

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.

ASEAN VISION 2020



**ASEAN
Security
Community**

The ASEAN Security Community (ASC) embodies ASEAN's aspirations to achieve peace, stability, democracy and prosperity in the region where ASEAN Member Countries live at peace with one another and with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment. The ASC subscribes to the principle of comprehensive security, which acknowledges the strong interdependence of the political, economic and social life of the region.

ASEAN's activities to realise the ASC are guided by the five strategic thrusts in the ASC Plan of Action, namely, political development, shaping and sharing of norms, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peace building.

DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

ASEAN Regional Forum

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) continues to play a role in enhancing political and security dialogue and cooperation as well as confidence building in the Asia-Pacific region. In line with the ASC Plan of Action adopted at the 10th ASEAN Summit in November 2004, the ARF process will be strengthened in the coming years through an enhanced role of the ARF Chair and the Friends of the Chair; the establishment of the ARF Fund; the promotion of linkages between Track I and Track II activities; and strengthening ASEAN's leading role in addressing issues of common concern, consolidating confidence building measures (CBMs), and developing preventive diplomacy (PD).

The 11th ASEAN Regional Forum was held on 2 July 2004 in Jakarta where the Ministers exchanged views on recent developments on the Korean Peninsula, South China Sea, the Middle East, Indonesia and Myanmar. Guidelines for the Operation of the ARF Experts/Eminent Persons (EEPs) were adopted with the agreement that the EEPs would be used to conduct a study on measures to carry out preventive diplomacy by the ARF or the ARF Chair. The ARF's present work in tackling terrorism was recognised as a milestone in the ARF's development of a preventive role.

Confidence Building Measures (CBM)

Meetings of the Inter-Sessional Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs) were held in October 2004 in Phnom Penh, and in February 2005 in Potsdam, Germany. The ISG expressed support for the implementation of the ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DoC) that was signed in November 2002 and called for the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks on the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. The ARF SOM held in May 2005 agreed on the need to move towards preventive diplomacy while continuing with confidence-building activities and will recommend to the 12th ARF on 29 July 2005 to rename the ISG on CBMs to the ISG on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBMs and PD). In reviewing the international efforts to mitigate the impact of the tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004, the ARF Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in May 2005 agreed to reactivate the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM-DR) and to welcome Indonesia and China as the co-chairs.

“The role of ASEAN has been increasingly recognised in ensuring peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region, through the ARF, with ASEAN as the primary driving force.”

PRIME MINISTER BOUNNHANG VORACHITH, 29 NOVEMBER 2004

Defence and Security Policy Dialogue

Defence dialogue and cooperation in the ARF was further elevated with the convening of the 1st ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) in November 2004 in Beijing. The ASPC recommended exploring and developing ways and means of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in various areas. These included intelligence and information sharing, capacity building, training programmes, consequence management, and the sharing of experiences on the legal aspects of the role of the armed forces in dealing with non-traditional security threats. There was consensus that non-traditional security threats represented a common ground on which to continue dialogue and build concrete cooperation among the national defence forces of ARF participants.

The 2nd ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) was held on 19 May 2005 in Vientiane. The ASPC agreed that fighting terrorism required collective and multilateral responses from all countries concerned and that regional arrangements such as the ARF could play an important role in addressing this threat. There was also consensus that non-traditional security issues were transnational and trans-regional in nature. Therefore, it was important to address them through an integrated use of political, economic, diplomatic, legal, scientific and technological means, as well as through cooperation in all possible forms.

In addition, the ASPC exchanged views on the role of the armed forces in disaster relief and the management of non-traditional security issues. The ASPC agreed to promote joint capacity building in consequence management, and to discuss the organisation for command and control as well as the contribution of facilities/forces in disaster relief.

In September 2004, the ARF Heads of Defence Universities, Colleges and Institutions (HDUCI) meeting that was held in Singapore agreed to promote bilateral and multilateral memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on academic exchange programmes among the ARF participants. The HDUCI has started exchanging publications and a directory of experts.

Non-Traditional Security Issues

At the ARF Seminar on Enhancing Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues held in March 2005 in Hainan, China, participants shared their best practices and experiences in coping with non-traditional security threats, such as, terrorism, illicit drugs, piracy, people smuggling and human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, and cyber crime. Agreement was reached to develop plans of action to implement the relevant ARF statements on non-traditional security issues.



Operational demonstration at an ARF CBM held in Singapore

Maritime Security

The ARF Workshop on Maritime Security in September 2004 in Kuala Lumpur was important in forging a general consensus among ARF participants on the reality of threats to maritime security. ARF participants also agreed on the need to take collective efforts to address maritime threats; on the need to implement and develop international and national standards on the safety of navigation; and on the need to develop surveillance systems and an accurate and timely information system in order to ensure the safe movement of people and goods through regional waters. The Singapore-US CBM on Regional Cooperation in Maritime Security in March 2005 took discussions a step further with sessions on multilateral cooperation, operational solutions to maritime security, shipping and port

security, and the applicable technology for maritime security. These sessions identified concrete and implementable strategies that ARF participants could take forward in a cooperative manner. Ideas put forth by the CBM included: fostering information sharing; establishing maritime domain awareness; initiating joint maritime security exercises; cooperating on consequence management; and sustaining capacity building initiatives.

Intelligence Exchange and Document Integrity and Security

The 3rd ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, co-chaired by Thailand and Canada in April 2005 in Bangkok, focussed on information sharing and intelligence exchange, document integrity and security, and law enforcement cooperation. To promote intelligence exchange, the ISM agreed on the need to balance the timely, effective, and systematic sharing of information and exchange of intelligence with the appropriate protection for the sources of information, privacy, and human rights. In recognising the role of document integrity and security in combating terrorism and transnational crime, the ISM agreed on the importance of international standards such as International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) 9303 and participation in the INTERPOL database of lost and stolen travel documents. An ARF Statement on Information Sharing and Intelligence Exchange and Document Integrity and Security in Enhancing Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and other Transnational Crimes was endorsed at the ARF SOM in Vientiane and will be forwarded to the 12th ARF for consideration and approval.

Civil-Military Cooperation

An ARF workshop on peace arrangements, including civil-military cooperation, which was held on 22-23 March 2005 in Tokyo, concluded that traditional peacekeeping operations of monitoring ceasefires and disengagements had become complex peacekeeping missions that would involve not only military peace keepers and police officers, but also civilian administrators, aid workers, legal experts, and other specialists. Taking into account the different conflicts or humanitarian situations, the seminar recommended that the ARF develop a “tool box” of capabilities from which the most appropriate approach could be selected on matters like command issue, composition of mission, coverage of mandate, and exit strategy, among other issues. The workshop noted the commonalities between peacekeeping operations and disaster relief assistance and, in this regard, agreed that the ARF should build training partnerships in peace support operations and civil-military cooperation for both situations to ensure an efficient use of the limited resources of ARF participants.

Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia

The 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia is a legally-binding instrument to promote perpetual peace, everlasting amity and cooperation in the region. This treaty has been accepted by a growing number of countries outside Southeast Asia. Four more countries acceded to the Treaty in 2004, namely, Japan (2 July 2004), Pakistan (2 July 2004), Republic of Korea (27 November 2004), and Russia (29 November



37th AMM, Jakarta, 2004

2004). They join three other non-ASEAN countries that had already acceded to the Treaty, namely, Papua New Guinea (1989), China (2003), and India (2003). These accessions are a show of political support for ASEAN's principles of peaceful coexistence, friendly consultation and resolution of conflict, and goodwill in cooperation.

Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone

The 1995 Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) is crucial to both confidence building in Southeast Asia and to worldwide nuclear disarmament. States Parties to SEANWFZ, namely, the ten ASEAN Member Countries, have continued to seek ways and means of enhancing the importance of SEANWFZ, and to secure the support of all the five nuclear weapon States (NWS) for the SEANWFZ Treaty through their signing of the Protocol to the Treaty. So far, China has announced its political support for SEANWFZ and its readiness to be the first NWS to sign the Protocol.

South China Sea

Premised on the belief that confidence-building activities would contribute to strengthening peace, security and stability in the South China Sea, ASEAN and China agreed to establish an ASEAN-China SOM on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DoC) and a Joint Working Group to study and recommend confidence-building activities. This marks another important step towards enhancing confidence and trust in the South China Sea, and to upholding the letter and spirit of the DoC.

The first ASEAN-China SOM on the Implementation of the DoC held in December 2004 in Kuala Lumpur adopted the Terms of Reference of the Joint Working Group. The Joint Working Group's tasks include: (i) formulating recommendations on guidelines and the action plan for the implementation of the DoC; (ii) specific cooperative activities in the South China Sea; (iii) compiling a register of experts and eminent persons who may provide technical inputs and non-binding and professional views or policy

recommendations; and (iv) convening workshops, as the need arises. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group will be held in August 2005 in the Philippines.

Security Dialogue

Security dialogue among ASEAN Member Countries continues to be promoted through, inter alia, the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) Working Group on Security Cooperation which met on 17-18 May 2005 in Vientiane. The meeting supported the idea of convening an ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM), which was first proposed by Thailand at the 9th ASEAN Summit in 2003 in Bali, and noted the offer of several ASEAN Member Countries to host the first ADMM.

Counter-Terrorism

The Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) adopted at the 10th ASEAN Summit contained several measures to guide ASEAN's efforts in countering terrorism from 2005-2010. These measures form the preparatory steps towards the conclusion of an ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism and the establishment of an ASEAN Extradition Treaty as envisaged by the ASC Plan of Action.

In addition to the programme measures contained in the VAP, ASEAN's efforts in counter-terrorism continued to be guided by the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism of 2001, the Declaration on Terrorism by the 8th ASEAN Summit of 2002, and the Terrorism Component of the Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime of 2002.

Intra-ASEAN inter-sector cooperation on counter-terrorism continued to progress. The 4th Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) in September 2004 in Bandar Seri Begawan discussed and reviewed ongoing cooperation and activities in combating transnational crime and terrorism. At the 5th SOMTC in June 2005 in Siem Riep, Cambodia, there was agreement to request the ASEAN SOM and ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) to initiate the setting-up of a joint working group to work on drafting



Signing the MOU and Consortium Agreement for the e-ADS

the ASEAN Convention on Counter-terrorism, as called for by the VAP. In addition, coordination among the ASEAN Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL) in fighting terrorism strengthened following the 24th and 25th ASEANAPOL Annual Conferences held respectively in August 2004 in Thailand, and May 2005 in Indonesia. The Chiefs of Police have called for, among other measures, enhancing the existing mechanisms of cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member Countries in preventing and suppressing all aspects of terrorist activities and other transnational crimes, and enhancing the exchange of information and intelligence. They also signed the MOU and Consortium Agreement for the e-ASEANAPOL (e-ADS) database system.

Several developments in the past twelve months have enhanced ASEAN's capacity to counter terrorism, in particular: (i) a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters was signed by eight Member Countries in November 2004 in Kuala Lumpur; and (ii) the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) in Indonesia was established in July 2004, and along with the Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Thailand and the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Malaysia, will conduct training for ASEAN law enforcement officials in combating transnational crime and terrorism. ASEAN has urged its Dialogue Partners to provide assistance, as well as make use of these existing centres in ASEAN.

At the same time, ASEAN also moved progressively to enhance extra-regional cooperation in countering terrorism with its Dialogue Partners. Since June 2004,

ASEAN has concluded three more Joint Declarations on Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, namely, with Australia in July 2004, Russia in July 2004 and Japan in November 2004. This brings the total number of such Joint Declarations to seven (the other four are with China, the EU, India, and the US). In terms of capacity building, ASEAN and AusAID successfully completed the "Foundation Course for Senior Officers on the Theory of Counter-Terrorism Recognition and Multilateral Collaboration for Combating Terrorism" in January 2005. In addition, under the ASEAN-Denmark Cooperation, project ideas for strengthening the legal capacity of Member Countries to combat terrorism and sea piracy are being formulated. ASEAN and the US are also working on some activities under the ASEAN-US Work Plan to combat international terrorism.

Cooperation on Transnational and Non-Traditional Security Issues

Transnational Crime

The VAP gives priority to the establishment of institutionalised coordination mechanisms among relevant ASEAN bodies to strengthen cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues and transnational crime.

In line with the VAP, the Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime facilitates coordination and exchange of information among the relevant ASEAN bodies and focal points. In implementing the Work Programme in the past year, Member Countries

have carried out several workshops/seminars on arms smuggling, money laundering, and cyber crime. Training programmes have been conducted on psychological operation/warfare, intelligence procuring, bomb/explosive detection, post-blast investigation, airport security and travel document security, immigration matters, and cross-border controls.

The 5th SOMTC Meeting in June 2005 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, agreed to revise the Work Programme and focus ASEAN's efforts at combating transnational crime on four prioritised areas, namely, terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and money laundering. There was also acknowledgement of the need for an institutionalised coordination mechanism between SOMTC and other ASEAN bodies involved in combating transnational crime.

ASEAN has enhanced its cooperation with Dialogue Partners in combating transnational crime. ASEAN and China have a Joint Declaration on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues and a corresponding MOU. Under the MOU, a number of projects were implemented in 2004 and at present, ASEAN and China are formulating the 2005-2006 Work Plan on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues.

ASEAN has also been working closely with Dialogue Partners towards realising the goals of the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children adopted at the 10th ASEAN Summit. Specifically, ASEAN has been working closely with the US on a pilot research project for the improved collection of data and statistics on the trafficking in persons in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. In addition, the ASEAN Secretariat is working closely with AusAID, in collaboration with SOMTC, on the AusAID-funded project, Asia Regional Cooperation to Prevent People Trafficking (ARCPPT) to strengthen criminal justice responses to trafficking. The project began in April 2003 and currently operates directly in Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. The 5th SOMTC agreed to extend the project to include other ASEAN Member Countries. Resource

materials such as investigation training programmes and a guide to the establishment of specialist trafficking units will also be developed as part of the project.

Immigration

The Immigration authorities of ASEAN continue to play an important role in combating transnational crime, supporting closer economic integration and facilitating tourism. The 8th Meeting of the Directors-General of Immigration and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) in October 2004 reviewed and considered measures to further accelerate the realisation of the Work Programme to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action on Immigration Matters which was adopted in 2002. The DGICM looked into the issues of immigration cooperation, especially cooperation in combating transnational crime and terrorism through enhancing immigration control, protection of travel documents, and fighting travel document fraud. In this context, the DGICM agreed to step up efforts to harmonise visa issuance procedures, where possible, for foreign nationals travelling into ASEAN. Information was also exchanged on the use of Smart Cards for seamless clearance and biometric passports in the context of improving passport control in line with ICAO standards.

On combating human trafficking in the region, the DGICM is looking into ways to implement the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children.

The ASEAN Immigration Network, which consists of 24-hour contact persons/authorities in each ASEAN

Combating transnational crime leads to a safer world for ASEAN's children



Member Country, continues to be a useful means for exchanging tactical, operational and intelligence information on immigration matters within ASEAN.

Law and Legal Matters

The ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) agreed on the establishment of a Working Group on Uniform-Laws for Legalisation of Documents, a Working Group on Legal Cooperation in Mediation Process, and a Working Group on Modalities for Harmonisation of ASEAN Trade Laws.

The 9th ASLOM in August 2004 in Bandar Seri Begawan took note of several new proposals for cooperation, such as: (i) expanding the mandate of ASLOM to help coordinate the process of international law-making within ASEAN; (ii) developing a model regional treaty on extradition; and (iii) developing a model law on maritime security to promote law and order at sea.

Eight Member Countries, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam, signed a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters in November 2004 in Kuala Lumpur. Myanmar and Thailand expressed their support for the Treaty but requested for more time to accede to the Treaty.

Drugs and Narcotics

The ASEAN Secretariat completed a compilation of national laws and regulations of the ASEAN Member Countries pertaining to illicit drug trafficking. This has been disseminated to the Member Countries. The compilation is available on ASEANWEB.

ASEAN Member Countries reiterated their commitment to combat drugs abuses in their respective countries and in the region to achieve the goal of Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015 at the 25th ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) Meeting held in September 2004 in Makati City, the Philippines. There was agreement on the enhancement of ASOD's role, and in this connection, the ASEAN Secretariat will study the possibility of ASOD serving as the Chairman of the SOMTC programme on illicit drug trafficking, as well as enhancing cooperation with the ASEAN-China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD), the ASEAN-EC Sub-Committee on Narcotics, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation Fact-Finding Committee to Combat the Drug Menace (AIFOCOM) and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Four ASOD working groups on Prevention, Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation, and Law Enforcement and Research, would be strengthened. ASOD also agreed to explore opening the market of each ASEAN Member Country to alternative development products.

ASEAN and China have selected three regional projects to receive funding from the ACCORD Account at the 1st ACCORD Joint Task Force Meeting held in September 2004 in the Philippines. The selected projects are: (i) Training on Drug Demand Reduction in Thailand for Practitioners in ACCORD Countries; (ii) Seminar on Illicit Traffic by Waterways for ACCORD Countries; and (iii) Seminar on the Establishment of Market Information Systems for Products Resulting from Alternative Development Strategies. ASEAN and China also agreed on a schedule of task force meetings on civic awareness, demand reduction, law enforcement, and alternative development.

A preparatory meeting for the 2nd ACCORD International Congress was held in May 2005 in Cambodia where discussions took place on the illicit drug demand and supply trends in China and the Southeast Asian region, and the updated ACCORD Plan of Action (2005-2010).

Alternative development programmes are a feature of the ACCORD Plan of Action



Civil Service

The ASEAN Leaders recognise the role that strong civil services play in national development. Strengthening effective and efficient civil services, and enhancing good governance in the public sector have been identified as priorities in the ASC Plan of Action.

ASEAN Member Countries agreed to step up and expand bilateral cooperation among members of the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) at the 12th ACCSM in October 2004. This included strengthening cooperation within the framework of the Project on Capacity Building for Civil Services in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. Progress was also made on the establishment of ASEAN Resource Centres (ARC) in all Member Countries, initiated by the 8th ACCSM in 1995. By the end of 2004, all ten ARCs had been established.

The Preparatory Meeting for the 13th ACCSM held in April 2005 in Cambodia noted several updates on ACCSM and ARC projects. Projects that were started or completed by Member Countries in the last twelve months included, among others: (i) the overhaul of the Indonesian civil service management information system; (ii) a training programme on urban planning in Singapore targeted at participants from the CLMV; (iii) enhancement of information dissemination and the creation of a database system in Cambodia; and (iv) a Training of Trainers for the Civil Service in Myanmar.

