

2004-2010 VIENTIANE ACTION PROGRAMME

Adopted in Vientiane, Laos on 29 November 2004

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I. PREAMBLE

Theme: Towards shared prosperity and destiny in an integrated, peaceful and caring ASEAN Community

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN"), gathered here in Vientiane, Laos, on 29 November 2004 for the Tenth ASEAN Summit;

NOTING that ASEAN Vision 2020 envisions 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;

NOTING FURTHER that the Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA), the first in a series of action plans or programmes leading to the end-goal of ASEAN Vision 2020, ends in 2004 and that a successor action plan or programme is needed to guide further progress towards ASEAN Vision 2020;

RECALLING the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II, which elaborates on the themes of ASEAN Vision 2020 by setting concrete milestones to reach the goals of a broad and comprehensive ASEAN Community, founded on the three pillars of political and security cooperation, economic integration, and socio-cultural cooperation, to form the ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community by 2020;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the global and regional economic environment has changed and is continuously challenged by new developments which have an impact on the trade and investment flows, and the economic competitiveness of ASEAN, and that ASEAN now has to work within a new strategic context;

RECOGNISING that deepening and broadening the integration of ASEAN must be accompanied by technical and development cooperation to address the development gap among the Member Countries so that the benefits of ASEAN integration are shared and which will enable all ASEAN Member Countries to move forward in a unified and cohesive manner;

REITERATING our commitment to strengthen efforts to narrow the development gap in ASEAN by building upon existing initiatives such as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), the Roadmap for the Integration of ASEAN (RIA), the Ha Noi Declaration on Narrowing Development Gap for Closer ASEAN Integration of 23 July 2001 and the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Economic Cooperation and Integration Among Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam of 28 November 2004;

DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

1. We agree to pursue the comprehensive integration of ASEAN towards the realisation of an open, dynamic and resilient ASEAN Community by 2020 as envisioned in the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II and its annexes in the form of the action plans of the ASEAN Security Community (ASC), the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) and the Recommendations of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration;
2. We shall address, by various ways and means, the development issues and special needs of the less developed ASEAN Member Countries and sub-regional areas of ASEAN, including the implementation of the concept of "Prosper Thy Neighbour" by instituting programmes to narrow the development gap, reducing socio-economic disparities and eradicating poverty within ASEAN, and by doing so, move forward in a unifying and cohesive manner to prosper ASEAN. We also recognise the contributions of sub-regional arrangements such as, the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippine-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand-Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore-Growth Triangle (IMS-GT), ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) to reducing the development gap within the region;
3. We shall strengthen further ASEAN's institutional framework both in terms of its structure and process to ensure that it is responsive to the challenges and needs of moving towards an ASEAN Community, including in terms of coordination and efficiency as well as in strengthening its ability to shape events in Southeast Asia and beyond;
4. We shall adopt greater outward-looking external relation strategies with our Dialogue Partners and friends in building a peaceful, secure and prosperous ASEAN, strengthening our economic linkages and deepening our socio-cultural cooperation with East Asia and beyond;
5. We recognise the need to strengthen ASEAN and shall work towards the development of an ASEAN Charter;
6. We shall, first and foremost, work closely between and among ourselves to generate our own indigenous resources as well as reach out to our Dialogue Partners and all others who wish to engage ASEAN on the basis of equality, non-discrimination and mutual benefit, to build bridges between the public sector and all other sectors of society within and outside ASEAN in order to facilitate a synergy of experience, expertise and resources available thereof for the attainment of the ASEAN Community;
7. We shall promote an ASEAN cultural heritage as a creative expression of the ASEAN spirit, and as a basis for an enduring bond of an ASEAN regional identity, since it originates from common ties throughout history and a shared aspiration for peace and prosperity;
8. We hereby endorse the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), the successor to the HPA, to be implemented for the period 2004-2010, as an instrument to unify and cross-link the strategies and goals of the three pillars of the ASEAN Community and as an integral part of the action plans and programmes building up to the realisation of the goals of ASEAN Vision 2020;
9. As the process leading to the establishment of the ASEAN Community is continuously evolving, the VAP should therefore be perceived as an evolving document. Therefore, the lists of activities that are envisaged as being implementable in the period of 2004-2010, as contained in the various annexes to the VAP, are non-exhaustive; and

10. We commit ourselves, therefore, to implement the VAP paying attention to its two dimensions, the first being the broader integration of the ten Member Countries into one cohesive ASEAN Community, and the second being the identification of new strategies for narrowing the development gap to quicken the pace of integration, and working closely among ourselves, with our Dialogue Partners and others, to mobilise political will and generate the required resources for the effective implementation of the VAP.

II. GOALS AND STRATEGIES TOWARDS REALISING THE ASEAN COMMUNITY

1. ASEAN SECURITY COMMUNITY

Theme: Enhancing peace, stability, democracy and prosperity in the region through comprehensive political and security cooperation

Strategic Thrusts

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 interdependencies of the political, economic and social life of the region. Thus, it views political and social stability, economic prosperity, and equitable development as strong foundations for the ASEAN Community, and will accordingly pursue programmes that will build on these foundations.

On the external relations front, the ASC shall contribute to further promote peace and security in the Asia Pacific region, strengthen ASEAN's role as the driving force of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and continue to enhance ASEAN's engagement with Dialogue Partners and friends.

Consistent with the ASC Plan of Action, the VAP for the ASC shall be pursued along five strategic thrusts, namely, political development, shaping and sharing of norms, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peace-building, the implementation of which shall focus on actions that are conceivably achievable by 2010.

1.1 Political Development

In support of our commitment to enhance a political environment in which ASEAN Member Countries have strong adherence to peaceful ways of settling intra-regional differences and regard their individual security as fundamentally linked together and bound by geographic location, common vision and shared values, the strategies for political development are:

- i. Promote understanding and appreciation of political systems, culture and history of member countries through increasing people-to-people contacts and track-two activities;
- ii. Promote human rights and obligations;
- iii. Lay the groundwork to establish an institutional framework to facilitate the free flow of information among ASEAN Member Countries;

- iv. Establish programmes for mutual support and assistance among ASEAN member countries in the development of a strategy for strengthening the rule of law, judiciary systems and legal infrastructure, effective and efficient civil services, and good governance in public and private sectors;
- v. Increase the participation of non-governmental organisations such as the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO), the ASEAN People's Assembly (APA), the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the ASEAN Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) and the academia, especially the ASEAN University Network (AUN), in moving forward ASEAN political development initiatives, and strengthen the role of the ASEAN Foundation; and
- vi. Prevent and combat corruption.

1.2 Shaping and Sharing of Norms

In order to contribute to building collective responsibilities and forming a standard or common adherence to norms of good conduct in a democratic, tolerant, participatory and open community, as a means to consolidating and strengthening ASEAN's solidarity, cohesiveness and harmony (the "we feeling"), the strategies for shaping and sharing of norms include:

- i. Initiate the preparatory activities to develop an ASEAN Charter;
- ii. Encourage accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) by non-ASEAN countries;
- iii. Ensure the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and work towards the adoption of a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea;
- iv. Work towards resolving outstanding issues to ensure signing of the Nuclear Weapon States to the Protocols to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) treaty; and
- v. Work towards concluding an ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement and an ASEAN convention on counter terrorism, and the establishment of an ASEAN extradition treaty as envisaged by the 1976 Declaration of ASEAN Concord.

1.3 Conflict Prevention

Guided by the principle articulated in the TAC, ASEAN's key code of conduct governing relations between states and a key diplomatic instrument for the promotion of peace and stability in the region, the strategies for conflict prevention are:

- i. Strengthen confidence-building measures through increased opportunities for exchanges and interactions among military officials, and between military officials and civilian personnel, and promote the voluntary exchange of observers at military exercises;
- ii. Promote greater transparency and understanding of defence policies and threat perceptions through the publication and exchange of security outlook or defence white papers among ASEAN Member Countries, and voluntary briefings on political and security developments in the region;

- iii. Develop an ASEAN early warning system based on existing mechanism to prevent occurrence/escalation of conflicts;
- iv. Strengthen the ARF process;
- v. Combat transnational crimes and other transboundary problems through regional cooperation activities;
- vi. Establish an ASEAN Arms Register to be administered by the ASEAN Secretariat, in line with a similar activity being conducted in the ARF; and
- vii. Promote ASEAN maritime security cooperation.

1.4 Conflict Resolution

In support of the collective interests of all Member Countries for comprehensive solutions to conflicts and establishing durable peace and security, and while continuing to use national, bilateral and international mechanisms for dispute settlement, the strategies for conflict resolution shall focus on exploring innovations and modalities such as:

- i. Utilise existing and planned national peacekeeping centres in some ASEAN Member countries to establish regional arrangements for the maintenance of peace and stability;
- ii. Build upon the existing modes of pacific settlement of disputes to strengthen them with additional mechanisms as needed; and
- iii. Undertake joint conflict management and resolution research studies and exchanges among ASEAN centres of excellence on peace.

1.5 Post-Conflict Peace-Building

Creating the conditions necessary for sustainable peace and preventing the resurgence of conflict requires certain types of multidisciplinary expertise and institutions. Thus, the strategies for post-conflict peace-building are:

- i. Strengthen humanitarian assistance by providing safe havens in conflict areas;
- ii. Implement human resources development and capacity building programmes in areas undergoing post-conflict resolution and rehabilitation;
- iii. Work towards the establishment of an ASEAN [humanitarian crisis management/assistance] centre;
- iv. Reduce inter-communal tensions through educational exchanges and curriculum reform; and
- v. Increase cooperation in reconciliation and promotion of a culture of peace.

2. ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Theme: Enhancing competitiveness for economic growth and development through closer economic integration

Strategic Thrusts

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) embodies the realisation of ASEAN's aspiration of a stable, prosperous and highly competitive region, functioning as a single market and production base by 2020, in which there is a free flow of goods, services and skilled labour, and a freer flow of capital, along with equitable economic development and reduced poverty and socioeconomic disparities within and across its Member Countries.

The overall strategy for realising the AEC involves deepening and broadening economic integration in the product and factor markets, and accelerating the integration process towards a single market and production base. The VAP will:

- a. Intensify current economic cooperation initiatives and measures targeted for completion on or before 2010 and implement new ones to accelerate integration in the eleven priority sectors, as recommended by the High Level Task Force (HLTF) on ASEAN Economic Integration, which is attached to the Bali Concord II;
- b. Remove, to the extent feasible and agreeable to all Member Countries, barriers to the free flow of goods, services and skilled labour, and freer flow of capital by 2010; and
- c. Develop and implement other measures to put in place all the essential elements or conditions for ASEAN to function as a single market and production base initially for the priority sectors by 2010. These measures include enhancing the attractiveness of ASEAN as an investment destination; accelerating the liberalisation of trade in goods; improving trade and business facilitation; reducing trade transaction costs; promoting regional trade in services; upgrading competitiveness of ASEAN SMEs, strengthening the ASEAN Dispute Settlement System; and such other integration support measures as may be required.

Implementation of the VAP will be on basis of current and new initiatives.

2.1 Initial Eleven Priority Sectors for Integration

Acceleration of economic integration towards a single market and production base will begin with eleven sectors, selected on the basis of comparative advantage in natural resource endowments, labour skills and cost competitiveness, and value-added contribution to ASEAN's economy. These sectors are expected to demonstrate that integration enhances competitiveness and thereby ASEAN's attractiveness as an investment destination. As the institutional capacity of ASEAN for economic integration is built through experience, more sectors will be included in the accelerated integration programme. The following priority sectors have been identified to be fully integrated by 2010:

- i) Agro-Based Products
- ii) Automotive
- iii) Electronics

- iv) Fisheries
- v) Rubber-Based Products
- vi) Textiles and Apparels
- vii) Wood-Based Products
- viii) Air Travel
- ix) e-ASEAN (ICT)
- x) Healthcare
- xi) Tourism.

The proposed approaches to integrate these priority sectors are premised on combining the economic strengths of ASEAN Member Countries for regional advantage; facilitating and promoting intra-ASEAN investments; improving the conditions to attract and retain manufacturing and other economic activities within the region; promotion of intra-industry trade and outsourcing within ASEAN; and promoting the development of “Made in ASEAN” products and services.

A roadmap will serve as the basis for economic integration of each of the priority sectors, with active involvement of the private sector. The roadmaps in the form of Framework Agreement and Protocols for each of the priority sectors will contain detailed and specific measures to be implemented from 2005 to 2010.

2.2 ASEAN Investment Area

A free and open investment regime in ASEAN is the key to enhancing ASEAN's competitiveness as a single production base. Sustained inflows of investments will maintain the dynamic development of regional production and distribution networks. Implementation of the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) launched in 1998, will be intensified, as follows:

2.2.1 Investment Liberalisation

Enhance the coverage of the AIA Agreement with a view towards establishment of ASEAN as a competitive investment area; collapse the different end dates for the liberalisation process; open up all industries for investment; agree on a timetable for phasing out the sensitive lists; and grant national treatment to both ASEAN and non-ASEAN investors.

2.2.2 Investment Facilitation

Improve the investment environment both unilaterally and regionally, comparing the competitiveness and ease of investing in ASEAN vis-a-vis other regions, identify clusters of impediments to be eliminated or reduced that hinder FDI, undertake continuous evaluations of the investment policy framework by benchmarking its relevance against emerging global and regional FDI trends, and strengthen ASEAN institutional capacity on all investment-related measures

2.2.3 Investment Promotion

Adopt a strategic promotion and outreach programme, focusing on high potential countries and regions such as, China, India, Japan, Korea, the US and the EU.

These strategies would be carried out by fully implementing the ASEAN Strategic Investment Action Plan (SIAP) for 2004-2008 and the subsequent SIAP 2 from 2008 onwards.

2.3 Trade in Goods

Free flow of goods is a minimum necessary condition for the AEC to function as a single market and production base. Tariff and non-tariff barriers to the flow of goods in the product market will be gradually removed at a pace comfortable to Member Countries, as follows:

2.3.1 Tariffs

Eliminate tariffs for products by 2010 for ASEAN-6 and 2015 for CLMV.

2.3.2 Non-Tariff Barriers

Ensure full transparency of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) through the maintenance of the database of ASEAN NTMs; set clear criteria to identify NTMs that are barriers to trade for elimination; set a clear and definitive work programme and schedule for removal of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs); and adopt and ensure compliance with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade, Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary and Import Licensing Procedures, along with implementation guidelines deemed appropriate for ASEAN.

2.3.3 ASEAN Integration System of Preference (AISP)

Improve the AISP for the benefits of CLMV and hasten their integration into ASEAN.

2.3.4 Trade in Minerals

Enhance trade and investment in the minerals sector.

2.3.5 Trade Facilitation

2.3.5.1 Customs

Integrate customs structures in ASEAN for a harmonised customs environment by the adoption of the WTO agreement on customs valuation, customs-related agreements under the WTO, World Customs Organisation (WCO), UN bodies and international organisations, and set up the service commitment charter for trade facilitation. The strategy would also include the development of the Single Window approach to modernise customs procedures and practices and improve customs control and compliance in cooperation with line ministries and business through the implementation of defined programmes of the 2005-2010 ASEAN Strategic Plan of Customs Development.

2.3.5.2 Rules of Origin

Continuously strengthen the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme Rules of Origin (ROO) upon commencement of the VAP by 1 January 2005 by making it more transparent, predictable and standardised taking into account the best practices of other Regional Trading Arrangements (RTAs), including the WTO ROO, and adopting substantial transformation as alternative criteria for conferring origin status.

2.3.5.3 Standards and Conformance

Focus on sectors with significant potential for trade, including acceleration of implementation of the framework agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) and establishment of specific targets for harmonisation of standards and technical regulations. Where possible, ASEAN technical regulations, based as appropriate on existing international performance criteria, will be developed for national application.

2.3.6 Intellectual Property (IP)

Move intellectual property development and cooperation in ASEAN to a higher plane to achieve a culture of learning, innovation and creativity through:

- a. Drawing on the diverse strength of ASEAN Member Countries in creativity and innovation;
- b. Development of a regional identity and profile in IP harmonisation, generation, commercialisation, protection, enforcement and awareness; and
- c. Optimising the benefit to businesses from Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) by encouraging cross-border collaboration and networking for the widening and deepening of ASEAN's science and technology base and research and development activities, and commercialisation of their results and outputs.

These strategies would be carried out through the full implementation of the ASEAN IPR Action Plan for 2004-2010.

2.3.7 Industrial Cooperation and Enterprise Development

2.3.7.1 Industrial Cooperation

Enhance inter-and intra-industry linkages in ASEAN and promote suitable outsourcing, including the identification of strengths and weaknesses inherent to each ASEAN Member Country in order to foster industrial complementation within the region.

2.3.7.2 Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)

Nurture the growth and accelerate the transformation and integration of SMEs into regional and international production networks to be competitive and dynamic suppliers of the regional and global markets, building on the comparative and agglomeration advantages of Member Countries; promote a culture of entrepreneurship, innovation and networking; facilitate SME's access to information, markets, human resource and business development services, credit and finance, and modern technologies; improve public-private sector synergies in fostering SME support and linkages; facilitate networking between ASEAN SMEs for joint ventures; and facilitate the transformation of ASEAN SMEs into ASEAN MNCs. The strategies would be carried out through the full implementation of the ASEAN SME Action Plan for 2004-2010.

2.4 Trade in Services

Free flow of non-factor services such as in finance, transportation and information and communications technologies (ICT) are critical inputs to production and trade of goods. Trade in services will be liberalised at a pace comfortable to all Member Countries to enable the AEC to

function as a single production base. High quality service industries in the region will be promoted to allow ASEAN to position itself as a global outsourcing hub.

2.4.1 Services Liberalisation

Accelerate regional integration towards creating a single market in services through progressive liberalisation earlier than 2020; subsequent rounds of negotiations be launched with clear targets and parameters, and the use of the ASEAN minus-X formula. This is aimed at enhancing ASEAN's competitiveness in the area of services and as a hub for outsourcing activities.

Undertake facilitation and cooperation activities on an on-going basis to further enhance Member Countries' understanding of the services sector, the cost and benefits of liberalisation of trade in services, capacity building and to facilitate movement of business persons, experts, professionals, skilled labour and talents.

2.4.2 Tourism

To facilitate travel into and within ASEAN: (a) substantially reduce restrictions to trade in tourism and travel services; (b) enhance the development and promotion of ASEAN as a single tourism destination; (c) strengthen cooperation to develop, upgrade and expand tourism and travel facilities and services; and (d) create favourable conditions for the public and private sector to engage more deeply in tourism development, intra-ASEAN travel and investment in tourism services and facilities.

2.5 Finance Cooperation

Promote economic growth and financial stability in the region through strengthening surveillance mechanisms, enhancing domestic financial systems and facilitating the development and orderly integration of financial markets as part of the Roadmap for Financial and Monetary Integration of ASEAN.

2.6. Transport

Gear up ASEAN transport as a critical logistics and services support sector through the implementation of the ASEAN Transport Action Plan for 2005-2010, focusing on cooperation activities towards facilitating seamless movement of peoples and goods; enhancing integration and efficiency of multimodal transport infrastructures, facilities and services; accelerating open sky arrangements; and advancing liberalisation in air and maritime transport services.

2.7 Telecommunications and IT

Leverage on information and communications technology (ICT), via public-private sector partnerships and strong external linkages, to build a connected, vibrant and secure ASEAN Community by:

- Striving for universal access to ICT infrastructure and services;
- Encouraging the development of a pervasive, inter-connected and secure ASEAN information infrastructure;
- Strengthening the cooperation and assistance on regulatory policy and strategy issues;
- Creating digital opportunities through e-government, e-commerce and e-society initiatives;

- Enhancing the competitiveness and dynamism of the ASEAN ICT sector by promoting and facilitating trade and investment in ICT services; and
- Developing highly skilled ICT human resources.

2.8 Science and Technology (S&T)

Foster science and technology (S&T) as a key factor in sustaining economic growth, enhancing community well-being and promoting integration in ASEAN, through human resource, research and technology development and provision of technical services to meet the needs of economic integration; apply S&T tools and methodologies to enhance economic and industrial planning; and formulate a systematic approach in the implementation of the ASEAN-help-ASEAN programmes to address the S&T needs and strengthen the S&T infrastructure of less developed Member Countries. Furthermore, S&T will be used as major tool for ASEAN to move forward in a unified and cohesive manner.

2.9 Energy

Pursue sustainable energy development through the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation for 2004-2009, based primarily on individual sectoral plans of action and roadmaps, including but not limited to the ASEAN Power Grid, the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP), Coal, Energy Efficiency and Conservation, Renewable Energy, and Regional Energy Policy and Planning, focusing on cooperation activities, including with the ASEAN Dialogue Partners, to enhance the integration of the regional energy infrastructures, promote energy security, create responsive policies to progressively enhance market reforms and liberalisation, as well as preserve the sustainability of environment.

2.10 Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors

Enhance the competitiveness of the food agriculture and forestry sectors through developing appropriate technologies to increase productivity and by promoting inter-and extra-ASEAN trade and greater private sector investment in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors.

2.11 Institutional Strengthening

2.11.1 Dispute Settlement Mechanism

Establish an effective system to ensure proper implementation of all economic agreements and expeditious resolution of any disputes through appropriate advisory, consultative, and adjudicatory mechanisms.

The feasibility of establishing a common legal framework for the incorporation or registration of ASEAN companies to assist in dispute settlement would also be explored.

2.11.2 Statistics

Provide the necessary statistical support for ASEAN initiatives, planning and policy making through improved quality and availability of important statistics, adoption of international good practices, promotion of greater awareness of statistics, enhanced networking and close partnership between users in policy areas and statistical systems, and wider dissemination of ASEAN statistics through the annual publication of the ASEAN Statistical Yearbook and a continuous expansion of statistical coverage on Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat's Websites.

2.12 Economic Relations with Dialogue Partners

The economic growth of the ASEAN region in past decades has been largely driven by FDI flows and exports. While exports have stabilised and are again beginning to expand, ASEAN has experienced a sustained decline in FDI flows since the 1997-1998 economic and monetary crisis. Since internal measures, aimed at creating a single ASEAN market and production base, may not be sufficient to attract the volume of investment required to sustain economic growth, efforts will be made to strengthen external economic relations and the terms of trade with major Dialogue Partners through the establishment of Free Trade Areas (FTAs) and Closer Economic Partnerships (CEPs).

The strategy for ASEAN external economic cooperation will involve strengthening linkages and promoting the coherence of agreements with major trading partners such as China, Japan, Korea, the US, Australia, New Zealand, the EU and emerging economies such as India. The promotion of the coherence of agreements might include increasing coordination of extra-ASEAN economic agreements and the closer alignment of MFN tariffs.

3. ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

Theme: Nurturing human, cultural and natural resources for sustained development in a harmonious and people-centred ASEAN

Strategic Thrusts

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) represents ASEAN's aspirations to lift the quality of life of its peoples, sustainably use natural resources and strengthen its cultural identity towards a people-centred ASEAN. The roadmap for the Community focuses on four strategic thrusts to support other ASEAN Community goals: strong and functional systems of social protection that address poverty, equity and health impacts of economic growth; promoting environmental sustainability and sustainable natural resource management that meets current and future needs; social governance that manages impacts of economic integration; and the preservation and promotion of the region's cultural heritage and cultural identity.

Since economic growth could be threatened by social inequities that could in turn undermine political stability, the ASEAN socio-cultural action programme is linked inextricably with the economic and security pillars of the ASEAN Community. The establishment of the ASCC stems from the premise that economic integration and security alone will not be sufficient to realise the vision of an ASEAN Community.

The human, natural and cultural resources of ASEAN provide the means for economic growth. The sustainable development and conservation of these resources allows for the region to prosper now and into the future, thereby enabling people to uplift their living standards and have a decent and healthy lifestyle. Measures taken to promote social protection, cultural identity, the conservation of natural resources and the protection of the environment fuel economic growth and sustain life.

3.1 Building a Community of Caring Societies

The hallmark of a strong and resilient community of caring societies is its commitment and capability to address the core issues of poverty, equity and health. National initiatives will fundamentally drive the manner and extent to which these issues are addressed. However, the Member Countries can gain significant leveraging of political commitment and goals at the national level through regional advocacy.

The regional interventions that will complement the national actions include:

- i. Raising the standard of living of marginalised, disadvantaged groups by strengthening the capacity of officials in rural development and poverty alleviation administrations and promoting approaches that engage these groups in society;
- ii. Facilitating universal access to education and promoting high standards through networking and institutional collaborations;
- iii. Reducing the social risks faced by children, women, elderly and persons with disabilities, by supporting programmes consistent with international conventions and promoting services such as aged care, health care and education;
- iv. Increasing the effective participation of family, civil society and the private sector in tackling poverty and social welfare issues through the establishment of networking and exchange programmes, and promoting the professions involved in poverty and social welfare issues;
- v. Increasing the participation of women and youth in the productive workforce through skills training and increasing access to microfinance and information systems;
- vi. Addressing health development concerns;
- vii. Preventing the spread and reducing the harm of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases;
- viii. Enhancing food security, in particular the establishment of food security information systems;
- ix. Ensuring a region of disaster-resilient nations by minimising the adverse effects of disasters in pursuit of safer communities and sustainable development.
- x. Ensuring a Drug Free ASEAN by 2015 through prevention, treatment and community-based control of drug abuse, including the promotion of alternative development, as well as the elimination of drug trafficking; and
- xi. Promoting science and technology in ASEAN to improve regional human resources by developing science and technology culture and increasing usage of applied science and technology in socio-economic activities.

3.2. Managing the Social Impact of Economic Integration

Domestic policy adjustments and emerging regional production arrangements from economic integration will have a profound social impact that will be felt mostly in the labour market. Consequently there is a need to:

- i. Enhance human resource development through the networking of skills training institutions, and the development of regional assessment and training programmes;
- ii. Strengthen the capacity of governments to monitor labour markets and monitor human resource indicators; and
- iii. Promote social protection and social risk management systems.

The inclusion of health services as one of the eleven priority sectors for vertical integration will require strategies to address the impact of liberalisation in the health sector. In addition, the development of

mutual recognition arrangements shall facilitate labour mobility in the region and will support the realisation of the AEC.

3.3 Promoting Environmental Sustainability

The ASCC promotes 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 people.

The medium-term strategies and milestones in pursuit of this goal are:

Environmental Management

- i. Effectively address global environmental issues without impinging on competitiveness, or social and economic development based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility;
- ii. Prevent transboundary haze pollution as a result of land and/or forest fires through concerted national efforts and intensified regional action and international cooperation, pursued in the context of sustainable development and in accordance with the provisions of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution;
- iii. Establish a clean and green ASEAN, rich in cultural traditions (where the values and practices of the people are in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature), with citizens who are environmentally literate, imbued with the environmental ethic, and willing and capable to ensure the sustainable development of the region through environmental education and public participation efforts;
- iv. Aim for zero waste and minimal impact on the environment, and promote business opportunities in environmental goods and services, through relevant environmentally sound technologies;
- v. Ensure cities/urban areas in ASEAN are environmentally sustainable, while meeting the social and economic needs of the people; and
- vi. Strive for harmonisation of environmental policies, legislation, regulations, standards and databases, taking into account the national circumstances of Member Countries, to support the integration of the environmental, social and economic goals of the region.

Natural Resource Management

- i. Ensure ASEAN's coastal and marine environment are sustainably managed, representative ecosystems, pristine areas and species are protected; economic activities are sustainably managed, and public awareness of the coastal and marine environment instilled;
- ii. Ensure ASEAN's rich biological diversity is conserved, and sustainably managed, and the benefits arising from these biological and genetic resources are fairly and equitably shared toward enhancing social, economic and environmental well-being;
- iii. Promote sustainability of water resources to ensure sufficient water quantity of acceptable quality to meet the needs of the people of ASEAN in terms of health, food security, the economy and the environment, taking into consideration the strong linkage between water, health and poverty;

- iv. Ensure sustainable management of land-based resources while enhancing optimum agricultural production;
- v. Promote the sustainable management of forest resources and critical ecosystems through the eradication of unsustainable practices as well as strengthening the preservation and management of the ASEAN Heritage Parks; and
- vi. Promote environmentally sound and socially responsible mineral development practices in the sustainable management and optimum utilisation of mineral resources.

3.4 Promoting an ASEAN Identity

Amidst the diversity of their historical experience and cultural heritage, common threads of historical ties, habitation of a geographical area and aspirations for peace and prosperity weave the ASEAN nations together and form the foundations of an ASEAN identity. The strategies to foster ASEAN awareness and build an ASEAN identity are:

- i. Mainstream the promotion of ASEAN awareness and regional identity in national communications plans and educational curricula, people-to-people contact including through arts, tourism and sports, especially among the youth, and the promotion of ASEAN languages learning through scholarships and exchanges of linguists;
- ii. Preserve and promote ASEAN cultural heritage through the promotion of exchanges, meetings of experts and the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Cultural Heritage;
- iii. Encourage dialogue amongst Member Countries to promote a deeper understanding of the regions' civilisation, cultures and religions; and
- iv. Further promote ASEAN's standing in the international community through the proactive engagement of ASEAN in international issues and strengthening communication mechanisms.

4. GOALS AND STRATEGIES FOR NARROWING THE DEVELOPMENT GAP

Theme: Progressing together through cooperation in development

We have explicitly and repeatedly declared the need to narrow the development gap if ASEAN Member Countries are to move forward in a unified manner to realise Vision 2020. This need was first recognised and officially announced in the Hanoi Declaration on Narrowing Development Gap for Closer ASEAN Integration of 2001. It was reaffirmed in the Bali Concord II of 2003.

The development gap is often manifested by disparity in per capita GDP (income). It can also be manifested by disparities in other dimensions of human development, such as life expectancy and the literacy rate. The gap can also be measured by disparity in poverty incidence.

The gap must be narrowed as an end in itself, if the principle that development is a fundamental human right is to be followed. It must also be narrowed, as a necessary condition for realising the end goal of economic integration: one community of ten nations functioning as a single market and production base. Indeed, efforts to narrow the development gap would be self-reinforcing. They would help remove the biggest constraint to the formation of the AEC, which in turn would help narrow that gap.

4.1 Goal

The practical goal of the VAP for narrowing the development gap is to reduce the large disparities in terms of per capita GDP as well as other human development dimensions. The development gap exists between the ASEAN6 and the CLMV countries, and within the ASEAN-6 countries, where some isolated pockets of underdevelopment persist.

To realise this goal, ASEAN Member Countries will determine and agree, at an appropriate forum the extent to which the gap could be realistically narrowed through the VAP by 2010 and its successor programmes or plans of action by 2015 and by 2020. By sharing experiences on how they have planned and implemented their development policies, strategies and programmes, Member Countries can draw lessons from one another and apply these to their own development strategies.

4.2 Strategy

To achieve the goal, technical and development cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries and with Dialogue Partners will be intensified as the main strategy to help less developed Member Countries accelerate the process of economic integration, but in a way that leads to equitable and inclusive development. A key element is to ensure that regional cooperation supplements rather than supplants national efforts.

The Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), ASEAN's main instrument for narrowing the development gap, will be strengthened to address development needs of the CLMV and other sub-regional areas. This will include broadening and deepening the scope of the IAI CLMV Work Plan as well as developing innovative modalities for resource mobilisation. For the other sub-regional areas, it will involve strengthening the framework for sub-regional cooperation within ASEAN's covering policy, coordination mechanisms and work programme.

Addressing both the benefit and cost of economic integration is another important feature of the strategy. To help narrow the development gap, it will seek to ensure that the benefit of economic integration is maximised and equitably distributed across and within Member Countries. It will also seek to ensure that the cost of integration in terms of economic dislocation and disruption arising from market adjustments is minimised and the burden is equitably shared across and within Member Countries. Intensification of regional cooperation to prevent or mitigate the social costs of integration would also contribute directly towards the realisation of the two other pillars of the ASEAN Community.

The programme for narrowing the development gap will include specific regional cooperation activities aimed at assisting less developed Member Countries in removing tariff, non-tariff and physical barriers to the free flow of goods and services in the product and factor market. The programme will also include activities that supplement national efforts directly aimed at poverty reduction and the promotion of equitable and inclusive development.

5. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

The attainment of the Bali Concord II goals does not simply mean strengthening existing cooperation activities among the ASEAN Member Countries. Deepening integration, especially in the economic sphere, will also require the Member Countries to intensify dialogue, make binding commitments, identify appropriate implementing timetables and mechanisms, extend national and regional capacities and competences, and develop institutional frameworks, responses and human resources in a range of areas that extend far beyond the existing scope of ASEAN integration.

Three major issues have to be addressed. First, resource mobilisation to support the various programmes and projects required to attain the targets; second, strengthening existing institutions and, as necessary, the establishment of appropriate institutional arrangements to facilitate coordination among the various implementing bodies and with external partners; and third, developing a monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress with regard to the attainment of integration objectives, and to assess the outcomes of programmes and projects directed towards them .

There are potentially five levels of cooperation among the ASEAN Member Countries in moving towards the ASEAN Community. The levels are:

- i. Confidence-building, an initial step characterised by understanding common problems, exploring common interests and identifying mutual gains of cooperating on a regional basis;
- ii. Harmonisation, which aims to achieve compatible national approaches by ASEAN Member Countries;
- iii. Special assistance, which focuses on capacity building to bridge development gaps across Member Countries, in particular, for less developed countries;
- iv. Joint efforts, which are about developing regional approaches and regional institutions; and
- v. Regional integration and expansion, where regional institutions can act in unison to further the ASEAN cause on behalf of Member Countries to attain the intended goals and objectives.

Within each level, there are three types of development cooperation interventions that may be carried out. These three types of interventions are the formulation of regional policy initiatives, the development of regional implementation mechanisms and human capacity building.

Accordingly, the implementation and coordination mechanisms for the VAP, the resource mobilisation strategy and the success measures to be used for monitoring and evaluating a project under the VAP should be fine-tuned to fit the level of cooperation and the type of development intervention.

5.1 Resource Mobilisation

ASEAN is entering a resource-intensive period in its progress towards the ASEAN Community. The period covered by the HPA saw the implementation of many activities intended to lay the groundwork for the more substantive measures to deepen integration that would be undertaken during the period of the VAP. Thus, it is anticipated that the VAP would essentially need more resources than the HPA.

With respect to the five levels of cooperation described above, the VAP operates mainly at the first three levels, and shall also aim toward strategies involving action at the fourth level.

There are three broad sources of funding for the implementation of the VAP. These are direct contributions from all or some Member Countries towards specific activities; ASEAN pooled resources, and external funding. ASEAN will adopt a mix of these approaches towards resource mobilisation, so that internal ASEAN resources and external funding complement each other.

Member Country contributions will be enhanced to form a predictable and reliable resource to facilitate implementation of the VAP. While Member Countries will continue making “in-kind” contributions to ASEAN activities and directly finance the implementation of activities at the national level, ASEAN will ensure the availability of a common pool of financial resources by establishing an

ASEAN Development Fund, to be made up from contributions of Member Countries, based on a mutually acceptable scheme.

The ASEAN Development Fund shall serve as ASEAN's common pool of financial resources to support the implementation of the VAP through the following roles:

- a) For complex projects of relatively large scale, the Fund will provide seed funding for some initial activities such as feasibility studies, meetings with donor institutions, project design development, etc., leading towards obtaining major funding to implement the full project, from a Dialogue Partner or donor institution; and
- b) The fund can fully support small scale projects of a confidential or strategic nature.

Another important strategy to promote the commitment of national funding to regional programmes is to mainstream the ASEAN agenda into national development programmes. In this way, the allocation of national funds to implement regional initiatives could be more easily secured.

Contributions from Dialogue Partners and other donor institutions will remain an important funding source for ASEAN, especially for funds intended to support very specific programmes and activities.

Another possible source of complementary funding for ASEAN activities is the private sector. ASEAN will embark on a fund-raising programme to encourage and generate private sector support for ASEAN activities, especially those that would result in direct benefits to business and industry.

Resource mobilisation from both internal and external sources to support the VAP could be undertaken through, among others, the convening of an ASEAN development cooperation forum.

5.2 Institutional Arrangements

The VAP has been designed along thematic lines to minimise the risk of fragmentation that may arise from a sectoral approach. Thus, there may be projects that have to be implemented jointly by two or more ASEAN bodies, or multi-component programmes where different ASEAN bodies are responsible for individual components.

In such cases, the current mechanisms for closer coordination of inputs in project design and efficiency in joint management and implementation of projects need to be strengthened to ensure better coherence, complementation, efficiency, flexibility, transparency and accountability, without unduly creating additional complexity to the overall ASEAN cooperation structure.

The ASEAN Secretariat will facilitate the consultation process among ASEAN bodies and seek the most efficient modality in setting up the appropriate institutional arrangement at the programme/project level.

Approaches and mechanisms to closely involve other ASEAN stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, must also be addressed.

5.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

The VAP needs to have a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation to ensure that targets are achieved, timely corrective measures are undertaken if needed, and that initiatives and activities remain consistent with the stated goals of the VAP and are responsive to emerging issues and priorities. The monitoring and evaluation mechanism should also fulfil the principles of transparency and accountability.

For this purpose a monitoring and evaluation framework for the VAP has been developed, using a VAP scorecard as a basic tool. The scorecard offers the possibility of both quantitative ratings at the project level as well as qualitative assessment of impact at higher levels, and allows aggregation across diverse elements, sectors and countries to form an overall picture of VAP performance.

Thus, the monitoring and evaluation process will be undertaken at two levels:

- At the micro level, with a monitoring and evaluation plan built into each project; and
- At the macro level, with a consolidated assessment mechanism introduced to help ensure that the overall VAP is on track in achieving its agreed objectives.

At the micro level, different projects will have their own set of success indicators, depending on their stated objectives. At the macro level, to permit aggregation, a generic set of criteria will be used.

The generic criteria include:

- Appropriateness/Relevance:
 - Conformity with VAP priorities
 - Sectoral need
 - Contribution to Millennium Development Goals
- Quality of Design:
 - Objectives
 - Programme logic
 - Performance indicators
 - Risks
- Effectiveness:
 - Achievement of planned processes and results
 - Outputs delivered
 - Outcomes achieved
- Efficiency:
 - Level of resources needed to achieve outputs and targets
 - Impact:
 - Contribution to VAP goals
 - Avoidance of negative consequences

- Sustainability:
 - Retention of knowledge gained (knowledge management)
 - Risk management plan in place
 - On-going resources available
 - Political will to sustain momentum
 - Continuity of flow of benefits

The baseline situation at the beginning of the implementation of the VAP must be established to have a reference or benchmark for the periodic monitoring and evaluation exercises to be undertaken.

One important issue to be addressed is defining which stakeholder perspectives would form part of the scorecard assessment. It is suggested that, to obtain a balanced view, the widest range of stakeholder views be obtained, i.e., the beneficiaries, the implementing bodies, the programme managers and the sponsoring ASEAN bodies should all be invited to participate in the assessment.

Whenever possible, over the longer term, the review should take in relevant inputs from Dialogue Partners or their specialist agencies with interest in the project. The information gathered from the views of external evaluators would be useful in the development of new cooperation programmes and formulation of new projects with Dialogue Partners.

Progress in the implementation of the VAP shall be reported annually by the Secretary-General to the ASEAN Summit through the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) after consideration by the ASEAN Standing Committee. Formal reviews shall be undertaken by the ASEAN Secretariat every two years. Any recommendations for revisions or updating the VAP arising from the formal review shall likewise be submitted to the Summit so that guidance for the relevant sectoral bodies can be issued accordingly. A final review will be conducted in 2010 and reported to the Summit. This review will guide the preparation of the next action programme for the medium-term period of 2010-2015.

We charge our Ministers and Senior Officials to begin the implementation of the VAP.

DONE at Vientiane, Lao PDR, on the Twenty Ninth Day of November, Two Thousand and Four.

For Brunei Darussalam: **HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH**, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia: **SAMDECH HUN SEN**, Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia: **DR. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO**, President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic: **BOUNNHANG VORACHITH**, Prime Minister

For Malaysia: **DATO, SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI**, Prime Minister

For the Union of Myanmar: **LIEUTENANT GENERAL SOE WIN**, Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Philippines: **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, President

For the Republic of Singapore: **LEE HSIEN LOONG**, Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand: **DR. THAKSIN SHINAWATRA**, Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam: **PHAN VAN KHAI**, Prime Minister

VIENTIANE ACTION PROGRAMME ANNEX 1

ASEAN SECURITY COMMUNITY

| Ref. No. | Programme Areas and Measures |
|------------|---|
| 1.1 | Political Development |
| 1.1.1 | <p>Promote understanding and appreciation of, and popular participation in, political systems, culture and history of ASEAN Member Countries through increasing people-to-people contacts and track-two activities:</p> <p>1.1.1.1 Holding of at least two track-two events per year, including academic conferences, workshops and seminars</p> <p>1.1.1.2 Annual publication of the dynamics of ASEAN Member Countries' political systems, culture and history for dissemination to universities, think tanks and similar institutions</p> <p>1.1.1.3 Exchange of experience and training in order to enhance popular participation</p> |
| 1.1.2 | <p>Lay the groundwork for an institutional framework to facilitate free flow of information for mutual support and assistance among ASEAN Member Countries:</p> <p>1.1.2.1 Agreement to an institutional framework and starting the trial implementations</p> <p>1.1.2.2 Adoption of favourable media policies</p> <p>1.1.2.3 Development of information materials from a series of policy studies and conferences</p> |
| 1.1.3 | <p>Establish programmes for mutual support and assistance among ASEAN Member Countries in the development of strategy for strengthening the rule of law and judiciary systems and legal infrastructure, effective and efficient civil services, and good governance in public and private sectors:</p> <p>1.1.3.1 Completion of annual comparative studies for lawmakers on the promulgation of laws and regulations</p> <p>1.1.3.2 Organisation of annual conferences, seminars, exchange visits, and training workshops for law enforcement officials</p> <p>1.1.3.3 Development by AUN of a university curriculum on the legal systems of ASEAN Member Countries</p> <p>1.1.3.4 Holding of annual workshops for sharing of experience, with the view to developing ASEAN norms and values on good governance</p> |

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| | 1.1.3.5 Conduct of a study on partnership between public and private sectors and academia in creating conducive climate for good governance to provide concrete recommendations to ASEAN |
| 1.1.4 | <p>Promote human rights</p> <p>1.1.4.1 Completion of a stock-taking of existing human rights mechanisms and equivalent bodies, including sectoral bodies promoting the rights of women and children</p> <p>1.1.4.2 Formulation and adoption of MOU to establish network among existing human rights mechanisms</p> <p>1.1.4.3 Formulation of work programme of the network</p> <p>1.1.4.4 Promote education and public awareness on human rights</p> <p>1.1.4.5 Establish a network of cooperation among existing human rights mechanisms</p> <p>1.1.4.6 Elaboration of an ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers</p> <p>1.1.4.7 Establishment of an ASEAN commission on the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children.</p> |
| 1.1.5 | <p>Increase the participation of organisations such as AIPO, APA, ABC, ASEAN ISIS and the academia, especially the ASEAN University Network, in moving forward ASEAN political development initiatives</p> <p>1.1.5.1 Delivery of at least five research studies/scholarly publications per year by those organisations</p> <p>1.1.5.2 Participation of at least one representative each from those organisations in the track-two activities referred to in 1.1.1</p> <p>1.1.5.3 Holding of regular consultations between AIPO Chair and ASEAN Standing Committee Chair</p> <p>1.1.5.4 Strengthening the role of the ASEAN Foundation</p> |
| 1.1.6 | Prevent and combat corruption. |
| 1.2 | Shaping and Sharing of Norms |
| 1.2.1 | <p>Work towards the development of an ASEAN Charter:</p> <p>1.2.1.1 Setting up relevant mechanisms to formulate an ASEAN Charter</p> |
| 1.2.2 | Encourage the accession to the TAC by non-ASEAN countries: |

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| | 1.2.2.1 Holding of consultations with potential contracting parties |
| 1.2.3 | <p>Ensure the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties (DOC) in the South China Sea:</p> <p>1.2.3.1 Setting up of an ASEAN-China Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC</p> <p>1.2.3.2 Work towards the adoption of a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea</p> |
| 1.2.4 | <p>Work towards resolving outstanding issues to ensure signing of the Nuclear Weapons States to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty:</p> <p>1.2.4.1 Conduct of a stock-taking of outstanding issues</p> <p>1.2.4.2 Holding of consultations within ASEAN and between ASEAN and Nuclear Weapons States</p> |
| 1.2.5 | <p>Undertake preparatory steps with a view to concluding an ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement and an ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism:</p> <p>1.2.5.1 Compilation of existing bilateral MLA Agreements among ASEAN Member Countries and between ASEAN and other countries</p> <p>1.2.5.2 Identification of issues relating to the establishment of an ASEAN MLA Agreement</p> <p>1.2.5.3 Identification and analysis of documents and relevant instruments related to counter-terrorism; and</p> <p>1.2.5.4 Establishment of a joint drafting group between ASEAN SOM and SOMTC to work on an ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism</p> |
| 1.2.6 | <p>Work towards the establishment of an ASEAN extradition treaty as envisaged by the 1976 Declaration of ASEAN Concord:</p> <p>1.2.6.1 Identification of an ASEAN political decision to establish extradition treaty</p> <p>1.2.6.2 Establishment of a working group on an ASEAN extradition treaty under the purview of the ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM)</p> |
| 1.2.7 | <p>Promote ASEAN maritime security cooperation:</p> <p>1.2.7.1 Explore the establishment of an ASEAN maritime forum</p> |
| 1.3 | Conflict Prevention |
| 1.3.1 | Strengthen confidence-building measures through increased opportunities for exchanges and interactions among military officials, and between military officials and |

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| | <p>civilian personnel:</p> <p>1.3.1.1 Completion of a study on ways and means to organise and conduct such exchanges</p> <p>1.3.1.2 Exploring modalities towards convening an annual ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting</p> <p>1.3.1.3 Promoting the exchange of observers of military exercises</p> |
| 1.3.2 | <p>Promote greater transparency and understanding of defence policies and threat perceptions through publication and exchange of security outlook papers and voluntary briefings on political and security developments in the region:</p> <p>1.3.2.1 Publication of an annual ASEAN security outlook</p> <p>1.3.2.2 Holding of voluntary briefings as needed</p> |
| 1.3.3 | <p>Build up the necessary institutional framework to strengthen the ARF process in support of the ASC:</p> <p>1.3.3.1 Setting up arrangements for the secondment of personnel by ASEAN Member Countries; and</p> <p>1.3.3.2 Support the implementation of the concept of the enhanced role of the ARF Chair</p> |
| 1.3.4 | <p>Strengthen cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues, combating transnational crimes and other transboundary problems:</p> <p>1.3.4.1 Review of and refocus on priority areas under the regional work programme on combating transnational crimes and refocusing on priority areas</p> <p>1.3.4.2 Establishment of institutionalised coordination mechanisms among relevant ASEAN bodies</p> |
| 1.4 | Conflict Resolution |
| 1.4.1 | <p>Build upon existing modes of pacific settlement of disputes and consider strengthening them with additional mechanisms as needed:</p> <p>1.4.1.1 Completion of a study and analysis of existing dispute settlement modes</p> <p>1.4.1.2 Compilation of recommendations for additional mechanisms</p> <p>1.4.1.3 AMM to develop terms of reference for the Expert Advisory Committee and the Eminent Persons Group</p> <p>1.4.1.4 Appoint experts and eminent persons on standby basis</p> <p>1.4.1.5 Activate the TAC High Council, upon request of High Contracting Parties, to</p> |

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| | settle disputes |
| 1.4.2 | <p>Undertake conflict management and resolution research studies and exchanges among ASEAN centres of excellence on peace:</p> <p>1.4.2.1 Completion of a stocktaking of ASEAN centres of excellence on peace and establishment of a roster</p> <p>1.4.2.2 Identification of priority research topics</p> <p>1.4.2.3 Organisation of conferences among those centres of excellence</p> <p>1.4.2.4 Holding of regular workshops on conflict resolution with the UN Department of Political Affairs</p> |
| 1.5 | Post-Conflict Peace-building |
| 1.5.1 | <p>Strengthen ASEAN humanitarian assistance such as providing safe havens in conflict areas:</p> <p>1.5.1.1 Adoption of a common standard operating procedure (SOP) for establishing safe havens</p> |
| 1.5.2 | <p>Implement human resources development and capacity building programmes in areas undergoing post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation:</p> <p>1.5.2.1 Completion of survey of target areas undergoing post-conflict reconstruction</p> <p>1.5.2.2 Completion of training and capacity-building needs assessment</p> <p>1.5.2.3 Identification of priority training topics</p> <p>1.5.2.4 Designing of training programmes in the identified priority topics and development of training materials</p> <p>1.5.2.5 Implementation of annual programmes in each target area</p> |
| 1.5.3 | Reducing inter-communal tensions through educational exchanges and curriculum reform |
| 1.5.4 | Increasing cooperation in reconciliation and promotion of a culture of peace |

VIENTIANE ACTION PROGRAMME ANNEX 2

ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

| Ref. No. | Programme Areas and Measures |
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| 2.1 | Initial Eleven Priority Sectors |
| | As per ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors and Sectoral Protocols |
| 2.2 | ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) |
| 2.2.1 | <p>Investment Liberalisation</p> <p>2.2.1.1 Reduced/consolidated end-dates of phasing out of Temporary Exclusion Lists (TELS)</p> <p>2.2.1.2 Shorten the Sensitive List (SL) (beginning 2004)</p> <p>2.2.1.3 Expansion of AIA coverage to include services</p> <p>2.2.1.4 Conduct annual strategic analysis and review to identify policy measures and actions to improve regional competitiveness</p> |
| 2.2.2 | <p>Investment Facilitation</p> <p>2.2.2.1 Publish and provide information pertaining to all investments related measures undertaken to improve the investment environment both unilaterally and regionally</p> <p>2.2.2.2 Conduct research and commission investment “barometer” studies - comparing the competitiveness and ease of investing in ASEAN vis-a-vis other regions</p> <p>2.2.2.3 Identify clusters of impediments that can be eliminated or reduced that hinder Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), including establishing and maintaining a database on such impediments</p> <p>2.2.2.4 Organise annual discussion on key FDI issues such as regional integration, FDI development dimension for sustainable growth and to facilitate regional production networks intra-ASEAN as well as with Dialogue Partners</p> <p>2.2.2.5 Undertake evaluations of the investment policy framework by benchmarking its relevance against emerging global and regional FDI trends</p> <p>2.2.2.6 Organise investment seminars/workshop to strengthen ASEAN institutional</p> |

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| | capacity on all investment related measures as and when required |
| 2.2.3 | Investment Promotion 2.2.3.1 High-level dialogues, consultation and investment forum 2.2.3.2 High-level business and investment facilitation visits to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (CLMV) countries 2.2.3.3 Regional information dissemination 2.2.3.4 ASEAN investment portal |
| 2.3 | Trade in Goods |
| 2.3.1 | Tariffs 2.3.1.1 Elimination of tariffs of all products (ASEAN-6: 2010; CLMV: 2015) |
| 2.3.2 | Non-Tariffs Barriers 2.3.2.1 Establishment of ASEAN Database of Non-Tariff Measures (30 June 2004 - onward) 2.3.2.2 Clear criteria to identify measures that are classified as barriers to trade (30 June 2005) 2.3.2.3 Clear and definitive work programme for the removal of the barriers (31 December 2005) 2.3.2.4 Adoption of the agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary and Import licensing Procedures and development of implementation guidelines appropriate for ASEAN (31 December 2004) |
| 2.3.3 | ASEAN Integration System of Preference (AISP) 2.3.3.1 Improve the AISP for the benefit of CLMV |
| 2.3.4 | Trade in Minerals 2.3.4.1 Develop a regional policy on mineral resource utilisation and intra- and inter-ASEAN minerals trade and investment 2.3.4.2 Enhance private sector participation and investment in the exploration and development of mineral resources in which ASEAN enjoys competitive advantage in the international or global market |
| 2.3.5 | Trade Facilitation 2.3.5.1 Customs |

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| | <p>Customs Tariff Classification</p> <p>2.3.5.1.1 Uniform system of classification of goods and commodities</p> <p>Customs Valuation</p> <p>2.3.5.1.2 Full Technical Implementation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement and the ASEAN Customs Valuation Guide (31 December 2004)</p> <p>Determination of Origin of Goods and Commodities</p> <p>2.3.5.1.3 Ensure smooth flow of Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) goods</p> <p>2.3.5.1.4 Familiarisation of ASEAN customs officers with nonpreferential rules of origin in line with the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin</p> <p>Establishment of ASEAN e-Customs and ICT Applications in Customs for Trade Facilitation and Customs Control</p> <p>2.3.5.1.5 Establishment of the ASEAN customs environment, assisted by the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) applications (31 December 2005). In this respect, the following programmes need to be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establishment of the ASEAN Single Window and ASEAN e-customs b. Creation of an integrated ASEAN e-Customs Community <p>Customs Clearance</p> <p>2.3.5.1.6 Simplification, accelerated harmonisation of documents, formalities, procedures and practices related to customs clearance to enhance economic competitiveness of international transactions in ASEAN (31 December 2005). The target time required for customs release of any container (internationally standardised), at any ASEAN entry point to be reduced, in the course of the next two years, to 30 minutes on average</p> <p>Customs Transit</p> <p>2.3.5.1.7 Free movement of means of transport and goods transiting ASEAN national territories and enhancement of customs control</p> <p>Temporary Admission</p> <p>2.3.5.1.8 Establishment of a customs regime for free movement of goods temporarily entering ASEAN territories</p> <p>Customs Post Clearance Audit (PCA)</p> <p>2.3.5.1.9 Harmonising practices and procedures of PCA for trade facilitation and for efficient protection of customs revenues.</p> <p>Enforcement and Mutual Assistance</p> |
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| | <p>2.3.5.1.10 Protection of customs revenues, sharing experiences, and close cooperation and mutual assistance</p> <p>Customs Reform and Modernisation (CRM)</p> <p>2.3.5.1.11 Modernisation of ASEAN Customs Administrations based on the following values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Integrity, accountability and transparency (b) Professionalism (c) Innovation and services to the public (d) Partnership with the trading community, related stakeholders and the public <p>Customs Human Resource Development and Administration</p> <p>2.3.5.1.12 Enhancement of credibility, of customs integrity and professional capacity of customs officers</p> <p>International Partnership and ASEAN Customs</p> <p>2.3.5.1.13 Enhancement of credibility, and reputation of ASEAN customs officers to the public and to the international organisations and the international community</p> <p>Community</p> <p>2.3.5.1.14 Cooperation with stakeholders and promotion of voluntary compliance and partnership</p> <p>Narrowing the Development Gap</p> <p>2.3.5.1.15 Assisting member customs administrations in catching up with development in customs techniques and reducing technical gaps of new members (CLMV) to regional levels, and providing technical assistance to them</p> <p>Public Security and Protection of the Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Protection of the society against illegal traffic of arms, drugs, antiques, cultural heritage (b) Protection of endangered species, environmental goods (e.g. combating illegal logging) (c) Tackling illegal traffic of dangerous wastes |
| | <p>2.3.5.2 Rules of Origin (ROO)</p> <p>2.3.5.2.1 Adoption of transparent, predictable and standardized ROO (31 December</p> |

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| | <p>2004)</p> <p>2.3.5.2.2 Adoption of substantial transformation as alternative criteria for conferring origin status (31 December 2004)</p> |
| | <p>2.3.5.3 Standards and Conformance</p> <p>2.3.5.3.1 Accelerate the implementation/development of sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRAs) for priority sectors, as appropriate (beginning 1 January 2005).</p> <p>2.3.5.3.2 Encourage domestic regulators to recognise test reports issued by testing laboratories which are accredited by national accreditation bodies in ASEAN that are signatories to International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) MRAs</p> <p>2.3.5.3.3 Set clear targets and schedules for harmonisation of standards in the priority sectors wherever required. Where international standards are not available and when requested by industry, align national standards among Member Countries (31 December 2005)</p> <p>2.3.5.3.4 Harmonise and/or develop technical regulation as appropriate, for national application (31 December 2010)</p> <p>2.3.5.3.5 Ensure compliance with the requirements of the WTO Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade and the Application of Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures</p> <p>2.3.5.3.6 Explore the development of ASEAN policy on standards and conformance to further facilitate the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community (beginning 2005)</p> |
| 2.3.6 | <p>Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)</p> <p>2.3.6.1 Creation of greater public awareness of IPR and IPR issues and capacity building (on-going)</p> <p>2.3.6.2 Harmonisation of Intellectual Property (IP) laws and systems to encourage trade and investment in ASEAN and to facilitate the integration of Member Countries into the ASEAN Economic Community and the world economy (ongoing)</p> <p>2.3.6.3 Ensuring that all ASEAN Member Countries achieve levels of IP protection and enforcement consistent with international standards (on-going)</p> <p>2.3.6.4 Increasing the level of knowledge among a broader section of IP professionals so that they may contribute to business growth and development (on-going)</p> |
| 2.3.7 | <p>Industrial Cooperation and Enterprises Development</p> <p>2.3.7.1 Industrial Cooperation</p> |

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| | <p>2.3.7.1.1 Undertake more promotional activities on industrial cooperation in ASEAN through the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation (AICO) scheme (on-going)</p> <p>2.3.7.1.2 Conduct the follow-up actions on new areas of industrial cooperation (on-going)</p> <p>2.3.7.1.3 Enhance inter/intra-ASEAN linkages among ASEAN Member Countries (on-going)</p> <p>2.3.7.1.4 Encourage the private sector to participate in identifying the inherent strengths and weaknesses of each ASEAN Member Country that others can complement and supplement (on-going)</p> |
| | <p>2.3.7.2 Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)</p> <p>2.3.7.2.1 Full implementation of the systematic programmes developed to empower potential as well as existing entrepreneurs, and to improve SME access to credit and finance, modern technology and e-commerce(on-going)</p> <p>2.3.7.2.2 Development of information systems and registers on SME capabilities and competitiveness for the promotion of enterprise clustering, inter-firm networking, subcontracting arrangements and information sharing (on-going)</p> <p>2.3.7.2.3 Promotion of public-private sector synergies in the provision of business development services and extension activities for SMEs and their entrepreneurs (on-going)</p> <p>2.3.7.2.4 Development of an environment of policies and regulations conducive to SME dynamism and competitiveness(on-going)</p> |
| 2.4 | Trade in Services |
| 2.4.1 | <p>Services Liberalisation</p> <p>2.4.1.1 Clear targets and schedules of services liberalisation for each sector and each round towards achieving free flow of trade in services(2010)</p> <p>2.4.1.2 Application of the ASEAN minus-X formula to accelerate services liberalisation in specific sectors earlier than enddate by Member Countries which are ready.</p> <p>2.4.1.3 Completion of MRAs for qualifications in major professional services to facilitate free movement in talents in ASEAN (31December 2008)</p> <p>2.4.1.4 Adoption of agreement to facilitate the free movement of business people, skilled labour and talents in the region</p> <p>2.4.1.5 Establishment of a “Professional Exchange” to promote the use of ASEAN professional services (2008)</p> |

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| 2.4.2 | <p>Tourism</p> <p>2.4.2.1 Eliminate the limitations on market access and national treatment to achieve free flow of trade in tourism sector (2010)</p> <p>2.4.2.2 Encourage the private sector to engage in a joint promotion and marketing of ASEAN tourism activities such as the launching of the ASEAN Hip-Hop Pass (beginning 2004)</p> <p>2.4.2.3 Provide diverse ASEAN tourist attractions by promoting a collective tourism package to include, among others, the main markets of China, Japan, Korea and India (2005)</p> <p>2.4.2.4 Member Countries to collectively use the Visit ASEAN Campaign Logo in all exhibitions, media, and publication in their campaigns to promote ASEAN as a single tourism destination (2004)</p> <p>2.4.2.5 Collectively organise an ASEAN Tourism Area in international tourism fairs to continuously promote ASEAN as a single tourism destination (2005)</p> <p>2.4.2.6 Work towards the televised promotion by ASEAN Leaders of ASEAN as a single destination for tourism and investment at every ASEAN Summit (Annually)</p> <p>2.4.2.7 Set up criteria for an ASEAN Tourism Heritage site and procedures for an ASEAN Heritage Award (2005)</p> <p>2.4.2.8 Provide incentives in the development of tourism infrastructure so as to encourage private investment to ASEAN Member Countries (beginning 2004)</p> <p>2.4.2.9 Provide support and facilitate implementation for the tourism projects approved under the ASEAN Pioneer Project Scheme (APPS) (2005)</p> <p>2.4.2.10 Undertake a study to identify tourism areas that can be attractive for investment and measures to be pursued to promote investment in tourism. (2005)</p> <p>2.4.2.11 Establish ASEAN tourism standards by initially working on the development of hotel standards, that would focus on environmental management certification system of hotel. (2004)</p> <p>2.4.2.12 Establish an ASEAN minimum competency standards for tourism professionals (2005)</p> <p>2.4.2.13 Establish a Tourism Resource Management and Development Network (2004)</p> <p>2.4.2.14 Strengthen HRD activities through the development of an intra-ASEAN curriculum covering exchange programme, cross-training and cross-certification activities. (beginning 2004)</p> <p>2.4.2.15 Initiate a study to establish and strengthen collaborative networks among all</p> |
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| | <p>tourism-related stakeholders and to create ASEAN Databank to facilitate the rapid growth of tourism (30 June 2005)</p> <p>2.4.2.16 Facilitate development of appropriate policies to encourage cruising, travel by ferries, and leisure boats in ASEAN</p> <p>2.4.2.17 Conduct Workshop/Training on Tourism Product Development, i.e.: Rural Tourism, Tourism Quality and Sustainable Tourism Development, Souvenir Packaging, etc. (beginning 2004)</p> <p>2.4.2.18 Develop a list of tourism priority investment projects and undertake measures to promote investment opportunities</p> <p>2.4.2.19 Support the implementation of Visit ASEAN Campaign (VAC)</p> <p>2.4.2.20 Strengthen support for the ASEAN Tourism Forum</p> <p>2.4.2.21 Create an ASEAN webpage to provide precise and timely information on tourism safety and security for public, private and media as well as foreign governments</p> |
| 2.5 | Finance Cooperation |
| | Strengthen surveillance mechanisms |
| 2.5.1 | An enhanced regional surveillance mechanism, including setting up of surveillance network and early warning system, where applicable |
| | Enhance domestic financial systems |
| 2.5.2 | A comprehensive capacity building programme for the development of domestic capital markets, particularly in the areas of legal/regulatory framework, risk management and market infrastructure |
| 2.5.3 | National capacity building programmes on capital account liberalisation covering all areas of liberalisation (current account convertibility, foreign direct investment inflows and outflows and portfolio inflows and outflows) |
| 2.5.4 | Progress in enhancing financial infrastructure, standards and codes in financial sectors (banking, insurance and capital markets) including good corporate governance, to bring the systems closer to internationally accepted standards and codes |
| | Develop and integrate the financial markets |
| 2.5.5 | A regional network for capital market research and training by 2005 |

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| 2.5.6 | Cross border collaboration through programmes aimed at developing common conventions in debt and equity markets |
| 2.5.7 | Progressive liberalisation of financial services through the Fourth and Fifth rounds of negotiations |
| 2.5.8 | Progressive liberalisation of capital account, where possible and appropriate, with priority given to liberalising capital flows to ASEAN Member Countries |
| 2.6 | Transport |
| 2.6.1 | Operationalisation of the ASEAN Framework Agreements on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (2005) |
| 2.6.2 | Operationalisation of the ASEAN Framework Agreements on Multimodal Transport |
| 2.6.3 | Conclusion of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport |
| 2.6.4 | Adoption of regional plan for enhancing ASEAN transport logistic services |
| 2.6.5 | Adoption of a regional policy framework for promoting and strengthening of intra-ASEAN shipping service |
| 2.6.6 | Build upon the Roadmap for Integration of ASEAN for Competitive Air Services Policy to achieve progressive liberalisation of air freight services in ASEAN, with increased tonnage and network coverage through the ASEAN Memorandum of Understanding on Air Freight Services (2006) and significant liberalisation of scheduled passenger services in ASEAN (2008) |
| 2.6.7 | Progressive accession and implementation of relevant International Maritime Organisation (IMO) instruments thereby enhancing maritime safety and security and protection of the marine environment |
| 2.6.8 | Harmonisation of road signage for the ASEAN Highway, to include the requirements for tourism purposes and road safety (2006) |
| 2.6.9 | Completion of project preparation studies for priority road sections of the ASEAN Highway (2008) |
| 2.6.10 | Implementation of the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) sections as follows: Poipet-Sisophon Railway Link Project (Cambodia); Ho Chi Minh City - Loc Ninh Railway Link Project (Viet Nam); Spur Lines between Three Pagoda Pass and Thanbyuzayat (Myanmar); and Vientiane - Mu Gia - Tan Ap - Vung Ang (Lao PDR/Viet Nam) (2010) |

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| 2.6.11 | Significant improvement in road safety in ASEAN through implementation of the ASEAN five-year Regional Road Safety Action Plan (2009) |
| 2.7 | Telecommunications and IT |
| 2.7.1 | Enhance the ASEAN Information Infrastructure (AII) through high speed connections among all national information infrastructures (2010) |
| 2.7.2 | Promote the security and integrity of ASEAN Information Infrastructure through development of national Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and its capacity building programmes (2008) |
| 2.7.3 | Develop convergence guidelines and best practices (2005) |
| 2.7.4 | Create an integrated ASEANConnect information portal with appropriate ASEAN and local content (2010) |
| 2.7.5 | Provide a wide range of government services and transactions on-line by usage of ICT applications to facilitate linkages between public, private sectors and civil and international organisations (2010) |
| 2.7.6 | Develop and implement national cyber-laws and relevant telecommunications and IT policies and regulations that are consistent with international standards and norms, and ASEAN regional policy and regulatory frameworks and guidelines (2008) |
| 2.7.7 | Implement the ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators Council's (ATRC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on conformity assessment for telecommunications equipment |
| 2.7.8 | Implement capacity building programmes to improve ICT literacy and professional ICT skills, and to enhance the e-Readiness of ASEAN Member Countries (2010) |
| 2.7.9 | Develop common reference framework for e-Commerce and e-Government technical architectures, so as to ensure interoperability of information systems and networks (2007) |
| 2.7.10 | Develop infrastructure recommendations for CLMV based on the e-Readiness Study and global best practices (2005) |
| 2.8 | Science and Technology (S&T) |
| 2.8.1 | A core set of ASEAN S&T indicators that can serve as input in the development of human resources strategies by economic and industry planners |

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| 2.8.2 | An operational ASEAN Science and Technology Network (ASTNET) as a hub of S&T information exchange and technology transaction |
| 2.8.3 | At least six projects implemented through the ASEAN-help-ASEAN programme focusing on resource mobilisation and capacity building in some of the priority sectors in support of the ASEAN Community |
| 2.8.4 | Completion of the current augmentation plan of the ASEAN Science Fund and other ways being sought to augment the Fund (2008) |
| 2.8.5 | A policy framework for strategic partnership in research and technology development between public and private sector, with at least two spin-off enterprises and/or three joint collaborative projects between (Committee on Science and Technology) COST and private sector in priority sectors |
| 2.8.6 | An established ASEAN network of technology foresight practitioners and completed technology foresight exercises for selected priority sectors most relevant to COST |
| 2.8.7 | Regional training courses to develop technical skills needed by the priority sectors through ASEAN Virtual Institute of Science and Technology (AVIST) and other appropriate means |
| 2.8.8 | Greater awareness of S&T projects and accomplishments through the implementation of appropriate programmes, leveraging on the ASEAN Science and Technology Week (ASTW), ASEAN Food Conference (AFC), the ASEAN Journal on Science and Technology for Development (AJSTD), and the various ASEAN COST supported events |
| 2.9 | Energy |
| 2.9.1 | Operationalisation of the ASEAN Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP) Project with a fully functional ASEAN Gas Consultative Council and ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE) Gas Centre in place |
| 2.9.2 | Significant implementation of the ASEAN Power Grid Project with an established policy framework and modalities for power inter-connection and trade |
| 2.9.3 | Enhanced energy infrastructure facilities in ASEAN with the commissioning of three gas pipelines under the TAGP Project and five power inter-connections under the ASEAN Power Grid |
| 2.9.4 | Comprehensive institutional arrangement for enhanced security and stability of energy supply in ASEAN |
| 2.9.5 | Enhancing sustainable energy development through the expanding markets for |

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| | renewable energy technologies and energy-efficient products |
| 2.9.6 | Increase the share of renewable energy in power generation in ASEAN region to at least ten per cent |
| 2.10 | Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors |
| | Develop and Adopt Existing and New Technologies |
| 2.10.1 | 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 |
| 2.10.2 | Conduct Research and Development (R&D) in critical areas to reduce the cost of inputs for food, agriculture and forestry production |
| 2.10.3 | Strengthen programmes in food, agriculture and agro-forestry technology transfer, training and extension to increase productivity |
| | Enhance the Marketability of ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Products/Commodities |
| 2.10.4 | Develop, harmonise and adopt quality standards and regulations for food, agriculture and forestry products |
| 2.10.5 | Promote trade, investment and services incidental to agriculture and forestry to increase trade in agro-based and wood-based products in ASEAN and ASEAN Trade in these products with the rest of the world |
| | Enhance Private Sector Involvement |
| 2.10.6 | Establish networking and strategic alliances with the private sector to promote investment and joint venture opportunities in ASEAN |
| | Enhance ASEAN Cooperation and Joint Approaches in International and Regional Issues |
| 2.10.7 | 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 |
| 2.10.8 | Seek closer cooperation and negotiate, through relevant ASEAN bodies, with trading partners on market access for ASEAN products |
| 2.11 | Institutional Strengthening |

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| | <p>2.11.2.2 Annual review, and revision if necessary, of the ASEAN Statistical Indicators (2006)</p> <p>2.11.2.3 Harmonised statistical classification at three digit-level for International Standard Industrial Classification for All Economic Activities (ISIC) and Standard International Trade Classification (SICT), and at six digit-level for Harmonised System (HS) (2008)</p> <p>2.11.2.4 Harmonised merchandise trade statistics (2008)</p> <p>2.11.2.5 Comparable methodology and tools for core statistics in International Trade in Services (ITS) (2008)</p> <p>2.11.2.6 Automated data processing of merchandise trade statistics (2010)</p> <p>Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)</p> <p>2.11.2.7 Strengthen FDI statistics data collection system</p> <p>2.11.2.8 Harmonised FDI statistics</p> <p>2.11.2.9 Expand the coverage of FDI statistics to the services sector</p> |
| 2.12 | External Economic Relations |
| 2.12.1 | Completion of negotiations in accordance with the agreed schedule |

VIENTIANE ACTION PROGRAMME ANNEX 3

ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

| Ref. No. | Programme Areas and Measures |
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| 3.1 | Building A Community of Caring Societies |
| 3.1.1 | <p>Raising the standard of living of marginalised, disadvantaged groups</p> <p>3.1.1.1 Increase the instances of economic entrepreneurship in rural enterprises</p> <p>3.1.1.2 Build the capacity of officials in rural development and poverty alleviation administration</p> <p>3.1.1.3 Raise ICT awareness and ICT utilisation rates among the poor</p> <p>3.1.1.4 Develop a programme to increase capacity for producing prostheses and other assistive devices for persons with disabilities (access to research and production methods, joint procurement)</p> <p>3.1.1.5 Develop and strengthen regional cooperation for promoting self-reliance of elderly and disabled people to be productive members of the community</p> |
| 3.1.2 | <p>Facilitating universal access to education and promoting high standards</p> <p>3.1.2.1 Develop collaboration on educational systems in the region through comparative studies with a view to ensure quality education in the region.</p> <p>3.1.2.2 Promote education information networking in various level of institutions in the region</p> <p>3.1.2.3 Initiate collaboration with other regional and international educational organisations to develop a concerted effort in the provision of education in the region</p> |
| 3.1.3 | <p>Reducing the social risks faced by children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities:</p> <p>3.1.3.1 Implement programmes on child survival, development and protection consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)</p> <p>3.1.3.2 Implement the eight goals of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region</p> <p>3.1.3.3 Strengthen regional collaboration in programmes to combat trafficking in women and children</p> |

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| | <p>3.1.3.4 Develop and implement the ASEAN Work Plan on Women's Advancement Agenda in politics</p> <p>3.1.3.5 Develop a standardised set of measurement tools for quantifying disability and the assessment of health and social care needs for older persons</p> <p>3.1.3.6 Collect and exchange information on best practices in family and community-based care for the elderly and capacity building for professionals involved in elderly care</p> <p>3.1.3.7 Develop and implement regional activities that assist Member Countries to strengthen capacity to facilitate access by all members of society, especially the vulnerable groups, to education, consistent with the UN Millennium Development Goals</p> <p>3.1.3.8 Promoting equitable participation of women in the development process by eliminating all forms of discrimination against them</p> |
| 3.1.4 | <p>Increasing the effective participation of family, civil society and the private sector in tackling poverty and social welfare issues</p> <p>3.1.4.1 Establish an ASEAN Social Workers Exchange Programme</p> <p>3.1.4.2 Establish an ASEAN Network for Family Development</p> <p>3.1.4.3 Promote regional networking of professional social workers, NGOs and private sector groups involved in social services education or provision of care</p> <p>3.1.4.4 Facilitate a rural volunteers movement, and the exchange of young professionals in rural development in ASEAN</p> |
| 3.1.5. | <p>Increasing the participation of women and youth in the productive workforce</p> <p>3.1.5.1 Develop a skills training curricula on specific skills and accreditation systems for skills training programmes for youth</p> <p>3.1.5.2 Conduct skills training for out-of-school youth and disadvantaged women</p> <p>3.1.5.3 Increase women's access to micro-credit, information systems and basic social services</p> <p>3.1.5.4 Use ICT to enable more effective youth work and networking among youth in the region</p> <p>3.1.5.5 Promote employability of youth by mainstreaming youth into the national development agenda</p> <p>3.1.5.6 Develop a consolidated plan for regional cooperation mechanisms on skills development, taking into account the skills training programmes under ASEAN cooperation on labour, women and youth, to ensure relevance with the AEC's priority sectors</p> |

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| 3.1.6 | <p>Addressing health development concerns</p> <p>3.1.6.1 Develop strategies for ASEAN to strengthen capacity and competitiveness in health-related products and services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - harmonisation of standards and regulations for health services and greater coordination with policy makers in the trade sector - enhancing human resources for health in the area of globalisation and trade liberalisation <p>3.1.6.2 Strengthen ASEAN capacity for good clinical practice (GCP) and clinical trials</p> <p>3.1.6.3 Develop and operationalise a framework of cooperation on integration of traditional medicine/ complementary and alternative medicine (TM/CAM) into national health systems</p> <p>3.1.6.4 Complete regional surveillance of risk factors for priority health issues identified in the Regional Action Plan on Healthy Lifestyles</p> <p>3.1.6.5 Formulate detailed work plans for implementing technical cooperation in pharmaceuticals phase VI in the plan's identified areas</p> |
| 3.1.7 | <p>Preventing the spread and reducing the harm of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases</p> <p>3.1.7.1 Reduce new infection and transmission rate of HIV in ASEAN Member Countries, consistent with the UN Millennium Development Goals</p> <p>3.1.7.2 Increase access to affordable anti-retroviral treatment and opportunistic disease treatment as well as testing reagents</p> <p>3.1.7.3 Integrate HIV/AIDS impact assessment into the feasibility study phase for development projects, particularly in the countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region</p> <p>3.1.7.4 Conduct research on the socio-economic impact and trends of HIV/AIDS in ASEAN, with a view to mitigating the negative impacts</p> <p>3.1.7.5 Establish regional mechanisms to proactively reduce HIV/AIDS vulnerability arising from development-related mobility and in the workplace</p> <p>3.1.7.6 Strengthen capacity of ASEAN Member Countries to reduce the vulnerability of drug users to HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne infectious diseases</p> <p>3.1.7.7 Develop and implement the Third ASEAN Work Programme on HIV/AIDS (AWPIII) with a time-frame of 2005-2010</p> <p>3.1.7.8 Put into place regional systems, networks and procedures for communicable diseases (including animal disease) surveillance, early warning and response</p> |

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| | <p>3.1.7.9 Formulate and work for the adoption of a ministerial agreement to facilitate the deployment of multinational ASEAN outbreak response teams</p> <p>3.1.7.10 Activate regional simulation exercises of an outbreak response</p> <p>3.1.7.11 Involve the Plus Three partners in sharing expertise and in strengthening networks for outbreak response</p> <p>3.1.7.12 Complete Phase I of the ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) programme and convene a donors' forum to mobilise resources to develop and implement Phase II of the ASEAN+3 EID Programme</p> <p>3.1.7.13 Establish a regional veterinary surveillance network with linkages to public health surveillance mechanisms as a strategy for combating zoonotic diseases</p> |
| 3.1.8 | <p>Enhancing food security and safety</p> <p>3.1.8.1 Complete an analysis of long-term supply and demand prospects of major food commodities (to include rice, corn, soybean, sugar, pulses and oilseeds)</p> <p>3.1.8.2 Develop and adopt a common framework for analysing food trade policies in Member Countries</p> <p>3.1.8.3 Establish a food security information system for ASEAN to allow Member Countries to forecast, plan and manage their food supplies and utilisation of basic commodities as well as provide information to investors on potential ventures in food production and related areas</p> <p>3.1.8.4 Develop model food legislative framework and guidelines from farm to table</p> <p>3.1.8.5 Harmonise related protocols on food safety and organise a network of food laboratories in ASEAN</p> <p>3.1.8.6 Develop a mechanism for region-wide recognition of food safety assurance systems including certification such as HACCP and GMP</p> <p>3.1.8.7 Adopt mutual recognition agreements to facilitate trade in food products</p> <p>3.1.8.8 Develop and implement a work plan to involve the food industry and the agriculture sectors in the implementation of the ASEAN Food Safety Implementation Plan (AFSIP)</p> <p>3.1.8.9 Establish centres of excellence among ASEAN Member Countries in various analytical services/fields: training centres, joint training programmes, etc. taking into account the existing models and institutions</p> |
| 3.1.9 | <p>Disaster Management</p> <p>3.1.9.1 Fully implement the ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management 2004-2010 emphasizing the following actions:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing a fully functional regional mechanism for disaster management, response and relief - Institutionalizing capacity building programmes for enhancing skills in disaster management - Establishment of an ASEAN Disaster Information Sharing and Communication Network and promoting research capability - Promoting public awareness and participation in disaster management programmes |
| 3.1.10 | <p>Ensuring a Drug Free ASEAN by 2015</p> <p>3.1.10.1 Develop and implement community-based drug prevention and drug abuse control programmes</p> <p>3.1.10.2 Work towards standardization of level of punishment among national laws on combating drugs among ASEAN Member Countries</p> <p>3.1.10.3 Develop multilateral or bilateral legal arrangements to facilitate apprehension, investigation, prosecution and extradition, exchange of witnesses, sharing of evidence, inquiry, seizure and forfeiture of the proceeds of the crime in order to enhance mutual legal and administrative assistance among ASEAN Member Countries</p> <p>3.1.10.4 Enhancing cooperation in combating drug trafficking among law enforcement agencies in the region</p> <p>3.1.10.5 Develop regional training, personnel exchange programmes and conduct regular conferences on illicit drug trafficking</p> <p>3.1.10.6 Strengthen institutional linkages among various ASEAN mechanisms in combating drug trafficking</p> <p>3.1.10.7 Develop capacity and coordinate regional efforts in controlling chemical precursors to stem the production of synthetic drugs</p> <p>3.1.10.8 Develop capacity-building infrastructure for rehabilitation of drug victims in each ASEAN Member Country</p> <p>3.1.10.9 Enhance extra-regional cooperation in combating the drug menace</p> <p>3.1.10.10 Seek market access for the drug-replacement crops</p> |
| 3.1.11 | <p>Promote science and technology in ASEAN</p> <p>3.1.11.1 Develop and implement programmes to enhance science and technology culture in the society through participation of related and interested elements in the community, such as private sectors</p> <p>3.1.11.2 Implement applied science and technology in relevant sectors for social and</p> |

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| | economic benefit |
| 3.2 | Managing the Social Impacts of Economic Integration |
| 3.2.1 | <p>Developing and enhancing human resources in the workforce</p> <p>3.2.1.1 Establish a network of skills-training institutions and a programme on vocational skills-training methodology</p> <p>3.2.1.2 Promote life-long learning as a means of personal development and integration into the working life and society</p> <p>3.2.1.3 Develop a regional assessment and training programme in the informal sector to promote employment and self-employment</p> <p>3.2.1.4 Enhance capacity of governments to monitor labour markets and human resource indicators, and design social impact policies</p> <p>3.2.1.5 Develop a programme on overseas employment administration</p> <p>3.2.1.6 Develop ASEAN human resources in applied research concentrating on micro-electronic, new materials, biotechnology, telecommunication and other high value-added industries that enhance ASEAN's global competitiveness</p> <p>3.2.1.7 Develop joint certification and accreditation of science and technology in the region</p> |
| 3.2.2 | <p>Strengthening systems of social protection and social risk management</p> <p>3.2.2.1 Establish an integrated social protection and social risk management system in ASEAN</p> <p>3.2.2.2 Conduct research on the impact of globalisation and regional integration on labour and unemployment</p> <p>3.2.2.3 Strengthen systems of social protection at the national level and work toward adoption of appropriate measures at the regional level to provide a minimum uniform coverage for skilled workers in the region</p> |
| 3.2.3 | <p>Addressing health development issues from liberalisation</p> <p>3.2.3.1 Develop strategies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure coordination between policy makers, practitioners and users in rationalising health delivery - enhance human resources for health to respond to globalisation and trade liberalisation <p>3.2.3.2 Complete regional surveillance of risk factors for priority health issues</p> |

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| | identified in the Regional Action Plan on Healthy Lifestyles |
| 3.3 | Promoting Environmental Sustainability |
| 3.3.1 | <p>Global environmental issues</p> <p>3.3.1.1 Promote national and regional cooperation to address measures related to the cluster of multilateral environmental agreements addressing atmospheric issues such as Climate Change and Vienna Conventions and its Protocols</p> <p>3.3.1.2 Promote national and regional cooperation to address measures related to the cluster of multilateral environmental agreements addressing chemical and chemical wastes such as the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions</p> |
| 3.3.2 | <p>Land and forest fires and transboundary haze pollution</p> <p>3.3.2.1 Undertake appropriate measures to set in place legislative, administrative and/or other measures to implement the relevant preventive, monitoring, and mitigation measures under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution</p> <p>3.3.2.2 Operationalise the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control to effectively implement the provisions of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution</p> <p>3.3.2.3 Operationalise the ASEAN Transboundary Haze Pollution Control Fund to provide the required resources for regional and national level action</p> |
| 3.3.3 | <p>Public awareness and environmental education</p> <p>3.3.3.1 Further expand and intensify the implementation of the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan 2000-2005, targeting measures in four target areas: formal education, non formal education, manpower capability building and networking, collaboration and communication</p> <p>3.3.3.2 Further promote the ASEAN Environmental Education Inventory Database as a primary means of communication, networking, sharing resources and experiences, and capacity building</p> |
| 3.3.4 | <p>Promotion of environmentally sound technologies</p> <p>3.3.4.1 Operationalise an appropriate ASEAN-level regional mechanism (centre/network) to promote environmentally sound technologies</p> <p>3.3.4.2 Foster effective government-business-innovative financial mechanisms to promote environmentally sound technologies especially among the SMEs</p> <p>3.3.4.3 Adopt region wide environmental management/labeling schemes to promote economic growth and environmental protection</p> |

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| 3.3.5 | <p>Urban environmental management and governance</p> <p>3.3.5.1 Clean Air - Achieve ASEAN long-term goal of maintaining good ambient air quality of PSI (Pollutant Standard Index) < 100 to safeguard public health</p> <p>3.3.5.2 Clean Water - Achieve ASEAN long-term goals for water quality intended for various uses, and move towards sustainable supply and use of water</p> <p>3.3.5.3 Clean Land - Ensure that waste is properly collected and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner</p> |
| 3.3.6 | <p>Sustainable development, monitoring and reporting/ database harmonisation</p> <p>3.3.6.1 Implement the thirteen priority environmental parameters and ensure region-wide harmonisation in terms of measurement (methodology), monitoring and reporting</p> <p>3.3.6.2 Consolidate and promote synergy in the reporting requirements under the various multilateral environmental agreements, aiming for consolidated region-wide reporting</p> <p>3.3.6.3 Produce informative periodical state of the environment reports for policy-making and addressing impacts on the environment</p> |
| 3.3.7 | <p>Coastal and marine environment</p> <p>3.3.7.1 Enhance inter-agency and inter-sectoral coordination at the national, regional and international levels for achieving sustainable development of the ASEAN's coastal and marine environment</p> <p>3.3.7.2 Further expand and implement the ASEAN Marine Water Quality Criteria</p> <p>3.3.7.3 Implement the ASEAN Criteria for Marine Heritage Areas, and ASEAN Criteria for National Protected Areas to establish a representative network of protected areas to protect critical habitats</p> |
| 3.3.8 | <p>Nature conservation and biodiversity</p> <p>3.3.8.1 Significantly reduce the current rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010 (WSSD target)</p> <p>3.3.8.2 Promote further listing and coordinated management of ASEAN Heritage Parks as a platform for ecosystem-based protected areas management</p> <p>3.3.8.3 Facilitate access and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the region's biological and genetic resources, by effectively implementing the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Access to, and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from the Utilisation of Genetic and Biological Resources</p> <p>3.3.8.4 Set in place measures to minimise impacts of transboundary movement of</p> |

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| | <p>living modified organisms in accordance with the ASEAN Guidelines on Risk Assessment of Agricultural GMOs</p> <p>3.3.8.5 Promote national and regional cooperation to address measures related to the cluster of multilateral environmental agreements addressing biological diversity such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, Ramsar Convention</p> <p>3.3.8.6 Establish a functional regional database or network of national databases containing inventory of the biological resources of the ASEAN Region</p> <p>3.3.8.7 Enhance the role and capacity of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity to function as an effective regional centre of excellence in promoting biodiversity conservation and management</p> <p>3.3.8.8 Address issues pertaining to invasive alien species</p> |
| 3.3.9 | <p>Freshwater resources</p> <p>3.3.9.1 Halve by 2010 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water (WSSD target by 2015)</p> <p>3.3.9.2 Manage water resources efficiently and effectively</p> <p>3.3.9.3 Promote integrated river basin management</p> <p>3.3.9.4 Promote awareness to enhance integrated water resources management</p> |
| 3.3.10 | <p>Ensuring sustainable management of land-based resources while enhancing optimum agricultural production.</p> <p>Crops:</p> <p>3.3.10.1 Strengthening national frameworks for pest risk analysis</p> <p>3.3.10.2 Bio-security planning</p> <p>3.3.10.3 Harmonisation of maximum residue limits of commonly used pesticides for vegetables</p> <p>3.3.10.4 Establishment of ASEAN pesticide database network</p> <p>3.3.10.5 Identification and adoption of improved production/postharvest technologies</p> <p>3.3.10.6 Establishment of ASEAN-AVRDC regional network for vegetable research and development</p> <p>3.3.10.7 Intensification of integrated pest and crop management Practices</p> <p>Livestock:</p> <p>3.3.10.8 Establishment of accreditation schemes for good practices in livestock production</p> |

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| | <p>3.3.10.9 Strengthening animal diseases control programmes among ASEAN Member Countries</p> <p>3.3.10.10 Establishment of an information network for the sharing of information on animal health and production</p> <p>Fisheries:</p> <p>3.3.10.11 Implementation of ASEAN-SEAFDEC's Resolution and Plan of Action Sustainable Fisheries</p> <p>3.3.10.12 Utilisation of good production practices for aquaculture farming</p> <p>3.3.10.13 Establishment of village-fish ponds and school fish ponds in rural community in selected ASEAN Member Countries</p> <p>3.3.10.14 Development of disease surveillance system of aquatic animals</p> <p>3.3.10.15 Promotion of mangrove-friendly aquaculture in Southeast Asia</p> <p>3.3.10.16 Regionalisation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries</p> |
| 3.3.11 | <p>Promoting forest management as a model in sustainable development by harmonising environmental, social and economic policies</p> <p>3.3.11.1 Enhance the capacities and human resources, including research and development in the forestry sector to achieve Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)</p> <p>3.3.11.2 Strengthen ASEAN cooperation and joint approaches in addressing international and regional forestry issues to participate in the development of a global partnership for development</p> <p>3.3.11.3 Establish policy and planning documents that promote the sustainable management and conservation of forest resources for socio-economic development while ensuring environmental sustainability</p> <p>3.3.11.4 Promote multi-stakeholder participation to support development of regional partnership for development</p> <p>3.3.11.5 Promote the sustainable management of forest resources, which include protection of forests in an ecologically sound and integrated manner by developing and adopting common criteria for sustainable forest management in ASEAN, and eradicating unsustainable practices and related activities</p> |
| 3.3.12 | <p>Strengthen cooperation in the rational utilisation of mineral resources</p> <p>3.3.12.1 Intensify cooperation in strengthening institutional and human capacities to facilitate research, innovation and application of emerging and advanced technologies in mineral resources development and geosciences, including environmental management, minerals processing and rehabilitation, among</p> |

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| | <p>others</p> <p>3.3.12.2 Engage ASEAN Dialogue Partners and relevant international and regional organisations in the promotion of responsible mineral resources development, research and development, and technology transfer cooperative programmes and activities</p> <p>3.3.12.3 Conduct safe, environmentally friendly and socially responsible mineral resources development in ASEAN</p> |
| 3.4 | Promoting an ASEAN Identity |
| 3.4.1 | <p>Promoting ASEAN awareness and an ASEAN regional identity</p> <p>3.4.1.1 Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of National Communication Plans to Promote ASEAN Awareness and Understanding (signed by the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information in 2000)</p> <p>3.4.1.2 Production of visual arts and showcases as well as performing arts that promote interaction among artists</p> <p>3.4.1.3 Production of performing arts</p> <p>3.4.1.4 Conduct of youth camps and similar activities involving youth exchanges</p> <p>3.4.1.5 Promote shared values</p> <p>3.4.1.6 Promote ASEAN languages learning</p> |
| 3.4.2 | <p>Preserving and promoting ASEAN cultural heritage</p> <p>3.4.2.1 Implementation of the work programme on the ASEAN Declaration on Cultural Heritage to cover the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and regional protection of ASEAN cultural heritage - Protection of national treasures and cultural properties - Sustentation of worthy living traditions - Preservation of past and living scholarly, artistic and intellectual cultural heritage - Preservation of past and living popular cultural heritage and traditions - Enhancement of cultural education, awareness and literacy - Affirmation of ASEAN cultural dignity - Advancement of cultural heritage policy and legislation |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition of communal intellectual property rights - Prevention of illicit transfer of ownership of cultural property - Economic and commercial utilisation of cultural heritage and resources - Integration of culture and development - Development of national and regional networks on ASEAN cultural heritage <p>3.4.2.2 Exchange of visits among representatives of arts and culture</p> <p>3.4.2.3 Build capacity, both people and facilities, within each country to develop and implement sustainable cultural conservation management plans and systems</p> |
| 3.4.3 | <p>Fostering dialogue for a deeper understanding of ASEAN civilisation, cultures, and religions</p> <p>3.4.3.1 Organise dialogues for interaction and exchange among all individuals from various societies and civilisations in the region</p> <p>3.4.3.2 Promote mutual visits and meetings of experts in various fields from different civilisations</p> <p>3.4.3.3 Develop curricula materials suitable for each national education system</p> <p>3.4.3.4 Clarify and publicise framework for cooperation with Dialogue Partners</p> <p>3.4.3.5 Increase number of cooperative programmes with Dialogue Partners within framework</p> <p>3.4.3.6 Identify existing networks and encourage cooperation</p> <p>3.4.3.7 Increase ASEAN cultural and information cooperation to expose and disseminate the rich and vast culture of ASEAN through effective and efficient programmes, not only within ASEAN but also outside the region</p> |
| 3.4.4 | <p>Promoting ASEAN, s standing in the international community</p> <p>3.4.4.1 Advance and reinforce a positive international image of ASEAN supportive of its interests, policies programmes and goals</p> <p>3.4.4.2 Undertake proactive communication measures to promote the realisation of the ASEAN Community</p> <p>3.4.4.3 Improve the quality of mechanisms that disseminate news on ASEAN</p> <p>3.4.4.4 Develop and implement a mechanism for engaging with the media</p> |

VIENTIANE ACTION PROGRAMME ANNEX 4

NARROWING THE DEVELOPMENT GAP

| Ref. No. | Programme Areas and Measures |
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| 4.1 | General Framework |
| 4.1.1 | <p>Conduct a deeper analysis of the development gap in its various dimensions and manifestations and set realistic targets for the medium and long-term:</p> <p>4.1.1.1 Complete a study to analyse the nature, manifestations and magnitude of the development gap in ASEAN</p> <p>4.1.1.2 Convene fora/workshops to set regional targets and milestones</p> |
| 4.1.2 | <p>Accord preferential consideration or special treatment in the form of more opportunities or greater resource allocation, for the participation of CLMV in all cooperation programmes and activities under the mainstream ASEAN agenda:</p> <p>4.1.2.1 Accord special consideration for the participation of CLMV built into the design of all ASEAN cooperation programmes, projects and activities</p> |
| 4.2 | Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) |
| 4.2.1 | <p>Strengthen the existing mechanisms to assist the CLMV grow at an accelerated rate, including broadening and deepening the scope of the IAI CLMV Work Plan as well as developing innovative modalities for resource mobilisation:</p> <p>4.2.1.1 Completion and approval by the Leaders of the mid-term review of the IAI CLMV Work Plan</p> <p>4.2.1.2 Innovative modalities for resource mobilisation</p> |
| 4.2.2 | <p>Strengthening the framework for sub-regional cooperation within ASEAN:</p> <p>4.2.2.1 Strengthening coordinating mechanisms within the existing subregional arrangements in ASEAN</p> <p>4.2.2.2 Development and launching of a work programme to address development needs of sub-regions</p> <p>4.2.2.3 Providing a policy environment to encourage sub-regional cooperation</p> |

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| 4.3 | Economic Integration Activities |
| 4.3.1 | Develop a conducive policy environment to support infrastructure development in CLMV: 4.3.1.1 Study to identify policy incentives to attract FDI in infrastructure development in CLMV 4.3.1.2 Series of workshops organised to review the recommendations of the study and formulate an implementation strategy |
| 4.4 | Social Development |
| 4.4.1 | Complement national poverty reduction programmes with regional advocacy efforts 4.4.1.1 Adoption and implementation of regional advocacy programme areas to include, among others, agriculture, agro-based industry, integrated rural development |