN ISPs.
 - b. In the area of facilitation of growth of e-commerce; a Common Reference Framework for e-commerce Legal Infrastructure was published in July 2001. The Reference Framework aims to assist ASEAN Member Countries that do not have any e-commerce laws in place to draft their own, and for Member Countries with the legislation in place, to facilitate cross border e-commerce and the cross-recognition/cross certification of digital signatures. A Steering Committee for the ASEAN Certification Authorities (CA) Forum is being set up to accelerate the development of CAs and interoperability of digital signatures within the region.
 - c. In the areas of Liberalisation and Facilitation of Trade in ICT Products, Services and Investments; there has been progress in broadening the scope of tariff liberalisation and shortening the time frame for elimination of tariffs for ICT products. Work is in progress to identify the appropriate ICT services for liberalisation for the second and subsequent rounds of negotiations. The Ministers also noted that the 1st ASEAN Telecommunications Ministers endorsed a sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Telecommunications Equipment and urged its speedy implementation across the region.
 - d. In the areas of Capacity Building and e-Society, an ASEAN e-Readiness Assessment Matrix is being developed to benchmark and map out country specific areas for capacity building and development. The Ministers further highlighted that several Member Countries of ASEAN are undertaking specific HRD programs to assist the CLMV countries to accelerate their integration into ASEAN.
 - e. In the area of e-Government, work is in various stages at both the national and inter-country levels to harness ICT in procurement of goods and services as well as in facilitating freer flow of goods, services, information and people.
9. The Ministers noted the commitments by member countries to accelerate their implementation of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement to 2002 (see Annex). These accelerated measures underscore the commitment by the ten ASEAN Member Countries to develop a common marketplace for information and communications technology (ICT) goods and services, to facilitate ICT investments, and to put in place the infrastructure and policy frameworks for e-commerce, e-government and e-society.
10. The Ministers also noted the strong interest and participation of the private sector in the implementation of e-ASEAN. A total of 19 private sector projects have been endorsed as

e-ASEAN projects and a second call for projects is in progress.

11. Reflecting importance of private sector inputs to the e-ASEAN initiative, the Ministers agreed to extend the term of the e-ASEAN Task Force (EATF). The Minister agreed to widen the scope of the participation of the private sector in the EATF.

ASEAN Competitiveness Study

12. Following up from an idea mooted at the AEM Retreat in Siemreap, Cambodia, the Ministers agreed to commission a reputable international consultant to conduct an ASEAN Competitiveness Study. The Study aims to raise the competitiveness of ASEAN. Its objectives are to:
 - identify specific industrial sectors and clusters that ASEAN can grow as internationally competitive sectors;
 - generate specific, practical and action-oriented recommendations that the individual governments may implement to grow these clusters
 - build a permanent capability in the region to carry out future studies of this nature
13. The study will be done in consultation with the public and private sectors in each economy. This would include the private sector of both ASEAN and ASEAN's major trading partners. The Study will be tabled at the next informal meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers (ARM) in 2002 in Malaysia.

Investments

14. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area which aims to enhance the AIA arrangement by expanding the sectors of coverage and shortening of the end date for phasing out of the Temporary Exclusion List (TEL) for the manufacturing sector for the 6 original ASEAN members and Myanmar from 2010 to 2003. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam will phase-out their manufacturing TEL by 2010.
15. The Ministers were pleased with the decision of the Third AIA Council Meeting to accelerate the full realisation of the AIA for non-ASEAN investors in the manufacturing, agriculture, fishery, forestry and mining sectors. In this

regard, the six ASEAN countries will shorten the time frame by 10 years from 2020 to 2010. The newer Member Countries will shorten the time frame by at least 5 years from 2020.

Services

16. The Ministers welcomed the conclusion of the third package of commitments for the second round of negotiations and endorsed the Protocol to implement this package of commitments for signing in Brunei Darussalam before the convening of the 7th ASEAN Summit. The Protocol will further eliminate substantial restrictions to trade in services among Member Countries and liberalise trade in services by expanding the depth and scope of liberalisation beyond those undertaken by Member Countries under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
17. The Ministers agreed to launch the third round of negotiations beginning 2002 and ending 2004 covering all sectors and modes of supply. The Ministers tasked the senior officials to explore new approaches to guide the next and subsequent rounds of negotiations under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services.

Standards and Conformance

18. The Ministers endorsed the Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Electrical and Electronic Equipment for signing in Brunei Darussalam before the convening of the 7th ASEAN Summit. The Ministers welcomed the conclusion of the Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Telecommunication Equipment and the progress made in the development of Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement in cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.
19. The sectoral MRAs will allow products tested in one ASEAN country to be sold in other ASEAN countries without duplicating the testing and certification already done in the first country. For those products subjected to product registration approval, the sectoral MRAs would allow them to be marketed in the other ASEAN countries if the products have been registered accordingly in one ASEAN country. The implementation of the MRAs will have a positive impact on intra-ASEAN trade, which for the above identified sectors account for more than 40% of intra-ASEAN exports or

about US\$ 38 billion in the year 2000.

Industrial Cooperation

20. The Ministers were pleased to note that 77 AICO applications have been approved generating more than US\$ 966 million in trade transactions per year. The Ministers agreed that there was still a need to attract more participation from companies operating in the region. Towards this end, the Ministers agreed to further extend the waiver on the 30% national equity requirement for all AICO applications until 31 December 2002.

International and Regional Economic Issues

21. The Ministers supported the launch of a new round of WTO negotiations. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for the expeditious accession of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam to the WTO and urged that appropriate assistance be extended by the WTO to facilitate their accession.

22. The Ministers commended Viet Nam on its Chairmanship for ASEM and the successful outcomes of the Third Asia Europe Economic Ministers' Meeting held in Ha Noi from 10-11 September 2001.

ASEAN Trade Fair 2002

23. The Meeting noted with appreciation the progress made by Thailand in the preparations of the ASEAN Trade Fair, which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 14-20 October 2002. The details of the ASEAN Trade Fair has been made available at www.depthai.go.th.

Seventh ASEAN Summit

24. The Ministers looked forward to the Seventh ASEAN Summit to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in November 2001.

LIST OF ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS

The meeting was attended by:

- i. H.E. Mr. Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade, Vietnam; Chairman of 33rd AEM; and
- ii. H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;

- iii. H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;
- iv. H.E. Ms. Rini M.S. Soewandi, Minister of Industry and Trade, Indonesia;
- v. H.E. Mr. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Industry and Handicrafts, Lao PDR;
- vi. H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;
- vii. H.E. Brigadier General David O. Abel, Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Myanmar;
- viii. H.E. Dr. Thomas G. Aquino, Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, Philippines;
- ix. H.E. Brigadier General (NS) George Yeo, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- x. H.E. Dr. Adisai Bodharamik, Minister of Commerce, Thailand;
- xi. H.E. Mr. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr., Secretary General of ASEAN.

ANNEX

COMMITMENTS TO ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE E-ASEAN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

1. Noting the agreement of the ASEAN Economic Ministers at their retreat in Siemreap, Cambodia, on 3-4 May 2001, to accelerate the implementation of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement and that a number of countries were prepared to do so, ASEAN senior economic officials and the e-ASEAN Working Group had worked quickly on the specific policies and measures, and the necessary programmes for like-minded countries to undertake, within a definite time frame the implementation of the above provision of the Agreement.

I. Facilitation of the Establishment of the ASEAN Information Infrastructure (AII)

Setting up of national and regional Internet exchanges and internet gateways

2. One of the main objectives in building the AII is the optimisation of the Internet traffic flow within ASEAN. To achieve this end, the industry is looking into setting up internet Exchanges within ASEAN. An ASEAN Internet Service Provider (ISP) Dialogue has been established to discuss areas of cooperation among the various ISPs in the region. A key proposal arising from the Dialogue is the formation of an ASEAN ISP Association (ARISPA) and the endorsement or the establishment of an ASEAN Regional Internet Exchange (ARIX). The objective of ARIX, an e-ASEAN endorsed project, is to facilitate more efficient Internet traffic flow within the ASEAN region by building an integrated network in ASEAN (meshing existing Internet nodes and/or creating new ones where necessary) with inbound/outbound access to the rest of the world, all managed by intelligent content and network applications and software. ARISPA is expected to provide greater synergy for closer collaboration among ASEAN ISPs, Work on ARIX and ARISPA have started and are targeted to be launched in 2002.

Developing ASEAN content

3. An ASEAN e-Tourism Portal is already in place

to serve as a comprehensive information-hub where tourism information from all ASEAN countries will be made available via the Internet. The portal (www.easeantravel.com) will also support an integrated platform that offers various types of online transactions and payment methods from 2002.

4. Efforts have begun to establish an ASEAN Information Network (AINet) that would provide Member Countries with online access to a rich reservoir of information including some 40 million titles available at the national libraries in ASEAN, web-based resources and multimedia resources. The AINet will be launched and fully operational by end 2001.

Technical Architecture

5. Development has started on a Technical Architecture framework to enable interoperability of information infrastructures, systems and applications across ASEAN. Design principles are being developed and reviewed by technical experts from ASEAN and the industry.
6. Member Countries have committed to finalise the overall design principles of the technical architecture and to adopt a critical set of international standards and best practices to achieve interoperability in the areas of network infrastructure, security infrastructure and e-payments infrastructure, by end 2002.

II. Facilitation of the Growth of Electronic Commerce

National laws and policies relating to electronic commerce

7. To assist countries without e-Commerce legislation to draft their own and to facilitate cross-border e-Commerce and the cross-recognition/cross-certification of digital certificates/digital signatures, a Common Reference Framework for e-Commerce Legal Infrastructure was published in July 2001 (www.aseansec.org/ec/ec-menu.htm). By end

2002, an expert group on e-Commerce legal infrastructure would have completed Common reference frameworks on other key issues relating to e-Commerce legislation such as the admissibility of evidence in court, cyber crime legislation/prevention, copyrights, trademarks and Intellectual Property Rights.

8. To this end, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore have already enacted e-Commerce legislation on electronic transactions and electronic signatures. Substantial progress has also been made for Thailand to have the e-Commerce Legislation enacted by first quarter 2002. Indonesia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam have targeted to complete the drafting of similar laws by end 2002.

Establishment of mutual recognition of digital signature frameworks

9. A Steering Committee comprising all Member Countries has been established to accelerate and institutionalise an e-ASEAN Certification Authority Forum to facilitate the development of Certification Authorities (CAs) and cooperation among existing CAs in the region, in areas such as promoting interoperability of regional CAs and accelerating the use of Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) based applications.
10. Member Countries with CAs, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand have agreed to generate a strategic action plan for the mutual recognition of digital certificates and digital signatures by 2002. An MOU will be signed between two CAs of Singapore and Malaysia to allow cross-recognition of each other's digital certificates by early 2002. A similar arrangement is being explored between two CAs of Singapore and Thailand.

Secure Regional Electronic Transactions, Payments and Settlements

11. Member Countries have proceeded to

develop and establish an ASEAN electronic payment standards and policy framework to facilitate secure regional electronic transactions, payments and settlements, by end 2002. A pilot project is also underway to develop and enable the cross border e-clearing of retail payments of participating countries' currencies through their national clearing houses and/or payment processing centres from 2002.

Personal Data Protection and Consumer Privacy

12. Member Countries have committed to finalise a common reference framework and set of guidelines on personal data protection and consumer privacy laws by end 2002.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms for Online Transactions

13. Member Countries have committed to finalise a common reference framework and set of guidelines on ADR by end 2002.

III. Liberalisation or Trade in ICT Products, Services and Investments

Acceleration of the liberalisation of trade in ICT products under the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme for AFTA

14. To accelerate the elimination of tariffs on ICT goods under the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement, Member Countries have agreed to broaden the scope of tariff liberalisation

**TABLE 1
NUMBER OF ICT PRODUCTS FOR ELIMINATION OF DUTIES**

COUNTRY	TRANCHES			Total
	1st Tranche	2nd Tranche	3rd Tranche	
Brunei Darussalam	61	29	41	131
Cambodia*				
Indonesia	191	5	19	215
Lao PDR	237	15	39	291
Malaysia	164	0	22	186
Myanmar				42
Philippines	44	0	4	48
Singapore	549			549
Thailand	218	0	65	283
Viet Nam				241
Total	1,464	49	190	1,986

Note

*Cambodia will submit list of ICT product at the next AEM Retreat in May 2002

beyond ITA1 products and to shorten the timeframe for ITA1 products. The 15th AFTA Council endorsed the indicative list of ICT products scheduled for elimination of duties in 2003, 2004 and 2005 for the original six members of ASEAN and in 2008, 2009 and 2010 for the new members. A total of 1464 ICT products have been identified for elimination of duties in the first tranche, 49 ICT products in the second tranche and 190 ICT products in the third tranche. The details of the list of ICT products appears as Table 1.

Acceleration of the liberalisation of trade in ICT services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services

15. Six Member Countries, namely Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand have submitted indicative offers for the second round of negotiations covering three ICT sub sectors; database services, consultancy services related to the installation of computer hardware and software implementation services.
16. Member Countries have agreed to enhance further work in this area with a view to accelerating liberalisation of trade in ICT services under the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement in subsequent rounds of negotiation.

Acceleration of the liberalisation of ICT Investments.

17. The ICT sector is building the global communications capability of the future - it is a vital element of ASEAN's economic competitiveness. Recognising this, the ASEAN countries have maintained open and liberal investment regimes in ICT, with no investment restrictions in ICT Manufacturing. The advent of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement enhances member countries' commitments to a liberal ICT manufacturing sector by granting national treatment to ASEAN investors in ICT products. Thus, ASEAN actively invites investor participation in one of the most dynamic sectors of the New Economy.
18. Several Member Countries in ASEAN have opened up to varying degrees, foreign equity ownership of commercial operations in ICT manufacturing and services.

IV. Facilitation of Trade in ICT Products and Services

Conclusion of Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) covering ICT products, where applicable, and alignment of national standards to relevant international standards

19. To facilitate trade in ICT products, the ASEAN Telecommunications Ministers in July 2001 endorsed a sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Telecommunications Equipment, for a speedy implementation of a region-wide acceptance or recognition of conformity assessment procedures of telecommunications equipment.

Finalisation and Implementation of an ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature

20. Member Countries have finalised the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) text and working to finalise the Implementing Protocol. By 1 January 2002, most Member Countries would implement the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN). Cambodia and Lao PDR would implement the AHTN at a later date in 2002.

Harmonisation of customs valuation for ICT products through the implementation of the WTO Valuation Agreement

21. Five ASEAN Member Countries (i.e. Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand) have already implemented the WTO Valuation Agreement. Brunei Darussalam will be implementing the Agreement in September 2001. Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao' PDR would implement in January 2002, 2004, and 2005, respectively. Viet Nam would implement the Agreement for CEPT products in 2001 and for the rest of the products in 2003.

V. Capacity Building and e-Society

Development of a capacity building programme on the basis of an evaluation of the e-readiness of ASEAN Member Countries that would include education and training for small business enterprises, ICT workers, policy maker's and regulators

22. An ASEAN e-Readiness Assessment Matrix is being jointly developed by the ASEAN Secretariat and IBM Global Services, to facilitate benchmarking, mapping and

monitoring of the implementation of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement. The e-ASEAN Readiness Matrix will also highlight the gaps in the activities and identify measures required to prioritize the implementation of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement.

Development of a regional human resource development programme to increase ICT literacy and expand the base of ICT workers in the region covering schools, the community and the work place

23. Malaysia has conducted a feasibility study on narrowing the digital divide for Viet Nam and Myanmar. Singapore and Thailand have continued to undertake the ICT training programmes to help the CLMV countries in the area of HRD training. Needs assessment visits have also been carried out in the CLMV countries to identify the areas of priority for HRD training. Thailand has also organised forums and seminars relating to the promotion of e- Business and e-Education. A portal of ASEAN e-Education has already been developed, so has the SchoolNet Programme aimed at increasing digital opportunities in rural areas. Moreover, the cooperation in research and development in machine translation system is also underway with a view to facilitating information exchanges between Member Countries in their local languages.

VI. e-Government

*Enhancing inter-governmental cooperation by:
(a) promoting the use of electronic means in their procurement of goods and services; and (b) facilitating freer flow of goods, information and people within ASEAN,*

24. Inter-country government online applications are being explored. Malaysia and Singapore are considering the usage of a common e-passport smart card system to facilitate the movement of citizens between the two countries. At the industry level, DagangNet (Malaysia) and Crimson Logic (Singapore) are considering a commercial arrangement to facilitate the flow of electronic trade documentation between Singapore and Malaysia.

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 6TH CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS AND MINISTERS OF THE CER

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 16 SEPTEMBER 2001

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Ministers from the Closer Economic Relations (CER) held their Sixth Consultation on 16 September 2001 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Consultation was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade of Viet Nam, Hon. Mr. Mark Vaile, Minister for Trade of Australia and Hon. Mr. Niel Walter, Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand.

ASEAN-CER TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS

2. The Ministers exchanged views on the global economic climate and recent developments in ASEAN and CER. The Ministers noted the continued growth in trade volume between ASEAN and CER. The Ministers also noted that despite the positive economic growth and optimism in the year 2000, there is a growing emergence of consensus that the trend would not continue in view of the slow down in the US, EU and Japan. In this regard, the Ministers underlined their commitment to maintain outward looking policies to attract trade and investment and bolster economic growth. The Ministers further underlined the importance of continuing regional economic integration as a means to promote trade and investment flows.

CLOSER ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (CEP)

3. The Ministers commended the AFTA-CER Experts Group on CEP and the Senior Officials for their efforts in developing the parameters for Closer Economic Partnership (CEP). The Ministers endorsed the Framework for the AFTA-CER CEP which appears as ANNEX1
4. The goals of the CEP will be to:
 - a. Deepen and broaden cooperation in all economic fields;
 - b. Promote greater trade and investment flows regionally and globally;
 - c. Contribute to trade and investment facilitation through minimising impediments, reducing costs and related capacity building ;
 - d. Improve business competitiveness;
 - e. Narrow the development gap and deliver tangible benefits to all participating countries; and
 - f. Promote transparency of regulations and cooperation among relevant authorities.
5. To accelerate the realisation of the CEP, the Ministers agreed to formalise the Framework

by means of an instrument for signing at the Seventh AEM-CER Consultations in 2002. The Ministers requested the Senior Economic Officials of ASEAN and CER to formulate the instrument and, in the meantime, begin to carry out the agreed work program. The Ministers requested the ASEAN Secretariat to give a progress report to the AEM Retreat and to the CER dialogue in the first half of 2002.

6. The Ministers agreed that capacity building would be an important aspect of the initial CEP work program and announced several new initiatives designed to build capacity and facilitate trade and investment. In addition, the Ministers tasked relevant officials to work towards implementing the initial work programme of the Framework in the area of standards and conformity assessment. They also agreed to explore the scope for cooperation on common approaches on food regulation, including standards and labelling. The Ministers requested their Senior Economic Officials to ensure that progress was made across all areas of the CEP work program, and tasked them to report back to the 7th AEM-CER consultation for review.

AFTA-CER BUSINESS COUNCIL

7. To revitalise business involvement in the work of the CEP, the Ministers agreed to establish an AFTA-CER Business Council, comprising high-level representatives from the respective business communities. The Ministers invited the new Business Council to meet with them at the next AEM-CER consultation and to provide business views on the priority areas to be addressed under the CEP.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

World Trade Organisation

8. The Ministers supported the launch of a new round of WTO negotiations at Doha. The Ministers renewed their commitment to the strengthening of the rules-based multilateral trading system under the WTO and expressed strong determination to formulate a balanced and sufficiently broad-based agenda for a successful new round launch. The Ministers agreed that the concerns of developing countries must be seriously considered and emphasized the need for more enhanced capacity building to assist implementation. The Ministers welcomed further deepening of the

mutual understanding on the possible agenda issues through the discussions made at various occasions, including the General Council Reality Check in Geneva at the end of July. The Ministers also agreed that the WTO should respond to the needs and challenges of the global economy in the 21st century.

9. The Ministers welcomed recent developments regarding implementation issues in Geneva, including the TRIMS extension package, and agreed to work further on these issues. The Ministers reiterated the importance of more enhanced capacity building for the implementation of the WTO Agreements and appreciated the developments to date on the realization of the Strategic APEC Plan for WTO Capacity Building.
10. The Ministers expressed support for the early accession of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam to the WTO.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation

11. The Ministers expressed their strong support for the work being undertaken in APEC for the Shanghai Leaders' Meeting and agreed on the need to reinforce APEC efforts to deliver free and open trade and investment in the region. The Ministers also expressed the hope that Leaders would set an ambitious forward agenda and position APEC at the forefront of international organisations seeking to maximise the benefits of globalisation.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The meeting was attended by:

- i. H.E. Mr. Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade, Vietnam;
- ii. Hon. Mr. Mark Vaile, Minister of Trade, Australia;
- iii. H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- iv. H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;
- v. Mr. Hatanto Reksodipoetro, Director General, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Indonesia;
- vi. H.E. Mr. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Industry and Handicrafts, Lao PDR;

- vii. H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;
- viii. H.E. Brigadier General David O. Abel, Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Myanmar;
- ix. Hon. Mr. Niel Walter, Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand;
- x. H.E. Dr. Thomas G. Aquino, Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, Philippines;
- xi. H.E. Brigadier General (NS) George Yeo, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- xii. Mrs. Bootinpa Simaskul, Director-General, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand; and
- xiii. H.E. Mr. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr., Secretary General of ASEAN.

ANNEX 1

FRAMEWORK FOR THE AFTA-CER CLOSER ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Introduction

1. At the Fifth AEM-CER Consultations in Chiang Mai, Thailand in October 2000, the Ministers agreed to work towards a Closer Economic Partnership (CEP) which takes into account relevant recommendations of the Angkor Agenda: Report of the High Level Task Force on the Feasibility of an AFTA-CER Free Trade Area and other issues relevant to the closer integration of ASEAN-CER countries. In this regard, they agreed that:
 - a. Senior Officials shall elaborate on the potentials and parameters of the CEP, beginning in 2001;
 - b. In their discussions, particular attention should be placed on development assistance in the form of technical assistance and capacity building measures to ASEAN members in areas that have been proposed by the Task Force representatives from the New Members of ASEAN ;
 - c. Capacity-building initiatives be undertaken on a number of items of export interest to ASEAN Members given some current trade issues concerning non-tariff barriers such as SPS and technical barriers to trade;
 - d. Senior Officials shall report on the outcome of their work to the 8th AEM-CER consultations in the year 2001; and
 - e. The ASEAN Secretariat be tasked to coordinate such work.

2. In order to fulfil the ministerial mandate, it is important to maintain the momentum developed between ASEAN and CER through six years of close economic cooperation under the AFTA-CER Linkage and the work of the High Level AFTA-CER Task Force. This CEP framework encompasses areas of cooperation previously identified under the Linkage where joint activities continue to be undertaken, for example on standards and conformance, food standards, SPS and quarantine procedures, customs, tourism, transport, investment, intellectual property rights, competition policy,

new economy / e-commerce and the identification and elimination of trade and investment barriers. It could also include cooperative activities in areas such as small and medium enterprises (SMEs), science and technology, and financial cooperation.

Principles

3. Given the importance of trade and investment for the twelve AFTA-CER economies and of the existing trade relationship between the regions, the fundamental principles underpinning further regional economic integration are:
 - a. Open, transparent and competitive markets are the key drivers of economic efficiency, and contribute to wealth creation and consumer welfare;
 - b. A recognition of, and adherence to, the respective commitments to the spirit, rights and obligations of existing membership of global, regional and bilateral agreements and forums; and
 - c. The CEP process should take into account the different levels of development of participating countries.

Goals

4. To sustain and deepen economic links, the goals of the Closer Economic Partnership will be to:
 - a. Deepen and broaden cooperation in all economic fields;
 - b. Promote greater trade and investment flows regionally and globally;
 - c. Contribute to trade and investment facilitation through minimising impediments, reducing costs, and related capacity building;
 - d. Improve business competitiveness;
 - e. Narrow the developmental gap and deliver tangible benefits to all participating countries; and
 - f. Promote transparency of regulations and cooperation among relevant authorities.

Fields of cooperation under the CEP

5. Building on the existing dialogue on trade and economic issues, the fields of cooperation under the CEP will include:

Trade and Investment Facilitation

The extensive work of the past six years under the AFTA-CER Linkage will continue to seek to reduce costs to business associated with technical barriers and regulatory and administrative requirements. This will be underpinned by technical assistance initiatives aimed at assisting newer ASEAN members to build the capacity necessary (including skills and infrastructure), to promote the freer flow of goods, services and investment between the regions.

Capacity Building

Technical advice and assistance will continue to be provided by AusAID and NZODA guided, inter-alia, by: decisions taken under the AFTA/CER framework and in support of the key goals of the CEP; the general endorsement of ASEAN for facilitating the integration of its newer members; and the identified needs of ASEAN countries in trade and investment related areas, including SPS, customs, standards and conformance, and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

Trade and Investment Promotion

One of the key goals of the CEP is to promote trade in goods and services, and the attractiveness of ASEAN and CER as investment destinations. Liberalisation could form part of the work programme of the CEP with initial emphasis placed on addressing non-tariff barriers with a view to preventing these from inhibiting flows in merchandise and services trade. It would also maximise the advantages of regional economic integration.

New Economy

The CEP will provide for collaboration among participating countries to reduce the digital divide in the region through the minimisation of regulatory and other barriers with a view to exploiting the full potential of information communication technology and e-commerce for economic growth.

Work in this area should encourage the development of intellectual property regimes to

protect IPRs and support innovation and economic growth.

Closer cooperation to address new obstacles, particularly as the degree of regional economic integration deepens, such as anti-competitive practices.

Other Areas of Cooperation

The work programme under the CEP should be reviewed periodically with a view to exploring further areas of cooperation which conform to the principles and goals of the CEP framework.

Process to Develop the CEP

6. The CEP must advance substantively beyond the present level of cooperation under the AFTA-CER Linkage and serve as a building block for greater economic integration. The work programme of the CEP under the above fields of cooperation will be developed on the basis of consensus and implemented taking into account the different levels of development of the participating countries, using a multi-track approach where some areas of cooperation could be advanced sooner than others. The AEM-CER process will periodically monitor and review the progress on the implementation of the CEP.
7. The initial work programme of the CEP appears as attachment.

ATTACHMENT

THE CEP INITIAL WORK PROGRAMME

Building on and expanding the work under the AFTA-CER Linkage, the initial work programme should include the following:

Technical Barriers to Trade and Non-tariff Barriers: The CEP should address technical barriers to trade and non-tariff barriers, including for example SPS issues, TRQs and licensing, standards and conformance. A work programme on technical barriers to trade and non-tariff barriers should allow both sides to address market access issues affected by these barriers in a manner consistent with WTO rights and obligations.

Customs Cooperation: The CEP could encompass customs cooperation and dialogue, with a focus on the development of mutually beneficial solutions to minimise risks and to maximise opportunities for facilitating customs clearance for ASEAN and CER goods. This could include promotion of exchange of information on technical and regulatory requirements, and the streamlining of rules and regulatory procedures.

Capacity Building: Assistance to ASEAN countries to encourage economic integration, particularly of new Members, should continue to be provided in the course of developing and implementing the elements of the CEP. This should focus on agreed areas of the CEP, such as SPS, enforcement of IPRs, customs, standards and conformance.

Trade and Investment Promotion and Facilitation: The CEP should establish mechanisms to enhance information dissemination, address market impediments and promote trade and investment opportunities. These mechanisms could involve the trade and investment agencies of participating countries or business associations from ASEAN and CER.

Standards and Conformity Assessment: There are regular consultations among officials of both regions under the ACCSQ-CER forum. The possibility of inter-regional MRAs is being explored. ASEAN-CER standards collaboration could be accelerated further as a component of the CEP, which could cover, transparency of regulations, MRAs, harmonization of standards and joint development of international standards of interest to both regions.

Electronic Commerce: Work on this will include investigating means by which forms of ICT and e-commerce cooperation between ASEAN and CER could be fruitfully pursued, including through links with e-ASEAN and other regional initiatives; examining paperless trading solutions in the routine administration of trade flows building on current regional goals (e.g. customs formalities); and through capacity building to reduce the digital divide.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs): The CEP should build stronger ties among the private sectors of both regions, particularly among SMEs, which could benefit from increased networking and links with one other. Joint programmes geared towards encouraging accelerated adoption of e-commerce by SMEs could also be included in the work programme.

ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA (AFTA)

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 15TH MEETING OF THE ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA COUNCIL

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 14 SEPTEMBER 2001

1. The Fifteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council was held on 14 September 2001 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

beginning 1 January 2003, a commitment under the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement.
2. The Meeting was attended by Ministers from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. A list of the Ministers is attached. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Sinh Hung, Minister of Finance, Viet Nam. The Council Meeting was preceded by a meeting of the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials on 7-8 September 2001.
3. The Council met to review the progress made in the implementation of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme for AFTA, which would see the original six members of ASEAN effectively realise AFTA on 1 January 2002. The Ministers agreed to implement the ASEAN Integration System of Preferences (AISP), in which the original members of ASEAN extend tariff preferences to the new members. The Ministers also reviewed plans for elimination of duties on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) products

Acceleration of AFTA
4. The AFTA Council welcomed the realisation of AFTA on 1 January 2002 by the original six signatories to the CEPT Agreement, well before the original target date.
5. As of this year, each of the original six members had reduced tariffs to 0-5% on at least 90% of its tariff lines in the Inclusion List. A total of 40,911 tariff lines (representing 92.9% of the Inclusion List of the first six members) have tariffs of 0-5%. The average CEPT tariff rate for the six countries is now down to 3.21 %. By next year, 42,377 tariff lines representing 96.2 % of the Inclusion List of the original six members would have tariffs of 0-5%.
6. The Ministers agreed that the realisation of AFTA should be widely disseminated in all ASEAN countries.
7. The Statement on Bold Measures announced by the ASEAN Leaders in 1998 required the original six members to accelerate AFTA from

2003 to 2002, with some flexibility. The original six members have also agreed to eliminate duties on 60% of the tariff lines in their Inclusion List by 2003. The CLMV shall plan to maximise the number of tariff lines with 0-5% and expand the number of tariff lines with 0%.

Elimination of Duties on ICT Products

8. Article 6 of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement requires member states to eliminate duties and non-tariff barriers on intra-ASEAN trade in ASEAN ICT products in three tranches. The AFTA Council endorsed the indicative list of ICT products scheduled for the elimination of duties in 2003, 2004 and 2005 for the original six members of ASEAN and in 2008, 2009 and 2010 for the new members. A total of 1,986 ICT products have been identified for elimination of duties. There would be 1,464 ICT products in the first tranche; 49 ICT products in the second tranche; and 190 ICT products in the third tranche. The details of the list of ICT products appears in Table 1.

ASEAN Integration System of Preferences

9. In response to the Initiative on ASEAN Integration (IAI) launched by the ASEAN Leaders during the Fourth ASEAN Informal Summit, the Ministers agreed to unilaterally extend tariff preferences to ASEAN's new members beginning 1 January 2002. The ASEAN Integration System of Preferences (AISP) would be implemented on a bilateral and voluntary basis and would be based on products proposed by ASEAN's new members. They agreed that the AISP would be regularly monitored and reviewed by the Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) and reported to the Ministers.
10. The Ministers welcomed the decision by Malaysia and Thailand to grant preferences to the new members. Malaysia will grant preferences on 12 products from Lao PDR, 345 products from Myanmar and 172 products from Viet Nam. Thailand has finalised the lists of AISP originally proposed by Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. This scheme will be ready for implementation on 1 January 2002 and will be reviewed annually. With regard to Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand are currently considering her product list.
11. The Ministers noted that the AISP would benefit ASEAN's new Members by extending

preferences to nearly US \$ 400 million worth of their exports a year.

ASEAN Trade Performance

12. The Ministers noted the strong growth of ASEAN trade in the year 2000. Total ASEAN exports grew by 19.9% from US\$ 353.3 billion in 1999 to US\$ 423.6 billion in year 2000. ASEAN imports grew by 22.8%; in value terms, imports rose from US\$ 293.1 billion to US\$ 360.1 billion. The details of ASEAN trade appears in Table 2.
13. Intra-ASEAN exports grew by 26.3% while intra-ASEAN imports grew by 27.0% in the year 2000, higher than the growth of total exports and total imports. The level of intra-ASEAN exports of US\$ 97.8 billion reached last year exceeds the previous peak of US\$ 85.4 billion reached in 1997. The details appear in Table 3.
14. Looking forward to the rest of this year, the Ministers expressed their concern that the economic slowdown in the US and the EU and the recession in Japan have dampened demand for ASEAN exports. After strong export growth of 7.7% in 1999 and 19.9% in 2000, ASEAN exports are now looking at the possibility of an export contraction.

LIST OF AFTA COUNCIL MINISTERS

The meeting was attended by:

- i. H.E. Mr. Nguyen Sinh Hung, Minister of Finance, Vietnam;
- ii. H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- iii. H.E. Mr. Kong Vibol, Secretary of State, Minister of Economy and Finance, Cambodia;
- iv. H.E. Ms. Rini M.S. Soewandi, Minister of Industry and Trade, Indonesia;
- v. H.E. Liane Thykeo, Vice Minister of Finance, Lao PDR;
- vi. H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;
- vii. H.E. Brigadier General David O. Abel, Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Myanmar;
- viii. H.E. Dr. Thomas G. Aquino, Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, Philippines;
- ix. H.E. Brigadier General (NS) George Yeo, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;

- x. H.E. Mr. Suchart Jaovisidha, Deputy Minister of Finance, Thailand; and
- xi. H.E. Mr. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr., Secretary General of ASEAN.

TABLE 1
NUMBER OF ICT PRODUCTS TO BE PHASED IN

COUNTRY	TRANCHES			Total
	1st Tranche	2nd Tranche	3rd Tranche	
Brunei Darussalam	61	29	41	131
Cambodia*				
Indonesia	191	5	19	215
Lao PDR	237	15	39	291
Malaysia	164	0	22	186
Myanmar				42
Philippines	44	0	4	48
Singapore	549			549
Thailand	218	0	65	283
Viet Nam				241
Total	1,464	49	190	1,986

Note

*Cambodia will submit list of ICT product at the next AEM Retreat in May 2002

TABLE 2
ASEAN TOTAL TRADE (1999 - 2000)
(US\$ Million)

COUNTRY	EXPORT				IMPORT			
	1999	2000	Change Value	%	1999	2000	Change Value	%
Brunei Darussalam	2,340.7	2,169.1	(171.5)	(7.3)	1,720.4	1,067.6	(652.7)	(37.9)
Indonesia	48,665.5	62,124.0	13,458.6	27.7	24,003.3	33,514.8	9,511.5	39.6
Malaysia	84,287.9	98,154.5	13,866.6	16.5	63,677.8	79,647.5	15,969.6	25.1
Myanmar	738.0	1,193.8	455.8	61.8	1,883.0	2,219.4	336.4	17.9
Philippines	35,036.9	38,078.2	3,041.4	8.7	30,742.5	31,387.4	644.9	2.1
Singapore	114,625.1	138,352.5	23,727.3	20.7	110,998.0	134,680.1	23,682.2	21.3
Thailand	56,110.9	69,254.1	13,143.2	23.4	48,318.0	61,905.8	13,587.8	28.1
Viet Nam	11,541.0	14,308.0	2,767.0	24.0	11,742	15,635	3,893	33.0
TOTAL	353,346.0	423,634.2	70,288.2	19.9	293,085.0	360,057.6	66,972.6	22.8

As of 20 August 2001

TABLE 3
INTRA-ASEAN TRADE (1999 - 2000)
(US\$ Million)

COUNTRY	EXPORT				IMPORT			
	1999	2000	Change Value	%	1999	2000	Change Value	%
Brunei Darussalam	375.1	639.5	264.4	70.5	895.6	534.4	(361.3)	(40.3)
Indonesia	8,278.3	10,883.7	2,605.4	31.5	4,783.6	6,781.2	1,997.6	41.8
Malaysia	21,885.0	24,408.6	2,523.6	11.5	12,412.8	15,934.8	3,522.0	28.4
Myanmar	236.8	393.5	156.7	66.2	1,038.6	1,113.3	74.7	7.2
Philippines	4,989.1	5,982.6	993.4	19.9	4,461.0	4,955.4	494.4	11.1
Singapore	29,269.3	37,784.0	8,514.6	29.1	26,241.0	33,291.3	7,050.3	26.9
Thailand	9,901.9	15,099.7	5,197.8	52.5	7,987.4	10,475.9	2,488.5	31.2
Viet Nam	2,516.3	2,613.0	96.7	3.8	3,290.9	4,519.4	1,228.5	37.3
TOTAL	77,451.8	97,804.6	20,352.8	26.3	61,110.9	77,605.7	16,494.8	27.0

As of 20 August 2001

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 23RD MEETING OF THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

MEDAN, NORTH SUMATERA, INDONESIA, 4 OCTOBER 2001

- The Twenty-third Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) which was held on 4 October 2001 in Medan, North Sumatera, was officially opened and chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Bungaran Saragih, Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia and attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Mr. May Sam Oeun, Secretary of State of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia

H.E. Dr. Rokhmin Dahuri, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

Honourable Mr. Abdul Fattah, DS, Director-General of Forestry Research and Development Agency of the Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia

H.E. Mr. Sitaheng Rasphone, Acting Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR

H.E. Datuk Dr. Mohd. Effendi Norwawi, Minister of Agriculture, Malaysia

H.E. Datuk Anifah Aman, Deputy Minister of Primary Industries, Malaysia

H.E. U Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar

H.E. Mr. Leonardo Q. Montemayor, Secretary of Agriculture, the Philippines

H.E. Mr. Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development, Singapore

H.E. Mr. Prapat Panyachatraksa, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand

Honourable Dr. Le Van Minh, Director-General, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam

Honourable Mr. Tran Duc Minh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN, and their delegations.

H.E. Mr. Sitaheng Rasphone, Acting Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR was elected as the Vice-Chairman.
- The Ministers noted that economic recovery stabilized in ASEAN countries in 2000 and agreed that appropriate national policies and measures, as well as strong and effective regional collaboration, should sustain such positive development. To this end, the Ministers were confident that continuing cooperation efforts among the Member Countries and

- ASEAN dialogue partners and international institutions would produce a favourable outlook.
3. The Ministers recognized that the lingering effects of the economic slowdown stressed the need to improve the management and conservation of resources in order to achieve food security, generate employment, protect the environment, conserve biodiversity and attain overall sustainable development.
 4. The Ministers reviewed the progress of ASEAN cooperation in the various sectors of food, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, and noted the efforts made in further strengthening ASEAN relations.
 5. The Ministers considered the report on the mid-term review of the Ha Noi Plan of Action (HPA) on the sectors of food, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry. Nevertheless, there is still room for improvement in some aspects of implementation of the HPA to ensure timely accomplishment. The Ministers agreed to submit the Report of the Mid-term Review to the ASEAN Summit in Brunei Darussalam in November 2001.
 6. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made under Member Country initiatives in strengthening collaborations between ASEAN and third parties to improve efficiency and capacity building for the production of good quality safe foods. For example, initiatives such as the ASEAN IPM Knowledge Network and the ASEAN-AVRDC (Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center) Regional Vegetable R&D Network "AARNET" will help address ASEAN's need for increased production of good quality and safe food and agricultural products. Another significant initiative is enhancing capacity building and public awareness on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) through a series of ASEAN-International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) workshops on Risk Assessment of Agriculture-related GMOs, with the first workshop held in July 2001. The Ministers also agreed that ASEAN shall continue to make use of internal resources in addition to third party funding for projects.
 7. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of enhanced cooperation to improve the efficiency of food security arrangements in the region. Recalling their decision at the 22nd Meeting to further look into the problems facing major ASEAN agriculture commodities, the Ministers agreed to the conduct of a study to possibly forge a collective effort among the related Member Countries in the production, marketing, and quality improvement of rice. The study shall explore ways to achieve a level of food security in the region, by improving the existing mechanisms in ASEAN.
 8. The Ministers also agreed to develop the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) in cooperation with international organizations concerned. The Ministers welcomed the announcement that Japan is considering the development of AFSIS.
 9. With the realisation of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) in 2002 which is fast approaching, the Ministers noted that, to-date, a total of 9,218 tariff lines of unprocessed agricultural products (UAPs) have been included in the Inclusion List of the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (CEPT) Scheme. The increase in the number of tariff lines reaffirms ASEAN's commitment to regional integration and economic liberalisation.
 10. The Ministers recognised this ecological, economic and social benefits of the land and tropical forests of Southeast Asia have contributed to global society. They acknowledged that unless due consideration and care is given to the conservation of agriculture and forest resources, these benefits would become increasingly limited.
 11. The Ministers urged Member Countries to give special attention to the conservation of biodiversity, protection of watershed areas and soil conservation to optimise ecological, economical, and social benefits provided by the forests of the region. The governments of ASEAN Member Countries actively cooperate with relevant international institutions and bodies and participate in discussions concerning issues on sustainable development in agriculture and forestry.
 12. The Ministers endorsed the agreement by the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) to adopt the FAO Code of Practise for Forest Harvesting in Asia-Pacific, which serves as a useful tool for improving forest harvesting and management in the region and as a guide to develop specific national codes. A network for the regional implementation of the Code of

Practise will be established to develop and implement the various national codes.

13. The Ministers are deeply concerned with the rapid degradation of the global forest resources caused by illegal logging and associated illegal trade. The Ministers recognized the complexity of the problems that covers social, economic, cultural, and political aspects. The Ministers urged ASEAN Member Countries to take immediate actions to address the problems bilaterally and regionally.
14. The Ministers acknowledged that ASEAN is traditionally free from Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), with no clinical cases reported in the domestic population of ruminants in Member Countries. Nevertheless, the Ministers recognised that there may be a potential risk of BSE introduction through the importation of Meat-and-Bone Meal and live bovine. In view of this, ASEAN has agreed to take a common stand in dealing with this disease.
15. Furthermore, with respect to the preventive measures on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in ASEAN, the Ministers reiterated the urgency for Member Countries to take the necessary actions to prevent the disease from spreading rapidly across the region.
16. On trade matters, the Ministers again urged Member Countries to continue collectively addressing the issue on discriminatory tariffs for ASEAN canned tuna and import restrictions of agricultural products, including fresh tropical fruits at the various international fora, including WTO – SPS Committee, CER and EU consultations. The Ministers also agreed to request ASEAN concerned bodies to work closely and expeditiously on these matters.
17. The Ministers strongly supported the plan to convene the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: "Fish for the People" to be held in Bangkok, 19-24 November 2001. The Conference aims to develop a regional policy and plan of actions on the contribution of fisheries to the food security and to promote awareness on sustainable fisheries. Recognizing the importance of sustainable fisheries to support food security, the Ministers agreed that the management of commercial fisheries including shark fisheries and fish species that have been bred and farmed successfully should come under the purview of the FAO and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and not under CITES.
18. The Ministers also welcomed the initiative of the FAO Director-General for the FAO Trust Fund in order to fight against world hunger.
19. Pursuant to the mandate given by the Leaders at the Third ASEAN Informal Summit on 28 November 1999, the ASEAN Ministers will hold its first Meeting with the Ministers of Agriculture and the Ministers of Forestry from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (AMAF Plus Three) on 5 October 2001. The forum will discuss the mechanism of cooperation in food, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry among ASEAN Member Countries and the Plus Three Countries.
20. The Ministers from ASEAN Member Countries expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of Indonesia for hosting the 23rd Meeting of AMAF for their warm hospitality. The next AMAF Meeting would be hosted by Lao PDR in October 2002.

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE ASEAN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MINISTERS AND THE MINISTERS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, JAPAN AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA (AMAF + 3)

MEDAN, NORTH SUMATERA, INDONESIA, 5 OCTOBER 2001

1. The ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry Ministers and the Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their first meeting in Medan, North Sumatera on 5 October 2001, under the chairmanship of H.E. Prof. Dr. Bungaran Saragih, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia. The Meeting was held pursuant to the mandate of the Leaders of ASEAN Plus Three at their Summit on 28 November 1999 in Manila.
2. The Agriculture and Forestry Ministers of ASEAN and the Plus 3 countries acknowledged the importance of this First Meeting in opening up new venues for dialogue on agriculture, fisheries, and forestry issues with the aim of promoting and enhancing cooperation in the region and of exchanging views on the many serious challenges facing agriculture, fisheries, and forestry in the international agenda.
3. The Agriculture and Forestry Ministers of ASEAN, through a common statement, and the Plus Three countries exchanged information on the agricultural, fisheries, and forestry situations and contributions to the general economy and their respective countries. ASEAN also informed the Plus Three countries on the regional framework on cooperation in food, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry as well as on past and on-going cooperation with Plus Three countries; and suggested projects for future cooperation.
4. People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea highlighted the significant similarity among countries in the East Asian region, whereby rice cultivation is closely linked to the rural sector, and thus has a strong socio-cultural-economic role in the region.
5. The Ministers recognized that agriculture, fisheries, and forestry in East Asian countries share not only common climatic, cultural and social aspects, but what's more, is also based upon rice cultivation. They also agreed that projects implemented under this cooperation would be to further develop agriculture in East Asian to become more competitive, to ensure

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY IN ASIA

food security in the region and to alleviate poverty. Furthermore, they also recognized that agriculture should not be treated in the same way as other sectors to ensure fair and equitable development of East-Asian agriculture.

6. The Ministers as well recognized and underlined the increasing role that fisheries could play in supporting food security primarily as source of animal protein, expanding job opportunities, improving the incomes of small-scale fishermen and fish-farmers families and to the better attainment of economic growth as a whole. The Ministers further recognized meanwhile marine capture fisheries have been in general under high pressure; aquaculture activities should be further promoted in a sustainable manner.
7. The Ministers recognized that forest ecosystem in Asia plays an important role in stabilizing global climate, conserving water and soil, and providing environmental services. They also recognized that projects implemented under this cooperation would be to further develop sustainable forest management.
8. The Ministers took note on the initiation for consultation and possible collaboration of ASEAN and the US-ASEAN Business Council as well as Asian Farmer Groups for Cooperation and look forwards a closer cooperation to these organizations.

AREAS AND MODALITIES OF COOPERATION IN FOOD, AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

9. In moving the cooperation forward, the Ministers identified the following areas of collaboration between ASEAN and Plus Three Countries:
 - i) Poverty Alleviation and Food Security in the Asian Region;
 - ii) Research & Development on Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry;
 - iii) Human Resource Development in Food, Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry;
 - iv) Coordination and Cooperation in International and Regional Issues in Food, Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry;
 - v) Agriculture Information Networking; and
 - vi) Trade Facilitation.

10. The Ministers looked forward to undertaking cooperative activities in these areas, which would enhance relationship and cooperation among the food, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry institutions of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. They adopted the following criteria for deciding projects in the areas of collaboration:
 - i) Projects should be regional in nature and of benefit to the Member Countries;
 - ii) Projects could be implemented with the participation of as many Member Countries as possible. However, these projects should involve, at the minimum, participation by any two (2) ASEAN Member Countries and any one (1) country from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea;
 - iii) Projects should be implemented on a cost-sharing basis. Nevertheless some flexibility could be provided to the new members of ASEAN namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam; and
 - iv) Project proposals should be approved by SOM-AMAF Plus Three.
11. The Ministers tasked the Senior Agriculture and Forestry Officials to identify projects in the respective areas and to report their progress to AMAF Plus Three. Particular attention shall be made towards skills training and capacity building activities wherein the long-standing experience and expertise of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea in the agriculture and forestry sector of Southeast Asia, will be employed to develop the manpower in the region.
12. To maintain this cooperative and beneficial forum, the Ministers agreed to institutionalize the AMAF Plus Three and SOM-AMAF Plus Three.
13. The Ministers welcome the invitation of Thai Government to attend the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: "Fish for the People", to be held in Bangkok, 19-24 November 2001.
14. The Ministers agreed to study/ start the specific cooperation in the framework of ASEAN Plus Three aimed at reducing poverty and strengthening food security in East Asia. In this regard, the Ministers agreed to task Thailand

to coordinate a study on East Asian Rice Reserve System, and to report the outcome of the Study at the next AMAF Plus Three Meeting for their deliberation. The Ministers welcomed the assistance by Japan for the implementation of the Study.

15. The Ministers also agreed to task Thailand to coordinate the improvement of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) in cooperation with international organizations concerned. The Ministers welcomed the announcement that Japan is considering assisting in the development of AFSIS.
16. The Ministers noted that strengthening the exchanges on agricultural science and technology and the training on human resources between ASEAN and the plus 3 countries are becoming important components in the future cooperation. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the sponsorship and assistance provided by China for some activities such as "Forum on Agricultural Technology and Cooperation in East Asia", "Training in Groundwater Resource Development for CLMV countries" and "HRD in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) for Forest Personnel of CLMV".

PREPARATION FOR THIRD ASEAN AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, JAPAN AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA SUMMIT

17. The Ministers noted that the Third ASEAN and People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea Summit will be held in November 2001 to which the highlights of the First Meeting of AMAF Plus Three will be reported.
18. The Ministers agreed to have their second meeting in Lao PDR in October 2002.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

- i. H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam
- ii. H.E. Mr. May Sam Oeun, Secretary of State of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- iii. H.E. Prof. Dr. Bungaran Saragih, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia
- iv. H.E. Dr. Rokhmin Dahuri, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia
- v. Honourable Mr. Abdul Fattah, DS., Director-General of Forestry Research and Development Agency, Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia
- vi. H.E. Mr. Sitaheng Rasphone, Acting Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- vii. H.E. Datuk Dr. Mohd. Effendi Norwawi, Minister of Agriculture, Malaysia
- viii. H.E. Datuk Anifah Aman, Deputy Minister of Primary Industries, Malaysia
- ix. H.E. U Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar
- x. H.E. Mr. Leonardo Q. Montemayor, Secretary of Agriculture, the Philippines
- xi. Honourable Dr. Ngiam Tong Tau, Chief Executive Officer, Agri-food and Veterinary Authority, Singapore
- xii. H.E. Mr. Prapat Panyachatraksa, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
- xiii. Honourable Dr. Le Van Minh, Director-General, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
- xiv. H.E. Mr. Liu Jian, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, People's Republic of China
- xv. H.E. Mr. Takeshi Noma, Senior Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
- xvi. H.E. Mr. Kim Dong Keun, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Korea.

CUSTOM

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS

MAKATI, PHILIPPINES, 13-14 JULY 2001

1. The Ninth Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs was held on 13-14 July 2001 in Makati, Philippines.

Philippine Bureau of Customs, chaired the meeting.

2. Attending the Meeting were: Pg. Hj. Naserudin Bin Pg. Hj. Tejudin, Deputy Controller of Royal Customs and Excise, Brunei Darussalam; Mr. Pen Siman, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge of Customs and Excise Department, Cambodia; Mr. Irwan Ridwan, Director of International Affairs, Directorate-General of Customs and Excise, Indonesia; Mr. Nouhach Nalukhot, Director-General of Customs, Lao PDR; Dato' Ibrahim Mat, Deputy Director-General of the Royal Customs and Excise Department, Malaysia; Lt. Col. Khin Maung Linn, Director-General of Customs, Myanmar; Mr. Koh Chong Hwa, Director-General of Customs and Excise Department, Singapore; Mrs. Naengnoi Naranong, Deputy Director-General of the Royal Thai Customs Department, Thailand; Mr. Le Manh Hung, Deputy Director-General of the General Department of Customs, Viet Nam; and their respective delegations. Staff of the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance.

Opening Ceremony

3. Mr. Titus Villanueva, Commissioner of the

4. Undersecretary of Finance Cornelio C. Gison delivered the keynote address on behalf of H.E. Jose Isidro Camacho, the Secretary of Finance of the Philippines. He welcomed the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs to the Philippines. Noting that tariffs under AFTA would be reduced to 0-5% by 1 January 2002 for the six initial members of ASEAN, he emphasized the important role that ASEAN customs administrations can play in supporting the realization of AFTA, through the harmonisation of tariff nomenclature, simplification of customs procedures and adoption of the WTO Valuation Agreement. He expressed confidence that the Ninth Meeting of the Directors-General would see important progress made in the fifteen areas under the Customs Policy Implementation and Work Programme (PIWP). He noted that many of the areas in the PIWP, such as transparency, automation, human resource development and partnership with the business sector, were also being given priority by the Philippine

government. He welcomed the initiative taken by the ASEAN Directors-General to reach out to other customs administrations in the region, particularly Japan, and to the ASEAN private sector.

5. The Secretary of Finance expressed his appreciation to the contribution made by Myanmar, which served as the Chair of the Directors-General of Customs Meeting during the past year. He also thanked Mr. Yoshio Tamura, the Director General of Japan Customs and Tariff Bureau, who attended the Opening Ceremony, for sharing Japan's trade experience and technical knowledge with ASEAN customs administrations.

ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature

6. The Directors-General endorsed the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) and agreed on its implementation beginning 1 January 2002. The AHTN will create a harmonised tariff nomenclature at the eight-digit level for the ten ASEAN countries. The AHTN would contain 10,800 tariff lines from all ten Member Countries. Its implementation in year 2002 would coincide with the implementation of the latest Harmonised System (HS) code of the World Customs Organisation, upon which it is based.
7. The Directors-General agreed on the importance of conducting the necessary preparatory steps for the implementation of the AHTN, including training, preparation of correlation tables, translation and publication of the AHTN, information dissemination to the private sector, and revision of computer codes or programs. In this connection, they were pleased to note that a regional training was scheduled in the latter part of the year to train customs officials on the AHTN.

Policy Implementation and Work Programme

8. The Directors-General recalled the mandate by the ASEAN Leaders to conduct a mid-term review of the Ha Noi Plan of Action (HPA) and to report the outcome to the ASEAN Summit in Brunei Darussalam in November 2001. They therefore reviewed the progress made in customs cooperation, and in particular, the implementation of the ASEAN Customs Policy Implementation and Work Programme (PIWP). They concluded that the implementation of the PIWP was gradually leading ASEAN towards

its vision of a world-class customs service. They agreed to the continuing relevance of the HPA section on customs and encouraged Member Countries to expedite realization of the targets.

9. The Directors-General noted that Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand have already implemented the WTO Valuation Agreement. They further noted that based on these administrations' experience, there had been no adverse effect on customs revenues. However, the lack of expertise and knowledge on the part of both Customs officers and importers/businesses on the new valuation method contributed to difficulties in implementation. Hence, the Directors General agreed that sufficient familiarisation and training programme, workshops and seminars should be organised.
10. The Directors-General welcomed the technical assistance that was provided by the Korea Customs Service to ASEAN Member Countries on customs valuation through a seminar held in Korea in November 2000. They also expressed the hope that New Zealand Customs Service would continue its technical assistance to the new members as they prepare themselves for ultimate implementation of the Agreement.
11. The Directors-General noted that Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam had already established post-clearance systems and undertaken field audits. They further noted the efforts being made by the other Member Countries to implement post-clearance audit systems. To strengthen the existing PCA systems or assist in the establishment of such systems, a long-term expert had been dispatched to the ASEAN customs administrations to review the systems or the plans and make appropriate recommendations. The Directors-General also noted that work was being undertaken to develop a manual on post-clearance audit (PCA), which would include best practices of developed countries and case studies, to serve as reference to ASEAN Member countries.
12. The Directors-General discussed the benefits of accession to the ATA Carnet, which would allow the temporary admission of goods intended for exhibition with minimal customs intervention and procedures. Noting that only Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand had acceded to the convention, the Directors-

General encouraged other Member Countries to seriously consider accession. Noting that the implementation of the Carnet required participation of the local chamber of commerce and industry, they agreed to seek the support of the ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

13. Malaysian Customs and the representatives of the air express carrier industry made a presentation to the Directors-General on the development of Project ACCESS (ASEAN Customs Clearance and Express Services). The Directors General lauded the pilot project as an example of the partnership between the ASEAN customs administrations and the private sector. The project will create a state-of-the-art processing system for air express consignments. The Directors-General were pleased to note that the project would soon be expanded to cover Viet Nam.
14. The Tenth Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs would be held in Singapore in the year 2002.

Consultations with the Japanese Director-General of Customs

15. The Directors-General met with Mr. Yoshio Tamura, Director General of Japan Customs and Tariff Bureau. They briefed Japan on the progress made in implementing the customs PIWP and thanked Japan for its assistance in the work on post clearance audit and tariff nomenclature. They expressed their profound thanks for the services of Mr. Ichiharu Kusahara, whose unflagging effort and unparalleled expertise, was instrumental in finalising the AHTN. They noted that the PCA expert on post clearance audit was currently assisting ASEAN members' efforts to institute post-clearance audit systems and to draft a manual on PCA implementation. Japan's assistance had also included training to the new ASEAN members in the valuation and automation. The consultations also discussed possible future cooperation to cover the rest of the PIWP. The Directors-General and Mr. Yoshio Tamura exchanged views on the latest developments in WCO and APEC and agreed to consult closely on further developments in these matters.

Private Sector Consultations

16. The Directors-General held their fifth annual

consultation with representatives of the private sector in ASEAN. On hand for the meeting were the ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry, led by Mr. Jose Concepcion, and the US-ASEAN Business Council, led by Mr. Philip Gielczyk. During the consultations, presentations were made by the ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Automotive Trade Policy Council, the Confederation of Asia Pacific Express Carriers (CAPEC) and Price Waterhouse Coopers.

ENERGY

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 19TH ASEAN MINISTERS ON ENERGY MEETING

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 5 JULY 2001

1. The Nineteenth ASEAN Ministers of Energy Meeting (AMEM) was held on 5 July 2001 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting was preceded by the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME) and the Second SOME-METI Consultations held on 2-4 July 2001.
2. H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources of Brunei Darussalam, chaired the 19th AMEM, with H.E. Dr. Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Minister on Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia, as Vice-Chairman.
3. The Ministers exchanged views on the social, economic and environmental dimensions of Sustainable Energy Development. The Ministers viewed the importance of policy formulation and integration covering interaction, information sharing and consultation between the responsible decision makers in the economic, social and environmental areas. The Ministers also shared that view that ASEAN member countries are addressing the concern on Sustainable Energy Development, with policies and programs related to energy security and energy pricing, mitigation of the impact of energy use on environment and the promotion of economical and efficient use of energy, among others.
4. The Ministers recognized that ensuring continuous, reliable and affordable supply of energy results in sustained economic and social progress of the individual ASEAN member countries and the ASEAN region. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the initiatives taken by member countries in the application of renewable and clean energy technologies.
5. The Ministers emphasized the need to intensify collaborative efforts towards improving energy efficiency and conservation in the ASEAN region. They also emphasized on the further development, application and commercialization of new and renewable energy, which offer great potential in greenhouse gas emission mitigation and abatement. They urged member countries to set a culture of partnerships, competitiveness

Strategies for Sustainable Energy Development in ASEAN

and innovation, as well as improve access to finance and investment to support the growth of these two sectors. They also urged member countries to continue liberalizing the energy markets to ensure affordable energy prices and to attract investment for the development of energy infrastructures, with due recognition to the environment. They acknowledged that the integrated trans-ASEAN energy network of power grid and gas pipelines will help facilitate sustainable energy supply security and trade in ASEAN.

6. The Ministers also exchanged views on the developmental implications of energy services sector as currently discussed in international fora. In this regard, the Ministers shared the view that member countries could look into this concern in the light of their respective national energy policies and programs.

Implementation Progress of the HPA's Energy Action Agenda/ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 1999-2004

7. The Ministers appreciated the substantive achievements and developments since their last meeting in Ha Noi, as follows:

- Commissioning of three ASEAN power interconnection projects into operation in the next three years, namely: Stage II links between Thailand-Peninsular Malaysia, Viet Nam-Cambodia, and Thailand-Cambodia;
- Significant progress of the ASEAN Interconnection Master Plan Study (AIMS), with target completion by July 2002, under the auspices of Forum of Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities/Authorities (HAPUA);
- Completion of the Master Plan Study for the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline Project (TAGP) and the approval by ASEAN Council of Petroleum (ASCOPE) of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the TAGP implementation;
- Joint meeting between the AIMS working group and the TAGP task force addressing mutual concerns and issues in the development of the integrated trans-ASEAN energy network;
- Launching public awareness forum/programs under the ASEAN Forum on Coal (AFOC), to promote intra-ASEAN

coal trade and investment and clean coal technology;

- Completion of the ASEAN Energy Awards 2001 for Energy Efficient Buildings under the auspices of the ASEAN Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) Sub-Sector Network and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE);
 - Completion of the two-year project on the Promotion of Renewable Energy Systems in Southeast Asia, under the New and Renewable Energy (NRSE) Sub-Sector Network;
 - Completion of the SOME-METI Energy Work Program 2000-2001, as well as adoption of continuing programs for 2001-2002, in the areas of Energy Supply Security Planning and Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Conservation, through the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE);
 - Inception of the five-year EU-ASEAN Energy Cooperation Program. This program will cover technical assistance to five energy sectors; Electricity, Natural Gas, Clean Coal Technology, Energy Efficiency and Conservation and Renewable Energy;
 - ACE collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA); and
 - Fostering ACE nodal networking arrangement with Pusat Tenaga Malaysia and the Climate Change Information Center of the Philippines.
8. In the implementation of the Energy Action Plan, the Ministers expressed satisfaction that the ASEAN Centre for Energy had provided continuing technical assistance to the various ASEAN energy sub-sector networks and specialized bodies and in forging collaborative partnerships with international and regional organizations and with the ASEAN dialogue partners.
 9. To further enhance the implementation of the Energy Action Agenda of the Hanoi Plan of Action and the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation, the Ministers agreed to have an MOU for the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline and to intensify promotion of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation at the private sector level to increase its participation in providing investment and in realizing commercially viable ventures.

They also stressed the need to seek financial institutional support for bilateral power interconnection projects.

10. The Ministers underscored the importance of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) to bridge, among others, the capacity gap between the old and the newer ASEAN member countries.

OPEC Activities

11. H.E. Dr. Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia, briefed his fellow Ministers on the activities of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
12. The Ministers viewed that ensuring an adequate and stable supply and price of energy, including oil and other fuels, are vital to the long-term and sustainable growth for all ASEAN countries and the world at large.

SOME-METI Programs

13. The Ministers noted with appreciation the successful implementation of the SOME-METI Work Program 2000-2001. They expressed confidence that the cooperation between Japan and ASEAN in the field of energy would lead to greater energy security and sustainable energy future.
14. The Ministers also expressed assurance that the ASEAN energy administrations and the ASEAN energy sub-sector networks and specialized bodies would provide continued support to the Japanese counterpart agencies and organizations in implementing mutually beneficial programs in the energy sector, under the SOME-METI Work Program 2001-2002.
15. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN side presented the following in the Second SOME-METI Consultation held on 4 July 2001:
 - Cambodia: Recent Energy Situation and Energy Policy
 - Indonesia: Energy Pricing Issues
 - Philippines: Electric Power Industry Restructuring Act of 2001
 - Malaysia: Malaysia Energy Policy in the 8th Malaysia Plan (2001-2005)
 - Myanmar: Energy Policy and Strategy
 - Viet Nam: Viet Nam's Energy and Power Sector Policy

ASEAN Energy Awards 2001

16. The Ministers congratulated the regional Winners and Runners-Up, respectively, of the ASEAN Energy Awards 2001. The awardees were Securities Commission of Malaysia and the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore for the new and existing building category; Mike Shopping Mall of Thailand and the Sultanah Zanariah Library of the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia for retrofitted buildings; and the Bonifacio Gas Corporation Building of the Philippines for the special innovation category. The awardees were selected from 12 entries at a final judging by the ASEAN EE&C Sub-Sector Networks Board of Judges held on 14-15 May 2001 in Ha Noi.

ASEAN Energy Business Forum

17. The Ministers were pleased with the outcomes of the third ASEAN Energy Business Forum (AEBF) held in Singapore in February 2001, with the theme "Opening Up Business Opportunities". The fourth AEBF will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in March / April 2002, with the theme "Energy for the 21st Century: A Business Forum of the ASEAN Energy Sector", and with special focus on Energy Services Companies (ESCOs).
18. The Ministers agreed that future AEBFs will be held in conjunction with the annual SOME/AMEM meetings, to attract greater participation and involvement of the private sector from ASEAN and non-ASEAN countries.

ASCOPE Activities

19. The Ministers noted that Cambodia and Myanmar formally joined ASCOPE during the 26th ASCOPE Council Meeting held in Singapore. They also noted the progress of ASCOPE's joint activities and opportunities in exploration and production, processing and refining, trading and marketing, and in technology and services.
20. The Ministers agreed that the TAGP Master Plan Study, which identified seven new possible gas pipeline interconnections in ASEAN, would be a useful guide in the long-term development of the trans-ASEAN energy network.
21. The Ministers welcomed the holding of the 7th ASCOPE Conference and Exhibition with the

theme "Forging Towards a New Order in the Oil and Gas Industry" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 5-8 November 2001.

Gas Exporting Countries Forum

22. The Ministers noted the Chairman's briefing with regards to the establishment of a new international body on gas called the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), which included representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Indonesia. The First Ministerial Meeting was held on 19-20 May 2001 in Tehran, Iran to formally establish the Forum.

20th AMEM

23. The Twentieth AMEM will be held in Bali, Indonesia in July 2002.
24. The 19th AMEM was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN cordiality and solidarity.

LIST OF ASEAN MINISTERS ON ENERGY

H.E. PEHIN DATO ABDUL RAHMAN TAIB
Minister of Industry and Primary Resources,
Brunei Darussalam

H.E. MR. ITH PRAING
Secretary of State Ministry of Industry, Mines and
Energy, Cambodia

H.E. DR. PURNOMO YUSGIANTORO
Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources,
Indonesia

H.E. MR. SOULIVONG DARAVONG
Minister of Industry and Handicrafts, Lao PDR

H.E. DATUK AMAR LEO MOGGIE
Minister of Energy, Communications and
Multimedia, Malaysia

H.E. BRIG. GEN. LUN THI
Minister of Energy, Myanmar

H.E. MR. VICENTE S. PEREZ, JR
Secretary of Energy, Philippines

H.E. MR. PETER CHEN
Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry,
Singapore

H.E. MR. CHATURON CHAISANG
Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Thailand

H.E. DR. NGUYEN XUAN CHUAN
Deputy Minister of Industry, Vietnam

and

MR. TRAN DUC MINH
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN

FINANCE

JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE 5TH ASEAN FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 7-8 APRIL 2001

Introduction

1. We, the ASEAN Finance Ministers, convened our Fifth Annual Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 7-8 April 2001 to discuss progress of the economic recovery and regional financial cooperation initiatives, development of self-help and support mechanisms through the Chiang Mai Initiative and noted the progress of capital market development and financial services liberalization.
2. H.E. Tun Daim Zainuddin, Minister of Finance, Malaysia, presided over the meeting.

Recent Economic Developments

3. We conducted a peer review and are pleased with the strong performance of our economies last year. ASEAN economies achieved a higher overall growth of 5.3% in 2000 compared with 3.4% growth in 1999. The strong economic performance was led by rapid growth in exports and continued recovery in domestic demand.
4. Global developments in 2000 were favorable, particularly the strong economic expansion in the United States and Europe, which led to very buoyant demand for the region's exports, especially for electronic goods. At the same

time, inflationary pressures were subdued with average inflation rate for the region at 2.5% compared with 9.7% in 1999. This provided the monetary authorities flexibility to pursue an accommodative monetary policy to maintain a favorable environment for domestic demand.

5. We made substantial progress in financial and corporate restructuring with most of our members achieving significant declines in the level of their non-performing loans. Further efforts were made to improve corporate governance and adopt international best practices and standards. Additional measures were also put in place to promote business activities of small and medium enterprises. However, some of our member economies experienced occasional bouts of volatility in the foreign exchange and stock markets during the year due to a number of factors, including political uncertainties.

Sustaining ASEAN Economic Recovery

6. This year, the global outlook has become significantly more adverse. The downside risks for the US economy have increased following the sharp fall in equity prices. Growth in the Euro zone is expected to moderate, although this will be mitigated by relatively robust domestic demand. The outlook for the

Japanese economy remains fragile, given the structural problems within the financial sector. We noted with concern the recent volatility of financial markets and the major currencies, particularly the depreciation of the Japanese Yen, which has created uncertainty and instability in regional financial markets and could adversely affect the prospects for continued growth of the ASEAN economies.

7. In view of the expected slowdown in the global economy, the outlook for the ASEAN economies will be less favorable. Export growth in the ASEAN economies has moderated since late last year and foreign direct investments are expected to remain subdued in the near term. Under these conditions, most of the ASEAN economies are taking pre-emptive measures to mitigate the economic slowdown. Expansionary fiscal and accommodative monetary policies are being undertaken, while recognizing the need to maintain fiscal sustainability and financial stability in the medium term. For some countries, the process of privatisation of state-owned enterprises would continue to reduce the financial burden on the government and to improve economic efficiency.
8. While significant progress has been achieved in financial and corporate sector restructuring, we are committed to persevere with our structural reforms. This has been and will remain our top priority. To reduce excessive reliance on bank financing, our officials are working together to develop the infrastructure, institutions and instruments that would lead to the emergence of a vibrant capital market in the ASEAN economies.
9. These measures to further strengthen domestic demand are expected to mitigate the negative effects of the slowing of regional exports and keep our economies growing, albeit at a slower average rate of 3-5% for the year 2001.

Regional Finance Cooperation

10. Our ASEAN Surveillance Process is an important mechanism for better monitoring of our economies and candid discussions on key policy issues aimed at preventing the recurrence of a crisis. ASEAN will further discuss with the +3 countries, namely China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, ways of enhancing the ASEAN Surveillance Process. In addition, we would like to express our

appreciation to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for its continued support for surveillance related activities including training of our finance and central bank officials, sharing their views on the global and regional outlook and providing the necessary support for some of our members' surveillance units and the ASEAN Secretariat. The ADB agreed to assist us in stimulating economic activities through the acceleration of project development financing, and further enhancing our competitiveness through the provision of additional technical assistance, including in human resource development. The ADB also agreed to strengthen its advisory role so that ASEAN member countries can improve and differentiate their strategies in line with their strengths and have cooperative strategies to boost the regional economy as a whole.

11. We also wish to thank the International Monetary Fund and World Bank for sharing their assessments of global economic developments and outlook with our Deputies.
12. We are pleased to note the progress of the implementation of the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) to provide liquidity support in the event of temporary balance of payments difficulties. In this connection, the ASEAN Swap Arrangement (ASA) has been successfully enlarged to include all ten ASEAN countries and its size increased to USD 1 billion.
13. An additional support mechanism is also being developed through a network of bilateral swap arrangements (BSA) and repurchase agreements with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. There was consensus that the BSA would be complementary and supplementary to IMF facilities. To be beneficial to the individual ASEAN countries, the terms and modalities of the BSA should take into account the different economic fundamentals, specific circumstances and financing needs of individual countries.
14. To facilitate the implementation of the Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit, we signed the Protocol 5 on ASEAN Scheme of Compulsory Motor Vehicle Insurance on 8 April 2001. We also note the significant progress made on Protocol 2 on Frontier Posts and Protocol 7 on the Customs Transit System. We further agree to harmonize insurance laws and regulations. We also welcome the establishment of the ASEAN

Insurance Training and Research Institute which will serve as the main institute for training both regulators and practitioners as well as conducting research on insurance topics of mutual interests.

15. On financial services liberalization, the first round of negotiations was completed in 1998, resulting in further liberalization of financial services in a number of sub-sectors. Our Working Committee on ASEAN Financial Liberalization under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services is in the midst of negotiating further financial sector liberalization, with the current round of negotiations scheduled to be completed by the end of 2001. We resolve to further liberalize financial services.
16. In addition to the CMI, we noted the progress in enhancing other areas of cooperation with our +3 counterparts, under the ASEAN+3 framework. We will continue to strengthen finance cooperation in areas such as regional self-help and support mechanisms, and human resource development.
17. We exchanged views with representatives of the US-ASEAN Business Council on recent economic developments and US investment in ASEAN. We noted their commitment to the region and appreciated their willingness to provide training for ASEAN finance and central bank officials on various financial issues including risk management. Other proposed areas of cooperation include exchange visits and sharing of views on ASEAN economic development and regional cooperation activities.

JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE ASEAN+3 FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING

HONOLULU, USA, 9 MAY 2001

Introduction

1. We, the Finance Ministers of ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ASEAN+3) convened our meeting in Honolulu to exchange views on recent economic and financial developments, review the progress of and discuss further cooperation in the East Asian region, in particular the implementation of the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) and monitoring of capital flows.
2. H.E. Tun Daim Zainuddin, Finance Minister, Malaysia, presided over our meeting.

Strengthening East Asia Finance Cooperation

3. We had an exchange of views on recent global and regional economic and financial developments. In this regard, we would like to thank the Asian Development Bank for their update on economic and financial developments in East Asia, which has provided a useful reference point for our discussions.
4. Growth in the regional economies was robust in 2000, supported by strong export and the revival of domestic consumer demand. With the prospects for the region this year likely to be more subdued, given the weak outlook for the major industrial economies, we noted that some member countries are pursuing accommodative monetary policies and expansionary fiscal policies to sustain growth, while persevering with reforms in the financial and corporate sectors.

5. At the regional level, we will continue to enhance policy dialogues and regional cooperation activities, particularly in the areas of regional self-help and support mechanisms, international financial reform and short-term capital flows monitoring. In this regard, we agreed to update the capital flows situation in each member country and to exchange data on capital flows bilaterally among member countries on a voluntary basis. Our efforts in financial cooperation are being complemented by closer cooperation in other areas as witnessed by an expanded scope of East Asia cooperation, such as trade, agriculture and tourism.

6. We are pleased to note the significant progress that has been made in implementing the CMI to further strengthen our self-help and support mechanisms in East Asia.

The ASEAN Swap Arrangement, one of the CMI main components, has been enlarged to USD 1 billion effective 17 November 2000 and has as its participants all ASEAN member countries.

Regarding the network of bilateral swap arrangements (BSA) and repurchase agreements under the CMI, substantial agreements on the BSA have been reached between Korea-Japan, Malaysia-Japan, and Thailand-Japan. Our senior officials will continue to work towards establishing a network of bilateral swap and repurchase agreement facilities among ASEAN countries,

China, Japan and Korea.

We agreed that we would review the current main principles of the bilateral swap arrangement under the CMI in three years, taking account of the actual operation of the BSA and other relevant factors.

Recognizing the importance of enhanced monitoring of the economic situation in our region in implementing the BSA, we agreed to establish a study group to examine ways of enhancing the effectiveness of our economic reviews and policy dialogues.

7. On human resources development, we appreciated China's effort in arranging for the training courses on Economic Reforms and Development in China for the ASEAN+3 Finance and Central Bank officials in Beijing last October and in Shanghai in February 2001. We gratefully noted Korea's support for the working visit by ASEAN senior officials to Seoul in October last year and welcomed the initiative to organize a training program on financial and corporate restructuring later this year for the ASEAN Finance and Central Bank officials. We also welcomed Japan's offer of financial assistance to member countries, through the ASEAN Secretariat, in the monitoring of capital flows in the region and the study of other appropriate mechanisms to promote financial stability.
8. We acknowledged Korea's initiative in organizing an international seminar on early warning system modeling and joint regional monitoring in Seoul last November as part of our network of research and training institutes. We agreed to continue to exchange views on the early warning systems and to work towards developing appropriate early warning system models for East Asian countries, through appropriate processes such as holding additional seminars.

INVESTMENT

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE ASEAN INVESTMENT AREA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 14 SEPTEMBER 2001

1. The ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council met on 14 September 2001, preceded by the First Meeting of the AIA Council-Business Sector Forum with US and Japanese business organizations on 13 September 2001 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Council discussed, among other investment issues, the global investment condition, trends and development of FDI flows in the region, reviewed the status of implementation of the AIA agreement and the investment activities of the Hanoi Plan of Action endorsed by the ASEAN Leaders three years ago.
3. In order to attract larger volumes of FDI into ASEAN, the Council agreed to accelerate the full realization of the AIA for non-ASEAN investors in the manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and mining sectors. Full AIA realization would be advanced from 2020 to 2010 for the first six ASEAN members and to 2015 for the newer members. This means that the exceptions to free entry and national treatment would be fully eliminated by these deadlines.

ASEAN Competitiveness Study

Acceleration of the AIA for Non-ASEAN Investors

2. The Council reviewed the effect of the ASEAN Investment Area. Under AIA, investors from inside and outside ASEAN would be free to invest in manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and mining sectors and their investments extended national treatment, with each country making certain exceptions. The AIA agreement set the deadline, for the elimination of the exceptions in 2010 for ASEAN investors and 2020 for non-ASEAN investors.
4. With competition for foreign direct investment intensifying, the Council agreed on the need to conduct a comprehensive study on the competitiveness of South East Asia, especially against the backdrop of NAFTA, the EU, and the impending Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The study would identify the comparative and competitive advantages of the types of industry vis-à-vis other regions, and make policy recommendations, to enable South East Asia to develop competitive industries that are regionally integrated, so as to enhance ASEAN's ability to attract FDI into

the region. The Council agreed that Member Countries will contribute to fund the study and that it should be completed by the time the AIA Council meets in Kuala Lumpur in the second quarter of 2002.

Greater Public-Private Sector Alliances

5. The First AIA Council-Business Sector Forum was conducted on 13 September 2001, with the aim to forge greater public-private sector alliances and to actively involve the private sector in the AIA process. Two separate consultation fora were held with high-level representatives from the US and Japanese business sector organizations, respectively. The business organizations included representatives from the US-ASEAN Business Council, American Automotive Association, Keidanren, Japan Electronics Industry and Technology Association, and Japan Automotive Manufacturers Association. Specific investment matters such as on further strengthening the AIA process and in making ASEAN a competitive global investment location were discussed.
6. Given the success of the First Forum, the Council looked forward to holding the Second AIA Council-Business Sector Forum next year to discuss key issues of FDI and investment operations in ASEAN.

Signing of the Protocol to enhance the Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area

7. The Protocol to enhance the Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area was signed today. The Framework Agreement was signed on 7 October 1998. The Protocol shortened the end date for the Temporary Exclusion List of the manufacturing sector to 2003 instead of 2010 for the original six member countries and Myanmar. Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam will have no later than 1 January 2010 to phase out the Temporary Exclusion List of the manufacturing sector. The protocol also expands the coverage of the AIA agreement to include agriculture, fishery, forestry and mining sectors, and services incidental to manufacturing and these sectors.

Review of Other Investment Activities

8. The Council reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the AIA Agreement and the

investment portion of the Hanoi Plan of Action. Since 1999, a total of 45 regional level investment activities have been collectively implemented. Among the key achievements made in the last twelve months, under the AIA process, included the following:

- Review of the Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA)
- Drawing up Individual Actions
- Enhancing Greater Transparency
- Promotion of Investment Opportunities in the New ASEAN Member Countries
- Bridging the Development Gap

Attendance

9. The Fourth AIA Council Meeting was chaired by H.E. Tran Xuan Gia, Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam and attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;

H.E. Kong Vibol, Secretary of State of Economy and Finance and Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Development of Cambodia;

H.E. Rini M.S. Soewandi, Minister, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Indonesia;

H.E. Soulivong Daravong, Minister, Ministry of Industry and Handicraft, Lao PDR;

H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;

H.E. Brigadier General David O. Abel, Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Myanmar;

H.E. Thomas G. Aquino, Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines;

H.E. BG (NS) George Yong-Boon Yeo, Minister, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore;

H.E. Chaturon Chaisang, Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, Thailand;

H.E. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr. Secretary-General of ASEAN, and their respective delegations.

SERVICES

PROTOCOL TO IMPLEMENT THE 3RD PACKAGE OF COMMITMENTS UNDER THE ASEAN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON SERVICES

31 DECEMBER 2001

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

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

RECALLING that the Sixth ASEAN Summit called on Member States to enter into a second round of negotiations, beginning 1999 and ending 2001 to

cover all services sectors and all modes of supply;

HAVING carried out an initial round of negotiations and concluded two sets of commitments embodied in the Protocol to Implement the Initial Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 15 December 1997 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the Protocol to Implement the Second Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 16 December 1998 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam;

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

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

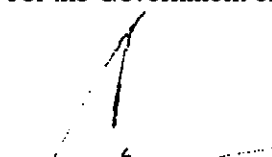
HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Member States who are WTO Members shall continue to extend their specific commitments under GATS to ASEAN Member States who are non-WTO Members.
2. Member States shall extend to all other Member States preferential treatment in trade in services as set forth in the Schedules of Specific Commitments annexed to this Protocol.
3. The Annexes to this Protocol shall consist of the Horizontal Commitments, Schedules of Specific Commitments and the Lists of Most-Favoured Nation Exemptions.
4. This Protocol and its Annexes shall form an integral part of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services.
5. This Protocol shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification or acceptance by all signatory governments with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, which shall be done not later than 31 March 2002.
6. This Protocol shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each Member State. The Secretary-General of ASEAN shall also promptly furnish notifications of ratifications or acceptances made pursuant to paragraph 5 to each Member State.

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

DONE on 31 December 2001, in a single copy in the English language.

For the Government of Brunei Darussalam


ABDUL RAHMAN TAIB
Minister of Industry and Primary Resources

For the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia


CHAM PRASIDH
Minister of Commerce

For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia


RINI M. S. SOEWANDI
Minister of Industry and Trade

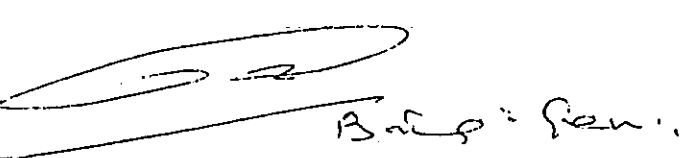
For the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic


SOULIVONG DARAVONG
Minister of Industry and Handicraft

For the Government of Malaysia


RAFIDAH AZIZ
Minister of International Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Union of Myanmar


BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID O. ABEL
Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

For the Government of the Republic of the
Philippines



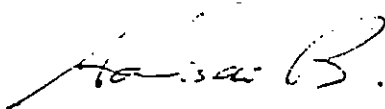
MANUEL A. ROXAS II
Secretary of Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Republic of Singapore



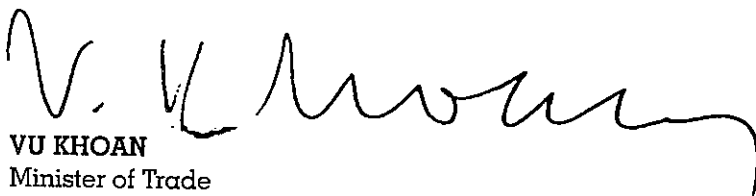
GEORGE YONG-BOON YEO
Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand



ADISAI BODHARAMIK
Minister of Commerce

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of
Vietnam



VU KHOAN
Minister of Trade

DRUGS

PRESS RELEASE OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE ACCORD PLAN OF ACTION TASK FORCES

BALI, INDONESIA, 12-14 NOVEMBER 2001

BALI - In a move which underlines the increasing threat of illicit drugs, several developing and developed countries have agreed to contribute more financial resources and technical assistance to combat the drugs problem in the ASEAN region and China.

Myanmar, which traditionally receives assistance from the donors of the developed countries to fight the drug problem, has now committed to contribute financial resources under the ASEAN and China Cooperation Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD process).

"We are committed to the process and we are ready to contribute to ACCORD," said Pol. Col. Hkam Awng, Head of the Myanmar Delegation in the first meeting of the ACCORD Plan of Action Task Forces which was held in Bali, Indonesia on the 12 -14 November 2001.

Thailand too said they were prepared to increase contribution for regional anti-drug projects up to US\$20,000. "We have also taken the initiative to allocate the forfeiture of the assets of drug traffickers for the drug fight," said Ms. Laxanachantorn Laohaphan, Director-General of the Department of

International Organisations of the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Government of Thailand is also prepared to contribute technical assistance, she added.

The meeting which was billed to be an operational meeting to put the flesh to the skeleton of the ACCORD Plan of Action was attended by some 100 participants from 17 countries and 5 international organizations. There were also representatives from local and regional non-governmental organizations. It was organized by the National Narcotics Coordinating Board (BKNN) of Indonesia, the ASEAN Secretariat and the Regional Centre of East Asia and the Pacific, United Nations International Drug Control Programme Office in Bangkok.

The Asian Development Bank and the United Nations/ESCAP confirmed their support to ACCORD as they recognized the narcotics problem as an essential requirement for sustainable human development and fight against poverty.

Several partners which have traditionally contributed substantially to the fight against drugs in the region, both bilaterally and multilaterally also expressed support to the ACCORD process and

agreed to consider the needs of the ACCORD Plan of Action.

"We are impressed with the intention and the cooperation among all the participants," said Mr. Douglas Rasmussen, Director, Narcotics Affairs Section, at the American Embassy in Bangkok during the plenary session. He added that he would refer the proposals made at the meeting to Washington for a firm decision.

Japan which is currently in the throes of a world wide recession, came out strongly in favour of the plan. "Japan appreciates the ACCORD process which we believe is a significant step in promoting cooperation in the drug area," said Mr. Keiji Ide, Director, Regional Policy Division, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo. He also said that Japan would continue its support for drug control projects in the future.

Several ASEAN nations such as Malaysia and Singapore said they would continue with existing arrangements to the drug fight including bilateral initiatives.

The meeting also agreed to strengthen cooperation among ASEAN and China on issues ranging from demand reduction, advocacy, law enforcement and alternative development. The task forces on the different issues will meet every year to discuss developments in their respective areas. The task forces will also facilitate day to day work against the drug scourge.

ENVIRONMENT

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 6TH INFORMAL ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 15-16 MAY 2001

15 May 2001, Phnom Penh: ASEAN Environment Ministers met today to review regional and global environmental issues and to further enhance collaborative actions to protect the environment.

The Ministers reviewed progress of implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment, incorporating recommendations of the Hanoi Plan of Action, and endorsed further concrete actions and initiatives to effectively address environmental challenges in the region. Areas of priority concern include: land and forest fires, transboundary haze, nature conservation and biodiversity, coastal and marine environment, multilateral environmental agreements, environmental public education, information, awareness, and training, and environmentally sound technologies.

On land and forest fires and transboundary haze, the Ministers expressed concern over the prediction by the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre that there is a 75 percent chance of a drier than normal conditions during the second half of 2001, and consequentially the potential for spells of smoke haze episodes during that period. The Ministers pledged to be vigilant, and resolved to undertake greater efforts for regional preparedness to prevent

the problem. These include the development of fire suppression mobilisation plans, monitoring of land and forest fires and transboundary haze, and preventive measures to promote the zero-burning policy and strengthen law enforcement efforts.

The Ministers also noted that Indonesia had enforced a new regulation in February 2001 to step up enforcement measures to control open burning, and that court action had been taken against a number of plantation companies that had undertaken open burning.

The Ministers noted the substantial progress in the negotiation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution. The Ministers agreed that the draft Agreement should be concluded by September 2001, to be signed during the ASEAN Summit in November 2001 in Brunei Darussalam. The Ministers also agreed on arrangements to ensure the early entry into force of the Agreement.

In enhancing further the capacity and awareness of the region in addressing the issues on transboundary haze, a World Conference and Exhibition on Fire Hazards from Land and Forest Fires will be organised in Malaysia in the year 2002.

In addition, the Ministers also agreed that a feasibility study for the establishment of an emergency response and planning institute be conducted.

The Ministers released an ASEAN-ADB joint publication entitled "Fire, Smoke, and Haze - the ASEAN Response Strategy". The publication documents ASEAN's experiences in managing forest fires and its response strategy. The publication serves to inform all concerned about ASEAN's efforts, and about opportunities for further collaboration with ASEAN to tackle this pressing problem.

The Ministers launched the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP), 2000-2005, which serves as a collaborative framework for ASEAN cooperation in enhancing manpower capability and in managing the environment through information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns.

The Ministers noted that ASEAN will soon launch its Second State of the Environment Report (SoER), to be followed by the Third SoER in early 2002 in time for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10). The Ministers commended the preparations by Cambodia and Indonesia for hosting preparatory meetings for the World Summit on Sustainable Development - the Asia-Pacific regional meeting in Cambodia and the ministerial-level meeting in Indonesia. The Ministers urged all relevant governments and agencies to assist the two Governments in making these events a success.

The Ministers expressed deep concern over US Government's position on the Kyoto Protocol. The Ministers were of the view that the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol should not be re-negotiated, and looked forward to the amicable resolution of outstanding issues at the resumed session of the Sixth Conference of Parties of the Climate Change Convention.

The Ministers also held consultations with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), UNEP, UNESCO, United Nations University (UNU) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) on continued cooperative activities with ASEAN. The Ministers expressed their deep appreciation to these organisations for their substantial support in improving the environmental conditions in ASEAN.

Ministers and representatives present at the 6th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment :

H.E. Pg. Indera Wijaya Pg. Dr. Hj. Ismail bin Pg. Hj. Damit
Minister of Development
Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth
Minister for the Environment
Kingdom of Cambodia

H.E. Dr. Alexander Sonny Keraf
State Minister of Environment Republic of Indonesia

H.E. Dr. Prof. Souli Nanthavong
Minister to Prime Minister Office
in Charge of Science, Technology and Environment
Lao PDR

H.E. Dato Law Hieng Ding
Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment
Malaysia

H.E. Mr. Lim Swee Say
Acting Minister for the Environment
Singapore

H.E. Dr. Prof. Chu Tuan Nha
Minister for Science, Technology and Environment
Viet Nam

H.E. U Tint Lwin
Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia
Myanmar

Mr. Uriel Norman R. Garibay
Charge d'Affairs
Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in the Kingdom of Cambodia

Mr. Sunthad Somchevita
ASOEN Chairman and Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
Thailand

H.E. Mr. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr.
Secretary General of ASEAN

PRESS RELEASE OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 4 AUGUST 2001

The Twelfth Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment was held on 3-4 August, 2001 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting was attended by heads of environmental agencies from each ASEAN Member Countries, and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Meeting reviewed developments relating to environmental cooperation in the ASEAN region, and discussed implementation of cooperative activities based on the Ha Noi Plan of Action and Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment. The areas of cooperation include transboundary haze pollution, nature conservation and biodiversity, multilateral environmental agreements, coastal and marine environment, and various other environmental activities. The Senior Officials also discussed follow-up actions on the decisions made by the Environment Ministers at their 8th formal meeting in October, 2000 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia and the 6th Informal Meeting in May 2001 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

On transboundary haze pollution, the Meeting noted that there was a low chance of an El Nino developing later this year. However, during the current southwest monsoon, there was still a likelihood of some areas (Central and South Sumatra), experiencing drier than normal weather. This could lead to periodic occurrences of slight to moderate haze in the region. The Meeting resolved to step up efforts to mitigate land and forest fires.

The Meeting noted the difficulties in implementing the zero burning policy at the field level, particularly for the local communities. The Meeting therefore agreed to work towards banning all forms of open burning as a long-term strategy within the period of southwesterly monsoon, especially during the months of July to September. As a short-to-medium term strategy, the Meeting also agreed to continue the current efforts on public awareness programmes and development of guidelines and techniques for controlled burning method.

The Meeting also noted that considerable progress had been made with regard to the formulation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, and that the Senior Officials are committed to ensure that the Agreement would be signed during the ASEAN Summit in November 2001 in Brunei Darussalam.

Regarding multilateral environmental agreements, the Meeting noted that a training workshop on chemical-related MEAs would be held in Kuala Lumpur, and an ASEAN case study on synergies and interlinkages among MEAs would be conducted soon. The Meeting also agreed to hold an experts meeting of climate change focal points in October, 2001 in Singapore to discuss, among others, follow-up actions of the recent climate change negotiations, regional activities on climate change, and preparation for COP 7.

On coastal and marine environment, the Meeting endorsed a proposal on Regional Coordination for Integrated Protection and Management of Coastal and Marine Environment in South East Asia for implementation. The Meeting also agreed to forge closer collaboration with the relevant activities of other international organizations in the region.

The Meeting noted that the "Second ASEAN State of the Environment Report 2000" has been published. The ASEAN Secretariat would launch this publication as well as other environmental publications, such as "Fire, Smoke and Haze: the ASEAN Response Strategy" and the "ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan 2000-2005" on 14 August 2001 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta. The event is part of ASEAN's efforts to publicize its regional environmental activities, and for the relevant parties to be informed and to partake in enhancing regional cooperation on the environment.

The Senior Officials discussed cooperative programmes with representatives of the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea within the framework of ASEAN+3 Cooperation. The Senior Officials also discussed cooperative activities with several international organizations, namely the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, and the United States Asia Environmental Partnership.

The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN cordiality and solidarity.

IMMIGRATION

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 5TH MEETING OF ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS AND HEADS OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS DIVISIONS OF THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DGICM)

SINGAPORE, 3-5 SEPTEMBER 2001

1. The 5th Meeting of ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) was held in Singapore from 3 to 5 September 2001. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Fong Yong Kian, Director, Singapore Immigration and Registration (SIR)
2. The respective ASEAN delegations were led by Mr. Sa Bali Abas, Director, Department of Immigration and National Registration, Brunei Darussalam; Pol. Brig. Gen. Yun Chhunhy, Director of Immigration Department, Cambodia; Mr. M Iman Santoso, Director-General of Immigration, Indonesia; Pol. Col. Khammouane Savaivanh, Director-General, Department of Immigration, Lao PDR; Dato' Mohd Jamal Kamdi, Director-General of Immigration, Malaysia; Mr. Zaw Tun, Deputy Director-General, Immigration and National Registration Department, Myanmar; Hon. Andrea D. Domingo, Commissioner of Immigration, Philippines; Mr. Fong Yong Kian, Director, SIR; Pol. Lt. Gen. Hemaraj Thareethai, Commissioner of Immigration Bureau, Thailand; Mr. Vu Thanh Binh, Deputy Director-General, Immigration Department, Viet Nam; and Dato' Ahmad Mokhtar Selat, Deputy Secretary-General, ASEAN Secretariat.
3. In his Opening Remarks, Mr. Fong Yong Kian, Director, SIR expressed his confidence that the discussions during the 5th DGICM would bring all Member Countries closer to the realisation of the goals and priorities set out in the ASEAN Vision 2020. He added that in the process of communication and consensus-building, the DGICM would continue to forge and strengthen the ASEAN spirit, as members work towards shared goals and objectives for regional

peace, security and prosperity in ASEAN.

4. The Heads of Delegation, in their statements at the Meeting, also reiterated their commitment to further enhance regional cooperation on immigration and consular matters.

ASEAN Plan of Action on Immigration Matters

5. As a first step towards greater sharing and exchange of information, all Member Countries agreed to consider linking the websites of the various ASEAN immigration authorities through the creation of hyperlinks from the ASEAN Secretariat website. The general public would also benefit from this comprehensive, one-stop information channel.
6. Furthermore, all Member Countries agreed to consider exchange of information on confidential and vital immigration matters.

Exchange of Views on Irregular Migration and a Regional Approach in Combating Trafficking in Persons

7. The 5th DGICM held an Exchange of Views on irregular migration and a regional approach for combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The meeting noted that in the era of globalisation, the issue of trafficking in persons has become more significant. Future plans include the drafting of an ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, in particular Women and Children.

Use of Smart Card to Facilitate Travel within ASEAN

8. The 5th DGICM agreed that the use of Smart Card would facilitate travel clearance within ASEAN and has recommended that countries that are ready, could implement it on a bilateral basis first. The lessons learnt, experience gathered and best practices could then be shared with other Member Countries for consideration for implementation.

ASEAN Immigration and Consular Directory

9. The ASEAN Immigration and Consular Directory (AICD) was updated by Singapore, the host country and made available to the immigration authorities of all Member Countries. The AICD is a directory of immigration and consular focal points for a

network among the immigration and consular authorities in ASEAN. For the first time, the AICD would be available in CD ROM format.

Next Meeting

10. The 6th DGICM will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in the second half of next year.

Acknowledgements

11. The 5th DGICM expressed their deepest appreciation to the Government and people of Singapore, especially the officials of Singapore, for their warm hospitality and arrangements made for the Meeting.
12. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.

LABOUR

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 15TH ASEAN LABOUR MINISTERS MEETING

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 10-11 MAY 2001

1. The Fifteenth ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting was convened from 10 to 11 May 2001, preceded by the ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting held on 9 May 2001, and the Eighth Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Labour Affairs held on 8 May 2001, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
2. The Meeting was officially opened by the Rt. Hon. Datuk Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, on behalf of the Rt. Hon. Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia.
3. In his Keynote Speech, the Rt. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister noted that the annual meetings of the ASEAN Labour Ministers were important to address the ever-changing dynamics of the labour market driven by internal and external factors. These factors needed to be addressed in a concerted manner so as to safeguard the interest and welfare of the region's workers. Datuk Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi also noted that the Meeting was important in the light of globalisation which had brought about greater linkages among economies of the region.
4. Datuk Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi observed that in the light of these trends, ASEAN Labour Ministers should examine the challenges facing the labour force and strategic actions to be taken to ensure that the region's labour force remains competitive. In view of the shift now taking place from a production-based economy to a knowledge-based economy, the Rt. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister emphasised the necessity to ensure that region's work force moves up the value-added chain through increased productivity, corporate performance, management efficiency and corporate culture. This necessity has become more imperative in view of the adverse impact of the global economic slowdown on ASEAN economies.
5. Capacity-building was emphasised as the focus to address these challenges. Datuk Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi noted that human capital is the most important determinant of any successful transition to a knowledge-based economy. To achieve this, improving the education standards, skills training and retraining, life-long learning, and consultative industrial relations among the social partners were listed as important strategies to be used by all of the ASEAN economies in order to ensure smooth transition to a knowledge-based economy.
6. The Meeting was attended by Ministers of Labour from ASEAN Member Countries. The

ASEAN Secretariat was also in attendance. ASEAN Labour Ministers also held consultations with their counterparts from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea on 11 May 2001. The list of ASEAN Labour Ministers and their East Asian counterparts is attached.

7. His Excellency Datuk Dr. Fong Chan Onn, Minister for Human Resources of Malaysia, and His Excellency Mr. Sompanh Phengkammy, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of the Lao People's Democratic Republic were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Meeting, respectively.
8. As host of the 15th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting, Datuk Dr. Fong Chan Onn extended a warm welcome to the Ministers and their delegations. He welcomed the opportunity provided by the 15th ALMM to discuss and share each other's views on human resource development, which was important for economic development. He was encouraged to note the steady enhancement of cooperation in labour-related issues since the first ALMM in 1975. He noted with satisfaction that ASEAN at present had taken its place as an important entity in the international arena. In this regard, the annual Labour Ministers Meetings were meaningful in order to address the ever-changing dynamics of the labour market.
9. Datuk Dr. Fong Chan Onn cautioned that the comparative advantage enjoyed by ASEAN in providing low-cost labour was now being slowly eroded with the introduction of new economies. He stressed the need to prepare the region's labour force to meet these changing circumstances. He looked forward to further enhancing cooperation in this field, not only among ASEAN countries, but also with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Work Programme to Help Realise the ASEAN Labour Ministers Vision

10. The ASEAN Labour Ministers expressed appreciation to the Philippines for coordinating the preparation of the Work Programme to address the following issues, as agreed at the 13th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting held in May 1999 in Yangon.
 - a. sharing and exchange of experience and best practices in developing social protection and social security systems;
 - b. promoting tripartite cooperation through

increased consultations among social partners, in relation to economic restructuring, including strengthening of tripartite institutions and mediation/conciliation mechanisms; and

- c. enhancing capacity for designing programmes and policies on employment generation, focusing on active labour market policies and retraining.
11. In this regard, the Ministers noted that the implementation of the work programme would contribute to the realisation of the objective of the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Vision to address the impact of globalisation and trade liberalisation on labour and employment, particularly by enhancing the quality of ASEAN's manpower; strengthening capacity to better manage the impact of economic downturns on labour and employment; and safeguarding the well-being of workers.

ILO Matters

12. ASEAN Labour Ministers unanimously agreed to support the candidacy of the Philippines as President of the forthcoming 89th ILC in June 2001.

ILO Core Conventions

13. The ASEAN Labour Ministers noted the efforts by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to promote the ratification of core labour standards. They expressed satisfaction that ASEAN Member Countries had responded positively by ratifying several of the core conventions, in response to the promotional efforts of the ILO. They further noted that Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, had received overwhelming support from ASEAN Member Countries. ASEAN Labour Ministers were of the view that children represent the future of the region and should be provided with a conducive environment for their growth and development. The Ministers called for appropriate technical assistance to be extended to ASEAN Member Countries to ensure effective implementation of the Convention.

Developments in Myanmar

14. The Meeting noted that the Myanmar

government had twice invited the ILO Technical Team to visit Myanmar to better understand the situation and to help Myanmar meet the requirements under ILO Convention 29 on Forced Labour. The Meeting further noted that the Myanmar government had also taken concrete legislative, executive and administrative actions to prohibit forced labour. In particular, the Meeting noted that the Myanmar Ministry of Home Affairs had made requisition of forced labour illegal and punishable by law. To ensure that instances of forced labour in the country could be effectively eliminated, it has also formed the National Level Implementation Committee for Forced Labour Convention No. 29.

15. The Meeting called upon the ILO to recognize these initiatives by the Myanmar Government to stop all forms of forced labour. ASEAN Labour Ministers had been assured that these measures would be enforced and that the Myanmar Government would continue to cooperate with the ILO on the issue of forced labour. ASEAN Labour Ministers therefore urge the ILO to support the Myanmar Government's measures to meet its obligations and responsibilities under Convention 29 and to refrain from further action under Article 33 of the ILO Constitution. ASEAN Labour Ministers and Delegations to the 89th ILC would also explain the latest initiatives by the Myanmar Government and collectively agreed to seek ILO's understanding and support of these initiatives.

Standards Setting and Supervisory Mechanisms of the ILO

16. The ASEAN Labour Ministers were pleased to note the decision of the 279th Session of the Governing Body to review the processes of standards-setting and the Supervisory Mechanisms of the ILO. The Ministers noted that ASEAN, as a group, has repeatedly called for such a review to ensure that labour standards remain relevant in meeting the needs of Member States in a rapidly changing economic and social environment.
17. On the ILO Supervisory Mechanisms, ASEAN Labour Ministers supported the call by the Asia and Pacific Group for a review of the Mechanisms. Such a review should place great importance on the transparency, objectivity, and promotional nature of the Mechanisms,

and should address the following:

- a. criteria for the selection of members of the supervisory bodies;
- b. criteria/process for the selection of individual cases in the Committee of Experts on the Application of Standards; and
- c. the interpretation of compliance with ratified Conventions.

Impact of the Global Economic Slowdown on ASEAN

18. The ASEAN Ministers noted that the current global economic slowdown threatened to undermine the economic recovery of the region and the progress made in improving employment opportunities in the region following the financial and economic crisis of 1997-1998. The Ministers expressed concern that the economic slowdown experienced by ASEAN's major trading partners had increased the rate of unemployment in some Member Countries.
19. The Ministers noted however that the region has now accumulated valuable experience in dealing with the employment impact of economic downturns, having responded to the economic and financial crisis in 1997-1998, and that Member Countries have adopted measures and policies which will enable them to better cope with the current economic slowdown. The Ministers noted that their regional work programme, which is aimed at enhancing capacity to design social protection systems and employment generation programmes and to promote tripartite cooperation in the context of economic restructuring, is even more timely given the current economic climate.
20. The Ministers agreed that the implementation of the work programme should be given priority and urged ASEAN's Dialogue Partners to provide more technical assistance and funding support. The Ministers agreed that strategies to cope with economic downturns should also include efforts to narrow the digital divide, expand education on information and communications technologies and to continuously upgrade the skills of the region's work force. They observed that these strategies would enhance the long-term competitiveness of the region, and reduce its vulnerability to economic downturns.

ASEAN Projects

21. The Ministers noted the progress in the implementation of the ongoing ASEAN projects in the field of labour. They noted with satisfaction that the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the ASEAN-OSHNET had been signed in August 2000 and that the ASEAN-OSHNET Coordinating Board held its First Meeting from 2 to 3 August 2000, and that the ASEAN-OSHNET had been formally launched on 16 February 2001 at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. The Ministers registered their appreciation to Indonesia for hosting the ASEAN-OSHNET Secretariat during the first three-year term, beginning 2000. The Ministers were also encouraged to note that several projects under the framework of the Four Year Plan of Action of the ASEAN-OSHNET had been implemented on a cost-shared basis, and others through direct funding support from some other Member Countries, and commended the respective coordinating countries for this initiative.
22. The Ministers also noted the progress of the initiative to develop a technical assistance programme for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV), in order to assist these countries to integrate into ASEAN. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Secretariat for preparing a Terms of Reference for the envisaged technical assistance mission, which would visit the CLMV countries to identify the needs in the context of closer regional integration. The Ministers agreed to expedite implementation of the technical assistance programme and in this connection looked forward to possible joint collaboration with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
23. ASEAN Labour Ministers noted with appreciation the convening of the 3rd ASEAN Skills Competition in Thailand in March 2001. The Ministers also expressed appreciation to Indonesia for its offer to host the 4th ASEAN Skills Competition tentatively scheduled for March 2002. In the light of further promoting and enhancing the exchange and sharing of skills standards at the regional level, the Ministers also welcomed the development of a project on *Promoting Mutual Recognition of Skills as a Means to Enhance Employability and Regional Mobility* under the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program

(AADCP) Framework on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Integration.

24. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Central Officials Training Institute of the Republic of Korea (ROK) for proposing to implement a sixth phase of the project *Human Resources Development Programme for Officials of ASEAN Countries*, for funding under the ASEAN-ROK Special Cooperation Fund. They expressed their hope that the focus of this year's programme would be on strategies to prepare ASEAN to meet the challenges of globalisation.
25. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that priority projects have been implemented in the past year despite limited financial resources, thanks to the funding support provided by Member Countries coordinating these projects and the use of cost-sharing arrangements. The Ministers encouraged Member Countries to continue using these arrangements to implement regional activities.

Proposed Philippine Initiative On Common Recognition of Professions in ASEAN

26. ASEAN Labour Ministers noted with interest the proposed Philippine initiative on common recognition of professions in ASEAN and observed that the initiative would complement the project on promoting mutual recognition of skills under the ALMM Work Programme. The Ministers looked forward to the further development and implementation of the proposed initiative, and to learning further details after the 34th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting scheduled to be held in Hanoi in July 2001.

East Asia Cooperation

27. The Ministers recalled their interest expressed at the 14th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting in May 2000 in welcoming the opportunity to hold informal dialogues or consultations with Dialogue Partners with a view to strengthening cooperation to enhance ASEAN's human resources in meeting the challenges of global economic integration and trade liberalisation. In this regard, they look forward to meeting with the Labour Ministers of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea on 11 May 2001, to follow up on the commitment of the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation, adopted in

- November 1999, to heighten cooperative efforts in social and human resources development, and to alleviate economic and social disparities within and among East Asian countries.
28. The Ministers noted with appreciation the ongoing joint initiatives carried out with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea in the area of human resource development and other related projects in assisting ASEAN efforts for closer regional integration and in bridging the digital divide. They expressed their hope to further intensify existing cooperation in human resource development under the framework of the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation, and to promote more joint activities in the field of labour and HRD, building on the existing capacities and strengths each had to offer. The Ministers expressed their desire to continue to exchange views regarding labour-related issues at various international fora.
 29. ASEAN Labour Ministers also noted with appreciation the Government of Japan's assistance in implementing the Japan Institute of Labour (JIL) Invitation Programme for Senior Labour-related leaders and that ASEAN participants of the Programme had found the Programme to be very useful. The Ministers expressed the hope that Japan would continue to implement the Programme and to extend the Programme to benefit more participants from ASEAN. Accordingly, the Ministers requested the ASEAN Secretariat to explore with Japan the possibility of implementing the Programme under the ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting and ASEAN-Japan Dialogue.
 30. The Ministers held consultations with their counterparts from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) on 11 May 2001 on possible areas for cooperation in the field of labour as well as possible joint approaches to international issues. They agreed that the consultation could serve to develop a consensus for shared initiatives and collaboration in future implementation of activities in labour and human resource development.
 31. Regarding possible areas for cooperation in the field of labour, ASEAN Labour Ministers suggested and expressed the hope that among the 5 regional projects presented for cooperation and technical assistance, priority be given to the proposed technical assistance programme for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. This is in line with the objective of promoting greater integration of the newer Member Countries into the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA), among others, in line with the Initiative on ASEAN Integration agreed by the Fourth ASEAN Informal Summit in November 2000. The Ministers noted that such integration will result in greater economic competitiveness and enhance ASEAN's ability to seize the opportunities brought about by globalisation.
 32. The Ministers requested the counterparts from East Asia to provide their response to the ASEAN Secretariat so that appropriate follow-up action could be taken to facilitate the identification and development of possible joint initiatives.
 33. Regarding international issues, ASEAN Labour Ministers reiterated their view, supported by their counterparts from East Asia, that labour standards should not be linked to international trade and that the ILO is the most competent body to deal with the issue.
 34. The Myanmar Minister also briefed his counterparts from East Asia on the latest developments with respect to the measures taken by the Myanmar Government to meet its obligations and responsibilities under Convention 29 on Forced Labour. ASEAN Labour Ministers requested their East Asian counterparts to give their support in seeking the understanding of the ILO on this issue at the 89th ILC in June 2001.
 35. Finally, the ASEAN Labour Ministers sought the support of their East Asian counterparts for the candidature of the Philippines as President of the 89th ILC.
- #### Acknowledgement
36. The delegations of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam expressed their deep appreciation to the Government and the people of Malaysia for the generous hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. The Ministers also registered their sincere appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for its valuable contributions to the success of the Meeting. The delegations of China, Japan and the Republic

of Korea similarly expressed their deep appreciation to the Government and people of Malaysia.

37. The Ministers welcomed with appreciation the gracious offer by Lao PDR to host the 16th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting in May 2002.
38. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.

ASEAN LABOUR MINISTERS AND COUNTERPARTS FROM EAST ASIA

From ASEAN:

Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Pehin Dato Isa bin Dato Ibrahim
Special Advisor to His Majesty the Sultan and
Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in the
Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Home
Affairs of Brunei Darussalam

Cambodia

H.E. Mr. Nim Thoth
Secretary of State of Social Affairs, Labour,
Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation of
the Kingdom of Cambodia

Indonesia

H.E. Mr. Ir. Alhilal Hamdi
Minister of Manpower and Transmigration of the
Republic of Indonesia

Lao PDR

H.E. Mr. Somphanh Phengkhammy
Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of the Lao
People's Democratic Republic

Myanmar

H.E. Major-General Tin Ngwe
Minister of Labour of the Union of Myanmar

Philippines

H.E. Ms. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas
Secretary of Labour and Employment of the
Republic of the Philippines

Singapore

H.E. Dr. Lee Boon Yang
Minister for Manpower of the Republic of
Singapore

Thailand

H.E. Prof. Dej Boon-long
Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of
Thailand

Vietnam

H.E. Mdm. Nguyen Thi Hang
Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of
the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Malaysia (Host)

H.E. Datuk Dr. Fong Chan Onn
Minister for Human Resources of Malaysia

ASEAN Secretariat

Mr. Tran Duc Minh
Deputy Secretary-General

From East Asia:

People's Republic of China

H.E. Mr. Wang Dong Jin
Vice-Minister
Ministry of Labour and Social Security
People's Republic of China

Japan

H.E. Mdm. Chieko Nohno
Senior Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and
Welfare

Republic of Korea

Mr. Chun Hae-Jin
Minister, Embassy of the Republic of Korea
(representing the Minister of Labour)
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

LAW

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 7TH ASEAN SENIOR LAW OFFICIALS MEETING (ASLOM)

SINGAPORE, 10-11 SEPTEMBER 2001

1. The Seventh ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) was held in Singapore on the 10th -11th September 2001.
2. The Meeting was attended by Mr. Pg. Kasmirhan Bin Pg. Mohd. Tahir, Head, International Division, Attorney-General's Chambers Brunei Darussalam; Mr. In Vong, Counsellor, Embassy of the Kingdom of Cambodia; Mr. Sanusi, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia; Mr. Sida Laukaphone, Director of Law Research Centre, Ministry of Justice, Lao PDR; Mdm. Azailiza Mohd Ahad, Head of Unit, Advisory and International Division, Attorney-General's Chambers, Malaysia; Dr. Tun Shin, Director-General, Office of the Attorney-General, the Union of Myanmar; Ms. Merceditas N. Gutierrez, Under-Secretary, Department of Justice, the Republic of the Philippines; Mr. Jeffrey Chan Wah Teck, Chief of Staff, the Singapore Legal Service and Head, Civil Division, Attorney-General's Chambers, Republic of Singapore; Mr. Tongthong Chandransu, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Kingdom of Thailand; Mr. Vu Duc Long, Deputy Director, Department of International Law and Cooperation, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and Dato' Ahmad Mokhtar Selat, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN, and their respective delegations.
3. The Attorney-General of Singapore, Mr. Chan Sek Keong, warmly welcomed participants to the 7th ASLOM. In his opening address Mr. Chan said that ASEAN legal systems have to be effective and efficient to play their proper role in promoting and supporting economic development in ASEAN countries. Developing effective and efficient legal systems is a big challenge for ASEAN countries singly and collectively, he added.
4. According to Mr. Chan, it is in the interests of ASEAN countries to work towards a convergence of their laws as much as possible to facilitate trade and commerce amongst themselves in order to make ASEAN more attractive to foreign direct investments. Harmonisation should be regarded as an exercise in sovereignty, rather than as a loss of sovereignty, he stressed. Mr. Chan also called for countries that have a more developed

legal profession to help and be allowed to assist their other ASEAN counterparts in order to enhance the quality of their legal services especially in a new global legal environment.

5. The Solicitor-General of Singapore, Mr. Chan Seng Onn was elected Chairman of the 7th ASLOM. In his address to the Meeting, Mr. Chan said that the continuing frank exchange of views, experiences and useful ideas, and more importantly, the transformation of those ideas and initiatives into concrete proposals for implementation will no doubt lend further impetus to the development of an ASEAN legal infrastructure and information service that ASEAN can be proud of.
6. ASEAN Legal Information Network Systems (LINKS): To date, there are hyperlinks in the ASEAN Secretariat website to the relevant legal institutions in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore has embarked on a project to make the database of all the Acts of Singapore available on the Internet for free access by members of the public (including Member Countries) by the end of 2001 or early 2002.
7. Sharing of Legal Research: There was consensus that there was an existing avenue available to all Member Countries for the sharing of legal research. This could be done bilaterally or multilaterally.
8. ASEAN Government Law Directory: Singapore will compile the first ASEAN Government Law Directory which will be made available by the 5th ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting (ALMM) to Member Countries (especially the legal sector of all ASEAN Member countries) and the public. The Law Directory will contain the structures of government of ASEAN Member Countries, the key legal officials of each ASEAN Member Country, their contact particulars and a brief write-up setting out their role and responsibilities and those of their departments/agencies. It will also be published on the ASEANWEB.
9. ASEAN Government Legal Officers Programme: The first event of the ASEAN Government Legal Officers Programme which was a Seminar on "Good Governance and the Promotion of Trade" was held in Singapore from 13 to 17 November 2000. It was attended by Government legal officers from all ASEAN Member Countries. This was very successful. Following this, as contemplated by this Programme, another Seminar on a different subject will be held soon in another ASEAN Member Country.
10. Exchange of Legal Information (Establishment of ASEAN Legal Information Authority): Brunei, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam have nominated their national contact points to be the ASEAN Legal Authorities who will be responsible for facilitating the exchange of legal information amongst ASEAN countries and will also be the repository of ASEAN legal information for their government. This information will be made available on the ASEANWEB.
11. Exchange of Study Visits by ASEAN Law Officials: Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam have participated in the exchange of study visits in order to study each other's legal systems and develop links among their legal officials.
12. The 7th ASLOM discussed and agreed that there can be continuing exchange of views and experiences between ASEAN Member Countries on the harmonisation of their trade laws and ways to improve the procedures for the legalisation of documents.
13. Date and Venue of the Eighth ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting: The next ASLOM and the 5th ALMM will be held in Thailand tentatively in June 2002.
14. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to Singapore for the warm hospitality accorded to them and for the efficient arrangements made for the Meeting.
15. The Meeting was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of cordiality and solidarity.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 41ST MEETING OF THE ASEAN COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (COST)

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 9-11 MAY 2001

The 41st Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST) was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 9-11 May 2001. It marked the first occasion that Cambodia hosted an ASEAN science and technology meeting. Delegates from all ASEAN member countries were present, led by the current Chairman of ASEAN COST, Dr. Anamai Singhabandhu, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of Thailand. The local delegation from the host country was led by Mr. Nhep Bunchin, Secretary of State for Industry, Mines and Energy.

The Meeting was formally opened by His Excellency, Suy Sem, Cambodia's Minister for Industry, Mines and Energy. In his opening address, the Minister addressed the issue of globalization and its implications for science and technology development in the region. He acknowledged that although science and technology provide chances for a nation to be successful in a globalized economy, the opportunity will turn into a risk when the people are not ready to absorb the technology, which could result in marginalisation of industries and economies. He urged the Meeting to put concerted efforts in setting up effective measures to keep the region globally competitive.

The Meeting discussed various policy matters affecting science and technology development in the region and reviewed the progress of projects being implemented by the 9 Sub-Committees of COST. The 9 Sub-Committees pursue cooperation projects in the areas of food science and technology, meteorology and geophysics, biotechnology, materials science and technology, microelectronics and information technology, non-conventional energy research, marine science and technology, S&T infrastructure and resources development, and space technology applications.

Over the last 6 months, the ASEAN COST received fresh funding commitments from external sources totaling approximately \$1,400,000. These came from ASEAN Dialogue Partners New Zealand, Japan, India and China, from Sectoral Dialogue Pakistan and the ASEAN Foundation. ASEAN COST also noted the boost in project funding coming from internal sources. From within ASEAN, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia offered to organize and support training programmes for the new ASEAN member countries Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam in response to the call from ASEAN Leaders for the acceleration of the integration of the newer members into the mainstream of ASEAN

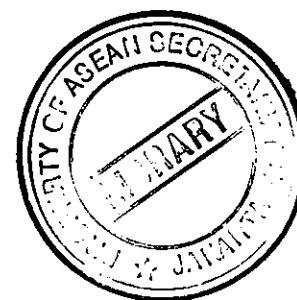
activities. The training programmes are in the areas of food microbiology, drying technology for agricultural products, biotechnology, applications of information technology in hydrology, and technology management.

The Meeting also took note of the preparations being undertaken by Brunei Darussalam, host of the 6th ASEAN Science and Technology Week (ASTW) which will be held on 12-21 September 2001 in Bandar Seri Begawan. The ASTW is an event organized by COST every three years. One of the highlights of the event is the announcement of winners of the ASEAN Outstanding Scientist Award and the ASEAN Outstanding Young Scientist Award. It also features the Science Congress, technical conferences organized by the 9 Sub-Committees of COST, and an exhibition participated in by the ASEAN member countries, the Sub-Committees, the private sector, and ASEAN Dialogue Partners. More details about the ASTW may be obtained from its website located at <http://www.astw.org.bn>

The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the successful holding of the 7th ASEAN Food Conference in Manila in November 2000. About 700 participants from 23 countries participated in the Conference, which highlighted advances and new findings in food science and technology, discussed the impact of the development of food industries on environment, health and nutrition, and helped promote global networking and communication among scientists and researchers in food science and technology. 3 scientists from Cambodia participated in the Conference.

COST also met for the first time on 12 May 2001 in Phnom Penh with senior science and technology officials from China, Korea and Japan to explore possible scientific and technical cooperation under the ASEAN+3 framework. The ASEAN+3 framework is the mechanism by which ASEAN as a region engages the 3 countries of East Asia together.

The next meeting of COST will be held in Brunei Darussalam in September 2001.



JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 9TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 17-18 SEPTEMBER 2001

1. The 9th Formal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST) was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 17-18 September 2001. The Meeting was chaired by The Honourable Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Hj. Ahmad bin Hj. Jumat, Acting Minister of Development of Brunei Darussalam, and attended by Science and Technology Ministers and Senior Officials from the ten ASEAN Member Countries. The Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN and staff of the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance. The Meeting reviewed the progress of science and technology cooperation in ASEAN and set directions for future activities.
2. The Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to harness science and technology for meeting many challenges that the region faces as it enters the new millennium. They adopted the Implementation Framework for 2001-2004 of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology as a road map for the development of regional programmes and projects over the medium-term leading to the realization of ASEAN's long-term vision of technological competitiveness. The Action Plan prescribes the strategic thrusts and actions that will foster intensified regional cooperation on science and technology development over the next 20 years. The programmes specified in the Action Plan are characterized by a strong thematic focus, interdisciplinary scope and cross-sectoral reach. The Action Plan also seeks to give impetus to collaboration between the public and private sectors in promoting research and technology development.
3. For the short- to medium-term, 2001 to 2004, the Implementation Framework focuses on the "ASEAN-help-ASEAN" concept, a framework adopted by the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST) to develop and implement projects aimed at enabling the newer ASEAN Member Countries to move up the learning curve and become economically competitive through the acquisition of technical skills and technological prowess. The concept essentially leverages on the national experiences and resources of the older, more developed ASEAN Member Countries to promote human resource development and institutional strengthening in the newer ones, and thus accelerate their integration into the mainstream of ASEAN cooperation in science and technology.
4. Some initiatives under this concept have already been launched. These include short training courses in food safety techniques and practices offered by Singapore to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam, and training and technology transfer in drying technology for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. Similarly Thailand has offered training in food biotechnology to the same 4 countries.

Indonesia will be conducting two training courses in November 2001, one in IT applications in hydrology, and another on technology management. Local costs for participants from ASEAN Member Countries will be borne by Indonesia, but for the participants from the newer Member Countries, additional support in the form of air travel will be given. At the Meeting, Malaysia also announced its offer of a training course in Risk Analysis and Food Safety to all ASEAN Member Countries, with participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam receiving local support.

5. Although the initiatives are done on a small scale at this time, the Ministers noted their potential for fast-track implementation and called upon the Member Countries to consider launching more such programmes. The Ministers also agreed to integrate the regional cooperation programmes more deeply into their national S&T development plans in order to ensure greater national funding commitment to the regional programmes.
6. The Ministers also endorsed the mid-term review report on the progress of implementation of science and technology programmes under the Hanoi Plan of Action. The Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA) is the first in a series of action plans that would be implemented by ASEAN to realize the goals of ASEAN Vision 2020. Implementation of the HPA has now reached the halfway point of its six year time frame from 1999 to 2004. The Ministers noted the difficulties that had been encountered and recommended actions to address these problems. These actions included further focusing of the S&T programmes in the HPA, launching of a new programme on promotion of public awareness of science and technology, and improving the institutional, managerial and coordination mechanisms at the national and regional level.
7. The Ministers reviewed the status of the ASEAN Science Fund, particularly the progress of its augmentation which they approved in their Meeting in Malaysia last year. The Fund is another mechanism of ASEAN science and technology cooperation, whereby the Member Countries contribute annually to a common fund which can be used to support projects on policy development and information dissemination, or provide seed money for technology development projects of the ASEAN COST. The Ministers were pleased to note that the targets were largely being met.
8. The Ministers also addressed the low level of awareness of science and technology in the region and called for intensified efforts to publicise the achievements of science and technology cooperation in the region. Thus the Ministers supported the development of a programme to promote people-to-people contacts among ASEAN scientists and technologists as part of an "ASEAN-know-ASEAN" framework that would parallel its "ASEAN-help-ASEAN" programme. They also called for an outreach programme to raise the level of S&T awareness of the media, government and business leaders, schools and the general public. In this regard, they commended the launching of the book "ASEAN from Space", published by the Sub-Committee on Space Technology and Applications (SCOSA), which shows the ASEAN Member Countries through satellite images. The Member Countries shared the costs of publication of the book.
9. The Ministerial Meeting coincided with the opening of the 6th ASEAN Science and Technology Week (ASTW). The ASTW was inaugurated by The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Awang Haji Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Menteri Dato Laila Utama Awang Haji Ibrahim, Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in The Prime Minister's Office cum The Minister of Home Affairs. The 6th ASTW features the ASEAN Science Congress and 9 technical conferences in the areas of cooperation under ASEAN COST. The highlight of the ASEAN Science Congress was the public lecture on "100 years of Nobel Prize and It's Impact on Human Welfare through Science and Technology" by Professor Janne Carlsson, President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Administrator of Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry. A Biotechnology Forum discussing vital issues on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) was also held. There were also technical exhibits mounted by the ASEAN Member Countries, the Sub-Committees of ASEAN COST, some Dialogue Partners of ASEAN and the private sector. The activities of the 6th ASTW revolve around the theme "Science and Technology: Enhancing the Quality of Life".

10. The Ministers also led the ceremonies honouring the recipients of two prizes granted by ASEAN COST every three years in recognition of outstanding achievements of scientists and technologists in ASEAN. These are the Outstanding Scientist Award and the Young Scientist Award. Dr. Lourdes J. Cruz of the Philippines and Prof. Dr. Looi Lai Meng of Malaysia shared the Outstanding Scientist Award. Dr. Cruz was cited for her work on biochemical characterization of conotoxin and other neuropeptides from Conus venoms and her research on anti-tuberculosis compounds from marine organisms. Prof. Dr. Looi Lao Meng is an expert on diagnostic histopathology. Associate Prof. Dr. Ahmad Fauzi bin Ismail of Malaysia won the Young Scientist Award for his work on production of novel oriented-skinned hollow fiber membranes. The Meritorious Service Awards were also given to seven recipients from the ASEAN member countries.
11. The next Meeting of the ASEAN Science and Technology Ministers will be held in Myanmar in 2002.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 4TH MEETING OF ASEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE

SINGAPORE, 1-3 AUGUST 2001

1. The 4th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare was convened on 1 August 2001 in Singapore, preceded by the preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for Social Welfare held from 30 to 31 July 2001.
2. The Meeting was a milestone in the history of ASEAN cooperation in social welfare and development as this was the first time all the ten ASEAN Member Countries are participating in this meeting since the admission of Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia into ASEAN.

Opening Ceremony

3. The Meeting was officially opened by the President of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. S R Nathan.
4. In his Keynote Address, H.E. President S R Nathan noted the changed circumstances under which the 4th AMRSW was held. The greater uncertainties, globalized economy and keener competition would have an impact on the social fabric of member countries. A holistic approach integrating social and economic

policies would be fundamental to progress in social development. He emphasized that the ultimate driver for social development is economic development.

5. H.E. President Nathan emphasized the importance of strengthening the role of the family and community in social development. He noted that the family and the community were instrumental to building society's capacity to withstand societal changes and challenges.
6. H.E. President Nathan noted that the Meeting would provide the Ministers the opportunity to have a greater understanding of the social challenges faced by ASEAN and exchange ideas on cooperation to address these issues.

Social Challenges

7. The Ministers had the opportunity to discuss and share experiences on social challenges faced by ASEAN countries in the light of globalization, trade liberalization and increasing global economic competition. They noted that the institutions for social

development cooperation in ASEAN would need to become more flexible in addressing new challenges and opportunities arising from globalization, particularly in the context of realising ASEAN's vision of a Community of Caring Societies by 2020.

8. The Ministers also acknowledged that economic development is a critical foundation for social development and vice-versa. They called for the integration of economic and social development in the national and regional development agenda.
9. Taking into consideration the challenges facing ASEAN, Ministers discussed and shared views on directions and principles to guide future regional cooperation on social welfare and development, so as to more effectively anticipate and manage the social impact of globalisation.
10. The Ministers agreed that the family is the foundation for a stable society. They further agreed to pursue among others, greater cooperation in strengthening the family. The role of the community in social welfare and development was also recognized. The Ministers also agreed that enhancing the community's involvement and increasing its self-reliance would help to alleviate social stresses.

Social Welfare and Development Cooperation

11. The Ministers reviewed the mechanisms for social welfare and development cooperation in ASEAN. They welcomed the decision of the 34th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting to reconstitute the Committee on Social Development (COSD) into a Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development coordinating cooperation in the areas of social welfare, population, children and the family. Accordingly, the Ministers adopted the new Terms of Reference for the SOMSWD and noted with appreciation the offer of Cambodia to host the first SOMSWD in the third quarter of 2002.
12. The Ministers also agreed that the name of the Ministerial Meeting be changed from Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare to "ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development" to better reflect the increasing importance of integrating social development with national policies and plans. The name change also signals the need to take a more holistic and integrated approach to social issues and develop more preventive and pro-active measures to address these issues.
13. In discussing the revitalization of ASEAN cooperation in social welfare and development, the Ministers tasked their Senior Officials to formulate regional work plans and programmes focusing on the development of human capital through building the capacity of individuals, family and the community and by providing the necessary infrastructure and services to help them deal with important social challenges.

Declaration on the Commitments to Children in ASEAN

14. The Ministers reviewed the progress and the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Children adopted by the Third Meeting of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare in Manila in 1993, focusing on areas of cooperation such as the survival, protection, development and participation of children in ASEAN.
15. They recognized that the welfare of children today will determine ASEAN's progress and agreed that children ought to be provided with an environment conducive for their development. To this end, the Ministers adopted the Declaration on the Commitments to Children in ASEAN (attached as Annex). The key focus of the Declaration is on supporting the family in its role as the primary care giver and nurturer of children. The Ministers called for the strengthening of the family so as to safeguard the welfare and development of children.
16. The Declaration reiterates the commitment by the Ministers for child survival, development, protection and participation, as called for by the 1993 ASEAN Plan of Action on Children, as well as the Hanoi Plan of Action adopted by the Sixth ASEAN Summit in 1998. The Declaration is also the first ASEAN document on commitments for children in the 21st century to be endorsed by all the ten ASEAN Member Countries.

5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development

17. The Ministers welcomed with appreciation Thailand's gracious offer to host the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development in 2004.
18. The Meeting was held in the spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.
19. The 4th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare was attended by:
 - H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussain bin Pehin Dato Haji Awang Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam;
 - H.E. Mdm Prak Chantha, Secretary of State, Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation, Kingdom of Cambodia;
 - H.E. Prof. Dr. Yaumil Chairiah Agoes Achir, Deputy Secretary of the Vice President, Republic of Indonesia;
 - H.E. Mr Somphanh Phengkhammy, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao People's Democratic Republic;
 - H.E. Dato' Dr. Hajah Siti Zaharah binti Sulaiman, Minister of National Unity and Social Development, Malaysia;
 - H.E. Major-General Sein Htwa, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Union of Myanmar;
 - H.E. Mrs. Corazon Juliano-Soliman, Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Republic of the Philippines;
 - H.E. Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi, Minister for Community Development and Sports, Republic of Singapore;
 - H.E. Mr. Elawat Chandraprasert, Permanent Secretary and Representative of the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Kingdom of Thailand;
 - H.E. Mr. Dam Huu Dac, Vice-Minister of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;
 - H.E. Dato' Ahmad Mokhtar Selat, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN;and their respective delegations.

DECLARATION ON THE COMMITMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN ASEAN

SINGAPORE, 2 AUGUST 2001

We, the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare representing Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam:

RECALLING that the ASEAN Vision 2020, adopted by the 2nd ASEAN Informal Summit held in Kuala Lumpur in December 1997, envisioned ASEAN as a socially cohesive and caring ASEAN where hunger, malnutrition, deprivation and poverty are no longer basic problems, where strong families as the basic unit of society tend to their members particularly the children, youth, women and elderly;

RECALLING the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children adopted by the 3rd Meeting of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare held in Manila on 2 December 1993 to promote regional cooperation for the survival, development, protection and participation of the ASEAN Child;

ENCOURAGED by the Hanoi Plan of Action adopted by the ASEAN Heads of State and Government in Hanoi on 15 December 1998 to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action on Children;

GUIDED by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the outcomes of the World Summit on Children, the World Summit for Social Development and other international instruments concerning children;

AWARE that despite significant progress made in

uplifting the quality of life of individuals, poverty continues to remain a major challenge to the pursuit of a world fit for children;

MINDFUL that holistic development of children enable and equip them for the achievement of their full potential and shall contribute to a future of prosperity and progress in ASEAN;

DO HEREBY AGREE, IN THE SPIRIT OF ASEAN SOLIDARITY AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE, TO:

- (1) Promote regional cooperation for the survival, development, protection and participation of ASEAN children, as an integral part of ASEAN's efforts to improve the lives of peoples in the region.
- (2) Intensify ASEAN economic and social development cooperation so as to eradicate the scourges of poverty, hunger and homelessness, which have a far-reaching impact on children, in order to promote their welfare and well-being.
- (3) Protect, respect and recognise the rights of all children, including those of indigenous people, consistent with the customs and traditions of their respective communities.
- (4) Recognise and encourage respect for children's rights through mutual sharing of information on the rights of the child by ASEAN members, taking into account the different religious, cultural and social values of different countries.

- (5) Acknowledge that children with special needs should be granted opportunities to enable them to take their proper place in society and live as independently as possible.
- (6) Create opportunities for children and young people to express their views, advocate their rights and concerns, and participate in community development.
- (7) Encourage the empowerment of children to meet the challenges of and seize the opportunities created by globalisation.
- (8) Create employment opportunities for adult family members in ASEAN countries, as stable families are the key to the social, physical and emotional development of children.
- (9) Develop family support and family life education programmes to help families, the primary caretakers of children, to nurture and protect their children.
- (10) Provide appropriate care, including alternative family care or home with a family environment, to homeless children and those without families.
- (11) Give attention to early childhood education and care through training and sharing of best practices among ASEAN child care professionals.
- (12) Give the ASEAN child a better future by strengthening functional literacy and promoting access to education, and information and communication technology (ICT) skills.
- (13) Ensure the protection of children from HIV/AIDS and drug abuse by instituting broad based programmes and strategies to halt its spread and provide care for its victims.
- (14) Strengthen primary health care services to children.
- (15) Protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, trafficking and exploitation while at home, in school and in the community.
- (16) Protect children from armed conflict, victimisation or deprivation of a childhood rooted in peace and joy.
- (17) Give priority to children in rescue and relief operations during calamities and natural disasters in the provision of services to alleviate their trauma and hasten their reunification with their families.
- (18) Establish a child-centred juvenile justice system which fully safeguards children's rights and promotes children's reintegration to society.

Done in English in one copy on this 2nd Day of August 2001 at the 4th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare in Singapore.

H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussain bin Pehin Dato Haji Awang Mohd. Yusof
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Mdm. Prak Chantha
Secretary of State, Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation, Kingdom of Cambodia

H.E. Prof. Dr. Yaumul Chairiah Agoes Achir
Deputy Secretary of the Vice President, Republic of Indonesia

H.E. Mr. Somphanh Phengkhammy
Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao People's Democratic Republic

H.E. Dato' Dr. Hajah Siti Zaharah binti Sulaiman
Minister of National Unity and Social Development, Malaysia

H.E. Major-General Sein Htwa
Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Union of Myanmar

H.E. Mrs. Corazon Juliano-Soliman
Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Republic of the Philippines

H.E. Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi
Minister for Community Development and Sports, Republic of Singapore

H.E. Mr. Elawat Chandraprasert
Permanent Secretary and Representative of Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Kingdom of Thailand

H.E. Mr. Dam Huu Dac
Vice-Minister of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

STATISTICS

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE ASEAN HEADS OF STATISTICAL OFFICES (AHSOM)

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 24-25 SEPTEMBER 2001

Introduction

1. We, the ASEAN Head of Statistical Offices, convened our Third meeting in Kuala Lumpur to exchange views on recent developments in statistics and discuss progress of our regional statistical cooperation initiatives, including the ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics and its Plan of Action.
2. Dato' Shaari Abdul Rahman, Chief Statistician of Malaysia, presided over our meeting.

Recent Developments in Statistics

3. We discussed the emerging developments and trends towards greater globalisation and increasing interdependence of our member economies and the challenges these trends would pose for ASEAN Statistical Offices/ Administrations in the production of high quality official statistics. To address these challenges, we agreed to enhance our capabilities of statistical collection and dissemination, to conform to the international statistical standards, and to improve the provision of statistical information at the regional level.

4. To facilitate regional efforts in the improvement of ASEAN competitiveness and enhancement of industrial cooperation, we agreed to set up a working group to support ASEAN initiatives in developing comparable industrial and commerce statistics in the region.

The ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics

5. To guide our future statistical cooperation activities, we were finalizing the ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics which sets the directions of our cooperation towards greater harmonization, strengthened capacities and higher quality of official statistics. In particular, we recognized the needs to support ASEAN bodies' regional planning and policy-making through the provision of comparable and timely statistics. In this connection, we agreed to harmonise the definition, classification, concept and measurement of these statistics to promote the production of comparable regional statistical indicators, to the extent possible.
6. We also agreed to put greater efforts into improving the quality of official statistics

through the observance of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

The Plan of Action on Statistics

7. To implement the ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics, we agreed on a plan of action which identifies activities aimed at providing adequate data support for ASEAN initiatives, planning and policy making; promoting harmonization of these data, adopting international best practices and strengthening our capacity in the production of required statistics through regional training programs.
8. We shall meet once a year to review the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics and also to exchange views among ourselves as well as with international statistical agencies like the UNSD, ADB, SIAP and ESCAP on recent developments and emerging issues in statistics.

TOURISM

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE ASEAN TOURISM MINISTERS (4TH M-ATM)

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 13 JANUARY 2001

Visit ASEAN Campaign

1. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan Yang Di Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam will officially launch the Visit ASEAN Campaign (VAC), as the new beginning to build a stronger branding of the ASEAN region as a single tourism destination in the new millennium. The official launch of VAC will take place at the Opening Ceremony of ATF 2001 on 13 January 2001.
2. The Ministers were pleased to note that the following promotional materials for the launch of VAC had been completed:
 - a. Visit ASEAN Logo/Tagline;
 - b. Visit ASEAN Logo Manual;
 - c. ASEAN Generic Brochure;
 - d. Press Kit Folders;
 - e. ASEAN Map;
 - f. Visit ASEAN Website www.asean-tourism.com and
 - g. Visit ASEAN Theme Song for the launch of VAC.
3. The Ministers agreed that the implementation of VAC will be conducted in phases. Phase I (2001) would be the launch of VAC at ATF 2001 followed by promotional activities at ITB, WTM and JATA, which aim to build awareness amongst the travel trade. Phase II (2002) would target various promotional activities at consumers that would be implemented by the NTOs, airlines and the travel industry. Member countries will commence the VAC in conjunction with their respective marketing and promotional campaigns.
4. The Ministers welcomed the active involvement of the ASEAN Promotion Centre (APC) in Tokyo in conducting promotional activities for VAC in Japan.

Facilitation of Intra-ASEAN Travel

5. The Ministers directed the ASEAN NTOs to give prime importance to the promotion on the facilitation of intra-ASEAN travels at all avenues.
6. In recognizing the complementary role of tourism, the Ministers requested the ASEAN

NTOs to closely coordinate with the ASEAN Director-Generals of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of ASEAN Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGCIM) in carrying out the ASEAN Plan of Action on Immigration Matters and its related work programs on tourism, ASEAN Civil Aviation Sectors and other relevant ASEAN committees.

Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation in Tourism / Hanoi Plan of Action

7. The Ministers also considered the implementation status of Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation in Tourism and the Tourism Action Agenda under the Hanoi Plan of Action. The Ministers were gratified to note the major accomplishments in the year 2000, as follows:

- a. Involvement of ASEAN tourism officials during the Joint ASEAN Investment Missions undertaken in Japan (Tokyo - 28-29 February 2000); United States (New York, Minneapolis, Silicon Valley - 15-19 May 2000); and in Europe (Munich, London, Paris - 21-26 May 2000);
- b. Participation of some ASEAN member countries at the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention held on 7 - 11 March 2000 in Miami, Florida, U.S.A;
- c. Implementation of the ASEAN Travel Fair on 6-10 May 2000 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, which received financial assistance from Republic of Korea;
- d. Ongoing cooperation with the Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) in the area of Facilitation of Intra-ASEAN Travel;
- e. Adoption of the Work Programs and Activities of the ASEAN Tourism Training and Education Network (ATTEN) for the year 2000-2002; and
- f. Development of an online version of the ASEAN Tourism Investment Guide in the ASEANWEB (<http://www.aseansec.org>).

8. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN NTOs have begun the preparatory activities for 2001, as follows:

- a. Development of a comprehensive research and marketing strategy to identify ways to encourage intra-ASEAN travel;
- b. Development of the ATTEN Directory, which shall consist of ASEAN tourism

training centres and educational institutions, existing tourism and training educational programs, as well as major tourism research activities;

- c. Publication of the ASEAN Tourism Journal, as the means to strengthen communication network and facilitate scholarly and academic activities in the ASEAN tourism sector;
- d. Publication of the ASEAN Eco-Tourism Manual;
- e. Implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Seminar to be held in October 2001 in Malaysia;
- f. Implementation of the ASEAN Cruise Development Study, which received technical assistance from the Government of Japan;
- g. Implementation of the Two-Day Workshop on ASEAN and Korean Tourism for Korean and ASEAN Travel Agents on 31 May - 3 June 2001, in conjunction with the Korea Travel Fair (KOTFA), which received technical assistance from the Republic of Korea (ROK); and
- h. Work in the context of ASEAN sub-regional arrangements (IMS-GT, IMT-GT, GMS, BIMP-EAGA) to further enhance tourism investment in ASEAN.

ASEAN Tourism Services Liberalization

9. In the area of tourism services liberalization, the Ministers noted that three common sub-sectors for the second round of negotiation under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services have been identified as follows:

- a. Hotel Lodging Services;
- b. Meal Serving Services with full Restaurant Services; and
- c. Beverages Serving Services Without Entertainment.

10. The Ministers also noted that the mid-year 2001 Meeting of ASEAN NTOs will finalize the offers in the identified common sub-sectors based on the objective of the short-term liberalization, which is to target "none" for modes 1 (cross border supply) and 2 (consumption abroad) and "progressive liberalization" for modes 3 (commercial presence) and 4 (movement of natural persons), as set out by the ASEAN Economic Ministers.

ASEAN Tourism Forum

11. The ASEAN Tourism Forum 2001 (ATF 2001) is held on 9-16 January 2001, with "*ASEAN: Pinnacle of Tourism Excellence*", as the theme issue. There are 400 registered buyers, 788 sellers, 411 number of booths and 60 journalists recorded for ATF 2001. The Ministers noted that there is an increase of buyers (369) from the level of ATF 2000 level.
 12. The Ministers agreed to hold the Fifth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM) during the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2002 (ATF 2002) to be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 21-28 January 2002. The theme for ATF 2002 is "*Nature Links and Cultural Corridors*".
 13. The Ministers endorsed the proposal that Cambodia will host ATF 2003 in Phnom Penh.
- f. H.E. Ms. Gemma Cruz-Araneta, Secretary of Tourism, Philippines;
 - g. H.E. Mr. Peter Chen Min Liang, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
 - h. H.E. Mr. Pradech Phayakvichien, Governor of Tourism Authority of Thailand;
 - i. H.E. Dr. Pham Tu, Vice Chairman of Viet Nam National Administration of Tourism, Viet Nam; and
 - j. H.E. Mr. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr., ASEAN Secretary-General.

LIST OF ASEAN TOURISM MINISTERS

The Fourth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM) was held on 13 January 2001 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, preceded by the 13th Meeting of the ASEAN National Tourism Organizations (NTOs) held from 11-12 January 2001. Both Meetings were held in conjunction with the on-going ASEAN Tourism Forum 2001 (ATF 2001) held on 9-16 January 2001. The theme of ATF 2001 is "*ASEAN: Pinnacle of Tourism Excellence*".

The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam, with Indonesia as Vice-Chairman and attended by the following Ministers, or their representative:

- a. H.E. Mr. Veng Sereyvuth, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
- b. H.E. Mr. Cheng Sayavong, Vice-Minister of Commerce & Tourism and Chairman of the National Tourism Authority of Lao PDR;
- c. Mr. Udin Saifuddin, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Indonesia;
- d. H.E. Dato' Abdul Kadir Bin Haji Sheikh Fadzir, Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Malaysia;
- e. H.E. Major General Saw Lwin, Minister of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 3RD ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME (AMMTC)

SINGAPORE, 11 OCTOBER 2001

1. We, ASEAN Ministers overseeing issues of transnational crime, gathered on 11 Oct 2001 in Singapore, to renew our commitment to combat transnational crime affecting our region and to enhance cooperation towards this end.
2. We recognised the growing need for the region to deal with many more forms of transnational crime, including terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, arms smuggling, money laundering, sea piracy, cyber crime and trafficking in persons. In particular, we were concerned with the newly emerging trends of transnational crime, such as terrorism, international economic crime and cyber crime.
3. We acknowledged that transnational crime continues to seriously threaten the socioeconomic and moral fabric of all countries. We reiterated our deep concern that transnational crime is becoming more organised, diversified and pervasive, thus posing a serious threat to the peace, security and progress of ASEAN.

Report of the 22nd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting On Drug Matters (on matters in relation to transnational crime)

4. We welcomed the commitment of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) to strengthen the collective efforts of ASEAN in combating drug problems, working towards the vision for a Drug-Free ASEAN in 2015.
5. We welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) Plan of Action by the International Congress in Pursuit of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015, which was jointly organised by Thailand, the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the ASEAN Secretariat on 11-13 October 2000 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Reports of the 4th and 5th Meetings of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (on matters in relation to transnational crime)

6. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Immigration Matters at the 4th

ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM), to further enhance regional immigration and consular cooperation.

7. We noted the efforts made at the 5th ASEAN DGICM to implement region wide initiatives to facilitate economic cooperation, movement and travel within ASEAN and to combat transnational crime.

Report of the 7th ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (on matters in relation to transnational crime)

8. We noted the initiatives of the ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting to promote greater cooperation in legal education and research, and other judicial arrangements within the ASEAN region.

Reports of the 20th and 21st ASEANAPOL Conference (on matters in relation to transnational crime)

9. We welcomed the efforts of the ASEAN National Chiefs of Police to forge greater cooperation among ASEAN police agencies to combat transnational crime.

Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Special Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime in Yangon, Myanmar (Oct 2000)

10. We adopted the Report of the Special Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime in Yangon, Myanmar (Oct 2000).

Consideration and adoption of the Report of the 1st Annual Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime in Bangkok, Thailand (Mar 2001)

11. We adopted the Report of the 1st Annual Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime in Bangkok, Thailand (Mar 2001).

Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Senior Officials Meeting for 3rd AMMTC

Progress report on Status of Implementation of ASEAN Plan of Action To Combat Transnational Crime

12. We considered the urgent need to finalise the

draft Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action as a fundamental step towards realising ASEAN's efforts to combat transnational crime. We therefore supported the convening of an Ad-Hoc Experts Group Meeting before the 2nd Annual SOMTC towards this end.

Progress report on involvement of ASEAN Dialogue Partners

13. We recognised the need for ASEAN to continue to seek the assistance and expertise of Dialogue Partners and the relevant international and intergovernmental organisations and to further pursue areas of collaboration with them.

International Economic Crime Conference

14. We noted that the International Economic Crime Conference 2001 has achieved the desired outcome of forging a common awareness and understanding of the implications of economic crime. We agreed that economic crime would be included in the discussions on the Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime by the Ad-Hoc Experts Group Meeting.
15. We welcomed the opportunity presented by the conference to serve as a platform for law enforcement agencies and individuals who have a common goal of eradicating economic crime, to develop useful networks and cooperative arrangements that would enhance the fight against transnational economic crimes.

Combating Cyber Crime

16. We noted with particular concern the increase in cyber crime in this region and its serious impact on the peace, security, prosperity and progress of ASEAN and on its social and moral fabric, which compounded the continuing effects of the regional and global economic crisis faced by our economies.
17. We affirmed our commitment to strengthen ASEAN collaboration and its regional capacity to effectively combat cyber crime as a unified entity in the spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cooperation. In our fight against cyber crime, we would work closely with our Dialogue Partners, United Nations and its specialised

agencies, and the INTERPOL. We agreed that cyber crime would be included in the discussions of the Ad-Hoc Experts Group Meeting on the Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime.

Terrorism

- 18 We strongly condemned all acts of terrorism, in particular the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 on the US, which led to the loss of innocent lives of people of various nationalities and destruction of properties. We are determined to combat threats to international peace, security and humanity caused by terrorist acts. We agreed to work closely with the international community to strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism. We are committed to enhancing cooperation among our law enforcement agencies to combat terrorism. We agreed that the Ad-Hoc Experts Group Meeting on the Work Programme to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime to be convened as early as possible, should have a particular focus on terrorism. In this connection, we agreed that a special session be convened, during the 2nd Annual Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime, to consider matters pertaining to terrorism in the report of the Ad-Hoc Experts Group Meeting. We also agreed that we will thereafter hold in Malaysia a special AMMTC on issues of terrorism.

Date and Venue of the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime

19. We welcomed the kind offer of Thailand to host the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime in 2003.

Acknowledgements

20. We expressed our deepest appreciation to the Government of Singapore for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations. We also expressed our sincere appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for its invaluable assistance.

TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 1ST ASEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS MEETING (1ST TELMIN)

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 13-14 JULY 2001

1. The First ASEAN Telecommunications Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) was held on 13-14 July 2001 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was preceded by the Second ASEAN Telecommunications Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM) held on 11-12 July 2001.
2. H.E. Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, Minister of Energy, Communications and Multimedia of Malaysia, chaired the First TELMIN, with H.E. Mr. Pantaleon D. Alvarez, Secretary of Transportation and Communications of the Philippines, as Vice-Chairman.

Opening Ceremony

3. The Honorable Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, represented by H.E. Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, Minister of Energy, Communications and Multimedia, Malaysia, officially opened the First TELMIN.
4. In his Keynote Address, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir highlighted the timely establishment of the First TELMIN given the dynamism and

rapid developments of the communications and ICT sector worldwide, which is responsible for shaping a new kind of economy, where knowledge and information is the prime mover of productivity and economic performance. The Prime Minister expressed his view that the shift to a knowledge-based economy offers significant potential for the ASEAN region to achieve and maintain sustainable economic growth and competitiveness in the medium and long-term. In the context of transforming ASEAN into a knowledge-based economy, the Prime Minister urged the First TELMIN to give particular attention to key areas of concerns, namely, accessibility by narrowing the digital divide, development of skills and expertise promote and enhance the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), development of local and regional content for the ASEAN region and ensuring a well-coordinated network security. The Prime Minister also expressed his view that cyber-crimes and the increasing use of the Internet for misinformation are two rising incidence concerning network security that need to be given greater attention.

Strategies for Enhanced Cooperation in the ASEAN Telecommunications and ICT Sector

5. At their inaugural meeting, the Ministers exchanged views on the current state of telecommunications and ICT cooperation in ASEAN. The Ministers recognized ICT as growth enabler for economies of ASEAN member countries and as a potential tool to compete in the increasingly global economy. They emphasized the need for cooperation and collaboration for a "more wired" and "more interconnected" ASEAN to draw a fair share of global investments and boost sustainable growth in the region.
6. The Ministers underscored the importance of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement signed by the ASEAN Leaders in November 2000 at the 4th ASEAN Informal Summit, to provide greater momentum to collectively address the digital divide issue and enhance the connectivity of the member countries by improving their national information infrastructures. The Ministers reiterated the pivotal role that TELMIN could play in realizing the e-ASEAN vision.
7. The Ministers acknowledged that e-ASEAN can effectively promote economic growth, social development and better governance; enhance access to information and news; enlarge employment opportunities; increase economic output; provide more efficient access to a range of governmental services; make distance education and training more effective; improve delivery of health services, including the application of tele-medicine, among others. They also acknowledged that ICT allows access to information sources worldwide; promote business and networks transcending borders; and help spread knowledge about best practices and experience.
8. The Ministers emphasized the need to intensify collaborative efforts in advancing e-ASEAN particularly in facilitating the early realization of the ASEAN Information Infrastructure (AII), promoting universal and affordable access to information and communication services, including the Internet, and the building up of human resources capacity. They urged an industry led-resolution of the problems posed by the current international charging arrangements for Internet services and called for fairer and more sustainable arrangements, including cost-sharing. They urged member countries to set a culture of partnerships, competitiveness, innovation and entrepreneurship to support and sustain the development and growth of the telecommunication and ICT sector in ASEAN. They also urged member countries to create responsive policy and regulatory environment for investment, infrastructure development and technology development and to continue working collaboratively in promoting capacity for ASEAN citizens to communicate in the information age. They reinforced the importance of developing ASEAN content on the Internet. They agreed to work towards bridging the capacity gap between the old and newer ASEAN member countries, with the more advanced members sharing their expertise, training and educational resources with the less advanced members.
9. The Ministers collectively shared the view that the AII's successful implementation depends on the strong commitment and cooperation of the member countries. The Ministers agreed that member countries should assist one another in the AII's development, including network infrastructure, applications and services and in regulatory and investment policies. They stressed that member countries work towards accelerating the development and implementation of their respective national information infrastructures, remove barriers that impede the growth of Electronic Commerce, and encourage private sector investment and participation in telecommunications and ICT development.
10. The Ministers expressed support to the Prime Minister Mahathir's call to address issues on narrowing the digital divide, enhancing human capacity through the establishment of Regional Centres of Excellence in ICT, and promoting network security through a proposed ASEAN Network Security Coordinating Centre, and agreed to further explore the proposals.

Signing of the Ministerial Understanding on ASEAN Cooperation in Telecommunications and Information Technology

11. The Ministers signed the Ministerial Understanding on ASEAN Cooperation in Telecommunications and Information Technology. This Ministerial Understanding formalizes the ASEAN's resolve to, among others, move forward ASEAN cooperation in the telecommunications and IT sector by

establishing the ASEAN Information Infrastructure and further advancing the e-ASEAN initiative, bridging the digital divide through capacity building and human resource development programs, and facilitating intra-ASEAN trade and investments in the telecommunications and IT.

12. To advance ASEAN cooperation in the Telecommunications and IT sector, the Ministers agreed to the formation of Working Groups under TELSOM, with designated coordinating countries, as follows:
- a) ASEAN Information Infrastructure – Philippines/Singapore
 - b) Capacity Building – Thailand / CLMV countries
 - c) Universal Access and Digital Divide – Malaysia/Viet Nam and Indonesia
 - d) Trade and Investment Facilitation – Indonesia / Singapore
 - e) Positive Use of the Internet – Malaysia/ Thailand.

Fostering Collaborative Actions in e-ASEAN's Implementation

13. In the implementation of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement, the Ministers agreed that TELSOM and its Working Groups will accelerate the following deliverables:
- a) Technical and policy framework for ASEAN Information Infrastructure (AII) to cover among others regional interconnectivity and interoperability
 - b) Development of high speed direct connection/broadband services for the AII backbone network
 - c) Improving universal access and narrowing digital divide in the "least connected" ASEAN members
 - d) Capacity building and human resource development programs

Sectoral MRA for Facilitating Intra-ASEAN Trade for Telecommunications Equipment

14. The Ministers noted that the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement provides for the implementation of the ASEAN Sectoral MRA. In this regard, the Ministers strongly supported and urged the speedy implementation Sectoral MRA for Telecommunications Equipment

adopted at the Sixth ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators Council (ATRC) Meeting in Brunei Darussalam in October 2000. It will put in place the region-wide acceptance or recognition of conformity assessment procedures for telecommunications equipment, thereby facilitating market access and suppliers in another's market.

Building Cooperative Partnership with the Private Sector and ASEAN Dialogue Partners

15. The Ministers recognized the importance of the private sector and the ASEAN dialogue partners in ASEAN cooperation in the telecommunications and IT sector. In this regard, the Ministers agreed to the formation of an ASEAN telecommunications business forum, as well as to build cooperative partnership with the ASEAN dialogue partners. They noted that TELSOM will have future consultation / dialogue with their counterparts from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, as well as the US-ASEAN Business Council.

Second TELMIN

16. The Second TELMIN will be held in Manila, Philippines in July/August 2002.
17. The First TELMIN was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN cordiality and solidarity.

LIST OF ASEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by the following:

H.E. PEHIN DATO ZAKARIA SULAIMAN
Minister of Communications, Brunei Darussalam

H.E. MR. LAM PHU AN
Secretary of State
Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications,
Cambodia

DR. DJAMHARI SIRAT, Director General of Posts and Telecommunications on behalf of DR. IR. BUDHI MULYAWAN SUYITNO
Minister of Communications, Indonesia

H.E. MR. BOUATHONG VONGLOKHAM
Minister of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction, Lao PDR

H.E. DATUK AMAR LEO MOGGIE
Minister of Energy, Communications and
Multimedia, Malaysia

H.E. BRIG. GEN. THEIN ZAW
Minister of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs,
Myanmar

H.E. MR. PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Secretary of Transportation and Communications,
Philippines

H.E. MR. YEO CHEOW TONG
Minister for Communications and Information
Technology, Singapore

H.E. MR. WANMUHAMADNOOR MATHA
Minister of Transport and Communications,
Thailand

H.E. DR. MAI LIEM TRUC
Secretary, Department General of Posts and
Telecommunications, Viet Nam

and

H.E. MR. RODOLFO C. SEVERINO, JR
ASEAN Secretary-General

MINISTERIAL UNDERSTANDING ON ASEAN COOPERATION IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 13 JULY 2001

We the undersigned, attending the First ASEAN Telecommunications Ministers Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 13-14 July 2001;

RECALLING the:

1. ASEAN Declaration signed in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 August 1967, which stated the improvement of transportation and communications facilities as one of the aims and purposes of the Association;
2. Declaration of ASEAN Concord signed in Bali, Indonesia on 24 February 1976, which stated that Member States shall take cooperative action in their national and regional development programs, to broaden the complementarity of their respective economies;
3. Singapore Declaration and the Framework Agreement on Enhancing ASEAN Economic Cooperation signed in Singapore on 28 January 1992, which declared that ASEAN shall further enhance regional cooperation to provide safe, efficient and innovative transportation and communications infrastructure network and also to continue to improve and develop telecommunications systems to provide cost-effective, high quality and customer-oriented systems;
4. Bangkok Summit Declaration signed on 15 December 1995, which declared among others that:
 - a. ASEAN shall move towards greater economic integration by building on existing cooperation activities, initiating new areas of cooperation, and promoting closer cooperation in international fora;
 - b. ASEAN shall continue to support sub-regional arrangements;
 - c. ASEAN shall move towards enhancing cooperation and freer trade in services to include telecommunications, through the implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services; and
 - d. ASEAN Sectoral Ministers as well as Senior Officials shall meet regularly to embark on new initiatives to strengthen economic cooperation;
5. ASEAN Vision 2020 adopted by the ASEAN Heads of State and Government in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 15 December 1997, which stated the need for harnessing telecommunications and information technology to meet the ever increasing demand for improved communications in ASEAN;
6. Hanoi Plan of Action adopted on 15 December 1998, which provided a Telecommunications and Information Technology Action Agenda to enhance Greater Economic Integration in ASEAN;

7. Hanoi Declaration signed on 16 December 1998, which called for the development and strengthening of ASEAN regional infrastructure, through the expansion of transport and telecommunications links and cooperation in the development of the ASEAN Information Infrastructure, and assigned the Ministers and Senior Officials in the implementation of their respective sectoral action agenda;
8. Third ASEAN Informal Summit in Manila, Philippines on 27-28 November 1999 endorsed, among others, the e-ASEAN initiative; and
9. The e-ASEAN Framework Agreement signed by the ASEAN Heads of State and Government on 24 November 2000 at the Fourth ASEAN Informal Summit in Singapore.

REITERATING our commitment to the foregoing directives, and for intensified cooperation and in the initiation of new areas of cooperation in the ASEAN telecommunications and information technology (IT) sector;

BELIEVING that meaningful ASEAN cooperation can be best achieved through the strengthening of existing national programs in the telecommunications and IT sector of the Member States and in the regional integration of these programs;

DO HEREBY AGREE THAT:

Article 1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Ministerial Understanding on ASEAN Cooperation in Telecommunications and Information Technology are to:

- a. Develop the ASEAN telecommunications and IT sector as a catalyst to foster closer regional economic integration;
- b. Enhance the overall competitiveness of the ASEAN region through a vibrant telecommunications and IT industry; and
- c. Develop the ASEAN Information Society, where its citizens are able to work, communicate and recreate in the knowledge-based economy.

Article 2 AREAS OF COOPERATION

1. Cooperation in ASEAN telecommunications and IT shall entail partnership in policy development and in program implementation in the following areas:
 - a. Cooperation in the establishment of the ASEAN Information Infrastructure and in further advancement of the e-ASEAN initiative;
 - b. Facilitation of intra-ASEAN trade and investment in telecommunications and IT sector;
 - c. Coordination and harmonization of telecommunications and IT policies and programs;
 - d. Promotion and development of indigenous ASEAN telecommunications and IT content;
 - e. Promotion of private sector participation and enhancing public-private sector collaboration in regional telecommunications and IT cooperation programs and activities;
 - f. Exchange of information and experience;
 - g. Strengthening cooperation and joint approaches in addressing international and regional telecommunications and IT issues in areas of common interest;
 - h. Bridging Digital Divide within ASEAN by encouraging capacity building and human resource development and enhancing access to and use of telecommunications and IT; and
 - i. All other areas as may be deemed necessary.
2. Member States shall collectively develop work programs or plans for the above areas of cooperation, for consideration and approval by TELMIN. Participation of the private or business sector and the relevant regional/international organizations shall be encouraged in the development and implementation of the work programs/plans on ASEAN cooperation in telecommunications and IT sector.

Article 3 ORGANIZATION AND COORDINATION

1. The Chairmanship of the ASEAN Telecommunications Ministers Meeting

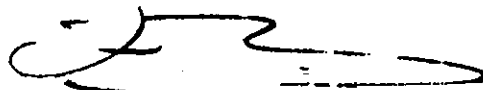
- (TELMIN) shall be rotated annually in alphabetical order among the Member States.
2. The ASEAN Telecommunications Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM) shall be the operating arm of TELMIN in the supervision, coordination, and implementation of programs and policy directions set by the ASEAN Telecommunications Ministers. TELSOM shall:
 - a. Develop, coordinate and implement work programs/plans to enhance cooperation in telecommunications and IT, including the approval of the necessary cooperation programs, projects and activities;
 - b. Provide a mechanism to promote participation from the private or business sector, regional/international organizations and non-governmental organizations; and
 - c. As and when necessary, establish working groups with clear terms of reference and specific time frames, to assist in the development and implementation of its policies and work programs/plans. Experts from regional and international organizations and the private or business sector may also be invited for the purpose.
 3. TELMIN shall meet annually to discuss issues and developments of common interest and to set policy directions in the ASEAN telecommunications and IT sector.
 4. The ASEAN Secretariat shall assist TELMIN and TELSOM in carrying out their functions including technical support in the supervision, coordination and implementation of cooperation programs and activities.
 5. TELMIN and TELSOM shall coordinate their activities with the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM), respectively, through the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Article 4
Final Provisions

1. This Ministerial Understanding shall enter into force on the date of signature.
2. This Ministerial Understanding may be amended or modified by mutual agreement of the Member States.

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

DONE at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia this 13th day of July 2001, in a single copy in the English language.



ZAKARIA SULAIMAN
Minister of Communications
Brunei Darussalam



LAM PHU AN
Secretary of State
Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
Kingdom of Cambodia



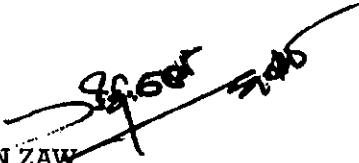
DJAMHARI SIRAT
Director General of Posts and Telecommunications
Republic of Indonesia



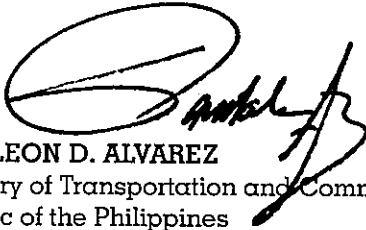
BOUATHONG VONGLOKHAM
Minister of Communication, Transport, Post and
Construction
Lao People's Democratic Republic



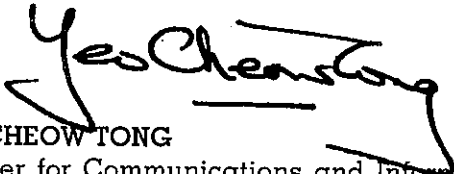
LEO MOGGIE
Minister of Energy, Communications and
Multimedia
Malaysia



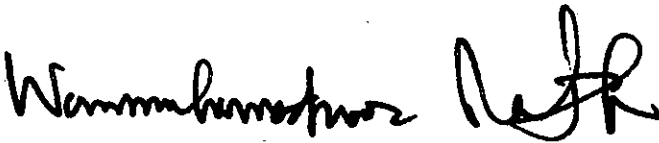
THEIN ZAW
Minister of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs
Union of Myanmar



PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Secretary of Transportation and Communications
Republic of the Philippines



YEO CHEOW TONG
Minister for Communications and Information
Technology
Republic of Singapore



WANMUHAMADNOOR MATHA
Minister of Transport and Communications
Kingdom of Thailand



MAI LIEM TRUC
Secretary General
Department of Posts and Telecommunications
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 7TH ASEAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 25-26 OCTOBER 2001

1. The Seventh ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting was held on 25-26 October 2001 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, preceded by the Twelfth ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) on 23-24 October 2001.
2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Dr. Ling Liong Sik, Minister of Transport Malaysia, with H.E. Mr. Agum Gumelar, Minister of Communications for Indonesia, as Vice-Chairman.
5. The Ministers directed the Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) to identify additional services sectors and to expand market access in the further liberalization of the air and maritime transport services, for the period 2002-2004.

Approval of the Third Package of Commitments for the Air and Maritime Transport Sectors under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services

3. The Ministers endorsed the offers in the liberalization of air and maritime transport sectors for incorporation into the Protocol to Implement the Third Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS). The Protocol is expected to be signed by the ASEAN Economic Ministers when they meet before the end of the year.
4. Under the package, all member countries have agreed to liberalize the selling and marketing of air transport services. This includes the setting-up of airline offices and appointments of general sales agents. Bearing in mind the cabotage principle, in maritime transport, this liberalization entails the right and freedom for ships to transport international passengers and cargo without restriction within ASEAN ports.
6. The Ministers supported the specific measures to further enhance the implementation of the transport action agenda of the Hanoi Plan of Action. This will include cooperation and harmonization of all transport facilitation for goods in-transit, multimodal transport operation and transport infrastructure project development. The Ministers agreed to recommend to the ASEAN leaders to incorporate Road Safety as a new HPA activity for endorsement at the Seventh ASEAN Summit to be held on 5-6 November 2001 in Brunei Darussalam.
7. The Ministers noted the direction of ASEAN transport cooperation in 2001, which focuses on project development activities to support the implementation of the HPA's transport action agenda and the Successor Plan of Action in Transport 1999-2004, as well as on the finalization of the ASEAN transport cooperation agreements.
8. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the

Implementation of the HPA's Transport Action Agenda / Successor Plan of Action in Transport 1999-2004

significant progress made on the HPA's strategic programs for the ASEAN highways and railways infrastructure projects and in air, land and maritime transport cooperation.

9. The Ministers also expressed gratitude to the donor countries and agencies for their technical support and assistance in implementing ASEAN's transport cooperation programs. These countries and agencies include China, Japan, European Union, Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Germany, Asian Development Bank, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, International Maritime Organization and the Global Road Safety Partnership.

Finalization of ASEAN Transport Cooperation Agreements

10. The Ministers agreed to request the member countries to study the desirability and feasibility of phased implementation to expedite the effective implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit.
11. The Ministers looked forward to the eventual signing of the ASEAN Memorandum of Understanding on Air Freight Services as the first step towards the full liberalization of air freight services in the ASEAN region. This MoU will allow the designated airlines of each member country to operate all-cargo services between designated points in ASEAN countries.
12. The Ministers looked forward to signing the ASEAN Framework Agreements on Multimodal Transport and Facilitation of Inter-State Transport and the Protocols on Designation of Transit Transport Routes, Railways Border and Interchange Stations and Dangerous Goods by the next ATM.

Enhancing Transportation Security Cooperation

13. The Ministers exchanged views and shared information on the impact and developments in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre (WTC) and the Pentagon in the United States, which exposed the vulnerability of international transport systems.
14. The Ministers agreed to further enhance

transportation security cooperation in the ASEAN region, in line with best international standards, recommended practices and guidelines covering all modes of transport and in particular in the aviation and maritime sectors. In this regard, the Ministers directed STOM to work out the potential areas of cooperation and submit its recommendations as soon as possible.

Eighth ATM

15. Indonesia will host the Eighth ATM on 18-19 September 2002, to be preceded by the 14th STOM on 16-17 September 2002.

Attendance:

The following attended the Seventh ATM, together with their respective delegations:

H.E. PEHIN DATO HAJI ZAKARIA SULAIMAN
Minister of Communications, Brunei Darussalam

H.E. MR. KHY TAINGLIM
Minister of Public Works and Transport, Cambodia

H.E. MR. AGUM GUMELAR
Minister of Communications, Indonesia

H.E. MR. BOUATHONG VONGLOKHAM
Minister of Communications, Transport, Post and Construction, Lao PDR

H.E. DATO' SERI DR. LING LIONG SIK
Minister of Transport, Malaysia

H.E. MAJ. GEN. HLA MYINT SWE
Minister of Transport, Myanmar

H.E. MR. WILFREDO M. TRINIDAD
Deputy Minister for Transportation, Department of Transportation and Communications, Philippines

H.E. MR. ALAN CHAN HENG LOON
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Singapore

H.E. MR. WANMUHAMADNOOR MATHA
Minister of Transport and Communications, Thailand

H.E. DR. TRAN DOAN THO
Vice Minister of Transport, Viet Nam

H.E. MR. RODOLFO C. SEVERINO, JR.
ASEAN Secretary-General

V. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ASEAN - CHINA

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 3RD ASEAN - CHINA JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 28 MARCH 2001

The Third ASEAN-China Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held on 28 March 2001 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Krik-Krai Jirapaet, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand and Vice Minister An Min, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC), People's Republic of China (PRC).

The Meeting was convened to follow-up on the proposal by Premier Zhu Rong Ji at the ASEAN-China Summit on 25 November 2000 to establish an ASEAN-China Expert Group on Economic Cooperation to look into the implications of China's accession to the WTO and recommend measures how to further enhance ASEAN-China economic cooperation and integration, including the possibility of establishing a free trade area between ASEAN and China.

The Meeting formally established the ASEAN-China Expert Group on Economic Cooperation and adopted the Terms of Reference. The Expert Group would be led by government officials but could be supplemented with academics and other experts. Each ASEAN country and China will nominate their representatives to the Expert Group.

The Meeting also expect to convene the First ASEAN Economic Ministers-China (MOFTEC) Meeting in Ha Noi, Viet Nam later in the year.

The ASEAN-China Expert Group will submit its report to the First ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) - China (MOFTEC) Meeting before being presented to the ASEAN-China Summit in Brunei Darussalam.

The First Meeting of the ASEAN-China Expert Group on Economic Cooperation will be held in April 2001 in China. Subsequent meetings will alternate between ASEAN and China.

ASEAN - UNITED STATES

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 16TH US - ASEAN DIALOGUE

WASHINGTON, D.C., UNITED STATES, 29 NOVEMBER 2001

1. The Sixteenth US-ASEAN Dialogue was held on 29 November, 2001 in Washington D.C. Delegates from the governments and private sectors of the US and the ten ASEAN Member Countries, and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the meeting.
2. In his welcoming remarks, US Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage underscored the importance of ASEAN in maintaining peace and security in the Asia Pacific region. He emphasized the importance of ASEAN in US foreign policy and underscored the US commitment to strengthening the ASEAN-US partnership.
3. In his opening remarks, Vietnamese Deputy Minister Le Cong Phung expressed ASEAN's condolences to the US Government and victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. He expressed gratitude for the importance the US attached to ASEAN-US relations and ASEAN's commitment to strengthen the dialogue relationship. US Assistant Secretary of State James A. Kelly, in his opening remarks, added that the quarter-century US-ASEAN Dialogue shared one more bond – counter terrorism.
4. On international terrorism, the US expressed deep appreciation for the strong stance taken by ASEAN against terrorism, and for the offer by several ASEAN countries to assist in peacekeeping and reconstruction in Afghanistan. The meeting discussed ways in which the international community could work together, including through the United Nations, to overcome the formidable challenges posed by terrorism. The US welcomed ASEAN's resolve at preventing, suppressing and eradicating terrorism as expressed in the 2001 ASEAN Summit Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism.
5. On the current situation in Afghanistan, the US emphasized that the military operation was against terrorism and not against Islam, and its main targets were the Al-Qaeda terrorist network and its Taliban supporters. The US also explained that the goals of the international counterterrorism coalition were to help Afghanistan build a broad-based government representative of all the people of Afghanistan and to ensure that Afghanistan would never again be used as a base for terrorism. The Meeting shared the view that international efforts to rebuild Afghanistan should include economic recovery, educational reforms and strengthening the role of women in all sectors of society.
6. The US briefed the Meeting on its current diplomatic initiatives to end violence and

restart negotiations in the Middle East.

7. The Meeting concurred that illicit narcotics are a threat to all nations and that international cooperation was essential to an effective war against drugs. ASEAN and the US agreed to intensify cooperation in combating illicit drugs, both supply-reduction and demand-reduction, particularly in the context of ASEAN's determination to make the region free from drugs by 2015 and of the ASEAN China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) work program. The Meeting also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration. The Meeting discussed issues relating to money laundering, economic crimes and counterfeit medicine.
8. On HIV/AIDS, the Meeting recognized the US contribution to the Global Fund for AIDS and other infectious diseases, and the ASEAN Work Program on HIV/AIDS 2002-2005 aimed at curbing the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS. The Meeting noted the importance of enabling AIDS sufferers to have access to effective and affordable drugs.
9. On environment and sustainable development, the Meeting reaffirmed the commitment of ASEAN and the US to the protection of the environment while pursuing economic development. The Meeting agreed to strengthen US-ASEAN cooperation in environmental matters, including the fight against haze pollution in Southeast Asia and in making the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 a success.
10. The Meeting reviewed the impact of the global economic downturn on ASEAN in terms of slower exports, lower wages and lower commodity prices but was encouraged by the prospects of a higher growth rate of the US economy by the middle of 2002, and the reduced vulnerability of ASEAN countries to volatile financial flows.
11. On trade and investment issues, the Meeting noted the progress made in the economic integration of ASEAN, particularly through the ASEAN Free Trade Area, the ASEAN Investment Area and the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme. ASEAN urged the US to extend Normal Trading Relations to Lao PDR so that all ASEAN member countries could benefit from ASEAN-US trade relations.
12. The Meeting discussed the results of the recent WTO ministerial meeting and agreed to cooperate in the implementation of the decisions of the ministerial meeting. The Meeting also exchanged views on the successful outcome of the recent APEC Leaders meeting in Shanghai and agreed to strengthen cooperation in implementing the decisions of the meeting.
13. The Meeting agreed that the interest of both the US and ASEAN could be served by deeper and broader cooperation in areas such as combating terrorism, drug trafficking and other transnational crime, protecting the environment, promoting information technology cooperation, and fostering regional economic integration in Southeast Asia. The Meeting concurred that ASEAN's efforts to deepen its economic integration, bridge the development gap, strengthen its global competitiveness, ensure its readiness for the information age, and integrate its newer members into the ASEAN process could serve as a sound basis for closer and more active cooperation between the US and ASEAN.
14. The Meeting discussed ways and means to further enhance the dialogue relations. In particular, ASEAN stressed the importance of according top priority to cooperation in trade, investment and finance, revitalizing development cooperation with specific projects and programs, intensifying joint efforts in countering terrorism and transnational crime, and enhancing coordination in regional arrangements such as the ARF and APEC. Specific measures were suggested to strengthen the dialogue process, including the formulation of a work program, establishment of a mechanism to monitor and assess progress of cooperation, greater interaction with the assistance of the ASEAN Washington Committee and the US-ASEAN Business Council, and organization of seminars and workshops in areas of mutual interest.
15. A working lunch was held with representatives of the ASEAN and US private sectors. The US-ASEAN Business Council cited the progress that the ASEAN countries had made in the efforts towards regional economic integration. The Council and its members emphasized that economic integration would boost economic

growth in the region and make ASEAN a more attractive and viable destination for foreign direct investments. ASEAN welcomed the willingness of the US private sector to work with ASEAN governments and its private sector to develop training programs, pursue technology cooperation and extend technical assistance in priority areas.

16. The Closing Session of the Dialogue was held in the White House at a meeting with the National Security Advisor to the US President, Dr. Condoleezza Rice.
17. The 17th ASEAN-US Dialogue would be held in Viet Nam in the first half of 2003.
18. The Meeting was held in the spirit of cooperation and cordiality that characterized the relations between ASEAN and the United States.

ASEAN - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

JOINT PRESS RELEASE OF THE 14TH MEETING OF THE EC-ASEAN JOINT COOPERATION COMMITTEE

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 18-19 SEPTEMBER 2001

The EC-ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee agreed today on a new approach to EC-ASEAN cooperation, with a clear focus on policy dialogue in areas of mutual interest where the EC can support ASEAN regional integration and other key priorities. It also launched a joint reflection on the future of EC-ASEAN cooperation, which should be completed by mid-2002.

New momentum

The 14th EC-ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee affirmed the commitment of both sides to strengthening dialogue partnership and to launching a new momentum in the relations.

ASEAN welcomed the European Commission's new Communication "Europe and Asia: A Strategic Framework for Enhanced Partnerships"¹, which identified ASEAN as a key economic and political partner of EC and emphasised its importance as a locomotive for overall relations between Europe and Asia. In this connection, ASEAN also welcomed the EC's decision to open four new European Commission Delegations in South East Asia (Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia and Singapore) which would further assist in strengthening ASEAN-EC relations.

The JCC undertook a thorough review of EC-ASEAN cooperation since its last meeting in May 1999, particularly the implementation of the Work Programme, the working methods and its operational objectives, so as to ensure added value from the cooperation. It agreed that priority should be given to strengthening policy dialogue in sectors where the EC could contribute to and complement ASEAN's regional integration efforts.

The JCC welcomed the positive developments in ASEAN, especially the efforts undertaken by ASEAN, both nationally and regionally, towards sustainable economic recovery and to address the social impact of the financial crisis. ASEAN's commitment to forge regional integration through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and its regional schemes, such as the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), the ASEAN Investment AREA (AIA), the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme (AICO) and the e-ASEAN Initiative, would further assist in improving ASEAN's competitiveness in the New Economy and in attracting trade and investment.

The successful ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Vientiane in December 2000 set the direction and pace for future ASEAN-EU cooperation. The JCC agreed that policy dialogues should drive the new

momentum in EC-ASEAN relations in key sectors of mutual interest, supported where appropriate through EC-funded projects. Immediate priority sectors for implementation will include finance and investment, energy, environment, forestry, transport, customs and information and communications technology. A key element in support of this process will be the ASEAN Project for Regional Integration Support (APRIS), to be launched in 2002. Both sides agreed on the need for greater private sector involvement in all aspects of ASEAN-EC cooperation.

Intensified dialogue

The JCC launched a joint reflection on the future of EC-ASEAN cooperation to buttress the long-standing partnership of more than 20 years. This will examine the areas, structure and mechanisms and future priorities of cooperation as well as the enhancement of the bilateral relations between the EC and the ASEAN member countries as a complement to EC-ASEAN relations. Both sides will now embark on an intensive dialogue to finalise a new work programme by the middle of 2002 and to streamline the structures and mechanisms of cooperation to better meet the needs of the EC-ASEAN dialogue relations.

In this reflection, particular attention will be given to reinforcing dialogue on issues of economic integration and globalisation, as well as to the enhancement of mutual understanding and awareness in all sectors of society. This includes people-to-people contacts – in education, youth, media and culture – and the fight against transnational crime. The potential importance, for cooperation, of synergies generated by enhanced bilateral relations between the EC and the member countries of ASEAN, as a complement to ASEAN-EC relations, will also need to be addressed.

Both sides agreed that the ASEAN Brussels Committee could play a key role in assisting ASEAN in fostering and nurturing the new policy-oriented approach towards ASEAN-EC relations.

The JCC was held in Brussels on 18-19 September 2001. Representatives of ASEAN Member Countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, the European Commission and EU Member States participated. It was co-chaired by Mr. Guy Legras, Director General for External Relations of the European Commission and Mr. Sayakane Sisouvong, Director General ASEAN-Laos.

The meeting was preceded, on 17 September 2001, by three ASEAN-EC Sub-Committee Meetings on Economic and Industrial Cooperation, Environment, and Forestry. The Sub-Committees reached agreements in a number of sectors for enhanced policy dialogue and cooperation. The ASEAN-EC Science and Technology Sub-Committee will meet in Brussels on 26 September 2001.

The 15th ASEAN-EC JCC meeting will be held in 2003 in Laos.

VI. OTHERS

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM BY 2ND AEM-EU CONSULTATION

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 12 SEPTEMBER 2001

ASEAN Economic Ministers and the EU Commissioner strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. on 11th September 2001 and underlined the need for the international community to strengthen cooperation in combating terrorism around the world. They extended their condolences to the American government and people, and to the families of the victims.

ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER TO US SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN POWELL ON TERRORIST ATTACKS

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 13 SEPTEMBER 2001

13 September 2001

His Excellency
Colin L. Powell
Secretary of State
United States of America

Your Excellency,

On behalf of my ASEAN colleagues, please accept our deepest sympathy and profound condolences to you and to the Government and People of the United States of America and the families of the victims of the terrible tragedy which occurred in New York and Washington D.C. last Tuesday.

We condemn all acts of terror and seek closer cooperation with the United States and all other countries to combat them.



MOHAMED BOLKIAH
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and
Chairman of ASEAN Standing Committee

ASEAN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S LETTER TO US SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN POWELL ON TERRORIST ATTACKS

JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 12 SEPTEMBER 2001

12 September 2001

His Excellency
Mr. Colin Powell
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Secretary Powell:

Like all of ASEAN, I was extremely shocked by the series of terrorist attacks that caused such a tremendous loss of human life, injury and suffering and unimagined destruction of property.

I extend, through you, my deepest condolences to the American people.

This was an evil act not only against America and the American people but also against human civilization and those things that make modern life possible. Those were human beings who were killed and wounded, and we mourn not only for them but also for ourselves.

I am confident that the United States will soon recover from this tragedy and emerge stronger from it.

Yours sincerely,



RODOLFO C. SEVERINO Jr.



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