



*Civil Society & the*  
**Association of**  
**Southeast Asian**  
**Nations (ASEAN)**

An ICSW Briefing Paper

Compiled and published by the  
International Council on Social Welfare





CIVIL SOCIETY AND  
THE ASSOCIATION OF  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN  
NATIONS (ASEAN)

November 2001

We gratefully acknowledge the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the Royal Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Ministries for Social Affairs and Foreign Affairs for their financial support.

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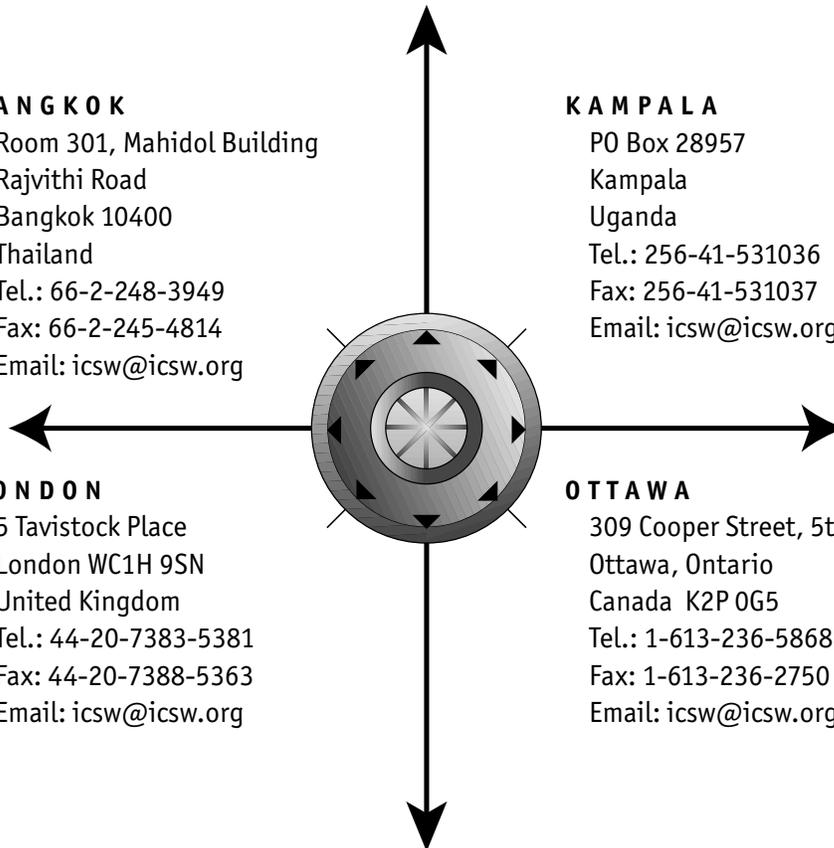
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# Civil Society and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

November 2001

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## OVERVIEW AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**I**n 2001, the International Council on Social Welfare began a three-year project that focuses on strengthening civil society input into long-term or emerging regional intergovernmental structures such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), African Union (AU) and others. The project aims to encourage regional agreements on social development issues and to advocate the implementation of social policy instruments at a regional level.

Among civil society organisations there is sometimes a lack awareness on the importance, roles and activities of regional intergovernmental structures such as ASEAN. ICSW is therefore developing a series of briefing papers on the different groupings in order to highlight their work and explore the ways that civil society organisations can interact with them.

The paper aims to describe the history and evolution of ASEAN, describe the structures and mechanisms that guide the work of ASEAN, review some of the mechanisms for social development organisations to be involved at the level of ASEAN, and look at the opportunities for interaction by civil society organisations with the ASEAN secretariat.

ASEAN was founded by five countries in 1967 and has now grown to 10 member countries with a vision of actively cooperating towards peace, stability, progress and prosperity in the region. The early declarations and statements from summits show that the group was founded primarily to provide a framework for regional political and economic cooperation. Today, ASEAN has developed an organisational structure that looks not only into the political and economic issues in the region but also social development issues.

ASEAN has grown into a large structure with many levels of decision-making from Heads of State or Government to technical groupings. Discussions and decision-making are in the form of formal and informal meetings at each of these levels and Summits at the level of Heads of State.

The ASEAN secretariat in Jakarta was created to act as administrative and operational organ of ASEAN. There are four divisions in the ASEAN structure. These are: Functional Cooperation, Political and Security Cooperation, Economic Cooperation and External Relations. The work on social development falls under the Bureau of Economic and Functional Cooperation, particularly the Committee on Social Development (COSD). Part of this Bureau is the area of Functional Cooperation coordinating cooperation in the areas of culture and information, the environment, science and technology and social development. Work in each of the four areas is coordinated by bodies of ASEAN officials in the respective fields, at Committee and Sub-Committee levels. Two of these committees are the ASEAN Senior Officials on Poverty Eradication and Rural Development (SOMRDPE) and the Committee on Social Development (COSD). The work of these committees are guided by several plans of action, most notable of which are the Hanoi Plan of Action (adopted in December 1998), the ASEAN Vision 2020 (adopted in December 1997), the Plan of Action on Social Development (adopted in 1994), the Framework ASEAN Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (adopted 1997) and the ASEAN Action Plan on Social Safety Nets (adopted 1998).

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In 1999, the ASEAN Secretariat implemented a review of its structures and changes in the organisational structure were implemented (such as the integration of the Divisions of Economic and Functional Cooperation into a bigger Bureau as mentioned above). The restructuring within the organisation continued in 1999 and early 2000. Currently, the work of ICSW relates to the work of the Committee on Social Development as it stands now.

There are 56 NGOs accredited to ASEAN. Many of the NGOs are technical-oriented or special-interest groups. Only a few are directly related to the work on social development. ASEAN as an organisation has yet to set a track record of working with civil society organisations, especially in the development of plans of action and decision-making at all levels.

# ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASEAN

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## Establishment and Membership

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok by five original Member Countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam joined on 8 January 1984, Vietnam joined on 28 July 1995, Laos and Myanmar (Burma) joined on 23 July 1997 and after a brief delay due to internal conflicts, Cambodia joined on 30 April 1999.

The document that affirms the establishment of ASEAN is the ASEAN Declaration of 1967. The ASEAN Declaration made clear that the “Association is open for participation to all States in the South East Asian region subscribing to the aforementioned aims, principles and purposes.” It further stated that “the Association represents the collective will of the nations of South East Asia to bind themselves together in friendship and cooperation and, through joint efforts and sacrifices, secure for their peoples and for posterity the blessings of peace, freedom and prosperity.”

The ASEAN Annual Report 1998-1999 states that the ASEAN region now has a population of about 500 million, a total area of 4.5 million square kilometers, a combined gross domestic product of US\$737 billion, and a total trade of US\$720 billion.

## ASEAN Objectives

The ASEAN declaration of 1967 states seven aims and purposes of the Association. These are:

- ▶ “to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian nations;
- ▶ to promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for the justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries in the region and the adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter;
- ▶ to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields;
- ▶ to provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres;
- ▶ to collaborate more effectively for the greater utilization of their agriculture and industries, the expansion of their trade, including the study of the problems of international commodity trade, the improvement of their transportation and communication facilities and the raising of the living standards of their peoples;
- ▶ to promote South East Asian studies
- ▶ to maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes, and explore all avenues for even closer cooperation among themselves.”

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## **Fundamental Principles**

The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia, signed at the First ASEAN Summit on 24 February 1976, declared that in their relations with one another, the High Contracting Parties should be guided by the following fundamental principles:

- ▶ Mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and national identity of all nations;
- ▶ The right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion;
- ▶ Non-interference in the internal affairs of one another;
- ▶ Settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful manner;
- ▶ Renunciation of the threat or use of force; and
- ▶ Effective cooperation among themselves.

### **The ASEAN Summit**

The highest decision-making organ of ASEAN is the Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of State and Government. This ASEAN Summit is convened every three years with Informal Summits held in between. The 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit was in Hanoi in 1998. The 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit will be in Brunei in November 2001. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Informal Summit was held in the Philippines in 1999 and the 4<sup>th</sup> Informal Summit in Singapore in 2000.

Hosting of the summits follow alphabetical rotation. There is a pending recommendation that since ASEAN leaders now meet annually, either in formal or informal summits, ASEAN should just have annual summits without any distinction whether it is formal or informal.

### **ASEAN Ministerial Meetings**

There is also the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), an annual meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers which is next to the ASEAN Summit in the level of decision-making. There is much publicity around the meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and usually a declaration or Joint Communique is produced at the end of the meeting.

Ministerial meetings on several other sectors are also held, although the Foreign Ministers' Meeting still seems to be the meeting given the most attention. The other ministerial meetings are on: agriculture and forestry, economics, energy, environment, finance, higher education, information, investment, labour, law, regional haze, rural development and poverty alleviation, science and technology, social welfare, transnational crime, transportation, tourism, youth, as well as meetings of the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council, and the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council.

### **ASEAN Standing Committee**

The ASEAN Standing Committee is composed of the Directors-General of the ASEAN Departments of the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs. The Directors-General meet as a body "standing in" for the ASEAN Foreign Ministers who meet annually in the AMM. Chairmanship of the ASEAN Standing Committee rotates annually in concomitance with the hosting of the AMM. In 1999-2000 the chair was Thailand and at the 33<sup>rd</sup> AMM in July 2000, chairmanship was handed to Vietnam.

The ASEAN Standing Committee reports directly to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers who in turn report to the Heads of State/Government.

### **Committees of Senior Officials, and Technical Groups**

Supporting these ministerial bodies are 29 committees of senior officials and 122 technical working groups. The committees of senior officials are called Senior Officials Meetings (SOM), meeting regularly during the year or on an *ad hoc* basis preparing for events or other higher-level meetings.

Pertinent to the work on social development and poverty eradication are the Senior Officials Meetings on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) and the Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare (AMRSW) or SOM on Social Welfare.

ASEAN has several specialised bodies and arrangements promoting inter-governmental cooperation in various fields. These are the ASEAN University Network, ASEAN-EC Management Centre, ASEAN Centre for Energy, ASEAN Agricultural Development Planning Centre, ASEAN Earthquake Information Centre, ASEAN Poultry Research Training Centre,

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ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation, ASEAN Rural Youth Development Centre, ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre, ASEAN Tourism Information Centre and ASEAN Timber Technology Centre.

In addition, ASEAN promotes cooperative activities with organisations with related aims and purposes such as ASEAN-Chambers of Commerce and Industry, ASEAN Business Forum, ASEAN Tourism Association, ASEAN Council on Petroleum, ASEAN Ports Association, ASEAN Vegetable Oils Club and the ASEAN-Institute for Strategic and International Studies.

**NGOs Affiliated With ASEAN**

There are 56 non-governmental organisations that have formal affiliation with ASEAN. The 56 non-governmental organisations are technical and special-interest groups, very few of which relate directly to issues of social development. A section on accreditation to ASEAN as an NGO and an appendix with the complete list of NGOs affiliated to ASEAN are included later in this report.

## **Establishment**

In support of the work of ASEAN, the Permanent Secretariat was established in February 1976 due to the increased need in ASEAN for a central administrative organ to provide greater efficiency in the coordination of ASEAN organs and implementation of ASEAN projects and activities. This was later referred to as the ASEAN Secretariat. The Secretariat has its seat in Jakarta, Indonesia and is headed by the Secretary-General.

An annual budget for the Secretariat is submitted to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for approval. This includes capital outlay and recurrent expenditure (salaries and allowances of all secretariat personnel, utility charges, travelling expenses and other maintenance and administrative expenses). The Host Country (Indonesia) grants to the Secretariat, the Secretary-General and the staff, privileges and immunities for the performance of their duties and functions.

## **Staffing and Organisational Development**

### *The Secretary-General*

The Secretary-General is appointed by ASEAN Foreign Ministers upon nomination by a member country on a rotational basis in alphabetical order. The tenure for the secretary-general is five years, which may be extended. Currently, the Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat is Mr. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr. from the Philippines. He was formerly Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia, then Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs before becoming ASEAN Secretary-General in January 1998.

The secretary-general of ASEAN is appointed on merit and accorded ministerial status. The secretary-general is mandated to initiate, advise,

coordinate and implement ASEAN activities. The members of the professional staff of the ASEAN Secretariat are appointed on the principle of open recruitment and region-wide competition.

### *Other Staff*

Other staff of the ASEAN secretariat include 2 Deputy Secretaries-General, 4 Directors, 14 Assistant Directors and Programme Coordinators, 23 Senior Officers, 27 Programme Officers, 28 Assistant Programme Officers and other staff that may be deemed necessary. There is a total of 99 mandated staff in the organisation.

### *Organisational Development*

The Sixth ASEAN Summit in 1998 mandated the review of the overall organisational structure of ASEAN to further improve efficiency and effectiveness, taking into account the expansion of ASEAN activities, the enlargement of ASEAN membership, and the current regional situation. As part of the review, the Summit also decided to “review the role and functions and capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat to meet the increasing demands of ASEAN and to support the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action.” From December 1998 to April 1999, the ASEAN Secretariat underwent this review which resulted in a recommendation to combine the Divisions of Economic Cooperation and Functional Cooperation into a bigger Bureau called Economic and Functional Cooperation Bureau headed by a Director for Economic and Functional Cooperation. Currently, the Director for the Bureau is Dr. Azmi Mat Akhir. For purposes of this paper, the Functional Cooperation and Economic Cooperation divisions will be described separately.

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The ASEAN Standing Committee agreed that the ASEAN Secretariat should function as a coordinating Secretariat to help facilitate effective decision-making within and amongst ASEAN bodies. The Secretariat would place a greater emphasis on substantive matters, while its tasks on servicing various meetings would be precisely defined.

The ASEAN Secretariat has now put in place a functional structure. One of the two Deputy Secretaries-General has assumed the role of chief-of-staff responsible for corporate affairs focusing on the internal management of the Secretariat. The other Deputy Secretary-General serves as chief operations officer in support of the Secretary-General in operations and policy matters.

Corporate affairs include the following areas: administration; finance and funding; human resources; public information; information technology and special projects. The operational bureaux will include the Task Force for Finance Cooperation and Macroeconomic Surveillance; Economic and Functional Cooperation; Trade, Investment and Services; and Programme Coordination and External Relations.

## The Divisions

*ASEAN was divided into major focus areas:*

- ▶ Functional Cooperation
- ▶ Political and Security Cooperation
- ▶ Economic Cooperation
- ▶ External Relations

Programmes under each of these areas are governed and guided by several operating treaties, declarations, accords, statements and plans of action.

## **Functional Cooperation**

The ASEAN leaders resolved in 1995 to elevate 'functional cooperation' to a 'higher plane'. The 'Framework for Elevating Functional Cooperation to a Higher Plane' was adopted in 1996 with a theme: "Shared prosperity through human development, technological competitiveness and social cohesiveness." Functional cooperation is guided by the following plans:

### **Hanoi Plan of Action**

- ▶ ASEAN Plan of Action on Social Development
- ▶ ASEAN Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
- ▶ ASEAN Plan of Action on Culture and Development
- ▶ ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology
- ▶ ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment
- ▶ ASEAN Plan of Action on Drug Abuse Control
- ▶ ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime
- ▶ Action Plan on Social Safety Nets

Areas of Functional Cooperation include:

- I. Poverty Eradication (Committee on Poverty Eradication guided by the Plan of Action on ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication)
- II. Social Development: (Committee on Social Development guided by the Plan of Action on Social Development and the Hanoi Plan of Action)
  - a) Youth (ASEAN Sub-committee on Youth)
  - b) Women (ASEAN Sub-committee on Women)



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- c) Health and Nutrition (ASEAN Sub-committee on Health and Nutrition)
  - d) Education (ASEAN Sub-committee on Education)
  - e) ASEAN University Network
  - f) Labour (ASEAN Sub-committee on Labour Affairs)
  - g) HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control (ASEAN Task Force on AIDS)
  - h) Children (ASEAN Sub-committee on Children)
  - i) Disaster Management (ASEAN Experts Group on Disaster Management)
- III.** Science and Technology (Committee on Science and Technology)  
(With 9 sub-committees)
- IV.** Environment (Committee on Environment)  
(With 3 working groups)
- V.** Drug Matters
- VI.** Culture and Information (Committee on Culture and Information)

In 1997, the ASEAN leaders adopted the ASEAN Vision 2020, which called for ASEAN partnership in dynamic development aimed at forging closer economic integration within the region. The vision statement also resolved to create a stable, prosperous and highly competitive ASEAN Economic Region, in which there is a free flow of goods, services, investments, capital, and equitable economic development and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities. The Hanoi Plan of Action, adopted in 1998, serves as the first in a series of plans of action leading up to the realisation of the ASEAN vision.

Under Functional Cooperation lies the Committee on Social Development. Chairmanship of the Committee on Social Development rotates

in alphabetical order. In 2000-2001 the Chair is Vietnam. In the recent reorganisation, the Committee on Social Development was restructured and some of the sub-committees under it were reconstituted into a higher level. At the recent 34<sup>th</sup> AMM in Hanoi in July 2001, the Committee on Social Development (COSD) was reconstituted to a Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD). Other changes include the elevation of the Sub-Committee on Youth to the Senior Officials Meeting on Youth; the Sub-Committee on Labour Affairs to Senior Officials Meeting on Labour Affairs (SOMLA) and the Sub-Committee on Health and Nutrition to Senior Officials Meeting on Health and Development (SOMHD).

The newly established Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development will meet for the first time in 2002. There was a preparatory meeting for it in Singapore in July 2001.

### ***Political and Security Cooperation***

Two of the main treaties guiding the work on Political Cooperation are the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ). There are also parallel ASEAN structures that address political and security issues in the region. A few are discussed below.

### **ASEAN Regional Forum**

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was formed in accordance with the 1992 Singapore Declaration of the ASEAN Summit where the ASEAN Heads of State and Government declared their intention to intensify dialogues with external partners on political and security matters. The first meeting of ARF was held in Bangkok in July 1994.

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It has then continued to develop as a multi-lateral forum for political and security consultations and cooperation. The ARF consists of the 10 ASEAN member states, the 12 ASEAN Dialogue Partners and 1 ASEAN Observer. It is a forum to discuss issues of security and foreign policy in the region. There are two 'tracks' for the discussion on these issues: the first track which covers the formal meetings such as the annual ARF Foreign Ministers' Meeting and SOM, and the second track that covers non-official, non-formal seminars and workshops. Such activities have included meetings and workshops on Confidence-Building Measures in Honolulu and Bangkok, a meeting on Disaster Relief in Moscow; a Track II Conference on Comprehensive Security and Cooperation in Asia-Pacific in Vladivostok and a seminar on Preventive Diplomacy by the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, and workshops on Conflict Resolution.

Other work under Political Cooperation includes the organisation of the ASEAN Summit, political consultations and cooperation with the United Nations agencies such as UNESCO, UNDP and UNICEF. However, ASEAN as a body, does not as yet have a seat in the United Nations assembly.

### **"Troika" System**

A proposal of the Thai Foreign Ministry that was first formally discussed during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in Bangkok in 2000 was the "troika" system. The proposed system will give more latitude to the standing chair to respond more quickly to situations affecting the whole region. The system was proposed in the aftermath of regional issues such as regional haze, the 1997 economic crisis and the crisis in East Timor. In all

of those events, it was observed that ASEAN was not able to respond quickly enough. The system involves the activation of a 'troika' composed of past, present and future chairmen that will be empowered to look into issues that affect regional stability. The current chair will be able to activate the troika, take exploratory steps or even call for an urgent ministerial meeting. This is a step away from the policy of consensus that has also been strongly guarded by ASEAN as one of the essential policies of the organisation.

### **Policy of Non-Interference**

The most controversial and yet most defended policy of ASEAN is the policy of non-interference that has been in effect ever since the founding of the regional organisation. CSOs/NGOs have strongly criticised it, ASEAN governments have strongly defended it. The policy maintains that a country's internal affairs are its own affair and will not allow any other country to meddle unless that country specifically requests for it. Since the founding of the organisation, each member country has avoided commenting on sensitive and thorny internal affairs such as human rights and democratisation issues. Although CSOs have called for a review and revamp of this policy because it impedes decision making and action on critical issues, ASEAN member governments maintain that it is important to keep the policy of non interference to promote confidence-building and preserve state sovereignty.

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### *Economic Cooperation*

The areas under Economic Cooperation include

- ▶ Finance
- ▶ Trade
- ▶ Investment
- ▶ Industry
- ▶ Services
- ▶ Electronic Commerce
- ▶ Transport and Communications
- ▶ Energy
- ▶ Development of Growth Areas
- ▶ Tourism
- ▶ Intellectual Property
- ▶ Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
- ▶ Food, Agriculture and Forestry

### *External Relations*

ASEAN has active relations with Dialogue Partners and other international organisations.

These are:

- ▶ ASEAN-Australia
- ▶ ASEAN-Canada
- ▶ ASEAN-China
- ▶ ASEAN-EU
- ▶ ASEAN-India
- ▶ ASEAN-Japan
- ▶ ASEAN-Republic of Korea
- ▶ ASEAN-New Zealand
- ▶ ASEAN-Russia
- ▶ ASEAN-United States
- ▶ ASEAN-UNDP
- ▶ ASEAN-Pakistan (sectoral dialogue)

### **ASEAN Plus 3**

One of the recent developments is the ASEAN Plus 3 process where the ASEAN Heads of State and Government meet with their counterparts from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Again, the agenda of the meetings in the ASEAN Plus 3 revolve around economic and trade issues. The ASEAN Plus 3 meetings usually fall parallel to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting every year.

In the recent years, there have also been communications with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Gulf Cooperation Council, the Rio Group, South Pacific Forum, Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Andean Community and the Hanns Seidel Foundation. ASEAN also maintains close collaboration with the UN specialized agencies in their respective fields, such as WHO (health matters), UNAIDS (HIV/AIDS), UNDCP (drug control), UNICEF (children's matters), UNIFEM (women's matters). Recently, the Fifth Consultative Meeting Among Executive Heads of Sub-regional Organisations and ESCAP identified nodal officers at the ESCAP, ASEAN and SAARC Secretariats to coordinate initiatives in the areas of international and regional trade policy, e-commerce; social development, the environment, and statistics, among others.

These multi-lateral and bi-lateral relations are strengthened by meetings when and where possible, where various regional and international issues are discussed and plans of collaboration clarified or developed.

The ASEAN Foundation was established with the following objectives:

- ▶ “To promote greater awareness of ASEAN and greater interaction among the people’s of ASEAN as well as their wider participation in ASEAN’s activities inter alia through human resources development that will enable them to realise their full potential and capacity to contribute to the progress of ASEAN as productive and responsible members of society”
- ▶ To contribute to the evolution of a development cooperation strategy that promotes mutual assistance, equitable economic development and the alleviation of poverty.”

The work of the ASEAN Foundation (AF) is focused on that aspect of ASEAN work called Functional Cooperation. Activities of the AF focus on human resources development or projects such as education, training, seminars, workshops, exchanges, network building, fellowships, and information dissemination. Academic and cultural

institutions and non-governmental organisations recognised by ASEAN are eligible for assistance from the Foundation.

The AF has specified a project proposal format, allowable project costs, disbursement procedures, and project activation requirements including financial and accounting procedures, accountability and progress reports in a manual that is available to interested organisations. It has a project cycle calendar of approximately six months – from the submission of projects up to their approval for implementation. There are roughly two project cycles in one calendar year.

Established in December 1998, the AF is fully operational with relations both with governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations. It funds a variety of projects such as education, training, seminars, workshops, exchanges, network-building, fellowships and information dissemination. The projects funded are not only those of the ASEAN Secretariat.

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## PARALLEL OR ADVISORY STRUCTURES & GROUPS

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### TRACK II

A second level of work and discussions has been in effect within ASEAN in the form of TRACK II organisations composed of mostly of academics, think tanks and scholars, media, business people and government officials in their private capacity. Most of the work of track II officials are on foreign affairs policies, regional peace and security issues and the promotion of confidence building measures.

One of the initiatives of Track II related to civil society is ASEAN People’s Assembly, which is described below.

### EMINENT PERSONS GROUP EPG

The ASEAN Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Vision 2020 was an initiative from the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on Hanoi in December 1998. The EPG was supposed to tap into the expertise from private sector and academics on how to realise Vision 2020. It was convened in June 1999 with one representative for every member country. It included in its terms of reference developing a plan for a peaceful and stable Southeast Asia. The EPG had five meetings in the eighteen months given to produce the report with recommendations for making ASEAN more relevant and outward looking.

The EPG produced a report at the end of 2000 with a critique and recommendations for ASEAN.

**I**n the past ASEAN has encouraged and initiated cooperation with dialogue partners (governments from outside the region) and international organisations such as donors, trade groups and financial institutions. Bilateral and multi-lateral relations with various governments and international organisations have been developed and strengthened through the years and through several agreements and plans of action. Universities and research organisations become partners for specific projects when the concerned committee or sub-committee implements plans of action. Civil society organisations can become involved with the ASEAN in particular aspects of plans of action. There are 56 accredited non-governmental organisations to the ASEAN. Most of the organisations are very specific and technical organisations. However, in the many statements and declarations ASEAN has produced, involvement and cooperation with civil society organisations is not prominent. There are some declarations that specify work with non-government organisations, but often it is in the context of ASEAN engaging in capability building of NGOs to achieve the goals of ASEAN.

### Accreditation as an NGO

ASEAN has developed “Guidelines for ASEAN Relations with NGOs” which includes criteria for consideration for applications. Some of the criteria are:

- ▶ “As a general rule, only NGOs whose membership is confined to ASEAN nationals may be considered for affiliation with ASEAN.”
- ▶ “Approval of application for affiliation of an NGO with ASEAN shall be based primarily on the assessment of the positive contribution

which such NGO could make to the enhancement, strengthening and realisation of the aims and objectives of ASEAN.”

- ▶ “Affiliation status with ASEAN may not be granted to an NGO if it has objectives, activities or projects which are contrary to or inconsistent with the aims and objectives of ASEAN embodied in the Bangkok Declaration and the Declaration of ASEAN Concord.”
- ▶ “An NGO whose membership comes from a relatively even spread of the ASEAN member countries may be allowed affiliation provided that ASEAN is satisfied that the NGO merits affiliation and the non-participating member countries have given consent to the NGO and provided further that membership shall remain open for other member countries.”

Affiliation brings with it a number of privileges including:

- ▶ It may use the name “ASEAN” and display the official ASEAN emblem in correspondence and communications and its official meetings so long as the displaying of such emblem in non-commercial in nature.
- ▶ It may submit written statements or recommendations and views on policy matters or on significant events or regional or international concerns, to the ASEAN Standing Committee through the ASEAN Secretariat.
- ▶ It may submit its own project proposals for Third Party funding to be channeled through the ASEAN Secretariat to the Standing Committee for approval.
- ▶ It may initiate programmes of activities for presentation to its link body for appropriate action.

- ▶ At the discretion of the Chairman of the link body, it may through its representative attend meetings of the link body for consultation on matters and issues of direct concern to the NGO.
- ▶ For purposes of doing research for its projects, it may be allowed access to ASEAN documents on a selective basis in consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat of its link body.
- ▶ Subject to rules and regulations, it may be allowed use of the facilities of the ASEAN Secretariat for its official meetings and other official activities in Jakarta.

Of the 56 NGOs only a few can be identified as related to the work on social development. These are:

1. Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation (CAYC) in Malaysia
2. ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organisations (ACWO) in Singapore
3. ASEAN NGOs for the Prevention of Drugs and Substance Abuse in Malaysia
4. ASEAN NGO Coalition on Aging in Chiang Mai, Thailand
5. Southeast Asia Regional Institute for Community and Education (SEARICE), in the Philippines

The three most recent NGOs accredited to ASEAN are:

1. ASEAN Chess Confederation, from Singapore, accredited in October 2000
2. ASEAN Cosmetic Association, from Singapore, accredited in February 2001
3. ASEAN Academies of Science, Engineering and Technology, from Malaysia, accredited in April 2001

## **Parallel Meetings, Regional Working Groups and Other Initiatives**

Aside from accreditation as an NGO to the ASEAN, many civil society organisations have opted to plan parallel meetings to the high-level ASEAN meetings or form working groups on broad or specific issues related to ASEAN. Following are some examples.

### ***ASEAN People's Forum***

Starting in 1998, an ASEAN People's Forum had been convened parallel to a high-level meeting of the ASEAN, whether the ASEAN Summit (formal or informal) or the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. In 1998, the APF was held in Bangkok, 1999 in Manila, in 2000 in Singapore and again in Bangkok in 2001.

The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), has been the lead organisation in planning the ASEAN People's Forum since 1997. In 2001, the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) co-organised the APF with the main organisers. As in the past years where similar peoples' fora were convened, the meeting aimed to serve as a peoples' parallel forum to a high level ASEAN Meeting (the 34th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting) to promote civil society concerns and call for greater participation from civil society in aspects of ASEAN policy making.

The statement that came out of the 2001 ASEAN People's Forum is found in Appendix 13.



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### *ASEAN People's Assembly*

The first ASEAN People's Assembly (APA) was organised by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in co-operation with the Singapore Institute of International Affairs and the various ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS) in November 2000. The organisers of this first APA were from TRACK II organisations, consisting of government, mainstream academe, business and media. There are no civil society representatives or NGO representatives in TRACK II.

This initiative was also to gather civil society and NGO representatives to discuss issues related to ASEAN, together with Track II representatives. During the meeting there was limited interaction between the NGOs/CSOs and ASEAN officials. There was no clear channel of communication between the APA and ASEAN but it could have been a starting point in creating fuller participation of CSOs in the ASEAN process. As of late 2001, it is not known whether there will be a second APA or if there will be any other follow up to it.

### *ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism*

In 1993, ASEAN expressed willingness to set up a regional human rights mechanism. The Joint Communique of the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore in 1993 declared that "in support of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action...ASEAN should also consider the establishment of an appropriate regional mechanism on human rights."

In 1996, a group of high-level academics, NGOs leaders, former and incumbent parliamentarians formed the Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism and has been engaging ASEAN member countries in a dialogue to establish the structures for this at the regional and national level. One prerequisite to the formation of the ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism is the formation of a national human rights commission in each of the ASEAN member countries. As of 2001, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand have set up a national human rights commission. Brunei, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), Singapore and Vietnam have yet to set up a national human rights commission.

It was not until late 2000 that the initial response from ASEAN to the regional working group was received when ASEAN approved the formation of a Committee to study the feasibility of setting up the mechanism. The study is currently being done.

**M**ost of the relationships that ASEAN has cultivated and promoted are with economic and technical partners. Although there are a number of NGOs affiliated with ASEAN, the guidelines for accreditation are limiting and the parameters for consultation and participation available to civil society are still restricted. Based on the number and nature of the NGOs affiliated with ASEAN, and its history of minimal consultation with civil society organisations, there is a need to develop awareness in ASEAN to work more closely with civil society organisations. There are limited opportunities and mechanisms for civil society organisations to work with or parallel to ASEAN. However, it is important for both civil society organisations and ASEAN to develop this partnership.

ASEAN's partnership and consultation with Track II organisations is a start. However, Track II consultations are not inclusive of a wider range of NGOs. It is important to look at the possibilities for establishing another track for consultations with NGOs, such as permanent or ad hoc observer status for NGOs to certain meetings of ASEAN at all levels.

ASEAN is a multi-layered organisation and it is important to identify where and how to best influence policy and programmes for action. There has not been any significant input from civil society organisations in the development of the positions and policies of ASEAN but there may be advantages to accreditation to ASEAN in the future. One advantage may be access to the decision-makers and in the future, possibly afford the civil society organisation more influence in policy-making.

# APPENDICES

## LIST OF APPENDICES

1. The ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) in Thailand, 8 August 1967
2. Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Secretariat (February 1976)
3. ASEAN Cooperation on Social Recovery and Opportunities for Collaboration with Dialogue Partners/International Agencies
4. Ministerial Understanding on ASEAN Cooperation in Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
5. Framework for the ASEAN Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
6. Action Plan on Social Safety Nets
7. ASEAN Vision 2020
8. Hanoi Plan of Action
9. NGOs Affiliated with ASEAN
10. Organisational Structure of the Committee on Social Development
11. Organisational Structure of the ASEAN Foundation
12. Guidelines for ASEAN Relations with Non-Governmental Organisations
13. Statement of the ASEAN People's Forum: ASEAN PEOPLE'S AGENDA

## The ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration)

*Thailand, 8 August 1967*

**T**he Presidium Minister for Political Affairs/ Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand:

**Mindful** of the existence of mutual interests and common problems among countries of South-East Asia and convinced of the need to strengthen further the existing bonds of regional solidarity and cooperation;

**Desiring** to establish a firm foundation for common action to promote regional cooperation in South-East Asia in the spirit of equality and partnership and thereby contribute towards peace, progress and prosperity in the region;

**Conscious** that in an increasingly interdependent world, the cherished ideals of peace, freedom, social justice and economic well-being are best attained by fostering good understanding, good neighbourliness and meaningful cooperation among the countries of the region already bound together by ties of history and culture;

**Considering** that the countries of South-East Asia share a primary responsibility for strengthening the economic and social stability of the region and ensuring their peaceful and progressive national development, and that they are determined to ensure their stability and security from external interference in any form or manifestation in order to preserve their national identities in accordance with the ideals and aspirations of their peoples;

**Affirming** that all foreign bases are temporary and remain only with the expressed concurrence of the countries concerned and are not intended to be used directly or indirectly to subvert the national independence and freedom of States in the area or prejudice the orderly processes of their national development;

**DO HEREBY DECLARE:**

**First**, the establishment of an Association for Regional Cooperation among the countries of South-East Asia to be known as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

**Second**, that the aims and purposes of the Association shall be:

1. To accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of South-East Asian Nations;
2. To promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries of the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter;
3. To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields;
4. To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres;



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5. To collaborate more effectively for the greater utilization of their agriculture and industries, the expansion of their trade, including the study of the problems of international commodity trade, the improvement of their transportation and communications facilities and the raising of the living standards of their peoples;
6. To promote South-East Asian studies;
7. To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes, and explore all avenues for even closer cooperation among themselves.

**Third**, that to carry out these aims and purposes, the following machinery shall be established:

- (a) Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers, which shall be by rotation and referred to as ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. Special Meetings of Foreign Ministers may be convened as required.
- (b) A Standing committee, under the chairmanship of the Foreign Minister of the host country or his representative and having as its members the accredited Ambassadors of the other member countries, to carry on the work of the Association in between Meetings of Foreign Ministers.
- (c) Ad-Hoc Committees and Permanent Committees of specialists and officials on specific subjects.
- (d) A National Secretariat in each member country to carry out the work of the Association on behalf of that country and to service the Annual or Special Meetings of Foreign Ministers, the Standing Committee and such other committees as may hereafter be established.

**Fourth**, that the Association is open for participation to all States in the South-East Asian Region subscribing to the aforementioned aims, principles and purposes.

**Fifth**, that the Association represents the collective will of the nations of South-East Asia to bind themselves together in friendship and cooperation and, through joint efforts and sacrifices, secure for their peoples and for posterity the blessings of peace, freedom and for the blessings of peace, freedom and prosperity.

**Done** in Bangkok on the Eighth Day of August in the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven.

**Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Secretariat**

*Bali, 24 February 1976*

**T**he Governments of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore and the Kingdom of Thailand:

*Being* members of the Association of South East Asian Nations, hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”,

*Mindful* of the rapidly growing activities of ASEAN since its establishment on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1967, in Bangkok, Thailand, in the implementation of the aims and purposes of – ASEAN embodied in the ASEAN Declaration;

*Recognizing* that the growth has increased the need in ASEAN for a central administrative organ to provide for greater efficiency in the coordination of ASEAN organs and for more effective implementation of ASEAN projects and activities;

**Do hereby agree as follows:**

**ARTICLE 1**

**The ASEAN Secretariat  
*Establishment and Location***

1. The Contracting Parties hereby establish a Permanent Secretariat for ASEAN which shall be called the ASEAN Secretariat, hereinafter referred to as “the Secretariat.”
2. The Secretariat shall have its seat in Jakarta, Indonesia hereinafter referred to as “the Host Country”.

**ARTICLE 2**

**Composition**

1. The Secretariat shall comprise the Head of the Secretariat who shall be known as the Secretary General of the ASEAN Secretariat, hereinafter referred to as “the Secretary General”, a Staff and a Locally Recruited Staff.

**ARTICLE 3**

**Secretary-General**

*Appointment*

3. The Secretary-General shall be appointed by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers upon nomination by a Contracting Party on a rotational basis in alphabetical order. The tenure of office shall be two years.

*Function and Powers*

4. The Secretary-General shall:
  - i. Be responsible to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, when it is in session and to the Standing Committee at all other times;
  - ii. Take charge of the Secretariat and be responsible for the discharge of all the functions and responsibilities entrusted to him by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and by the Standing Committee;
  - iii. Have authority to address communications directly to the Contracting Parties;
    - a. attend personally all the ASEAN Ministerial Meetings as Secretary;
    - b. be in attendance at all Meetings of the Standing Committee; and
    - c. attend or designate a representative to attend the meetings of all ASEAN Committees and other similar bodies;
  - iv. Keep himself informed of the activities of all ASEAN Committees and other similar bodies, and
    - a. explain, whenever necessary, the directives of the Standing Committee to ASEAN Committees and other similar bodies;
    - b. ensure that the ASEAN Committees and other similar bodies are informed on relevant current developments in the activities of ASEAN;



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- c. act as the channel for formal communications between:
    - 1. ASEAN Permanent Committees, ad hoc Committees, Expert Groups, and other ASEAN bodies and the Standing Committee; and
    - 2. The Secretariat and other international organizations and Governments, and
  - d. assist, where required, various committees, groups and bodies set up within the framework of ASEAN;
  - v. ascertain facts or seek clarifications for the purpose of reporting to the Standing Committee for its consideration;
  - vi. prepare an Annual Report for submission to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting;
  - vii. harmonize, facilitate and monitor progress in the implementation of all approved ASEAN activities;
  - viii. initiate plans and programmes of activities for ASEAN regional cooperation in accordance with approved policy guidelines;
  - ix. be responsible for the Secretariat's security;
  - x. prepare the Annual Budget Estimates of the Secretariat for the approval of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting;
  - xi. exercise the administrative and financial powers vested in him under the provisions of this Agreement and such other Rules and Regulations as may hereafter come into effect;
  - xii. act as custodial, of all ASEAN documents; and
  - xiii. perform such other duties and missions as the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting or the Standing Committee may direct.
- 5. The Secretary-General shall present drafts of Staff Regulations, Financial Regulations and Security Regulations for the Secretariat to the Standing Committee for its approval and shall apply and carry out the same from such date as it may specify.
  - 6. The Secretary – General may propose amendments to such Regulations for the approval of the Standing Committee and such amendments shall come into force from such date as it may specify.

#### ARTICLE 4

##### Staff of Secretariat

- 7. Composition and Appointment comprise:
  - i. three Bureau Directors;
  - ii. a Foreign Trade and Economic Relation Officer;
  - iii. an Administrative Officer;
  - iv. a Public information Officer; and
  - v. an Assistant to the Secretary-General. who shall be appointed by the Standing Committee, upon nomination by Contracting Parties.
- 8. The Bureau Directors shall be at least of counselor rank and each of the other officers shall be at least of first secretary rank.
- 9. The principal considerations in such nominations and appointments shall be the highest standard of professional efficiency and integrity, equitable distribution and rotation of post among nationals of the Contracting Parties.
- 10. Where a Staff member nominated by a Contracting Party has been seconded from the Home Service to the Secretariat, he shall not, by reason of such appointment, lose his seniority or promotional prospects in the Home Service.

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11. The appointment of Staff members shall be for a term of three years, provided that, in special circumstances, the Standing Committee, upon recommendation of the Secretary General made after consultation by him with the nominating Contracting Party, may extend the term of such appointment for a period not exceeding another full term.
  12. The functions and duties of the officers, other than the Bureau Directors, shall be set out in the Duty Schedules to be prepared by the Secretary General and approved by the Standing Committee.

#### **ARTICLE 5** **Bureau Directors**

13. The three Bureau Directors shall head the following Bureaus respectively:
  - i. Economic;
  - ii. Science and Technology; and
  - iii. Social and Cultural.in that order of seniority.
14. Each Bureau Director shall, on his own initiative or upon request by a Contracting Party to the Secretary General, be responsible for preparing ,working papers containing comments and appropriate recommendations of the Secretariat on subjects of interest and fields of activities within the charge of his Bureau, for the consideration of the representatives of the Contracting Parties at their meetings.
15. The activities of ASEAN Permanent Committees Ad Hoc Committees and Expert Groups, in so far as they relate to the activities of the three Bureaus referred to above, shall also come within the purview of the respective Bureaus.

16. If for any reason the Secretary-General is unable temporarily to perform his functions, the Chairman of the Standing Committee shall appoint the most senior Bureau Director to act as Secretary-General.

#### **ARTICLE 6** **Locally Recruited Staff**

17. The Secretary-General shall employ such Locally Recruited Staff for clerical and other office duties as are necessary to the normal functioning of the Secretariat.
18. The Locally Recruited Staff shall be nationals of the member States, recruited locally in the Host Country, and shall be appointed by the Secretary General.
19. At the end of the first yea,, the Secretary General shall make an overall recommendation to the Standing Committee on the actual requirements regarding the the size, composition and emolument, the Locally Recruited Staff.
20. The financial provision for the employment of the Locally Recruited Staff shall be incorporated in the Annual Budget of the Secretariat.
21. The Standing Committee may approve increases of personnel during an ASEAN financial year.

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**ARTICLE 7**

**Salaries**

22. The salaries and allowances of the Secretary General the three Bureau Directors, the Foreign Trade and Economic Relations officer, the Administrative officer, the Public information Officer and the Assistant to the Secretary-General shall be determined by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting which may, from time to time, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, review such salaries and allowances.

**ARTICLE 8**

**Staff Regulations**

23. Subject to the other provisions of this Agreement, the terms and conditions of employment of the members of the Staff and of the Locally Recruited staff of the Secretariat shall be set out in Staff Regulations.

**ARTICLE 9**

**Budget and Funding**

24. An Annual Budget for the Secretariat shall be submitted to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for approval.

25. The Annual Budget shall also include the numbers and the grades of staff personnel to be employed.

26. The budget of the Secretariat shall be categorized into:

- i. Capital outlay; and
- ii. Recurrent expenditure.

27. Capital outlay shall include all costs related to the acquisition of land, building construction, provision of basic utilities and services, initial decoration and office furniture and equipment

and installation of air conditioning plants, major maintenance and such other items as the Host Country may offer.

28. Recurrent expenditure shall include all other expenses including payment of salaries and allowances of all ASEAN Secretariat personnel, utility charges, traveling expenses, office requisites and stationery, minor and annual maintenance and all other administrative expenses.

29. Capital outlay expenditure shall be borne by the Host Country. Recurrent expenditure shall be shared on a basis to be determined by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

**ARTICLE 10**

**Auditing of the Accounts**

30. The accounts of the Secretariat shall be audited annually by the Audit Committee consisting of three qualified members nominated by three of the Contracting Parties in rotation and appointed for a period of two years by the Standing Committee.

31. The annual accounts together with the Report of the Audit Committee there on shall be submitted to the Standing Committee which shall cause the same to be laid before the next Ministerial Meeting together with its comments.

**ARTICLE 11**

**Privileges and Immunities**

32. The Host Country shall grant to the Secretariat, the Secretary-General and the Staff such privileges and immunities as may be necessary for the performance of their duties and functions.

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**ARTICLE 12**  
**Amendments**

33. Any Contracting Party may propose amendments to this Agreement. When approved by the Contracting Parties or by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, such amendments shall come into force from such date as may be specified.

**ARTICLE 13**  
**Ratification**

34. This Agreement is subject to ratification by the Contracting Parties.
35. The Instruments of Ratification shall be deposited with the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

**ARTICLE 14**  
**Entry Into Force**

36. This Agreement shall enter into force of the date on which the fifth Instrument of Ratification is deposited.

**ARTICLE 15**  
**Accession**

37. This Agreement is open for accession by any Government which is accepted as a new member of ASEAN.
38. The Instrument of Accession shall be deposited with the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.
39. With respect to any such new member Government acceding to this Agreement after it has come Into force, this Agreement shall become effective in relation to t at new member Government on the date of deposit of its Instrument of Accession.

40. if such an instrument of Accession is deposited before this Agreement comes into force, it shall become effective in relation to that new member Government on the date this Agreement comes into force.

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

**DONE** at Denpasar, Bali, in five originals in the English Language this Twenty-Fourth Day of February, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Six.

## APPENDIX 3

### ASEAN Cooperation on Social Recovery and Opportunities for Collaboration with Dialogue Partners / International Agencies

#### Introduction

1. This paper provides an overview of ASEAN policies and mandates for addressing the social impact of the financial and economic crisis. Secondly, it provides an overview of the possible areas of collaboration with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and international agencies in the area of social recovery, taking into account pending ASEAN projects and programmes. Finally, it suggests some approaches for collaboration.

#### I. Overview of ASEAN's Response: Policies and Mandates

##### *Sixth ASEAN Summit: Hanoi Plan of Action*

2. At the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, held in December 1998, the ASEAN Leaders recognised that the financial crisis has a social dimension and that the poor and vulnerable were the most affected. The leaders expressed their commitment to safeguard the interests of the poor and emphasised that the eradication of poverty shall be the ultimate goal of their strategies for recovery and growth. They *“urged the international community to step up their technical and financial assistance in this area as well as ensure that the reforms in the international financial architecture include a social dimension to protect the poor”*.

3. The concern for the poor was also given prominence in the six-year “Hanoi Plan of Action” (HPA) adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit. Apart from initiatives to hasten economic recovery, the HPA includes the section: “Promote social development and address the social impact of the financial and economic crisis” which comprises the following actions:

- ▶ Strive to mitigate the social impact of the regional financial and economic crisis;
- ▶ Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication and, in view of the financial and economic crisis, implement the ASEAN Action Plan on Social Safety Nets to ensure that measures are taken to protect the most vulnerable sectors of our societies; and
- ▶ Support activities and social development programmes aimed at addressing issues of unequal economic development, poverty and socio-economic disparities.

##### *ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE)*

4. In view of the deepening impact of the economic crisis on the social well-being of the region, the Second Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) convened in October 1998 agreed to establish an ASEAN Task Force on Social Safety Nets with the following terms of reference, among others:

- ▶ to serve as a clearinghouse for the matching and provision of technical expertise to assist Member Countries in the design and development of social safety net programmes for the vulnerable and the disadvantaged; and
- ▶ to serve as a forum for mobilising resources and technical assistance from international aid agencies, ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, the ASEAN Foundation and the private sector to implement the Task Force's programmes and activities.

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5. To guide the work of the Task Force, the SOMRDPE adopted an *ASEAN Action Plan on Social Safety Nets* with four priority areas as follows:
    - ▶ assessing and monitoring the social and economic impact of the crisis and identifying the target groups affected and their needs;
    - ▶ developing and implementing social safety net programmes for the disadvantaged and vulnerable;
    - ▶ monitoring and improving the effectiveness of economic and social services delivery; and
    - ▶ promote public awareness of the impact of the crisis on the poor.
  6. The *ASEAN Action Plan on Social Safety Nets* was subsequently adopted by the Informal Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication held in December 1998 in Jakarta.
  7. Three projects on rural development under the *ASEAN Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication* adopted by the Inaugural Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication held in October 1997 are also relevant in addressing poverty alleviation:
    - ▶ build capacity for generating data on poverty incidence and establish a poverty monitoring and information network;
    - ▶ implement a regional training programme for facilitators to work in anti-poverty programmes in the rural areas with skills on economic management, communication, agricultural extension microcredit services; and
    - ▶ develop a campaign for enhancing national and regional public awareness.

#### *ASEAN Labour Ministers*

8. The ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting held in Yangon from 14 to 15 May 1999 endorsed the following elements for a regional work programme addressing the labour and employment impact of the crisis in ASEAN and proposing strategies for recovery, under the programme *Support to Monitor and Facilitate ASEAN Economic Recovery* prepared by the ASEAN Secretariat, with assistance from the UNDP:
  - ▶ sharing and exchange of experience and best practices in developing social protection and social security systems;
  - ▶ promoting tripartite cooperation through increased consultations among the social partners, in relation to economic restructuring, including strengthening of tripartite institutions and mediation/conciliation mechanisms; and
  - ▶ enhancing capacity for designing programmes or policies on employment generation, focussing on active labour market policies and re-training.



## II. Areas for Collaboration With ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and International Agencies

9. This section groups ASEAN's priority concerns and projects regarding the social impact of the financial crisis into the following four categories and provides a summary of priority projects adopted by various ASEAN bodies:
- ▶ Monitoring of the social impact;
  - ▶ Design, implementation, delivery and evaluation of social safety net services;
  - ▶ Impact on labour and employment; and
  - ▶ Promoting public awareness on the social impact of the crisis.

### *Monitoring the Poverty Impact*

10. Regarding the monitoring of the poverty impact, the ASEAN Task Force on Social Safety Nets identified three priority projects as follows:
- ▶ Developing and increasing the capacity for social impact assessments to aid the design of social safety net programmes;
  - ▶ Conducting training on assessing the micro impact of macroeconomic and structural adjustment policies; and
  - ▶ Enhancement of national capacities for generating comparative poverty data among ASEAN Countries.
11. The Second Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices held in January 1999 in Bali agreed to launch a regional project to undertake *a survey on the socio-economic impact of the financial crisis on ASEAN*. The survey would include the impact of the financial crisis on households and industries, among others.

### *Design, Implementation, Delivery and Evaluation of Social Safety Net Services*

12. The following are priority project concepts adopted by the ASEAN Task Force on Social Safety Nets (SSN) which are currently being developed for funding consideration:
- ▶ Strengthening capacity of ASEAN Member Countries to design emergency social safety nets;
  - ▶ Increasing the capacity to design social protection/social security programmes based on a comparative understanding of best practices from ASEAN countries and elsewhere;
  - ▶ Improving the competency of facilitators to strengthen the ability of community organisations to develop technical and institutional capacity in microcredit management, the use of participatory approach to development and strategies on marketing of rural products;
  - ▶ Increasing awareness and understanding of GOs on strategies to forge partnerships with NGOs and the private/business sector in addressing the social impact of the crisis and in alleviating poverty in the ASEAN region;
  - ▶ Improving capacity building for civil society/people's organisations to develop strategies to ensure appropriate delivery of social services to designated target groups;
  - ▶ Development of alternative strategies for financing social safety net activities; and
  - ▶ Sharing and exchange of experiences and best practices on enhancing accountability, transparency and effectiveness in the implementation of social safety net programmes.

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### *Impact on Labour and Employment*

- 13.** To assist the ASEAN Labour Ministers respond to the labour and employment impact of the crisis, the ASEAN Secretariat, prepared a proposal for developing a work programme to respond to the labour and employment impact, with the following pilot activities:
- ▶ sharing and exchange of experience and best practices in developing social protection and social security systems;
  - ▶ promoting tripartite cooperation through increased consultations among the social partners, in relation to economic restructuring, including strengthening of tripartite institutions and mediation/conciliation mechanisms; and
  - ▶ enhancing capacity for designing programmes or policies on employment generation, focussing on active labour market policies and re-training.
- 14.** Pending programmes/projects under functional cooperation which are relevant in addressing the impact of the crisis on labour and employment include the following:
- ▶ ASEAN Project on Human Resource Development (HRD) Planning (ASEAN Sub-Committee on Labour Affairs);
  - ▶ ASEAN Work Programme on Informal Sector Development (Labour Affairs);
  - ▶ ASEAN Work Programme on Skills-Training for Out-of-School Youth (ASEAN Sub-Committee on Youth); and
  - ▶ ASEAN Network for Women in Skills-Training (ASEAN Sub-Committee on Women).

### *Promoting Public Awareness*

- 15.** A proposal on promoting of public awareness on the social impact of the crisis has also been prepared for funding consideration. The proposal calls for an ASEAN information campaign to support the work of the Task Force on Social Safety Nets by publishing the ASEAN Poverty Watch and the use of broadcast media and the Internet in providing accurate and timely information on ASEAN's efforts to address the social impact.
- 16.** A complete listing of the proposed activities covering all four priority areas enumerated in this section. Given the comprehensiveness of the list, it is unlikely that any one single donor would be able to adequately marshal the resources required to implement all the activities included in the work programme. Accordingly, interested Dialogue Partners and international agencies are requested to focus on areas in which they have on-going related activities, expertise or comparative advantage.

### **III. Status of Collaboration with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners**

- 17.** As can be seen in the preceding section's review of ASEAN's priorities, a considerable amount of groundwork has already been undertaken by several ASEAN bodies to respond to the social impact of the financial crisis. A framework of cooperation comprising the plans of action on social safety nets and poverty eradication and the establishment of a Task Force on Social Safety Nets, is already in place. Accordingly, interested Dialogue



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Partners and international agencies are requested to utilise the various plans of action as a basis for developing collaborative activities and projects.

- 18.** In an effort to mobilise support for the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA), the ASEAN Secretariat convened the ASEAN Development Cooperation Forum (ADCF) from 6 to 7 May 1999 in Jakarta to bring together ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, international agencies, foundations and other interested parties to consider support for the implementation of priority projects under the HPA. In response to project concepts on social safety nets presented by the ASEAN Secretariat during the Forum, the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) informed the ASEAN Secretariat in August 1999 that it would provide A\$500,000 to support the following activities under the Asia Recovery Fund:
- ▶ Developing capacity for social impact assessments in aiding the design of social safety net programmes; and
  - ▶ Increasing the capacity to design social protection/social safety nets programmes based on a comparative understanding of best practices from ASEAN Member Countries and elsewhere.
- 19.** New Zealand has expressed an interest to support the following activities:
- ▶ Increasing awareness and understanding of Government Organisations on strategies to forge partnerships with NGOs and private/business sector in addressing the social impact of the crisis and in alleviating poverty in the ASEAN Region; and
  - ▶ Improve capacity building for civil society/people's organisations to develop strategies to ensure appropriate delivery of social services to designated target groups.
- 20.** In March 2000, ASEAN and AusAID consultants commenced work on a project design study for two projects on social impact assessments and social safety net design. The consultants conducted study visits to Member Countries in order to identify needs and lessons learned on social safety nets for the purpose of preparing a project design document to be presented at a regional workshop to be convened in conjunction with the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Social Safety Nets, tentatively scheduled for June 2000. The design study will identify best practice models of social assessment methodologies, social protection measures and emergency social safety nets for sharing and dissemination at the regional level and also design a series of training workshops for ASEAN social planners to enhance their planning capabilities in this field.
- 21.** In July 1999, the UNDP and the ASEAN Secretariat signed a programme document "Support to Monitor and Facilitate ASEAN Economic Recovery" which includes the following outputs relevant to social recovery:
- ▶ Harmonisation of the social impact assessment mechanisms in Member Countries through comparative analysis of existing mechanisms and practices;
  - ▶ Recommended alternative strategies for ASEAN Member Countries in designing and implementing effective social safety net programmes;

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- ▶ A work programme/Plan of action to respond to the labour and employment impact of the crisis in ASEAN; and
  - ▶ Recommended set of strategies to address the lack of access by women to opportunities for employment and skills enhancement.
- 22.** A Strategic Planning Workshop was held in Cebu, Philippines, from 10 to 12 April 2000, to discuss components of the regional work programme addressing the labour and employment impact of the crisis, as well as a Vision and Mission Statement for the ASEAN Labour Ministers, taking into account the priorities called for by the social recovery process and the progress of ASEAN's economic integration, as well as by the rapid changes of globalisation and trade liberalisation.
- 23.** In view of the interest expressed and support provided for ASEAN projects on social safety nets, other interested ASEAN Dialogue Partners and international donor agencies may wish to consider the following:
- ▶ identify from the attached list projects and activities in which the Dialogue Partner/international agency are interested in co-developing and implementing with ASEAN, particularly those which are not taken up by AusAID, New Zealand and the UNDP;
  - ▶ supplementing the initial assistance provided by AusAID, New Zealand and UNDP in implementing the selected ASEAN projects;
  - ▶ if a Dialogue Partner/international agency is implementing a project in which some ASEAN Member Countries are already participating, the agency may wish to consider inviting all other Member Countries to participate; and
  - ▶ if a Dialogue Partner/international agency is implementing a series of bilateral projects in a number of Member Countries, a regional ASEAN component could be built into the projects, focusing on the dissemination of findings, standardization of methodologies, or on ensuring comparability of assessments and surveys; and
  - ▶ consider participating in the Second Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Social Safety Nets tentatively scheduled to be held in Indonesia in June 2000.

## APPENDIX 4

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### Ministerial Understanding on ASEAN Cooperation in Rural Development and Poverty Eradication

*We*, the ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, Member Countries of ASEAN, **Reaffirming** the Declaration of ASEAN Concord signed in Bali, in February 1976 which noted that the elimination of poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy is a primary concern, and resolving to intensify cooperation in economic and social development, with particular emphasis on the promotion of social justice and on the improvement of the living standards of the people in ASEAN;

**Recalling** the decision of the Fifth ASEAN Summit Declaration of 1995 to improve the quality of life of the peoples of ASEAN by ensuring social justice, improving the quality of and access to social services and working towards the reduction of poverty;

**Noting** that the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development proclaimed, among others, that all states and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world;

**Endeavouring** to further the commitment of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and to implement its Plan of Action with respect to the goal of eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of human kind;

**Recalling** also the commitments made in 1995 Beijing Platform of Action at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women to give top priority to eradicating poverty among women through advocacy, resource mobilisation, tapping the potential of women as equal partners and mainstreaming gender concerns in the economic, social and national development process;

**Recalling** the principles of the 1996 Cairo International Conference On Population and Development which stated that all states and all people shall cooperate to eradicate poverty and attain sustainable development which can decrease the disparities in standard of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people in the world.

**Pursuant** to the 1996 Istanbul Declaration at the Second United Nations Conference of Human Settlements (Habitat II) of ensuring adequate habitable shelter for all, and providing adequate employment opportunities that can minimise rural-to-urban migration.

**Recalling** that the 1996 Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action stated that poverty eradication is essential to improve access to food and that equitable access to staple food supplies should be ensured as poverty, hunger and malnutrition are some of the principal causes of accelerated migration from rural to urban areas in developing countries.

**Recognizing** that empowerment and active participation of rural population, particularly of the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, plays a critical role in rural development within the framework of national development strategy, structure and system of ASEAN countries;

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**Recognizing** the challenges of the new Millennium particularly with respect to the impact of globalisation, trade and investment liberalisation and information technology on rural development and poverty eradication efforts;

**Do hereby declare our agreement** to strengthen and coordinate ASEAN collaboration in rural development and poverty eradication by adopting the following as the **Framework of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication**.

### **Vision**

The ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication are committed towards eradicating poverty, with particular emphasis on promoting the development of progressive, prosperous, and self-reliant rural communities, and thus contribute towards creating a caring society in the ASEAN Member Countries.

### **Objective**

The objective of the Plan of Action is to formulate strategies, and implement programmes and projects and carry out activities to realise the Vision.

### **Challenges**

Guided by the Vision, the Plan of Action will address the following challenges:

- i. socio-economic disparities between the rural and urban communities;
- ii. socio-economic disparities among regions within each ASEAN Member Country;
- iii. the mainstreaming of gender concerns in the rural development process;
- iv. the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;

- v. unemployment and underemployment, low productivity, illiteracy, backwardness, inadequate economic opportunities, the increasing incidence of social problems, as well as lack of basic infrastructure and social amenities which continue to constrain rural development of most ASEAN countries;
- vi. the impact of environmental degradation, natural and man-made disasters;
- vii. internal migration in the Member Countries; and
- viii. the impact of globalisation and information technology in the rural areas.

### **Strategies**

The strategic thrusts for achieving the objectives of the Plan of Action are as follows:

- a. developing human resources as a means to empower individuals, families and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to cope effectively with the challenges of modernisation and globalisation;
- b. developing capacity for policy formulation and programme implementation;
- c. promoting the sharing of experiences, training resources, best practices and information;
- d. encouraging the active participation of the private/business sector and the empowerment of the non-governmental/people's organisations;
- e. promoting networking among the national and regional rural development/poverty research institutes of the ASEAN Member Countries;



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- f. promoting collaboration with other relevant regional and international organisations; and
- g. promoting the development of common positions on matters related to rural development and poverty eradication among ASEAN Member Countries.

### **Programme of Action/Priorities**

The programme of action shall address the following areas of concern :

- a. developing an ASEAN capacity for monitoring and assessing poverty incidence and trends;
- b. facilitating regional networking among the following:
  - ▶ governmental organisations dealing with rural development and poverty eradication;
  - ▶ rural development and poverty research institutes;
  - ▶ non-governmental/people's organisations; and
  - ▶ private/business sectors.
- c. sharing of information, best practices, lessons learned, research capacity and exchange of technical expertise in priority areas to be identified by the Senior Officials;
- d. developing regional training programmes on priority areas identified under the Programme of Action;
- e. developing a regional rural volunteer programme; and
- f. promoting greater public awareness on the need to accelerate rural development and poverty eradication.

### **Institutional Framework**

To strengthen and coordinate ASEAN collaboration on rural development and poverty eradication under ASEAN Functional Cooperation, and to implement the Plan of Action, Member Countries agree to the following:

- a. that the ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) shall endeavour to meet at least once in two years and informally in between and that the meetings be hosted and chaired on a rotational basis;
- b. to convene the Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) at least once a year;
- c. the ASEAN Senior Officials on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) will have the following functions, among others:
  - i. to plan, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies and programmes adopted by the ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE);
  - ii. to report to the ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE);
  - iii. to encourage and enhance collaboration with governmental organisations of ASEAN dealing with rural development and poverty eradication, regional and international organisations, the private/business sector and non-governmental/people's organisations;
  - iv. to convene ad-hoc working groups of experts to assist it in carrying out its functions, when appropriate; and

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- v. to ensure the designation of a national focal point/office for rural development and poverty eradication in each Member Country that could coordinate at the national level and also with other ASEAN focal points/offices.
  - d. the chairmanship of the Senior Officials Meeting will coincide with the chairmanship of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE); and
  - e. the ASEAN Secretariat will assist in coordinating with relevant ASEAN Functional and Economic bodies to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action.

### **Time Frame**

The ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication shall initiate actions to operationalise priority programmes, projects and activities under the Plan of Action for an initial period of five years taking into account the need to synchronise with other relevant international and regional Plans of Action.

### **Funding Strategies**

To implement priority projects under the Plan of Action, the Senior Officials on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, assisted by the ASEAN Secretariat, shall consider developing the following:

- a. cost-sharing arrangements among Member Countries; and
- b. resource mobilisation strategies to obtain funding from ASEAN funding resources, the ASEAN Dialogue Partners, relevant regional and international organisations and the private sector, among others.

*Done* at Subang Jaya, Malaysia on the twenty third-day of October 1997 in two originals in the English language.

## APPENDIX 5

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### Framework for the ASEAN Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication

#### Introduction

This document outlines the framework for the formulation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication.

#### Vision

The ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication are committed towards eradicating poverty, with particular emphasis on promoting the development of progressive, prosperous, and self-reliant rural communities, and thus contribute towards creating a caring society in the ASEAN Member Countries.

#### Objective

The objective of the Plan of Action is to formulate strategies, and implement programmes and projects and carry out activities to realise the Vision.

#### Challenges

Guided by the Vision, the Plan of Action will address the following challenges:

- i. socio-economic disparities between the rural and urban communities;
- ii. socio-economic disparities among regions within each ASEAN Member Country;
- iii. the mainstreaming of gender concerns in the rural development process;
- iv. the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;
- v. unemployment and underemployment, low productivity, illiteracy,
- vi. backwardness, inadequate economic opportunities, the increasing incidence of social problems, as well as lack of basic infrastructure and social amenities which continue to constrain rural development of most ASEAN countries;

- vii. the impact of environmental degradation, natural and man-made disasters;
- viii. internal migration in the Member Countries; and
- ix. the impact of globalisation and information technology in the rural areas.

#### Strategies

The strategic thrusts for achieving the objectives of the Plan of Action are as follows:

- a. developing human resources as a means to empower individuals, families and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to cope effectively with the challenges of modernisation and globalisation;
- b. developing capacity for policy formulation and programme implementation;
- c. promoting the sharing of experiences, training resources, best practices and information;
- d. encouraging the active participation of the private/business sector and the empowerment of non-governmental/people's organisations;
- e. promoting networking among the national and regional rural development/poverty research institutes of the ASEAN Member Countries;
- f. promoting collaboration with other relevant regional and international organisations; and
- g. promoting the development of common positions on matters related to rural development and poverty eradication among ASEAN Member Countries.

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## Programme of Action/Priorities

The programme of action shall address the following areas of concern:

- a. developing an ASEAN capacity for monitoring and assessing poverty incidence and trends:
  - ▶ developing a common set of comparable socio-economic indicators documenting poverty, particularly in the rural areas, to facilitate the development of regional poverty reduction targets;
  - ▶ strengthening the capacity of national statistical agencies to develop management information systems for rural development and poverty eradication; and
  - ▶ monitoring and assessing the mainstreaming of gender concerns in rural development and poverty eradication.
- b. facilitating regional networking among the following:
  - ▶ governmental organisations dealing with rural development, and poverty eradication;
  - ▶ rural development and poverty research institutes;
  - ▶ non-governmental/people's organisations; and
  - ▶ private/business sectors.
- c. sharing of information, best practices, lessons learned, research capacity and exchange of technical expertise such as the following:
  - ▶ management of internal population migration;
  - ▶ micro-finance and rural credit;
  - ▶ formal and non-formal education;
  - ▶ small and medium industry development;
  - ▶ household/family-based economic sector;
  - ▶ transfer of relevant, high-productivity technologies, including information technology;
  - ▶ promotion of innovative approaches to the delivery of pre-school education and child care;
  - ▶ promotion of initiatives to curb the rising trend of social problems;
  - ▶ safety nets for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;
  - ▶ family welfare programmes;
  - ▶ sustainable rural development policies, which include the protection of the environment;
  - ▶ community development; and
  - ▶ rural infrastructure operation and maintenance.
- d. developing regional training programmes on priority areas identified under the Programme of Action;
- e. developing a regional rural volunteer programme; and
- f. promoting greater public awareness on the need to accelerate rural development and poverty eradication.



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### **Institutional Framework**

To strengthen and coordinate ASEAN collaboration on rural development and poverty eradication under ASEAN Functional Cooperation, and to implement the Plan of Action, Member Countries agree to the following:

- a. that the ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication shall endeavour to meet at least once in two years and informally in between, and that the meetings be hosted and chaired on a rotational basis;
- b. to convene the Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication at least once a year;
- c. the ASEAN Senior Officials on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication will have the following functions, among others:
  - i. to plan, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies and programmes adopted by the ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication;
  - ii. to report to the ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication;
  - iii. to encourage and enhance collaboration with governmental organisations of ASEAN dealing with rural development and poverty eradication, regional and international organisations, the private/business sector and non-governmental/people's organisations;
  - iv. to convene ad-hoc working groups of experts to assist it in carrying out its functions, when appropriate; and
  - v. to ensure the designation of a national focal point/office for rural development

and poverty eradication in each Member Country that could coordinate at the national level and also with other ASEAN focal points/offices.

- d. the chairmanship of the Senior Officials Meeting will coincide with the chairmanship of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication; and
- e. the ASEAN Secretariat will assist in coordinating with relevant ASEAN Functional and Economic Bodies, where appropriate, to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action.

### **Time Frame**

The ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication shall initiate actions to operationalise priority programmes, projects and activities under the Plan of Action for an initial period of five years, taking into account the need to synchronise with other relevant international and regional Plans of Action.

### **Funding Strategies**

To implement priority projects under the Plan of Action, the Senior Officials on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, assisted by the ASEAN Secretariat, shall consider developing the following:

- a. cost-sharing arrangements among Member Countries; and
- b. resource mobilisation strategies to obtain funding from ASEAN funding resources, the ASEAN Dialogue Partners, relevant regional and international organisations and the private sector, among others.

## Introduction

1. As the regional financial and economic crisis persists in the ASEAN region, social problems have loomed larger as many workers face unemployment and vulnerable and disadvantaged communities experience greater hardship and poverty. Since much of the region is affected, the combined potential of social problems from desperate unemployed workers and the new poor pose a threat to national, as well as regional, stability.
2. It is generally recognised that social safety net programmes cannot be sustained without the resumption of socioeconomic development programmes. While efforts to promote economic recovery must be emphasised both at the national and regional levels, through, among others, intensifying intra-regional trade and investment, it is nonetheless important to give equal attention to the social impacts of the financial and economic crisis, and to mitigate the immediate impact on the incidence of poverty and social well-being, particularly of the rural areas in the ASEAN region.
3. In this regard, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication held in Kuala Lumpur from 29-30 October 1998, agreed that an ASEAN Task Force on Social Safety Nets be established with the objective of developing and implementing an action plan to ameliorate the impact of the crisis. In implementing the action plan, the Task Force would ensure that gender and environmental concerns are taken into account.

## Objectives

4. The primary objective of the Action Plan is to build capacity in participating countries on the following:
  - a. assessing and monitoring the social and economic impact of the crisis and identifying the target groups affected and their needs;
  - b. developing and implementing social safety net programmes for the disadvantaged and vulnerable;
  - c. monitoring and improving the effectiveness of economic and social services delivery; and
  - d. promote public awareness of the impact of the crisis particularly on the poor.

### *I. Assess and Monitor the Social and Economic Impact*

5. In view of the importance of data for the planning of programmes and the targeting of sub-populations affected by the crisis, the Task Force will develop and implement projects on the following, among others:
  - a. methodology for identifying target groups affected by the crisis and their needs;
  - b. capacity building for social impact assessments to obtain information for designing social safety net programmes; and
  - c. assessing the micro impact of macroeconomic and structural adjustment policies.



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### *II. Develop and Implement Social Safety Net Programmes*

6. As the economies of the region are affected by negative economic growth and inflation, unemployment and poverty rates are expected to increase. Since several countries are already implementing social safety net programmes for vulnerable and disadvantaged persons as part of their structural adjustment programmes to address the impact of unemployment and poverty, the task force will consider developing projects to share experience and best practice on the design and implementation of the following, among others:
- a. social security systems for persons working in the informal sector,
  - b. services for school dropouts and street children,
  - c. workfare (emergency work relief) programmes,
  - d. micro-finance and self-employment programmes,
  - e. maternal and child health services,
  - f. psycho-social care for affected families;
  - g. disaster victims/displaced communities; and
  - h. assistance for the elderly and disabled.

### *III. Monitor and Improve the Delivery of Social Safety Net Services*

7. There may be a need to strengthen the delivery of social safety net services in times of crisis when such services are in great demand. Of particular importance is to ensure that social services delivery is decentralised and aided by non-governmental/peoples' organisations and the private and business sectors. Accordingly, the task force will develop projects to address
- a. capacity building for non-governmental and people's organisations to improve delivery of emergency services to affected populations;
  - b. sharing of experience and best practices on effective delivery of social safety net services;
  - c. training of facilitators to carry out community-based rural development;
  - d. forging of partnerships with private sector/business to develop anti-poverty programmes;
  - e. monitoring and evaluating social safety net programmes.

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***IV. Promote Public Awareness on the Social Impact of the Crisis***

- 8.** Information and motivational campaigns need to be launched in ASEAN to support individual Member Country campaigns and support current ASEAN programmes which are designed to address the social impact of the crisis. Disinformation must be replaced with clarity of direction and accurate facts. A set of communication messages will be crafted to support the campaign. The ASEAN information and motivation campaigns in support of the Task Force are expected to last for two years. These will:
  - a. deliver accurate and timely information to create greater understanding and encourage targeted action among ASEAN governments and their civil society on how to deal with the impact of the Asian crisis, using information releases over mass media and targeted publications (i.e. ASEAN Poverty Watch – a print publication and Web Site);
  - b. develop and implement an audio visual campaign to be broadcast in ASEAN countries promoting ASEAN Unity and Resolve to deal with the impact of the crisis; and
  - c. build the capability of ASEAN journalists and media to accurately report on the crisis, particularly its impact on disadvantaged sectors.
- 9.** The ASEAN Secretariat is requested to seek funding assistance from the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the UNDP and other international donor agencies and ASEAN's Dialogue Partners to develop and implement the action plan.
- 10.** The Task Force on Social Safety Nets will meet regularly to develop and review the progress of the implementation of the action plan. The Senior Officials on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) and the ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) will provide guidance on the implementation of the action plan.

## APPENDIX 7

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### ASEAN Vision 2020

*We*, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, gather today in Kuala Lumpur to reaffirm our commitment to the aims and purposes of the Association as set forth in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967, in particular to promote regional cooperation in Southeast Asia in the spirit of equality and partnership and thereby contribute towards peace, progress and prosperity in the region.

*We* in ASEAN have created a community of Southeast Asian nations at peace with one another and at peace with the world, rapidly achieving prosperity for our peoples and steadily improving their lives. Our rich diversity has provided the strength and inspiration to us to help one another foster a strong sense of community.

*We* are now a market of around 500 million people with a combined gross domestic product of US\$600 billion. We have achieved considerable results in the economic field, such as high economic growth, stability and significant poverty alleviation over the past few years. Members have enjoyed substantial trade and investment flows from significant liberalisation measures.

*We* resolve to build upon these achievements.

*Now*, as we approach the 21<sup>st</sup> century, thirty years after the birth of ASEAN, we gather to chart a vision for ASEAN on the basis of today's realities and prospects in the decades leading to the Year 2020.

*That* vision is of ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies.

### **A Concert of Southeast Asian Nations**

*We* envision the ASEAN region to be, in 2020, in full reality, a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality, as envisaged in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration of 1971.

*ASEAN* shall have, by the year 2020, established a peaceful and stable Southeast Asia where each nation is at peace with itself and where the causes for conflict have been eliminated, through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law and through the strengthening of national and regional resilience.

*We* envision a Southeast Asia where territorial and other disputes are resolved by peaceful means.

*We* envision the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia functioning fully as a binding code of conduct for our governments and peoples, to which other states with interests in the region adhere.

*We* envision a Southeast Asia free from nuclear weapons, with all the Nuclear Weapon States committed to the purposes of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty through their adherence to its Protocol. We also envision our region free from all other weapons of mass destruction.

*We* envision our rich human and natural resources contributing to our development and shared prosperity.

*We* envision the ASEAN Regional Forum as an established means for confidence-building and preventive diplomacy and for promoting conflict-resolution.

*We* envision a Southeast Asia where our mountains, rivers and seas no longer divide us but link us together in friendship, cooperation and commerce.

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*We* see ASEAN as an effective force for peace, justice and moderation in the Asia-Pacific and in the world.

### **A Partnership in Dynamic Development**

*We* resolve to chart a new direction towards the year 2020 called, ASEAN 2020: Partnership in Dynamic Development which will forge closer economic integration within ASEAN.

*We* reiterate our resolve to enhance ASEAN economic cooperation through economic development strategies, which are in line with the aspiration of our respective peoples, which put emphasis on sustainable and equitable growth, and enhance national as well as regional resilience.

*We* pledge to sustain ASEAN's high economic performance by building upon the foundation of our existing cooperation efforts, consolidating our achievements, expanding our collective efforts and enhancing mutual assistance.

*We* commit ourselves to moving towards closer cohesion and economic integration, narrowing the gap in the level of development among Member Countries, ensuring that the multilateral trading system remains fair and open, and achieving global competitiveness.

*We* will create a stable, prosperous and highly competitive ASEAN Economic Region in which there is a free flow of goods, services and investments, a freer flow of capital, equitable economic development and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities.

*We* resolve, inter-alia, to undertake the following:

- ▶ *maintain* regional macroeconomic and financial stability by promoting closer consultations in macroeconomic and financial policies.
- ▶ *advance* economic integration and cooperation by undertaking the following general strategies: fully implement the ASEAN Free Trade Area and accelerate liberalization of trade in services, realise the ASEAN Investment Area by 2010 and free flow of investments by 2020; intensify and expand sub-regional cooperation in existing and new sub-regional growth areas; further consolidate and expand extra-ASEAN regional linkages for mutual benefit cooperate to strengthen the multilateral trading system, and reinforce the role of the business sector as the engine of growth.
- ▶ *promote* a modern and competitive small and medium enterprises (SME) sector in ASEAN which will contribute to the industrial development and efficiency of the region.
- ▶ *accelerate* the free flow of professional and other services in the region.
- ▶ *promote* financial sector liberalisation and closer cooperation in money and capital market, tax, insurance and customs matters as well as closer consultations in macroeconomic and financial policies.
- ▶ *accelerate* the development of science and technology including information technology by establishing a regional information technology network and centers of excellence for dissemination of and easy access to data and information.



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- ▶ *establish* interconnecting arrangements in the field of energy and utilities for electricity, natural gas and water within ASEAN through the ASEAN Power Grid and a Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline and Water Pipeline, and promote cooperation in energy efficiency and conservation, as well as the development of new and renewable energy resources.
- ▶ *enhance* food security and international competitiveness of food, agricultural and forest products, to make ASEAN a leading producer of these products, and promote the forestry sector as a model in forest management, conservation and sustainable development.
- ▶ *meet* the ever increasing demand for improved infrastructure and communications by developing an integrated and harmonized trans-ASEAN transportation network and harnessing technology advances in telecommunication and information technology, especially in linking the planned information highways/multimedia corridors in ASEAN, promoting open sky policy, developing multi-modal transport, facilitating goods in transit and integrating telecommunications networks through greater interconnectivity, coordination of frequencies and mutual recognition of equipment-type approval procedures.
- ▶ *enhance* human resource development in all sectors of the economy through quality education, upgrading of skills and capabilities and training.
- ▶ *work* towards a world class standards and conformance system that will provide a harmonised system to facilitate the free flow of ASEAN trade while meeting health, safety and environmental needs.
- ▶ *use* the ASEAN Foundation as one of the instruments to address issues of unequal economic development, poverty and socio-economic disparities.
- ▶ *promote* an ASEAN customs partnership for world class standards and excellence in efficiency, professionalism and service, and uniformity through harmonised procedures, to promote trade and investment and to protect the health and well-being of the ASEAN community,
- ▶ *enhance* intra-ASEAN trade and investment in the mineral sector and to contribute towards a technologically competent ASEAN through closer networking and sharing of information on mineral and geosciences as well as to enhance cooperation and partnership with dialogue partners to facilitate the development and transfer of technology in the mineral sector, particularly in the downstream research and the geosciences and to develop appropriate mechanism for these.

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## **A Community of Caring Societies**

*We* envision the entire Southeast Asia to be, by 2020, an ASEAN community conscious of its ties of history, aware of its cultural heritage and bound by a common regional identity.

*We* see vibrant and open ASEAN societies consistent with their respective national identities, where all people enjoy equitable access to opportunities for total human development regardless of gender, race, religion, language, or social and cultural background.

*We* envision a socially cohesive and caring ASEAN where hunger, malnutrition, deprivation and poverty are no longer basic problems, where strong families as the basic units of society tend to their members particularly the children, youth, women and elderly; and where the civil society is empowered and gives special attention to the disadvantaged, disabled and marginalized and where social justice and the rule of law reign.

*We* see well before 2020 a Southeast Asia free of illicit drugs, free of their production, processing, trafficking and use.

*We* envision a technologically competitive ASEAN competent in strategic and enabling technologies, with an adequate pool of technologically qualified and trained manpower, and strong networks of scientific and technological institutions and centers of excellence.

*We* envision a clean and green ASEAN with fully established mechanisms for sustainable development to ensure the protection of the region's environment, the sustainability of its natural resources, and the high quality of life of its peoples.

*We* envision the evolution in Southeast Asia of agreed rules of behaviour and cooperative measures to deal with problems that can be met only on a regional scale, including environmental pollution and degradation, drug trafficking, trafficking in women and children, and other transnational crimes.

*We* envision our nations being governed with the consent and greater participation of the people with its focus on the welfare and dignity of the human person and the good of the community.

*We* resolve to develop and strengthen ASEAN's institutions and mechanisms to enable ASEAN to realize the vision and respond to the challenges of the coming century. We also see the need for a strengthened ASEAN Secretariat with an enhanced role to support the realization of our vision.

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## **An Outward-Looking ASEAN**

*We* see an outward-looking ASEAN playing a pivotal role in the international fora, and advancing ASEAN's common interests. We envision ASEAN having an intensified relationship with its Dialogue Partners and other regional organisations based on equal partnership and mutual respect.

## **Conclusion**

*We* pledge to our peoples our determination and commitment to bringing this ASEAN Vision for the Year 2020 into reality.

*Kuala Lumpur, 15 December 1997*

## APPENDIX 8

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### Hanoi Plan of Action

#### *Introduction*

The Second ASEAN Informal Summit, held in Kuala Lumpur on 15 December 1997, adopted the ASEAN Vision 2020 which sets out a broad vision for ASEAN in the year 2020: an ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian Nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies. In order to implement the long-term vision, action plans are being drawn up to realise this Vision. The Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA) is the first in a series of plans of action building up to the realisation of the goals of the Vision.

The HPA has a six-year timeframe covering the period from 1999 to 2004. The progress of its implementation shall be reviewed every three years to coincide with the ASEAN Summit Meetings.

In recognition of the need to address the current economic situation in the region, ASEAN shall implement initiatives to hasten economic recovery and address the social impact of the global economic and financial crisis. These measures reaffirm ASEAN commitments to closer regional integration and are directed at consolidating and strengthening the economic fundamentals of the Member Countries.

#### **I. Strengthen Macroeconomic and Financial Cooperation**

To restore confidence, regenerate economic growth and promote regional financial stability through maintaining sound macroeconomic and financial policies as well as strengthening financial system and capital markets enhanced by closer consultations, so as to avoid future disturbances.

#### **1.1 Maintain regional macroeconomic and financial stability.**

- 1.1.1 Strengthen the ASEAN Surveillance Process; and
- 1.1.2 Structure orderly capital account liberalisation.

#### **1.2 Strengthen financial systems.**

- 1.2.1 Adopt and implement sound international financial practices and standards, where appropriate by 2003;
- 1.2.2 Coordinate supervision and efforts to strengthen financial systems;
- 1.2.3 Develop deep and liquid financial markets to enable governments and private firms to raise long-term financing in local currency, thereby reducing the over dependence on bank finance and limiting the risks of financial crisis;
- 1.2.4 Adopt and implement existing standards of disclosure and dissemination of economic and financial information; and
- 1.2.5 Adopt prudential measures to mitigate the effects of sudden shifts in short-term capital flows.

#### **1.3 Promote liberalisation of the financial services sector.**

- 1.3.1 Intensify deregulation of the financial services sector; and
- 1.3.2 Intensify negotiations of financial sector liberalisation under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS).

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#### **1.4 Intensify cooperation in money, tax and insurance matters.**

- 1.4.1 Study the feasibility of establishing an ASEAN currency and exchange rate system;
- 1.4.2 Establish an ASEAN Tax Training Institute by 2003;
- 1.4.3 Enhance the role of “ASEAN Re Corporation Limited” as a vehicle to further promote regional cooperation in reinsurance business; and
- 1.4.4 Establish an ASEAN Insurance Training and Research Institute by 2003.

#### **1.5 Develop ASEAN Capital Markets.**

- 1.5.1 Adopt and implement internationally accepted practices and standards by the year 2003, and where appropriate at a later date especially for the new Member Countries;
- 1.5.2 Establish a set of minimum standards for listing rules, procedures and requirements by 2003;
- 1.5.3 Coordinate supervision of and programmes to strengthen capital markets;
- 1.5.4 Improve corporate governance, transparency and disclosure;
- 1.5.5 Develop a mechanism for cross-listing of SMEs among ASEAN capital markets by 2003, and where appropriate at a later date for the new Member Countries;
- 1.5.6 Facilitate cross-border capital flows and investments;
- 1.5.7 Facilitate clearing and settlement systems within ASEAN;
- 1.5.8 Promote securitisation in ASEAN;

- 1.5.9 Foster collaborative and cooperative networks among capital market research and training centres in Member States;
- 1.5.10 Prepare the framework to develop bond markets in ASEAN by 2000; and
- 1.5.11 Promote networking among development banks in Member States for financing of productive projects.

## **II. Enhance Greater Economic Integration**

To create a stable, prosperous and highly competitive ASEAN Economic Region in which there is a free flow of goods, services and investments, a freer flow of capital, equitable economic development and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities.

### **2.1 Accelerate the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).**

#### **2.1.1 Trade liberalisation**

- a. Maximise the number of tariff lines whose CEPT tariff rates shall be reduced to 0-5% by the year 2000 (2003 for Vietnam and 2005 for Laos and Myanmar);
- b. Maximise the number of tariff lines whose CEPT tariff rates shall be reduced to 0% by the year 2003 (2006 for Vietnam and 2008 for Laos and Myanmar); and
- c. Expand the coverage of the CEPT Inclusion List by shortening the Temporary Exclusion List, Sensitive List and General Exception List.

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**2.1.2 Customs harmonisation**

- a. Enhance trade facilitation in customs by simplifying customs procedures, expanding the Green Lane to cover all ASEAN products and implementing an ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature by the year 2000;
- b. Promote transparency, consistency and uniformity in the classification of goods traded within ASEAN and enhance trade facilitation through the provision of facilities for obtaining pre-entry classification rulings/decisions at national and regional levels by the year 2003;
- c. Promote the use of transparent, consistent and uniform valuation methods and rulings through the implementation of the WTO Valuation Agreement by the year 2000;
- d. Operationalise and strengthen regional guidelines on mutual assistance by the year 2003 to ensure the proper application of customs laws, within the competence of the customs administrations and subject to their national laws;
- e. Fully operationalise the ASEAN Customs Training Network by the year 2000; and
- f. Undertake customs reform and modernisation, in particular to implement risk management and post-importation audit by the year 2003.

**2.1.3 Standards and conformity assessment**

- a. Harmonise product standards through alignment with international standards for products in priority sectors by the year 2000 and for regulated products by the year 2005;

- b. Implement the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) by developing sectoral MRAs in priority areas beginning in 1999; and
- c. Enhance the technical infrastructure and competency in laboratory testing, calibration, certification and accreditation by the year 2005, based on internationally-accepted procedures and guides; and
- d. Strengthen information networking on standards and technical regulation through the use of, among others, the Internet, with the aim of meeting the requirements of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

**2.1.4 Other trade facilitation activities**

- a. Establish a mechanism of information exchange and disclosure requirements to promote transparency of government procurement regimes by the year 2003 to facilitate participation of ASEAN nationals and companies;
- b. Establish contact points in 1999 to facilitate ongoing exchange of the above information;
- c. Encourage the liberalisation of government procurement;
- d. Establish a mechanism of information exchange by 2003 to promote transparency of each domestic regulatory regime by publishing annual reports detailing actions taken by ASEAN Member States to deregulate their domestic regimes; and

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- e. Encourage the increased use of regional currencies for intra-ASEAN trade transactions.

## **2.2 Implement the Framework Agreement on ASEAN Investment Area (AIA).**

The ASEAN Investment Area aims to enhance the competitiveness of the region for attracting higher and sustainable levels of direct investment flows into and within ASEAN. Three broad-based programmes of action shall form the thrust of the AIA arrangement. These are Cooperation and Facilitation, Promotion and Awareness, and Liberalisation Programme. These programmes shall be implemented through individual and collective action plans, within the agreed schedules and timetable. The ASEAN Investment Area is to be realised through implementing, among others, the following key measures:

- a. Immediately extend national treatment and open up all industries for investments. However, for some exceptions, as specified in the Temporary Exclusion List and the Sensitive List, these will be progressively liberalised to all ASEAN investors by 2010 or earlier and to all investors by 2020 in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Agreement on AIA;
- b. Identify and progressively eliminate restrictive investment measures;
- c. Liberalise rules, regulations and policies relating to investment; rules on licensing conditions; rules relating to access to domestic finance; and rules to facilitate payment, receipts and repatriation of profits by investors;

- d. Complete implementation of all the measures and activities identified in the Schedule 1 of “Cooperation and Facilitation Programme” under the AIA Agreement by 2010 or earlier;
- e. Complete implementation of all the measures and activities identified in the Schedule II of “Promotion and Awareness Programme” under the AIA Agreement by 2010 or earlier;
- f. Improve and enhance the measures and activities of the Cooperation and Facilitation, and Promotion and Awareness Programmes to further strengthen the implementation process of the AIA arrangement;
- g. Undertake active and high profile joint investment promotion activities to promote greater awareness of investment opportunities in ASEAN to global and regional investors. This shall include, among others, joint publications of investment and business information as well as databases and statistics;
- h. Promote freer flow of capital, skilled labour, professionals and technology among ASEAN Member States;
- i. Work towards establishing a comparable approach of FDI data collection, measurement and reporting among the Member States;
- j. Undertake activities to increase transparency of investment regimes of Member States; and
- k. Identify areas for technical cooperation in human resource development, R&D, infrastructure development, SME and supporting industry development, information and industrial technology development.



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### 2.3 Liberalise Trade in Services.

The ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services will strengthen service suppliers and introduce more competition into this large and important sector of ASEAN Member's States and open new doors for service suppliers in the region.

#### 2.3.1 Liberalisation

- a. Progressively liberalise trade in services by initiating a new round of negotiations beginning 1999 and ending 2001;
- b. Expand the scope of negotiations in services beyond the seven priority sectors, identified at the Fifth ASEAN Summit, to cover all services sectors and all modes of supply;
- c. Seek to accelerate the liberalisation of trade in services through the adoption of alternative approaches to liberalisation; and
- d. Accelerate the free flow of professional and other services in the region.

#### 2.3.2 Facilitation

- a. Encourage the free exchange of information and views among professional bodies in the region with the view to achieving mutual recognition arrangements;
- b. Conduct an impact study by the year 2000 on the removal of transport, travel and telecommunication barriers in ASEAN; and
- c. Develop standard classification and categorisation of tourism products and services to facilitate the region's implementation of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS).

#### 2.3.3 Cooperation

- a. Strengthen and enhance existing cooperation efforts in service sectors through such means as establishing or improving infrastructure facilities, joint production, marketing and purchasing arrangements, research and development and exchange of information;
- b. Develop cooperation activities in new sectors that are not covered by existing cooperation arrangements; and
- c. Cooperate to harmonise entry regulations with regard to commercial presence.

### 2.4 Enhance food security and global competitiveness of ASEAN's food, agriculture and forestry products.

ASEAN would strive to provide adequate levels of food supply and food accessibility within ASEAN during instances of food shortages to ensure food security and at the same time, enhance the competitiveness of its food, agriculture and forestry sectors through developing appropriate technologies to increase productivity and by promoting intra – and extra – ASEAN trade and greater private sector investment in the food, agriculture and forestry sector.

#### 2.4.1 Strengthen food security arrangements in the region.

- a. Enhance ASEAN food security statistical database and information by establishing an ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) which would allow Member States to effectively forecast, plan and manage food supplies and utilisation of basic commodities;

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- b. Develop a Common Framework to analyse and review the regional food trade policies in the light of the AFTA, and to enhance intra-ASEAN food trade by undertaking a study on the long-term supply and demand prospects of major food commodities (rice, corn, soybean, sugar, pulses and oilseeds) in ASEAN;
  - c. Strengthen the food marketing system of agricultural cooperatives for enhancing food security in ASEAN; and
  - d. Review the Agreement on the ASEAN Emergency Rice Reserve (AERR) to realise effective cross-supply arrangements of food during times of emergency.
- 2.4.2 Develop and Adopt Existing and New Technologies.
- a. Conduct collaborative research to develop new/improved technologies in food, agriculture and forestry production, post-harvest and processing activities and sharing of research results and available technology;
  - b. Conduct R&D in critical areas to reduce the cost of inputs for food, agriculture and forestry production; and
  - c. Strengthen programmes in food, agriculture and agro-forestry technology transfer, training and extension to increase productivity.
- 2.4.3 Enhance the Marketability of ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Products/Commodities.
- a. Develop, harmonise and adopt quality standards and regulations for food, agriculture and forestry products;
  - b. Promote diversification of forest products; and
  - c. Promote and implement training programmes and share and exchange expertise in the field of food, agriculture and forestry.
- 2.4.4 Enhance Private Sector Involvement.
- a. Conduct a study to identify high-impact investment opportunities in key areas under the food, agriculture and forestry sectors in ASEAN and to provide essential information for investment decisions on these opportunities; and
  - b. Establish networking and strategic alliances with the private sector to promote investment and joint venture opportunities in ASEAN.
- 2.4.5 Enhance ASEAN Cooperation and Joint Approaches in International and Regional Issues.
- a. Strengthen ASEAN's cooperation and joint approaches in addressing issues and problems affecting trade in the region's food, agriculture and forestry products including environment and labour issues; and
  - b. Seek closer cooperation and negotiate, through relevant ASEAN bodies, with trading partners on market access for ASEAN products



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### 2.4.6 Promote Capacity Building and Human Resources Development.

- a. Promote and implement training programmes in the field of food, agriculture and forestry, including the exchange of experts; and
- b. Develop and strengthen agricultural rural communities through enhanced human resource development.

### 2.5 Intensify industrial cooperation.

- a. Expedite the implementation of AICO.
- b. Establish a Directory of Major ASEAN Manufacturing Companies;
- c. Explore the merits of common competition policy;
- d. Increase value-added contribution of ASEAN Manufacturing Sector;
- e. Explore/develop other areas of cooperation that has not been covered under the existing arrangement; and
- f. Establish R&D/ Skill Development Centres.

### 2.6 Foster small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Recognising that small and medium scale enterprises constitute the majority of industrial enterprises in ASEAN and that they play a significant role in the overall economic development of Member States, ASEAN needs to cooperate in order to develop a modern, dynamic, competitive and efficient SME sector. The SME cooperation will address priority areas of human resource development, information dissemination, access to technology and technology sharing, finance and market. The SME cooperation will also ensure the development and implementation of non-

discriminatory market-oriented policies in ASEAN that will provide a more favourable environment for SME development.

#### 2.6.1 Facilitation

- a. Encourage Member States to establish national export financing/credit guarantee schemes for SMEs;
- b. Explore the possibility of establishing regional export financing/credit guarantee scheme;
- c. Explore the possibility of establishing an ASEAN Investment Fund for SME; and
- d. Explore the possibility of establishing a trade or industrial cooperation scheme to promote intra-ASEAN cooperation for SMEs.

#### 2.6.2 Cooperation

- a. Compile Member States' SME policies and best practices in selected sectors to enhance mutual understanding and possible adoption;
- b. Compile and provide information to SMEs on policies and opportunities including electronic media such as the Internet websites;
- c. Promote information networking between existing SME-related organisations in ASEAN;
- d. Promote awareness among SMEs on benefits and availability of other sources of finance such as venture-capital and equity;
- e. Enhance interactions between Government Sector Institutions (GSI) and Private Sector Institutions (PSI) on SME development by convening biennial GSI/PSI conference;

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- f. Undertake selected sectoral regional study on the potential areas of finance, market, production technology and management for possible trade and industrial cooperation between/among SMEs in the region;
  - g. Organise annual ASEAN match-making workshops to promote SME joint-ventures and linkages between SMEs and LSEs;
  - h. Organise annual joint ASEAN trade promotion activities/trade exposition;
  - i. Encourage national venture-capital company to go regional;
  - j. Organise annual meetings of all national Credit Guarantee Corporations (CGC) in ASEAN;
  - k. Harness the capacity of non-ASEAN SMEs as a source of technology to ASEAN SMEs;
  - l. Organise biennial ASEAN technology exposition;
  - m. Organise regular joint training programmes, seminars and workshops for SMEs;
  - n. Compile and publish a directory of resource persons in ASEAN in the area of production technology and management;
  - o. Develop programmes on entrepreneurship development and innovation in all Member States; and
  - p. Assist new members of ASEAN on SME development through specialised training programmes and technical assistance.

## **2.7 Further intellectual property cooperation.**

To ensure adequate and effective protection, including legislation, administration and enforcement, of intellectual property rights in the region based on the principles of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment, national treatment and transparency as set out in the TRIPS Agreement.

### 2.7.1 Protection

- a. Strengthen civil and administrative procedures and remedies against infringement of intellectual property rights and relevant legislation; and
- b. Provide and expand technical cooperation in relation to areas such as patent search and examination, computerisation and human resource development for the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement;

### 2.7.2 Facilitation

- a. Deepen Intellectual Property policy exchange among ASEAN Member States;
- b. Survey the current status of intellectual property rights protection in each ASEAN Member State with a view to studying measures, including development principles, for the effective enforcement of intellectual property rights;
- c. Develop a contact point list of public and business/private sector experts on intellectual property rights and a list of law enforcement officers, the latter list for the purpose of establishing a network to prevent cross-border flow of counterfeits;



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- d. Exchange information on well-known marks as a first step in examining the possibility of establishing a region-wide trademark system;
- e. Exchange information on current intellectual property rights administrative systems with a view to simplifying and standardising administrative systems throughout the region;
- f. Ensure that intellectual property legislation conform to the TRIPS Agreement of the World Trade Organisation through the review of intellectual property laws and introduction of TRIPS-consistent laws. This would begin with a comprehensive review of existing legislation to be completed by the year 2000; and
- g. Strengthen intellectual property administration by setting up an ASEAN electronic database by the year 2004 on patents, designs, geographical indications, trademarks and information on copyright and layout design of integrated circuits.

### 2.7.3 Cooperation

- a. Implement an ASEAN Regional Trademark and Patent Filing System by the year 2000;
  - b. Establish an ASEAN Regional Fund for Trademark and Patent by the year 2000;
  - c. Finalise and implement an ASEAN Common Form for Trade Mark and Patent Applications;
- d. Establish a regional trademark and patent registration system; or establish a regional trademark or patent office (on voluntary basis);
  - e. Promote accession of Member States to international treaties;
  - f. Promote Intellectual Property public and private sector awareness;
  - g. Introduce Intellectual Property as a subject in the curriculum of higher learning institutions;
  - h. Develop training programmes for Intellectual Property officials; and
  - i. Enhance intellectual property enforcement and protection through establishing mechanisms for the dissemination of information on ASEAN intellectual property administration, registration and infringement; facilitating interaction among legal and judicial bodies through seminars, etc.; facilitating networking among intellectual enforcement agencies; encouraging bilateral/plurilateral arrangements on mutual protection and joint cooperation in enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights.

### 2.8 Encourage electronic commerce.

- 2.8.1 Create policy and legislative environment to facilitate cross-border Electronic Commerce;
- 2.8.2 Ensure the coordination and adoption of framework and standards for cross-border Electronic Commerce, which is in line with international standards and practices; and

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2.8.3 Encourage technical cooperation and technology transfer among Member States in the development of Electronic Commerce infrastructure, applications and services.

## **2.9 Promote ASEAN tourism.**

- 2.9.1 Launch the Visit ASEAN Millennium Year as the catalytic focus for the first plan of action;
- 2.9.2 Conduct Strategic Studies for Joint Marketing of the ASEAN Region in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and the convening of Top-level Tourism Marketing Missions to promote the region;
- 2.9.3 Develop a Website/Information Database on relevant tourism statistical data and other related information within the ASEAN Secretariat by the beginning of the year 2000;
- 2.9.4 Establish a Network among ASEAN Tourism Training Centres with emphasis on new job skills and new technologies by 2001 in tourism policy and planning;
- 2.9.5 Develop trainer and training material database for ASEAN to be completed by 2001;
- 2.9.6 Conduct Eco-Tourism Promotion Programmes for Travel Trade and Consumers;
- 2.9.7 Complete cruise tourism development study in ASEAN by the year 2000.
- 2.9.8 Encourage the establishment of the ASEAN Lane for facilitating intra-ASEAN travel;
- 2.9.9 Increase the use of the Internet or other electronic global distribution systems in the ASEAN travel industry; and
- 2.9.10 Launch the ASEAN Tourism Investment Guide in 1999.

## **2.10 Develop regional infrastructure.**

To intensify cooperation in the development of highly efficient and quality infrastructure, and in the promotion and progressive liberalisation of these services sectors:

### **2.10.1 Transport**

- a. Develop the Trans-ASEAN transportation network by the year 2000 as the trunkline or main corridor for the movement of goods and people in ASEAN, consisting of major road (interstate highway) and railway networks, principal ports and sea lanes for maritime traffic, inland waterway transport and major civil aviation links;
- b. Operationalise the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit by year 2000. For this purpose, its implementing Protocols will be finalised and concluded by December 1999;
- c. Target the conclusion and operationalisation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport by the year 2000;
- d. Implement the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport;
- e. Develop a Maritime/Shipping Policy for ASEAN to cover, among others, transshipment, enhancing the competitiveness of ASEAN ports, further liberalisation of maritime transport services, and the integration of maritime transport in the intermodal and logistics chain;



- f. Adopt harmonised standards and regulations with regard to vehicle specifications (e.g. width, length, height and weight), axle load limits, maximum weights and pollution or emission standards;
- g. Institute the policy framework and modalities by the year 2000 for the development of a Competitive Air Services Policy which may be a gradual step towards an Open Sky Policy in ASEAN; and
- h. Develop and implement the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link and the ASEAN Highway Network Projects.

#### 2.10.2 Telecommunications

- a. Achieve the interoperability and interconnectivity of the National Information Infrastructures (NIIs) of Member States by the year 2010;
- b. Develop and implement an ASEAN Plan of Action on Regional Broadband Interconnectivity by the year 2000; and
- c. Intensify cooperation in ensuring seamless roaming of telecommunications services (i.e., wireless communications) within the region, as well as in facilitating intra-ASEAN trade in telecommunications equipment and services.

#### 2.10.3 Energy

- a. Ensure security and sustainability of energy supply, efficient utilisation of natural energy resource in the region and the rational management of energy demand, with due consideration of the environment; and

- b. Institute the policy framework and implementation modalities by 2004 for the early realization of the trans-ASEAN energy networks covering the ASEAN Power Grid and the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline Projects as a more focused continuation of the Medium-Term Programme of Action (1995-1999).

#### 2.10.4 Water utility

- a. Cooperate on a regular basis, exchange of information, knowledge, and experiences among Member States as means to improve water resources management and water supply system within the region; and
- b. Support the development of Trans-ASEAN land and submarine pipeline for conveyance of raw water between ASEAN Member States.

### **2.11 Further development of growth areas.**

To narrow the gap in the level of development among Member States and to reduce poverty and socio-economic disparities in the region.

- 2.11.1 Actively expedite the implementation and further development of growth areas such as the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore Growth Triangle (IMS-GT), Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), and the inter-state areas along the West-East Corridor (WEC) of Mekong Basin in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and North-eastern Thailand within the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation Scheme.

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2.11.2 Facilitate the economic integration of the new Members into ASEAN.

### **III. Promote Science & Technology Development and Develop Information Technology Infrastructure**

- 3.1** Establish the ASEAN Information Infrastructure (AII).
  - 3.1.1 Forge agreements among Member Countries on the design, standardization, inter-connection and inter-operability of Information Technology systems by 2001.
  - 3.1.2 Ensure the protection of intellectual property rights and consumer rights.
- 3.2** Develop the information content of the AII by 2004.
- 3.3** Establish networks of science & technology centres of excellence and academic institutions by 2001.
- 3.4** Intensify research & development (R&D) in applications of strategic and enabling technologies.
- 3.5** Establish a technology scan mechanism and institutionalise a system of science & technology indicators by 2001.
- 3.6** Develop innovative systems for programme management and revenue generation to support ASEAN science and technology.
- 3.7** Promote greater public and private sector collaboration in science and technology, particularly in information technology.
- 3.8** Undertake studies on the evolution of new working conditions and living environments resulting from widespread use of information technology by 2001.

### **IV. Promote Social Development and Address the Social Impact of the Financial and Economic Crisis**

- 4.1** Strive to mitigate the social impact of the regional financial and economic crisis.
- 4.2** Implement the Plan of Action on ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication and, in view of the financial and economic crisis, implement the ASEAN Plan of Action on Social Safety Nets to ensure that measures are taken to protect the most vulnerable sectors of our societies.
- 4.3** Use the ASEAN Foundation to support activities and social development programmes aimed at addressing issues of unequal economic development, poverty and socio-economic disparities.
- 4.4** Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children which provides for the framework for ensuring the survival, protection and development of children.
- 4.5** Strengthen ASEAN collaboration in combating the trafficking in, and crimes of violence against, women and children.
- 4.6** Enhance the capacity of the family and community to care for the elderly and the disabled.
- 4.7** Strengthen the ASEAN Regional Aids Information and Reference Network.
- 4.8** Enhance exchange of information in the field of human rights among ASEAN Countries in order to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all peoples in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.



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- 4.9 Work towards the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international instruments concerning women and children.
- 4.10 Strengthen regional capacity to address transnational crime.
- 4.11 Implement the ASEAN Work Programme to Operationalise the ASEAN Plan of Action on Drug Abuse Control by 2004, and continue developing and implementing high-profile flagship programmes on drug abuse control, particularly those related to prevention education for youth, and treatment and rehabilitation.

### **V. Promote Human Resource Development**

- 5.1 Strengthen the ASEAN University Network and move forward the process of transforming it into the ASEAN University.
- 5.2 Strengthen the education systems in Member Countries by 2001 so that all groups of people, including the disadvantaged, can have equal access to basic, general and higher education.
- 5.3 Implement the ASEAN Work Programme on Informal Sector Development to provide opportunities for self-employment and entrepreneurship.
- 5.4 Implement the ASEAN Work Programme on Skills Training for Out-of-School Youth by 2004, to strengthen their capacity to obtain gainful employment.

- 5.5 Strengthen regional networking of HRD centres of excellence and develop the regional capacity for HRD planning and labour market monitoring.
- 5.6 Establish and strengthen networks in education and training, particularly those promoting occupational safety and health, skills training for out-of-school youth, distance education by 2004.
- 5.7 Intensify efforts of the ASEAN Network for Women in Skills Training to enhance the capacity of disadvantaged women to enter the work force.
- 5.8 Begin to implement the ASEAN Science and Technology Human Resource Programme addressing the needs of industry and business by 2000.
- 5.9 Implement regional training programmes for ASEAN Civil Service Officers and strengthen networks among ASEAN Civil Service Commissions.
- 5.10 Establish networks of professional accreditation bodies to promote regional mobility and mutual recognition of technical and professional credentials and skills standards, beginning in 1999.

### **VI. Protect the Environment and Promote Sustainable Development**

- 6.1 Fully implement the ASEAN Cooperation Plan on Transboundary Pollution with particular emphasis on the Regional Haze Action Plan by the year 2001.

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- 6.2** Strengthen the ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre with emphasis on the ability to monitor forest and land fires and provide early warning on transboundary haze by the year 2001.
- 6.3** Establish the ASEAN Regional Research and Training Centre for Land and Forest Fire Management by the year 2004.
- 6.4** Strengthen the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation by establishing networks of relevant institutions and implement collaborative training and research activities by the year 2001.
- 6.5** Promote regional coordination for the protection of the ASEAN Heritage Parks and Reserves.
- 6.6** Develop a framework and improve regional coordination for the integrated protection and management of coastal zones by the year 2001.
- 6.7** Strengthen institutional and legal capacities to implement Agenda 21 and other international environmental agreements by the year 2001.
- 6.8** Harmonise the environmental databases of Member Countries by the year 2001.
- 6.9** Implement an ASEAN regional water conservation programme by the year 2001.
- 6.10** Establish a regional centre or network for the promotion of environmentally sound technologies by the year 2004.
- 6.11** Formulate and adopt an ASEAN Protocol on access to genetic resources by the year 2004.
- 6.12** Develop a Regional Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based and Sea-based Activities by the year 2004.
- 6.13** Implement the Framework to Achieve Long-Term Environmental Goals for Ambient Air and River Water Qualities for ASEAN Countries.
- 6.14** Enhance regional efforts in addressing climatic change.
- 6.15** Enhance public information and education in awareness of and participation in environmental and sustainable development issues.
- VII. Strengthen Regional Peace and Security**
- 7.1** Consolidate and strengthen ASEAN's solidarity, cohesiveness and harmony by strengthening national and regional resilience through enhanced cooperation and mutual assistance to further promote Southeast Asia as a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality.
- 7.2.** Promote coherent and comprehensive programmes of bilateral and regional cooperation and technical assistance to ASEAN member states to strengthen their integration into the community of Southeast Asian nations.
- 7.3** Ratify the Second Protocol of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as soon as possible.
- 7.4** Encourage and facilitate the accession by ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and other interested countries to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation with a view to developing the TAC into a code of conduct governing relations between Southeast Asian States and those outside the region.
- 7.5** Formulate draft rules of procedure for the operations of the High Council as envisioned in TAC.

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- 7.6** Encourage greater efforts towards the resolution of outstanding problems of boundaries delimitation between ASEAN member states.
- 7.7** Ensure border security and facilitate safe and convenient border crossings.
- 7.8** Encourage Member Countries to cooperate in resolving border-related problems and other matters with security implications between ASEAN member countries.
- 7.9** Promote efforts to secure acceptance by Nuclear Weapon States of the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), including their early accession to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty.
- 7.10** Convene the Commission for SEANWFZ Treaty to oversee the implementation of the Treaty and ensure compliance with its provisions.
- 7.11** Support and participate actively in all efforts to achieve the objectives of general and complete disarmament, especially the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
- 7.12** Encourage ASEAN Member Countries parties to a dispute to engage in friendly negotiation and use the bilateral and regional processes of peaceful settlement of dispute or other procedures provided for in the U.N. Charter.
- 7.13** Enhance efforts to settle disputes in the South China Sea through peaceful means among the parties concerned in accordance with universally recognized international law, including the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- 7.14** Continue efforts to promote confidence-building measures in the South China Sea between and among parties concerned.
- 7.15** Encourage all other parties concerned to subscribe to the ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea.
- 7.16** Promote efforts to establish a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea among the parties directly concerned.
- 7.17** Intensify intra-ASEAN security cooperation through existing mechanisms among foreign affairs and defense officials.

### **VIII. Enhance ASEAN's Role as an Effective Force for Peace, Justice, and Moderation in the Asia-Pacific and in the World**

- 8.1** Maintain ASEAN's chairmanship in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) process.
- 8.2** Undertake, actively and energetically, measures to strengthen ASEAN's role as the primary driving force in the ARF, including directing the ASEAN Secretary-General to provide the necessary support and services to the ASC Chairman in coordinating ARF activities.
- 8.3** Formulate initiatives to advance, on a consensus basis and at a pace comfortable to all, the ARF process from its current emphasis on confidence-building to promoting preventive diplomacy.
- 8.4** Promote public awareness of the ARF process and the need for ASEAN's role as the primary driving force in respective ASEAN Member Countries.
- 8.5** Continue the involvement of ASEAN defense and security officials together with foreign affairs officials in ARF activities.

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- 8.6 Develop a set of basic principles based on TAC as an instrument for promoting cooperative peace in the Asia-Pacific region.
  - 8.7 Enhance consultation and coordination of ASEAN positions at the United Nations and other international fora.
  - 8.8 Revitalize ASEAN's relations with Dialogue Partners on the basis of equality, non-discrimination and mutual benefit.

### **IX. Promote ASEAN Awareness and its Standing in the International Community**

- 9.1 Support the activities of the ASEAN Foundation and other available resources and mechanisms to promote ASEAN awareness among its people.
- 9.2 Launch, within ASEAN's existing resources, a concerted communications programme to promote ASEAN's standing in the international community and strengthen confidence in ASEAN as an ideal place for investment, trade and tourism.
- 9.3 Establish and operate an ASEAN satellite channel by year 2000.
- 9.4 Provide and disseminate materials on ASEAN's efforts to cope with the financial and economic crisis.
- 9.5 Publicise ASEAN's HPA priorities through ASEAN's external mechanisms with its Dialogue Partners.
- 9.6 Develop linkages with mass media networks and websites on key areas of ASEAN cooperation to disseminate regular and timely information on ASEAN.
- 9.7 Prepare and adopt an ASEAN Declaration on Cultural Heritage by year 2000.

- 9.8 Mount professional productions of ASEAN performances and exhibitions within and outside ASEAN and provide adequate mass media coverage on such activities.
- 9.9 Organize art and cultural immersion camps and exchange programmes for the youth and encourage their travel to other ASEAN Member Countries.
- 9.10 Establish an ASEAN Multi-Media Centre by the year 2001 to conduct professional training programmes and provide production facilities and services for mass media and communication practitioners.

### **X. Improve ASEAN's Structures and Mechanisms**

- 10.1 Review ASEAN's overall organisational structure in order to further improve its efficiency and effectiveness, taking into account the expansion of ASEAN activities, the enlargement of ASEAN membership, and the regional situation.
- 10.2 Review and streamline ASEAN external relations mechanisms with its Dialogue Partners, regional organisations and other economic groupings.
- 10.3 Review the role, functions and capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat to meet the increasing demands of ASEAN and to support the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action.

## APPENDIX 9

ASEAN – Affiliated NGOs - *as of 28 March 2000*

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- 1. Federation of ASEAN Public Relations**  
43-B South Bridge Road,  
Singapore 058677
- 2. ASEAN Bankers Association (ABA)**  
180 Cecil Street #17-00  
Bangkok Bank Bldg.  
Singapore 069546
- 3. ASEAN Association for Planning Housing (AAPH)**  
San Miguel Ave,  
Ortigas Center  
1600 Pasig City,  
Metro Manila  
Philippines
- 4. ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE)**  
MCC PO Box 2280  
Makati Metro Manila  
Philippines
- 5. Medical Association of Southeast Asian Nations Committee (MASEAN)**  
c/o Singapore Medical Association  
2 College Road  
Singapore 169850
- 6. Federation of ASEAN Shipowners Association (FASA)**  
456 Alexandra Road  
#09-02,  
NOL Bldg.  
Singapore 119962
- 7. ASEAN Music Industry Association (AMIA)**  
163 Tras Street  
#04-00 Lian Huat Building  
Singapore 079024
- 8. ASEAN University Sports Council (AUSC)**  
MABA House (PMS)  
Jl. Hang Jebat  
Kuala Lumpur 50150  
Malaysia
- 9. ASEAN Federation of Furniture Manufacturers Association (AFFMA)**  
IWMA Office  
Sri Buwana Craft  
Jl. Raya Bekasi km 18,  
Pulo Gadung  
Jakarta Indonesia
- 10. ASEAN Chambers of Commerce Industry (ACCI)**  
ASEAN Secretariat Bldg.  
Jl. Sisingamangaraja 70A  
Jakarta Indonesia
- 11. ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEEO)**  
Office of ASEAN Affairs  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City  
Philippines
- 12. ASEAN Association of Radiologists (AAR)**  
PO Box 1284  
Makati Central Post Office  
Makati, Metro Manila  
Philippines 3117
- 13. ASEAN Handicraft Promotion Development Association (AHPADA)**  
AHPADA Regional Office  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 999 Ploenchit Road  
Bangkok 10330 Thailand
- 14. ASEAN Law Association (ALA)**  
63 Market Street HEX  
10-03/05  
Tat Lee Bank Building  
Singapore  
or SKRINE & Co.,  
Straits Trading Bldg no 4  
Leboh Pasar Besar  
50050 Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia

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- 15. ASEAN Valuers Association (AVA)**  
20<sup>th</sup> Fl – Wisma Cyclecarry  
Jl. Raja Laut,  
Kuala Lumpur 50592,  
Malaysia
- 16. Southeast Asia Association Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (SEASEE)**  
1424 Quezon Avenue  
Quezon City Philippines
- 17. ASEAN Insurance Council (AIC)**  
Wisma Argo Manunggal  
8<sup>th</sup> fl  
Jl. Jend. Gatot Subroto,  
Jakarta, 12930 Indonesia
- 18. ASEAN Ports Association (APA)**  
c/o. Philippine Ports Authority  
Marsman Bldg,  
South Harbor Port Area,  
Manila, Philippines
- 19. Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation (CAYC)**  
Jl. Tenteram, Bandar Tun Razak,  
Cheras 56000  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 20. ASEAN Football Federation (AFF)**  
All Indonesian Football Federation Stadium  
Utama Senayan Pintu VII  
Kotak Pos 2305,  
Jakarta, Indonesia
- 21. ASEAN Federation for Psychiatric and Mental Health (AFPMH)**  
c/o Philippines National Centre for Mental Health  
Mandaluyong, Metro Manila Philippines
- 22. ASEAN Cooperation Organization (ACO)**  
Wisma Koperasi Lt. II  
Jl. Let.Je ICSW n. S.  
Parman,  
Kav.80 Slipi Jakarta,  
Indonesia
- 23. ASEAN Federation of Electrical Engineering Contractors (AFEEC)**  
373 Boni Ave.,  
Mandaluyong  
Metro Manila, Philippines  
PO Box 1381 Manila
- 24. ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organization (ACWO)**  
c/o. Singapore Council of Women's Organisations  
BLK 24 Outram Park  
# 03-115  
Singapore 163024
- 25. Rheumatism Association of ASEAN (RAA)**  
Jl. Seroja Dalam no 7  
Semarang 50241  
Jawa Tengah Indonesia
- 26. ASEAN Orthopaedic Association (AOA)**  
Singapore General Hospital  
Outram Road Singapore  
0316  
or  
3 Mt. Elizabeth #05-07/08,  
Mt. Elizabeth Medical Centre, Singapore 0922
- 27. ASEAN Neurosurgical Society (ANS)**  
Dept. of Neurosurgery  
University of Padjadjaran  
Jl. Pasteur 38 Bandung,  
Jawa Barat Indonesia

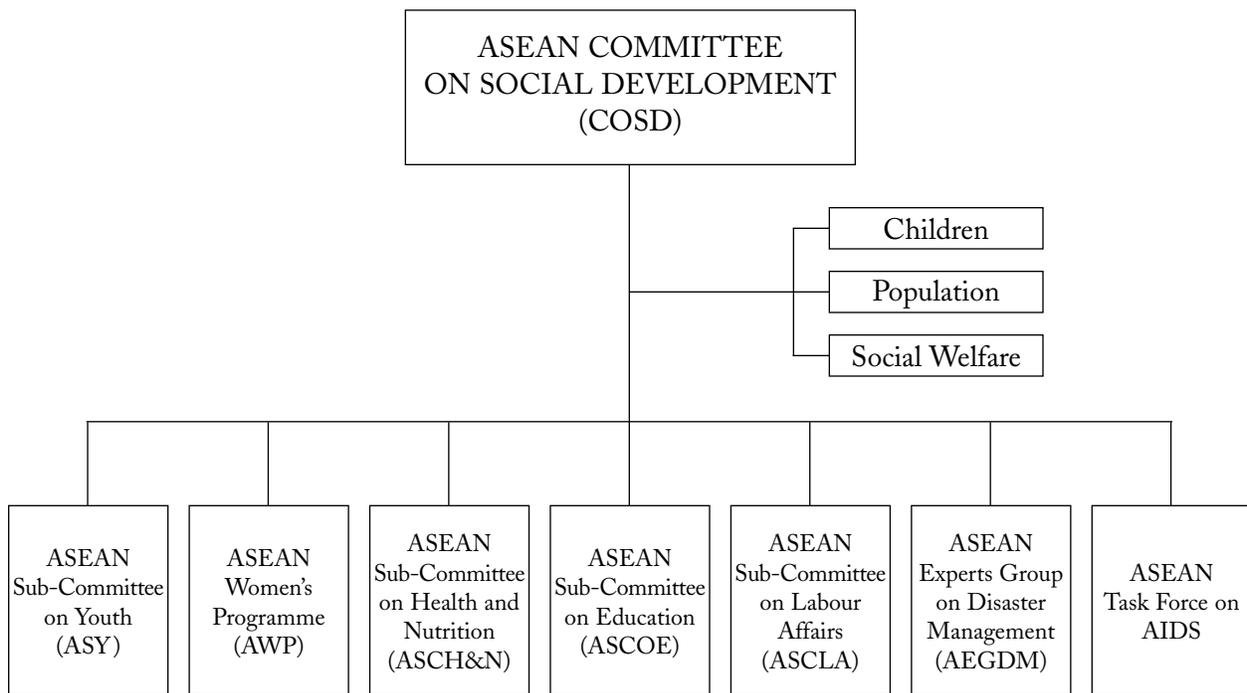
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- 28. ASEAN Constructors Federation (ACF)**  
Singapore Contractors Association Ltd.  
Construction House  
1 Bukit Merah Lane 2  
Singapore 159760
- 29. ASEAN Pediatric Federation (APF)**  
Singapore Paediatric Society  
2 Cottage Road Singapore  
169850
- 30. ASEAN Federation of Mining Association (AFMA)**  
Jl. Prof. Dr. Supomo no 10  
Jakarta, 12870 Indonesia
- 31. Federation of ASEAN Economic Associations (FAEA)**  
Jl. Sultan Hasanuddin 47-48  
Jakarta 12160
- 32. Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries (VECONAC)**  
PVAO Annex  
Arroceros Street, Manila,  
Philippines
- 33. ASEAN Council of Teachers (ACT)**  
National Alliance of Teachers and Office Workers  
Rm. 317 Poenix Building,  
Recoletos Street,  
Intramuros, Manila,  
Philippines
- 34. Federation of ASEAN Consulting Engineers (FACE)**  
No. 63 & 65-2,  
Medan Setia 1  
Damansara Heights 50490  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 35. ASEAN Fisheries Federation (AFF)**  
ASEAN Secretariat Bldg.  
Jl. Sisingamangaraja 70A  
Jakarta, Indonesia
- 36. ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA)**  
Jl. Iskandarsyah Raya no 7  
Jakarta, Indonesia
- 37. ASEAN Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drugs and Substance Abuse**  
Jalan Ledang no 8 50470  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 38. ASEAN Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists (AAMLT)**  
University of Indonesia  
Jl. Pegangsaan Timur no 16  
Jakarta 10320, Indonesia  
or  
c/o Singapore Association for Medical Lab. Sciences Alumni (SB)  
Medical Centre  
2 College Road, Singapore  
0316
- 39. ASEAN Association of Maritime Education and Training Institution (AAMETI)**  
PO Box 31  
78207 Kuala Sungai Baru,  
Melaka, Malaysia
- 40. ASEAN Federation of Accountants (AFA)**  
Suite 2-E  
#500 Santol St,  
PO Box SM120  
Sta Mesa, Manila,  
Philippines
- 41. ASEAN Law Students Association (ALSA)**  
Faculty of Law, University of Indonesia  
Bandar Seri Begawan,  
Depok  
16424 Indonesia

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- 42. ASEAN Vegetable Oils Club (AVOC)**  
801C/802 A Block B,  
Kelana Business Centre  
97 Jalan SS7/2, 47301,  
Kelana Jaya  
Selangor, Malaysia
- 43. ASEAN Business Forum (ABF)**  
Regional Secretariat, MUI  
Plaza, 19<sup>th</sup> fl  
Jl. P. Ramlee Kuala Lumpur  
50250 Malaysia
- 44. ASEAN Federation of Land Surveying and Geomatics (ASEAN Flag)**  
116 Jalan Radin Anum  
Satu Bandar Baru Seri  
Petaling  
57000 Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia
- 45. ASEAN Intellectual Property Association (AIPA)**  
20 Cecil Street #22-03  
The Exchange Singapore  
049705
- 46. ASEAN Federation of Heart Foundation (AFHF)**  
Jl. Teuku Umar no 58  
Jakarta Pusat 10350  
Indonesia
- 47. ASEAN Thalassaemia Society (ATS)**  
Jl. Kalibata Tengah no 3A  
Jakarta 12740 Indonesia
- 48. Southeast Asia Regional Institute for Community and Education (SEARICE)**  
Unit 331 Eagle Court  
Condominium  
26 Matalino St., Diliman,  
Quezon City, Philippines
- 49. ASEAN NGO Coalition on Ageing**  
c/o. Asia Regional  
Development Centre  
Chiang Mai University  
Faculty of Nursing  
Chiang Mai 50200 Thailand
- 50. ASEAN Oleochemical Manufactures Group (AOMG)**  
Wisma FMM no 3,  
Persiaran Dagang,  
PJU 9 Bandar Sri  
Damansara,  
52200 Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia
- 51. ASEAN Council for Japan Alumni (ASCOJA)**  
Jl. Radin Inten II  
Komp. Universitas Darma  
Persada, Buaran  
Pondok Kelapa, Jakarta  
13450 Indonesia
- 52. ASEAN Federation of Flying Clubs (AFFC)**  
Johor Flying Club – Cargo  
Complex  
Sultan Ismail International  
Airport  
Senai, Malaysia
- 53. ASEAN Forestry Students Association (AFSA)**  
Faculty of Forestry Bogor  
Agricultural University (IPB)  
Jl. Dermaga, Bogor 16680  
Indonesia
- 54. ASEAN Chess Confederation (ACC)**  
51 Bishan Str. 13, #02-01A  
Singapore 579799  
or  
30 Nguyen Van Troi Str  
Phu Nhuan Dist  
HCM City – Viet Nam
- 55. ASEAN Cosmetic Association (ACA)**  
BLK 163, Bukit Merah  
#03-3595  
Singapore 150163
- 56. ASEAN Academies of Science, Engineering, and Technology (ASEAN CASE)**  
902-4, Jalan Tun Ismail  
50480 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

## APPENDIX 10

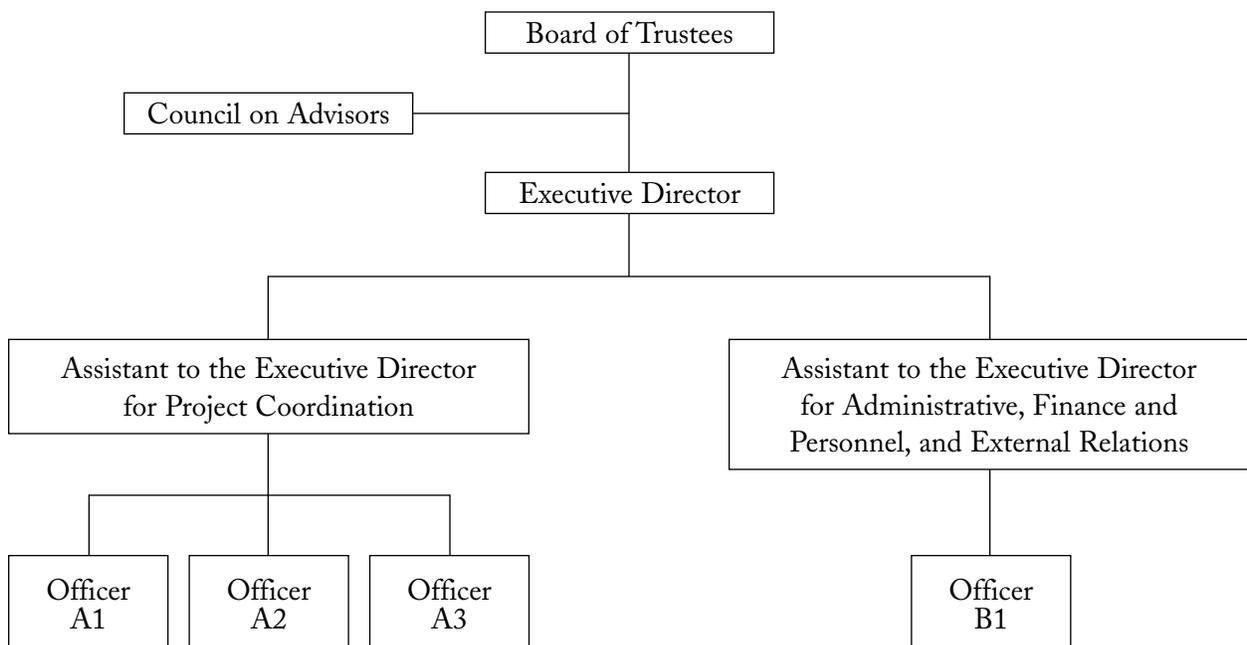
### The ASEAN Committee on Social Development



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## APPENDIX 11

### The Organisation of the ASEAN Foundation



## Guidelines on ASEAN Relations with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

**A**s a general rule, ASEAN as a regional inter-governmental body ought not to engage in any dealings or establish any relationship with purely private non-governmental organization, in particular profit-making activities. It is recognized, however, that there may be special cases when such dealings or relationships may be desirable, taking into account the status of the organization, the benefit that may be derived there from and the manner by which it would promote the attainment of the goals and objectives of ASEAN. Since such special cases represent a wide variety of situation, it is recommended that each case would be considered at its own merits.

Non-governmental organizations desiring to undertake activities under the umbrella of ASEAN may apply for affiliation with ASEAN to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting through the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. The application for affiliation should include information regarding the nature and purpose of the applicant non-governmental organization, its membership, its functions/activities/projects, what it expects from its relationship with ASEAN and the nature of the relationship it seeks to establish with ASEAN.

The ASEAN Ministerial Meeting shall decide whether to approve the application of the non-governmental organization for affiliation and the conditions and/or requirements for the affiliation and the rights and obligations of the non-governmental organization accruing therefrom. The ASEAN Ministerial Meeting shall likewise indicate with which ASEAN subsidiary body the non-governmental organization may have direct relationship.

*The following criteria, among others, shall be used in considering applications for application:*

- i.) Approval of applications for affiliation on non-governmental organizations with ASEAN shall be based primarily upon the assessment of the positive contribution which such non-governmental organization could make to the enhancement, strengthening and realization of the aims and purposes of ASEAN. No non-governmental organization may be granted affiliation status with ASEAN if such non-governmental organization has objectives or functions/activities/projects which are contrary to or inconsistent with the aims and purposes of ASEAN as embodied in the Bangkok Declaration and the Declaration of ASEAN Concord.
- ii.) As a general rule, only non-governmental organizations whose membership is confined to ASEAN nationals may be considered for affiliation with ASEAN.
- iii.) The non-governmental organization applying for affiliation shall undertake, in writing, to abide by the policies, guidelines, directive and other decisions of ASEAN.

Non-governmental organizations affiliated to ASEAN shall furnish ASEAN through the ASEAN Secretariat, reports of its activities.

Affiliation does not entitle the non-governmental organizations to funding by ASEAN, except for specific projects or programs approved by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.

ASEAN shall in no way be responsible for any of the actions of such non-governmental organizations.

The ASEAN Ministerial Meeting shall at its discretion terminate such affiliation whenever it is convinced that the aims and purposes of ASEAN are no longer served by such affiliation.



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**Revised Guidelines for ASEAN's Relations With Non-Governmental Organizations**

A non-governmental organization (hereinafter referred to as NGO) is a non-profit making association of ASEAN persons, natural or juridical, organized to promote, strengthen and help realize the aims and objectives of ASEAN cooperation in the political, economic, social, cultural, scientific, medical and technological fields.

For the purpose of the guidelines, organizations or associations which perform functions and activities that are governmental or quasi-governmental in nature but are part of the formal structure of ASEAN, may be affiliated as NGOs.

It shall be normal for an NGO to establish a working link with an ASEAN functional committee through the ASEAN secretariat. Basically the working link shall allow the NGOs to submit written statements to include proposals or positions and other recommendations. Functional committees may if need be formulate additional rules on the linkage peculiar to their respective needs and practices. These additional rules should be subject to the approval of the Standing Committee.

The main objectives of affiliation are:

- a.) To draw the NGOs into the mainstream of ASEAN activities so that they are kept informed of major policies, directives and decisions of ASEAN and are given the opportunity and the privilege of participating in ASEAN activities.
- b.) To ensure interaction and fruitful relationship between the existing ASEAN bodies and the NGOs.

The ASEAN Secretariat shall receive and process applications for affiliation. If the Secretary-General considers them in conformity with the guidelines, he shall refer them to the ASEAN National Secretariats with the recommendation, which shall respond within 2 months. If the responses are in the affirmative or in the absence of expressed objection with 4 months after receipt, the applications shall be submitted to the ASEAN Standing Committee for consideration.

Application for affiliation shall include information regarding the nature and purpose of the applicant NGO, its constitution and by-laws, its membership, its functions, activities, and projects, its link body, etc. The Secretary-General shall formally present, with his recommendations, applications for affiliation to the Standing-Committee which shall consider the applications using, among others, the following criteria:

- a.) As a general rule, only NGOs whose membership is confined to ASEAN nationals may be considered for affiliation with ASEAN.
- b.) Approval of application for affiliation of a NGO with ASEAN shall be based primarily upon the assessment of the positive contribution and realization of the aims and objectives of ASEAN.
- c.) Affiliation status with ASEAN may not be granted to a NGO if it has objectives, activities or projects which are contrary to or inconsistent with the aims and objectives of ASEAN embodied in the Bangkok Declaration and
- d.) the Declaration of ASEAN Concord.
- e.) A NGO whose membership comes from a relatively even spread of the ASEAN member countries may be allowed affiliation, provided that ASEAN is satisfied that the NGO merits affiliation and the non-participating member

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countries have given their consent to the non-governmental organization and provided further that membership shall remain open for other member countries.

An affiliated NGO shall enjoy the following privileges:

- a.) It may use the name “ASEAN” and display the official ASEAN emblem in correspondence and communications and its official meetings so long as the displaying of such emblem is non-commercial in nature.
- b.) It may submit written statements or recommendations and views on policy matters or on significant events or regional and international concerns, to the ASEAN Standing Committee through the ASEAN Secretariat.
- c.) It may submit its own project proposals for Third Party funding to be channeled through the ASEAN Secretariat to the Standing Committee for approval.
- d.) It may initiate programmes of activities for presentation to its link body for appropriate action.
- e.) At the discretion of the Chairman of the link body, it may through its representative attend meetings of the link body for consultation on matters and issues of direct concern to the NGO.
- f.) For purposes of doing research for its projects, it may be allowed access to the ASEAN documents on a selective basis in consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat and or its link body.
- g.) Subject to rules and regulations, it may be allowed the use of the facilities of the ASEAN Secretariat for its official meetings and other official activities in Jakarta.
- h.) It shall be encouraged to be self-reliant in terms of its material requirements.

As a general rule, none of the foregoing privileges will be extended to organizations not formally affiliated with ASEAN.

All affiliated NGOs shall be required to comply with the following:

- a.) They shall undertake in writing to abide by the policies, guidelines, directives and other decisions of ASEAN.
- b.) They shall be held responsible for their actions, especially those found detrimental to ASEAN as a whole.
- c.) They shall invite participation of officials of ASEAN member countries at their meetings and activities.
- d.) They shall submit annually summary of activities to the ASEAN Standing Committee through the ASEAN Secretariat.
- e.) They shall inform the ASEAN Secretariat of changes in their officials and memberships.

Upon recommendations by the ASEAN Secretariat after complaint has been lodged by an ASEAN link body or an ASEAN Member State, the Standing Committee shall, at its discretion, terminate the affiliation of NGOs if:

- a.) They engage in acts inimical to ASEAN or any of the ASEAN Member State.
- b.) They act in contrary to the aims and objectives of ASEAN.
- c.) They are found to have committed gross misconduct which brings disrepute to ASEAN.
- d.) They are inactive, defunct or fail to submit annual summary of their activities, as required for three years in succession.
- e.) They change their constitutions, officials and membership resulting in their inability thereafter to adhere to the guidelines.



## APPENDIX 12

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NGOs whose affiliation has been terminated shall not take legal action against any ASEAN member country or the ASEAN Secretariat. However, they may appeal to the ASEAN Standing Committee for a reconsideration of the termination. The decision of the ASEAN Standing Committee shall be final and binding.

**T**his Agenda is the product of ASEAN People's Forum organized by FORUM-ASIA, International Council on Social Welfare, Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma, in cooperation with Institute for Security and International Studies (ISIS-Thailand), Center for Social and Development Studies, Chulalongkorn University and Thai Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and attended by over 100 representatives of non-governmental organizations from ASEAN +3 member countries. This meeting took place in Bangkok, Thailand, on July 19 and 20, 2001.

We, a diverse union of Asian people gathered as the fourth ASEAN Peoples' Forum, call upon the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and our own government representatives to address the concerns of their constituents, as outlined in this, the ASEAN Peoples' Agenda, at the 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. We challenge ASEAN to uphold the promise: Put People First.

We believe that ASEAN's primary purpose must be to serve the citizens of South East Asian countries. We believe ASEAN has the capacity and responsibility to implement policies that truly reflect the interests of all citizens, and we present this Agenda as one of the voices of the peoples of South East Asia, to guide and motivate their representatives.

Economic globalization has failed to benefit great numbers of Asian people. Export-driven economies, unregulated capital flow, and the continuing enrichment of elites at the expense of the people has had deep and painful consequences for our communities such as increased poverty, unemployment and hunger. Growing economic pressures have led to inequities within and between countries and contributed to unprecedented migration and human trafficking.

Conflicts have multiplied, marked by rights violations and displacement of civilians within and across national boundaries. Growing militarization has decreased budget allocations for basic services, like health care and education.

In light of this situation, we demand that ASEAN and its member nations address these key concerns:

### **Integration of Social Concerns in Development Planning**

ASEAN member countries have supported the commitments of the major United Nations development conferences in the past decade. These commitments demand a shift of development objectives from solely economic indicators of progress to include standards of poverty reduction, social development, human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

ASEAN must promote and support a socially oriented development plan that is responsive to the needs of people that includes:

- ▶ Sustained action on poverty eradication and a renewal to the commitments made at the World Summit on Social Development; this process must include representatives of all those involved in the development process, including civil society organizations;
- ▶ Lobbying multilateral and bilateral creditors to improve debt cancellation arrangements and establishing debt standstill processes;
- ▶ Reducing excessive volatility in international financial markets, specifically, through a coordinated system of national taxation on currency transactions;



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- ▶ Intervening at the WTO level to have an impact assessment of trade liberalization on social development and eliminating the unfairness for developing countries in international trade arrangements, specially in agriculture and intellectual property;
- ▶ Discontinuing excessive military expenditure and exports; specifically, ASEAN should promote people-centered budgets and equitable tax structures;
- ▶ Enhancing equity in the ownership and usage of land and other natural resources especially for women and indigenous peoples.

### **Democratization and Respect for Human Rights**

ASEAN must support ratification and implementation of United Nations instruments and international humanitarian law that protect human rights and women's rights, and must urge member nations to abolish laws and practices that violate basic rights, such as "National Security" laws, and the death penalty. Basic freedoms of expression, assembly and association must be protected, and independence of the judiciary and media guaranteed.

ASEAN must encourage electoral reforms to ensure freely-chosen and democratic governments, and promote good governance by establishing programs that encourage anti-corruption measures.

To support human rights, independent national human rights commissions must be strengthened; where they do not exist, they should be established in accordance with the Paris Principles. ASEAN must pursue its development of an effective regional human rights mechanism through consultation with civil society.

ASEAN and governments must recognize the right to self-determination, and encourage engage-

ment in peaceful and political resolutions to conflicts.

The killings, disappearances, arbitrary arrests, forced displacements and other violations occurring in Aceh (Aceh Sumatra) and elsewhere must be stopped immediately.

ASEAN should support the commencement of a tripartite dialogue to resolve the situation in Burma, with participation by the State Peace and Development Council, the National League for Democracy, and leaders of non-Burman ethnic nationalities.

ASEAN states should fulfill promises of assistance to East Timor, and provide additional technical and humanitarian assistance, including settlement of the issue of refugees in West Timor. ASEAN should seek to ensure that those responsible for grave violations of human rights are brought to justice.

ASEAN should adopt a resolution to support ratification of the International Criminal Court by individual member states. ASEAN should also support the creation of a tribunal for the prosecution of crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia.

We support the establishment of a regional mechanism that will address conflicts between and within countries and welcome the proposal to establish the ASEAN High Council.

### **Labour Migration**

ASEAN governments have not yet recognized the importance of labor migration in the region and between regions. We ask ASEAN governments to acknowledge the growing importance of labor migration, and to acknowledge that the contributions of migrant labor to both sending and receiving countries are very significant. We urge governments to:

- ▶ Adopt the UN Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
- ▶ Hold a regional summit on employment standards and protection for migrant workers including but not limited to occupational safety and health;
- ▶ Formulate a comprehensive policy on labor migration that gives precedence to the human rights of all migrant workers, regardless of immigration status and immigration policies;
- ▶ Repeal discriminatory labor and immigration law, such as mandatory HIV or pregnancy testing for migrant workers;
- ▶ Develop policies and mechanisms to regulate brokers and recruiters;
- ▶ Provide migrant labor with full rights under domestic labor laws;
- ▶ Create a mechanism for redress of complaints of violence against women, specifically in relation to violence against women migrants, and children, as well as undocumented workers, without fear of reprisals and deportation.

### **Promotion of the Rights of Women**

We urge ASEAN to address continuing systemic, structural and gender-based discrimination, commodification of and violence against women, which denies women their dignity and rights, and marginalizes them from meaningful participation in decision making.

ASEAN must adopt policies and programs to promote and institutionalize gender-fair education, and to ensure full participation of women and representation of women's interests in ASEAN and in national and regional bodies. Appropriate mechanisms and resources should promote and monitor the status of women, eradicate trafficking

and other forms of commodification of women, and redress and stop all forms of violence and discrimination against women.

### **Children, ASEAN's Future**

We urge ASEAN governments to affirm the worth and dignity of children, and demand that, as signatories to the U. N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), governments act together to:

- ▶ Ensure implementation of the CRC, promote the CRC in media and education, and establish CRC reporting open to public participation and public scrutiny;
- ▶ End the use of children in armed conflict. Governments should immediately and in concert sign the Optional Protocol on the use of children in armed conflict;
- ▶ Ratify and implement the provisions of the International Labour Organisation's Convention 182, to protect children from exploitation;
- ▶ Guarantee that education and basic services are free to all children regardless of nationality or immigration status, including stateless children;
- ▶ Stop deportation of migrant or stateless children, and child victims of trafficking. Governments must observe minimum standards for treatment of trafficked and migrant children in accordance with international standards;
- ▶ Develop and implement programs to serve differently-abled children;
- ▶ Mobilize and empower communities and resources for children who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS;
- ▶ Urge ASEAN to recognize the severe adverse effects that economic globalization can have on children by commissioning a thorough study of the effects on children of structural adjustment programs during the Asian financial crisis.



cont'd

### **Regional Stability and Security Concerns**

The United States' unilateral pursuit of missile defense deployment in the context of the shift in its global military presence and strategy towards Asia in general and China in particular threatens to drag the region into renewed militarization and destruction of fragile peace processes.

- ▶ We urge ASEAN governments to oppose the US missile defense plan.
- ▶ We call upon ASEAN to join civil society in opposing such plans, and to promote cooperative efforts towards regional security that will allow money to be shifted from the military to spending on pressing social needs such as health and education.

ASEAN should take cognizance of the gravity of the situations in Indonesia and Burma that have repercussions on the democratization and political security and stability in the region.

ASEAN should fully and effectively utilize and strengthen existing conflict resolution management systems and to review the non-interference policy.

### **Conclusion**

We urge ASEAN to take an active role in turning the above concerns into reality through dialogue and cooperative efforts with those directly responsible and accountable for making this happen. We also urge ASEAN to create a permanent mechanism to allow civil society participation in ASEAN's decision-making processes at the national and regional levels.

It is only then that ASEAN can be true to its promise of "Putting People First."