



ASEAN at the Centre

ANNUAL REPORT 2005 - 2006



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Members of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T 2 0 0 5 - 2 0 0 6

table of contents

1	Foreword by the Secretary-General	I	01
2	Highlights of the Thirty-Eighth Year of ASEAN	I	02
3	ASEAN at the Centre		
	An ASEAN for All	I	06
	Global Partnerships	I	12
4	A Year of ASEAN Cooperation June 2005 - May 2006		
	ASEAN Security Community		
	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM)	I	16
	ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)	I	18
	ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM)	I	19
	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)	I	19
	ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)	I	20
	ASEAN Economic Community		
	ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)	I	21
	ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council	I	23
	ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council	I	24
	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)	I	24
	ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM)	I	25
	ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting (AFMM)	I	26
	ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC)	I	27
	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin)	I	28
	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST)	I	28
	ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN)	I	29
	ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM)	I	30
	ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting (M-ATM)	I	32
	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community		
	ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA)	I	33
	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM)	I	33
	ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED)	I	34
	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)	I	35
	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Haze (AMMH)	I	35
	ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM)	I	36
	ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI)	I	37
	ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM)	I	38
	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD)	I	38
	ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE)	I	39
	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY)	I	40
5	Calendar of Meetings	I	42
6	Photo Credits	I	54

f o r e w o r d b y t h e s e c r e t a r y - g e n e r a l



ASEAN has experienced a hectic but productive twelve months with a landmark decision to establish the ASEAN Charter, advancement in our economic integration agenda, a diplomatic achievement with the first East Asia Summit and increased support for our community-building efforts. Taking stock of these achievements and looking ahead, we have, of late, been grappling with a series of questions on the centrality of ASEAN.

First, how can ASEAN be a more central factor in the national priorities of the Member Countries?

ASEAN cooperation is no longer solely the domain of the ministries of foreign affairs and trade. The programme areas of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), ASEAN's blueprint for community building, cover a wide range of political, security, economic and socio-cultural issues. Numerous government agencies must now be involved in this undertaking. The effectiveness of ASEAN's regional cooperation is dependant on the extent to which national policies across various sectors are put in sync with the priorities of the VAP and ASEAN directives are followed through and complied with. These are practical matters of coordination but will also be concrete expressions of each Member Country's commitment to realise the ASEAN Leaders' vision of the ASEAN Community.

Second, how can ASEAN be a more central part of everyday life for all Southeast Asians?

A strong and viable ASEAN Community will be built by the millions of ASEAN citizens and sustained by their conviction that a strong ASEAN will make their lives better. But by and large, ASEAN had, in the past, only

been skirting on the periphery of public consciousness. ASEAN has now increased its engagement with civil society organisations. At the 11th ASEAN Summit in December 2005, representatives of civil society were invited to present their recommendations to the ASEAN Leaders. ASEAN has also increased the tangible benefits of regional cooperation to the people, engaging them through initiatives like youth exchanges, the ASEAN Heritage Parks and ASEAN Day celebrations on 8 August. ASEAN cooperation on issues like road safety, disaster management, pesticide control and combating avian influenza also contributes to a better quality of life in the region. Our challenge is to devise more people-centred policies, programmes and activities within ASEAN's limited resources.

Third, how can ASEAN preserve its central role in the evolving strategic architecture of East Asia?

Over the years, ASEAN has been in the "driver's seat" of the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Plus Three process. More recently, ASEAN was entrusted to launch the first East Asia Summit. ASEAN's ability to continue playing a central role in the evolving strategic architecture of East Asia will depend on our ability to maintain a reputation of being a credible honest broker that can balance the regional interests of the major powers. ASEAN would also need to ensure that these fora and mechanisms ultimately produce concrete cooperative actions and results.

While there are no simple answers to these three questions, there is a simple guiding principle all of us in ASEAN have worked with. The centrality of ASEAN will depend on its credibility to both its people and the world. And ASEAN will possess this credibility if it is a strong and cohesive community, with each Member Country clearly committed to its success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ong Keng Yong". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Ong Keng Yong

Highlights of the Thirty-Eighth Year of ASEAN

June 2005 to May 2006¹

The large part ASEAN's thirty-eighth year was focused on tackling the 'big' ideas of community building. Guided by the Vientiane Action Programme, or VAP, ASEAN made headway on institutional strengthening, regional economic integration, and entrenching broader and deeper intra-ASEAN cooperation. Concurrent with these developments, ASEAN continued to build its external partnerships and secured a prominent role for itself in the evolving strategic architecture of East Asia.

The 11th ASEAN Summit

The outcomes of the 11th ASEAN Summit in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur were indicative of the momentum that had been building in ASEAN's community-building efforts. There, the ASEAN Leaders took key decisions that will shape the grouping's future.

Perhaps the most significant step to advance community building was the Leaders' decision to establish the ASEAN Charter. It is envisaged that the Charter will serve as a legal and institutional framework of ASEAN and confer a legal personality to ASEAN. In effect, the Charter is expected to move ASEAN from being a loosely-organised political grouping to a rules-based international organisation, defining the very nature and direction of ASEAN as it approaches its fourth decade. An Eminent Persons Group has been tasked by the Leaders to study

the evolution and future of ASEAN, and will present its report at the 12th ASEAN Summit in December 2006.²

At the sidelines of the Summit, key ASEAN economic agreements were signed, accelerating ASEAN's efforts to establish a single market. The Agreement to Establish and Implement the ASEAN Single Window will facilitate trade and investment through the expeditious release and clearance of goods and commodities by customs authorities and relevant government agencies; the Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Engineering Services was the very first MRA on professional services in ASEAN; and the Agreement on ASEAN Harmonised Electronic Equipment Regulatory Regime aims to minimise technical barriers to trade for the electrical and electronics sector in the region.

Broadening ASEAN's external economic linkages also featured on the Leaders' agenda, with the signing of an agreement on economic cooperation and development with the Russian Federation and a framework agreement on comprehensive economic cooperation with the Republic of Korea (RoK).

The first East Asia Summit, or EAS, enhanced ASEAN's reputation as a generator of international dialogue and cooperation. ASEAN, entrusted with the responsibility of driving the EAS, navigated through controversies



The 11th ASEAN Summit, Kuala Lumpur

¹ ASEAN's financial year runs from 1 June to 31 May (of the following year) while ASEAN's chairmanship cycle usually runs from late-July of one year to late-July of the next year.

² The actual drafting of the ASEAN Charter will not be done by the Eminent Persons Group.

**Agreements and Declarations of the
11th ASEAN Summit and its Related Meetings**

Agreements

ASEAN Agreement to Establish and Implement the ASEAN Single Window
 ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Engineering Services
 ASEAN Agreement on ASEAN Harmonised Electronic Equipment Regulatory Regime
 ASEAN-Russian Federation Agreement on Economic and Development Cooperation
 ASEAN-Republic of Korea Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation
 ASEAN-Republic of Korea Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism Under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation

Declarations

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter
 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit
 ASEAN-Russian Federation Joint Declaration on Progressive and Comprehensive Partnership
 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit
 East Asia Summit Declaration on Avian Influenza Prevention, Control and Response

The full text of all the above documents can be found on www.aseansec.org

surrounding the participation, purpose and agenda of the forum to successfully convene the inaugural EAS on 14 December 2005. The sixteen participating leaders came from the ten ASEAN Member Countries, Australia, China, India, Japan, the RoK and New Zealand. They exchanged views and deliberated on a range of regional and international issues and challenges, and adopted a joint plan to combat avian influenza. In signing the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit, the leaders agreed that the EAS would be a leaders-led forum for strategic discussions on key issues affecting the region.

ASEAN remained in the driver's seat in the ASEAN Plus Three process which has been acknowledged as an integral part of the overall regional architecture and the main cooperative vehicle to build the East Asian community. At their annual summit, the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders agreed to accelerate the implementation of the measures recommended by the East Asian Study Group. In addition, a stock take of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation since 1997 is underway.

ASEAN's substantive relations with its Dialogue Partners made further progress at the ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Japan, ASEAN-RoK, ASEAN-India and ASEAN-Russia summits that followed the 11th ASEAN Summit.

The ASEAN Leaders also gave emphasis on developing a people-centred ASEAN and engaging a wide cross-section of the region's population. To this end, the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and the ASEAN Civil Society Conference were invited to present recommendations to the Leaders at the 11th ASEAN

Summit. The Leaders highlighted the importance of reaching out to the youth and agreed to establish ASEAN university games and a youth peace corps, among other initiatives, to promote greater interaction and understanding among the region's young people.



The Inaugural East Asia Summit, Kuala Lumpur

Progress in ASEAN Community Building

While the ASEAN Summit served as a focal point of ASEAN's year, ASEAN's ministerial bodies and officials worked to translate the principal programme areas of the VAP into action and advance the goals of the ASEAN Security Community (ASC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). The ASC, AEC and ASCC form the three pillars of the ASEAN Community.

Of note, three institutional developments will increase the capacity and effectiveness of ASEAN in implementing the VAP.

First, the ASEAN Development Fund, or ADF, was set up on 26 July 2005 at the 38th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in Vientiane. Seeded by the conversion of US\$ 10 million from the original ASEAN Fund, the ADF serves as a common pool of financial resources to expedite the implementation of the VAP. Under the ADF agreement, Member Countries have committed to giving an additional US\$ 100,000 each to the ADF before 2007 but they can also contribute further amounts, as Malaysia had done in pledging US\$ 500,000 to the ADF on 26 July 2005.³ Dialogue Partners like Australia, India and Japan have also made contributions to the ADF, or in support of the VAP.

³Although beyond the period covered by this Annual Report, it is noted that on 12 June 2006, Malaysia transmitted the US\$ 500,000 it had pledged and also became the first Member Country to fulfil the US\$ 100,000 additional commitment to the ADF.



The newly established ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting will promote regional education collaboration

Second, ASEAN sectoral cooperation expanded with the establishment of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin) in August 2005, ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED) in March 2006 and ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) in May 2006. ASEAN now has twenty-eight ministerial bodies focussed on coordinating regional cooperation and the implementation of the VAP. Over the past decades, the mode of ASEAN cooperation has evolved. It is no longer only about meetings among the foreign and economic ministries, but is now more about functional cooperation across a wide range of sectors.

Third, the Senior Officials Meeting on Development Planning was revived in July 2005 after an eight-year hiatus and is expected to play an important role by injecting an ASEAN perspective and making ASEAN's VAP priorities more central to the respective Member Countries' national development efforts.

Some of the other key highlights that brought ASEAN closer to the goals of the ASC, AEC and ASCC included:

ASEAN Security Community

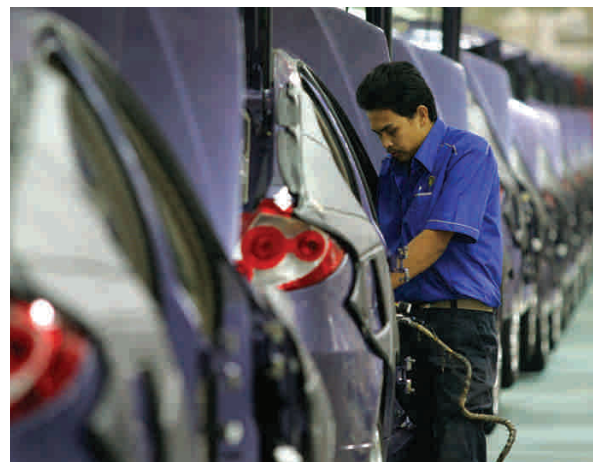
- The increased acceptance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (or TAC) with the accession of Mongolia, New Zealand and Australia, bringing to ten the number of non-regional States that have acceded to the Treaty;
- The signing of Joint Declarations for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism with the RoK, New

Zealand and Pakistan, bringing to ten the total number of comparable joint declarations between ASEAN and external parties;

- The meetings of the ASEAN and China Joint Working Group under the framework of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea;
- The establishment of the Inter-Sessional Group on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventative Diplomacy of the ASEAN Regional Forum;

ASEAN Economic Community

- The continued progress made in the implementation of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) under the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) with the average tariff under the CEPT scheme in the ASEAN-6 countries⁴ now down to 1.87 percent from 12.76 percent in 1993;
- The ratification by all Member Countries of the 1987 Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investment and its 1996 Protocol, and the 1998 Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area and its 2001 Protocol;
- The launch of the FTSE-ASEAN Indices which will raise the profile of leading ASEAN companies to global investors;
- The on-going free trade agreement negotiations with Australia, China, India, Japan, the RoK and New Zealand;
- The signing of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport;



Automotive Products: An ASEAN Priority Sector for integration

⁴The ASEAN-6 countries are Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

- The steady progress made to narrow the development gap between the ASEAN-6 and the CLMV countries⁵ through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration;
- The establishment of the ASEAN Wildlife Law Enforcement Network to combat illicit wildlife trade in the region;
- The launch of on-line courses for the public by the ASEAN Virtual Institute of Science and Technology;
- The adoption of the ASEAN ICT Focus 2005-2010 on Building a Connected, Vibrant and Secure ASEAN Community;
- The launch of the Visit ASEAN Pass for international travellers;

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

- The signing of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and the conduct of the first-ever ASEAN regional disaster emergency response simulation exercise (ARDEX-05) based on an earthquake scenario;
- The establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity which will continue the work of the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation project; and
- The coordinated efforts among health and agricultural officials to address the threat of avian influenza, working with Dialogue Partners as well as international and regional organisations like the World Health Organisation, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Asian Development Bank.

More achievements of all the twenty-eight ASEAN ministerial bodies can be found on pages 16-40.



ARDEX 05: The first-ever ASEAN disaster emergency response simulation exercise was held in Malaysia

Conclusion

It was a busy but productive twelve months for ASEAN. Throughout the period June 2005 to May 2006, ASEAN Member Countries convened about 600 meetings (including ministerial meetings, senior official meetings, working groups, project workshops and discussion forums) and worked on more than 200 projects. Every initiative and activity contributed towards making ASEAN more relevant and central to the lives of the people in the region, and ASEAN a more effective actor on the regional and international stage.



⁵The CLMV countries are Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam.



ASEAN at the Centre

An ASEAN for All

Spotlight on

- ASEAN Youth Camp
- ASEAN Day 2005
- The ASEAN Charter
- Visit ASEAN Pass
- ASEAN Heritage Parks

Global Partnerships

ASEAN Youth Camp

When dancer Anucha Sumaman, 24, set foot in Brunei Darussalam for the 2006 ASEAN Youth Camp (AYC) in January 2006, his total of ASEAN countries visited rose to an impressive seven. But he was an exception. Many of his fellow camp-mates had only averaged two. For some, like writer Ha Ngoc Anh, 23, and sculptor Su Su Hlaing, 19, the AYC marked their first visit to another ASEAN country.

Since 2000, the AYC has given young persons a chance to build friendships and have first hand experiences in another ASEAN country. A project of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information, the AYC aims to build a stronger regional identity among ASEAN's youth, focusing on the arts to raise awareness of Southeast Asia's history and heritage.

So for twelve days in January, fifty young persons came together to learn, discuss and dabble in artistic collaborations. The theme of the 2006 AYC, "ADHESION: Water and the Arts", was chosen to reflect the role of the sea and waterways in shaping the civilisations and cultures in ASEAN. Learning and bonding continued over visits to places like Kampung Air. Post-camp, most participants wanted ASEAN to provide more opportunities for young people to interact and get to know more about ASEAN and one another. As visual artist Willy Himawan, 23, put it, "there are many talented young people who could not join the camp but have great ideas to help ASEAN fulfill its aims."

With 60 percent of ASEAN's population under the age of thirty, young people will play a critical role in ASEAN's community-building efforts. Their enthusiasm to engage and network at the AYC is an encouraging sign. ASEAN's challenge is to make this enthusiasm contagious.



Youthful Observations on ASEAN

"ASEAN countries cooperate well."
Sharlene Teo, 18, writer

"ASEAN has a really complicated structure!"
Faisha N Indrakesuma, 16, photographer



Multi-Cultural Performers



Visit to Kampung Air



Artistic talent at work

ASEAN Day 2005

In a concerted effort to raise awareness of ASEAN across the region, simultaneous celebrations were held at all ten ASEAN capitals to mark the occasion of ASEAN's 38th Anniversary. Drawing from the theme "ASEAN Community Building for the ASEAN People", Member Countries organised a variety of events in the days leading up to August 2005, involving their citizens in the celebrations. As such, a wide cross section of the ASEAN community was able to participate in the festivities which included roundtable discussions, school debates, art and essay contests, exhibitions, family day gatherings, sports events and food fairs.



Family Day organised by the Jakarta ASEAN Contact Group



Flag Raising Ceremony, Malaysia



Essay Competition, Thailand



Student Symposium, Singapore



Food Festival, Myanmar



Cultural Performance, Cambodia



ASEAN Kite Exhibition, Philippines



"Viet Nam in ASEAN" Workshop, Viet Nam



Sports Day, Lao PDR



Roundtable Discussion, Indonesia



School Debate, Brunei Darussalam

The ASEAN Charter

As it approaches its fortieth year, ASEAN is looking ahead to a new stage of evolution, one that would give its Member Countries - both state and citizens - a bigger stake in ASEAN's development and success.

With the landmark 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Leaders have made a commitment to bring about a historic transformation of ASEAN from being a loosely organised political grouping to a more rules-based international organisation with a legal personality under international law, and from having a state-centric focus to a more people-centred orientation.

"The ASEAN Charter is the most significant development in all of ASEAN's thirty-eight years."
Tun Musa Hitam
Chairman of the EPG on the ASEAN Charter

An Eminent Persons Group (referred to as the EPG) on the ASEAN Charter was formed in December 2005 to give recommendations on how to engender this transformation.

Six months into its term, the EPG has held three meetings and plans to have at least three more. It has tasked itself with generating bold and visionary ideas on both the direction and structure of ASEAN. To help focus and tune its recommendations, the EPG has picked the brains of the ASEAN leadership, ASEAN Ministers, ASEAN Secretaries-General past and present, think-tanks and civil society organisations.

The EPG will submit its report and recommendations to the 12th ASEAN Summit in December 2006. The actual drafting of the Charter is expected to be done by a High-Level Task Force in 2007.



Tun Musa Hitam, Chairman of the EPG, briefs the press



Members of civil society present their views to the EPG on the ASEAN Charter



Eminent Persons Group on the ASEAN Charter

From left: • **Dr. Aun Porn Moniroth**, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme National Economic Council of Cambodia, CAMBODIA • **Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam**, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, VIET NAM • **Prof. S. Jayakumar**, Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Law, SINGAPORE • **Mr. Ali Alatas**, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, INDONESIA • **Tun Musa Hitam** (Chairman of the EPG), Former Deputy Prime Minister, MALAYSIA • **Mr. Fidel V. Ramos**, Former President, PHILIPPINES • **Mr. Khamphan Simmalavong**, Former Deputy Minister of Commerce, LAO PDR • **Mr. Kasemsamosorn Kasemsri**, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, THAILAND • **Dr. Than Nyun**, Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, MYANMAR • **Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Visit ASEAN Pass

In January 2006, ASEAN launched the Visit ASEAN Pass (or *vap!*) to encourage more international travellers to tour the region by allowing them visit two or more ASEAN Member Countries at a special low airfare rate. A corresponding *vap!* web portal (www.visitasean.travel) allows one-stop online bookings of airline tickets, hotels and tours. Currently



Halong Bay, Viet Nam

operational between tourism service providers in ASEAN and travel agents worldwide, the portal is expected to be opened to the public in late 2006.

The *vap!* is an initiative to develop ASEAN as a single tourism destination and sustain the upward trend of international tourist arrivals which surpassed fifty-one million in 2005, a year-on-year increase of 5 percent. Tourism is one of the region's most important and dynamic industries and has provided employment and business opportunities for a significant portion of the community in each ASEAN Member Country. It reaches both the large and the small to medium-sized enterprises. It also provides opportunities for people in outlying areas to generate income and wealth.



A taste of culture in Rizal Park, Philippines

The *vap!* also serves to promote more intra-ASEAN travel so that the people of ASEAN too have an economical means to enjoy Southeast Asia's renowned island resorts, historical sites (including two "wonders of the world"), natural landscapes, modern cities and diverse cultural and arts scene. Looking ahead, ASEAN will place added emphasis on the growing sector of youth travellers with plans to launch specially targeted *vap!* packages for young people.



The diversity of ASEAN

ASEAN Heritage Parks

While Southeast Asia comprises only three percent of the global land surface, it is home to twenty percent of all known species. There are approximately 27,000 species that are endemic to the ASEAN region.

Since 2003, ASEAN has sought to protect this rich natural heritage and preserve a complete spectrum of representative ecosystems in the region by designating park areas of high conservation importance as ASEAN Heritage Parks. The ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme facilitates greater collaboration among the ten ASEAN Member Countries in activities like joint research, information sharing, park management capacity building and the secondment of technical experts.

In promoting eco-tourism in the twenty-seven designated parks, the Programme also aims to raise the ASEAN public's awareness and interest in ASEAN's rich biodiversity, and facilitate appreciation and enjoyment of these natural parks for generations to come. The ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme received a boost in September 2005 with the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB). The ACB is the operational arm of all ASEAN initiatives on biodiversity and will now shepherd the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme, ensuring that personnel and funding is in place for effective implementation of the Programme's initiatives.



Iglit-Baco National Park, Philippines



Learning about the region's biodiversity at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Singapore



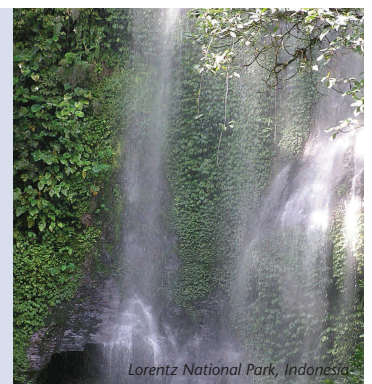
The Philippine eagle



Khakaborazi National Park, Myanmar

ASEAN Heritage Parks

Brunei Darussalam Tasek Merimbun • **Cambodia** Virachey National Park, Preah Monivong National Park (Bokor) • **Indonesia** Leuser National Park, Kerinci Seblat National Park, Lorentz National Park • **Lao PDR** Nam Ha National Biodiversity Conservation Area • **Malaysia** Kinabalu National Park, Mulu National Park, Taman Negara National Park • **Myanmar** Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park, Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary, Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Khakaborazi National Park, Lampi Marine National Park • **Philippines** Mt. Apo National Park, Iglit-Baco National Park • **Singapore** Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve • **Thailand** Khao Yai National Park, Kor Tarutao National Park, Ao Phangnga - Mu Koh Surin - Mu Koh Similan Marine National Park, Kaengkrachan Forest Complex • **Viet Nam** Hoang Lien Sa Pa National Park, Ba Be National Park, Kon Ka Kinh National Park, Chu Mom Ray National Park



Lorentz National Park, Indonesia

ASEAN at the Centre

Global Partnerships

June 2005 – May 2006



Republic of Korea (RoK)

- The ASEAN-RoK Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and ASEAN-RoK Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism are signed, December 2005.
- ASEAN and the RoK adopt the Plan of Action to implement the 2004 Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership, December 2005.
- Progress is made in the on-going negotiations for the ASEAN-RoK FTA (which includes special treatment for products made at the Gaesong Industrial Complex in the DPRK).
- The ASEAN-RoK Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism is signed, July 2005.

Canada

- ASEAN and Canada agree to develop a Joint Cooperation Work Plan and consultations are on-going to establish formal economic links.
- The ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism is being finalised for signing in 2006.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- The ASEAN-UNDP Partnership Facility (AUPF) continues to support analysis and dialogue on emerging issues relating to the deepening of regional integration with special attention given to the CLMV countries.

United States of America

- ASEAN and the US issue a Joint Vision Statement on the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership and a plan of action to implement the Joint Vision Statement is under development, November 2005.
- The ASEAN-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement is being finalised for signing in 2006.

Japan

- Japan contributes about US\$ 70 million to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) to support ASEAN integration efforts, March 2006.
- Under JAIF, Japan provides ASEAN with about US\$ 30 million worth of Tamiflu and protective equipment for stockpiling in Singapore to aid an early regional response to pandemic influenza, May 2006.
- Progress is made in the on-going negotiations for the ASEAN-Japan FTA.
- The "Cooperation towards Intra-ASEAN/ASEAN-Japan Economic Integration 2005" initiative is established to support efforts to narrow the development gap within ASEAN and deepen economic integration, September 2005.

China

- ASEAN and China celebrate the 15th Anniversary of dialogue relations and plan a commemorative summit for October 2006.
- Progress is made towards the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.
- The Leaders of ASEAN and China endorse five additional priority areas of cooperation (energy, transport, culture, public health and tourism), December 2005.
- Progress is made in the on-going negotiations for the ASEAN-China FTA.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- The ASEAN and SCO secretariats are studying ways to implement their 2005 MOU.

New Zealand

- ASEAN and New Zealand celebrate the 30th anniversary of dialogue relations in 2005.
- The ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism is signed, July 2005.
- New Zealand accedes to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, July 2005.
- Progress is made in the on-going negotiations for the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA.

Note:

The Secretary-General of ASEAN is an observer at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the ASEAN Secretariat also participates in relevant activities of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

- ASEAN Dialogue Partner
- ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partner
- International/Regional Organisation