

REGIONAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME

2005-2006

ASEAN

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1. POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

The EU shares many common features and interests with South East Asia. Both are seeking to deepen regional cooperation and integration between highly diverse member states, through the EU and ASEAN respectively. Countries from both regions cherish the respect for their cultural, religious and linguistic identity. Both regions are committed to a multipolar world based on strong multilateral international institutions. These common interests and values should form the basis of a new partnership between the two regions. A fundamental issue in this respect will be to increase mutual awareness and the EU's profile in South East Asia.

South East Asia's **political agenda** is driven by both regional and international concerns. The terrorist attack carried out in October 2002 in Bali demonstrated the threat of terrorism to the South East Asian region. It has led to increased efforts to develop cooperation on security issues both within ASEAN and with the international community. The EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in January 2003 issued a Joint Declaration on Cooperation to Combat Terrorism. The dramatic rise in the political and economic importance of China has underlined the importance of achieving more cohesion in ASEAN (and has contributed to the efforts to make progress in this direction). Significant progress towards economic integration has already been made in recent years. As ASEAN advances it is increasingly challenged also to take more political responsibility. The increasingly critical stance towards Burma/Myanmar, the projected creation of a "Security Community", an "Economic Community" and a "Socio-Cultural Community" at the Bali Summit and the setting-up of a Dispute Settlement Mechanism, all in 2003, are signs of a maturing political will within ASEAN.

The Bali Summit in October 2003 in particular was a significant development for ASEAN as it set an agenda (so-called Bali Concord II) for deeper (economic) and wider (security and social) integration. The Bali Concord II declaration will be implemented on the basis of the Vientiane Action Plan (VAP), which is to be approved at the next ASEAN Summit in Laos in November 2004.

One of the key remaining priorities for ASEAN is to deal with the development gap between its richer and poorer members after enlargement embracing Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Burma/Myanmar in the nineties. Average per capita income in South East Asia is € 1 218, ranging from € 187 in Burma/Myanmar to € 4 137 in Malaysia and € 23 137 in Singapore. The enormous disparity between the poorest and the richest members places a direct constraint on **economic and social integration**. The ASEAN Socio-cultural Community is recognition of the fact that ASEAN integration can only advance further if issues of participation of citizens in public affairs as well as education, health and employment are addressed.

The two regions also enjoy very strong commercial links. On trade, the EU is now ASEAN's third largest trading partner, accounting for 14% of ASEAN trade. Significantly, the EU is ASEAN's second largest export market after the US. On investment, EU investors put nearly €2 billion in 2001 into the ASEAN region, which, although high, is lower than in previous years, reflecting the attraction that China is now exerting. ASEAN countries are again displaying impressive growth figures and the ASEAN region is set to become **one of the most dynamic growth engines for the world economy**. With its growing export-led economies and a quickly developing domestic market of 530 million people, ASEAN is a region of global economic importance that the EU cannot afford to neglect.

2. OVERVIEW OF PAST AND ONGOING EC COOPERATION

At present, a significant number of programmes are undertaken with ASEAN under the EC-ASEAN Cooperation Agreement. This amounts to total financing commitment of some € 80 million for the period 2000-2005. **Current projects** include cooperation on:

- Trade facilitation (Standards, Quality and Conformity Assessment, Intellectual Property Rights)
- Energy
- Environment (Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation)
- Capacity building (APRIS support for regional integration)
- Higher education (ASEAN-EU University Network Programme).

For the year 2004 the EC has launched follow-up support for the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (phase II) in conjunction with ASEAN's provision of a legal status for it as the 'ASEAN Biodiversity Centre'.

These EC-ASEAN programmes have made a valuable contribution to the promotion of cooperation at regional level. However, several **lessons** have been **learned** that should be taken into account when designing the next generation of such programmes:

- Some of these programmes may in retrospect have been overly ambitious and were not paced with ASEAN's own agenda. The initiatives have sometimes been in advance of the realities of ASEAN integration and lacked sufficient ownership on behalf of ASEAN.
- ASEAN - particularly its Secretariat – does not as yet have the same institutional and organisational capacity and clout of its counterpart in Europe. Programme designing and approval has in some cases been a process of negotiations with each individual ASEAN country. ASEAN is consensus-based, and once real changes in the implementation phase are required, all countries need to agree.
- As a consequence, region to region cooperation has proven to be more complex than bilateral cooperation.

Taking into account the above lessons from the past, a new approach has been introduced with regard to EC-ASEAN cooperation in the 'New Partnership with South East Asia' Communication.¹ A "two-way value-added test" is now applied before a regional cooperation project is initiated:

- to see where projects at ASEAN level would have significant added value compared to bilateral cooperation with individual South East Asian countries;
- to identify priority areas from an ASEAN point of view where the EU can provide particular added value (notably the EC's expertise in regional economic integration processes).

In addition, the EC stresses the importance of institutional arrangements:

¹ Communication from the Commission on 'A new Partnership with South East Asia', 9 July 2003, COM (2003) 399 final

- An appropriate counterpart on the ASEAN side is key to the implementation of any programme; this will mainly be the ASEAN Secretariat but could also be any other institution with real regional legitimacy (status) and capacity.

This new approach has been further consolidated and defined within the ‘New Partnership with South East Asia’ Communication, where true mutual interest is first established in a dialogue process as a precursor to cooperation, which can be bilateral, regional or a mix of both, depending on feasibility, impact and the amount of resources both sides are willing to commit.

3. THE EC REGIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGY

3.1. General approach

The 2003 Communication on relations with South East Asia defines the role of regional programmes in the implementation of its policy goals as follows: *‘Most of EC development assistance shall be implemented through bilateral channels. Regional approaches will, however, be chosen when economies of scale are evident, where the development of country-neutral toolboxes makes sense or in support of dialogue conducted at regional level. Regional programmes will have to include specific provisions to favour the participation of the less prosperous countries of the region.’*

Taking account of the above lessons learned with regard to EC-ASEAN cooperation, the agreed two-way value added test and above all the new policy guidelines as described within the ‘New Partnership’ Communication, a programming exercise has been conducted with ASEAN to define the EC’s response strategy for the period 2005-2006. It is built upon a number of key characteristics:

- it is the first indicative programme for EC-ASEAN cooperation
- it builds on a new agenda for EU-ASEAN relations
- it is centred around regional capacity building
- it is an intermediary programme

Intermediate means that between the current portfolio and the future programme, this programme will focus on supporting a dialogue mechanism that will eventually develop future sectoral assistance. The ‘New Partnership’ with South East Asia offers dialogue in over 26 different policy areas between the EU and ASEAN (or where appropriate at sub-regional level). Future cooperation should logically flow from the dialogue process between the two regions. As a result, the EC is in the process of starting up two facilities, TREATI (Trans-Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative), which sets up a framework for dialogue on all trade and investment issues, and READI (Regional EC ASEAN Dialogue Instrument), which provides a framework for all other dialogue areas. These instruments will allow for sector-based regional dialogues which may identify potential needs for future cooperation activities. Once these instruments are operational, and dialogues start developing, they could provide a number of jointly identified potential cooperation actions. As such, these will form the basis for the new EC-ASEAN Regional Indicative Programme for the period after 2006 and a thorough sector analysis. It is therefore logical that in the intermediary period the EC response strategy should focus on supporting the dialogue mechanisms and regional capacity building with the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as priorities identified by the EU-ASEAN Ministerial

Meeting of January 2003, i.e. cooperation to combat terrorism, and a visibility and information strategy underlying all EU policies towards South East Asia stemming from the 'New Partnership'.

As regional programmes have specific requirements, the following aspects should be observed:

- The preparatory phase is crucial in identifying specific needs of beneficiaries and in building political commitment to sustain actions at regional level.
- Programmes should offer a flexible format to allow countries at various stages of development to take part (ensuring that lesser developed countries can fully benefit from the programme to an extent that simple demand-driven programmes may not guarantee).
- Ownership is a key requisite for regional programmes. Therefore, a partnership is needed with national authorities as well as with the ASEAN Secretariat, or any other duly mandated ASEAN institution on specific programmes.
- A special effort should be made with regard to monitoring (regional meetings, steering committees, in-built evaluations, benchmarking, etc.).

3.2. ASEAN Specifics

The Regional Indicative Programme will be carried out within the framework of the EC-ASEAN cooperation agreement, signed in 1980. Partners to the Agreement are the European Community, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Burma/Myanmar is not a signatory, and the EU has made it clear that this cannot be agreed as long as the current political situation there continues. This means that Burma/Myanmar cannot be eligible for EC-ASEAN programmes. Furthermore, Singapore and Brunei are no longer directly eligible for EC assistance under the ALA-Regulation as they are not considered to be developing countries. However, these countries can participate in EC-ASEAN programmes, but at their own cost. It is even encouraged to cooperate jointly with these countries for the benefit of the lesser developed ASEAN countries, thereby diminishing the development gap within ASEAN. Finally, not all countries within ASEAN may choose to participate in a given EC-ASEAN programme. As long as there is a strong enough basis for a programme, both within ASEAN's policy agenda and by participation of a nucleus of ASEAN countries, such an 'ASEAN-X' approach will be acceptable.

3.3. Consultation process

Through its Delegation in Jakarta and in programming missions, the EC has run a programming exercise with ASEAN on its future cooperation programme. The EC's preliminary concepts for the RIP 2005-2006 were presented to the ASEAN Secretariat and Indonesia in its capacity as coordinator for EU-ASEAN relations at the Informal Coordinating Mechanism Meeting in Brussels on 15-16 March 2004. According to the ASEAN side the proposed actions were within ASEAN's own agenda and work-plans. In February a draft document was submitted to the ASEAN Brussels Committee, representing the ASEAN countries in Brussels. ASEAN was formally consulted 1 April and as a result, the ASEAN Standing Committee gave a favourable opinion on the programme at its meeting on 6 May. Final endorsement of the RIP should take place at the next Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting, which is scheduled for next December in Indonesia.

4. SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES AND INDICATIVE BUDGET

4.1. Summary of Priorities

The EU's regional strategy will focus on a single priority: **support for ASEAN Integration and region-to-region dialogue.**

Several considerations justify this approach. Most importantly, a concentration of efforts on regional capacity building is a prerequisite and a facilitator for the broadening and deepening of EC-ASEAN relations. Secondly, support for regional integration is an area in which the EC has clear added value over bilateral cooperation with individual countries. Thirdly, an important portfolio (some € 50 million) of sector-oriented projects (energy, environment) is still under implementation with ASEAN, and there has been no request from ASEAN or an identified need for additional sector-oriented programmes to be added at this moment. Finally, regional cooperation is intended to have a multiplier effect, whereby information, ideas and best practices can be exchanged across the region, by attaining economies of scale, introducing harmonised approaches, dealing with transnational issues and fostering regional integration.

Furthermore, potential dialogues at regional level will be undertaken in future under two distinct instruments, **TREATI** (Trans-Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative, or trade-related dialogues) and **READI** (Regional EC ASEAN Dialogue Instrument, grouping together all other dialogues).

- READI provides a coherent approach for dialogues areas such as transport, justice/home affairs, environment etc., which are not directly trade related. The READI dialogues should help ASEAN and the EU to make progress in areas of mutual interest.
- TREATI aims to expand trade and investment flows and establish an effective framework for dialogue and regulatory cooperation on trade facilitation, market access, and investment issues between ASEAN and the EU. TREATI should prepare the ground for consideration to be given to an EU-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in due course.

4.2. Actions

The following four actions may be envisaged to support further ASEAN integration and region-to-region dialogues:

1. Support for the ASEAN Secretariat (APRIS II)

The successful APRIS (EC-ASEAN Programme for Regional Integration Support) programme is assisting with policy development and raising the institutional capacity of ASEAN, in particular the ASEAN Secretariat. The objectives are to improve its capacity to prepare, promote and facilitate ASEAN's regional integration policies by making best use of EU know-how, and in the process strengthening cooperation with the EU. APRIS is currently scheduled for 2003-2006, creating the need to devise a second phase for 2005-2006.

2. Statistical cooperation

Good and reliable statistics at regional level will provide ASEAN with a key instrument to support its regional integration policies, such as ASEAN Free Trade Area. It will be necessary to support capacity building at both regional and national level.

3. Fight against terrorism

ASEAN is increasingly confronted with the threat of terrorism throughout the region. In this context, the Commission is willing to lend support to ASEAN and share its experience in order to increase the regional capacity in the fight against terrorism. Enhanced regional cooperation, for example with respect to information sharing is a vital element of any strategy to successfully counter this threat, in particular given the difficulties in effectively monitoring the extensive land and sea borders within the ASEAN region.

4. The 'New Partnership' information and communication Programme

Overall knowledge of the EU and its institutions, awareness of its activities and perceptions of the EU's importance for the region are found to be scant. The European Commission and the Member States intend to coordinate a campaign to explain the nature of the EU and its role in the world, and to promote the very idea of regional integration as a vehicle for peace and stability.

4.3. Indicative Budget for 2005/2006

TOTAL ASEAN	€ 15-20 million
APRIS II	€ 6-8 million
Statistics	€ 4-6 million
Counter-Terrorism	€ 4-6 million
Visibility Strategy	€ 2 million
Reserve (shared with Asia-wide programmes)	tbd

5. ASEAN REGIONAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMMES

5.1. Assistance to the ASEAN Secretariat – APRIS II

5.1.1. Justification and Background

The ASEAN Programme for Regional Integration Support (APRIS) was conceived after the Asian financial crisis, which underscored the need for closer economic integration between ASEAN countries and prompted the EU to seek means of further supporting this integration process and strengthening EU-ASEAN relations as a whole. Support for the ASEAN

Secretariat as a motor for ASEAN Integration remains an overriding political priority for the EC. APRIS has been designed to be the EC's main instrument to implement this specific objective.

APRIS is a facility through which the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) obtains flexible and responsive technical assistance from the EU, where know-how and experience is shared on aspects of regional cooperation relevant to ASEAN's integration, with the primary focus on strategic planning. It aims to facilitate the development of a regional approach for areas with potential for regional cooperation and to assist with actions identified through EC-ASEAN dialogue. Support for the ASEAN Secretariat through APRIS takes the form of technical assistance, for the delivery of policy papers, work programmes and other studies, institutional capacity building and training. APRIS started in 2003 and has been very successful in its direct aim of providing practical support for ASEC and forging a closer link between ASEC and the EC. It is therefore necessary to provide in due course for follow-up to the current programme.

APRIS II remains the key instrument for supporting the ASEAN integration agenda, and will also undertake to support region-to-region dialogues. Rationalisation of regional policy dialogue initiatives between the EC and ASEAN in the form of TREATI and READI requires APRIS II to adopt and support specific priorities and initiatives stemming from these two forums, from which all future EC-ASEAN cooperation will flow. Currently scheduled to finish in 2006, the present programming for APRIS II ensures that regional integration support activities can continue with more focus and without disruption into the period 2006 – 2007

5.1.2. Specific Objectives

- To enhance ASEAN's overall strategic planning and policy development for key sectors of regional cooperation in the light of relevant EU experience
- To increase the capacity of ASEAN to propose, prepare, develop and implement sector-specific actions for regional economic integration with the contribution of EU and ASEAN regional experts
- To strengthen the role of ASEAN institutions in regional economic integration through the implementation of actions proposed through EC-ASEAN dialogue
- To assist ASEC with institution building, training and the streamlining of procedures
- To help implement the "Vientiane Action Plan" (VAP) for the creation of an ASEAN Community, including a 'single market' as part of the proposed ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)
- To support the organisation of activities under both TREATI and READI

5.1.3. Expected Results

Activities and technical assistance administered through APRIS II should result in a tighter definition of cooperation activities in areas identified for regional cooperation by ASEAN. APRIS II should then lead to the establishment of more effective regional dialogue and cooperation in multiple policy areas. Furthermore, the ASEAN Secretariat should be able to demonstrate strengthened institutional capacity and expert knowledge in the field of regional integration. Improvements in the follow-up mechanisms within ASEC for ASEAN's regional

integration activities should be discernable. APRIS II should also contribute to the implementation of the 2005-2010 Vientiane Action Plan by ASEC.

5.1.4. Activities

- Technical Assistance to support the Secretariat
- Studies, analysis and research
- Training, seminars, exchanges, study tours, peer contacts

5.1.5. Implementation

The project will be implemented within the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia, through a technical assistance contract based on Work Plans. The Work Plans will be prepared by experts housed within ASEC, agreed by the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) appointed by ASEC and approved by the EC. Projects supported under APRIS II will be monitored by the Delegation in Jakarta.

5.1.6. Cross-cutting issues

APRIS II will take account of relevant cross-cutting issues, such as guidelines on good governance.

5.1.7. Risks and conditionalities

- The political will among ASEAN member countries to pursue regional integration, in particular regional economic integration, must remain strong. At the same time, the role of the ASEC and its political legitimacy needs to be reinforced.
- The framework and negotiating premise of 'open regionalism' must accompany preparations for the Vientiane regional integration roadmap.
- READI and TREATI must be accepted by ASEAN bodies and member countries as viable and substantive instruments with which to conduct region-to-region cooperation dialogue and activities.
- APRIS must continue to be supported by ASEAN bodies and member countries, and be used as an effective policy development and communication tool by ASEC and ASEAN bodies.

5.1.8. Main indicators

- Number of sectors demonstrating increased regional integration (e.g. through new programmes and projects developed); number of meetings/workshops with EU experts; number of new peer contacts. Further indicators need to be defined to assess APRIS II's strategic and technical input in the Vientiane Action Plan and Roadmap for the Integration of ASEAN (RIA).

5.1.9. Estimated EU contribution

- € 6-8 million

5.1.10. Other donors

The ultimate aim is to ensure coherence between the activities of APRIS II and activities undertaken by other donors in the sector, most notably Australia (AusAid) and UNDP. The United States has also expressed interest, though no commitment has been made yet. During the course of the programme, assistance provided to ASEC by these donors will be duly noted, and regular meetings will take place to facilitate an open exchange of information. However, as the EC's specific aim is to make appropriate EU expertise on regional integration available to ASEC, the chances of overlapping activities and double-financing are minimal.

5.1.11. Indicative Timeframe

The indicative timing for APRIS II will depend on the running time of APRIS I. APRIS II is currently scheduled to begin in 2006, after the funding and terms of reference expire for APRIS I. The continuity of the programme is considered a priority.

5.2. Statistical cooperation

5.2.1. Justification and Background

In order to be able to assess its proper economic development as an integrated economic region and to be able to support further integration measures, the gathering and availability of reliable statistical data at regional level is a key priority for ASEAN. For this purpose, ASEAN needs to develop comprehensive and reliable data and statistics, enhance cooperation among its statistical offices and build capacity in the ASEAN Secretariat. Reliable, harmonised and accurate statistical information is needed for the implementation and evaluation of regional policies, especially on economic and trade issues (in support of the ASEAN Free Trade Area), but also for the development of new regional approaches on a wider range of policies, including health, education and social issues. The availability of such statistics is also critical for the generalisation of SWAPs and/or budget support paths in external assistance. The EC will endeavour to support the efforts of ASEAN in this field, notably by supporting capacity building at regional level and identifying and prompting support at national level.

Improved regional capacity will need to be founded on adequate national statistical capacities. It will therefore be necessary to provide support, where needed, for the national statistical systems of individual ASEAN countries. In particular, the lesser developed ASEAN countries suffer from insufficient capacity in the domain of statistics. ASEAN recognises the need to close the development gap between the developed and less developed members through its Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). The EU is already supporting these ASEAN countries with substantial development assistance. But the availability of more and better social sector data will not only make for a better policy dialogue with these countries on their situation and needs, but also provide the basis for the introduction of sector-wide and budgetary approaches within EC assistance. As such, this programme would directly contribute to the closing of the development gap within ASEAN.

Capacity in the domain of statistics will be a key instrument for reinforcing regional economic integration, and in particular for supporting the role of the ASEAN Secretariat. For the EU it is important that the improved data on economic developments should allow better dialogue

between the EU and ASEAN on issues of trade and economy and thus facilitate economic and trade relations.

5.2.2. General and Specific Objectives

General objectives of the programme are:

- to strengthen the capabilities of ASEC and members countries (for ASEC, it aims to improve capacities for better harmonisation of data; for individual countries it aims to improve the knowledge and know-how in the new areas tackled by the programme, and to improve the existing national data production system as a whole);
- to produce more accurate and reliable figures in the above selected areas (Trade, Foreign Direct Investment, Health, Education, Non-Observed Economy);
- to facilitate ASEAN regional integration, i.e. to facilitate the coordination of activities within ASEAN (ASEC-members states), as well as between ASEAN and EU.

Specific objectives are:

- to prioritise and assist with the statistical needs of ASEAN in the field of economics (including Foreign Direct Investment and national accounts), trade, health, education, and other important social sectors;
- to increase the statistical collection and analysis capacity of regional (ASEC) and national statistical offices (ASEAN member countries), and to enhance general cooperation and the homogeneity of data between these offices in the selected fields;
- to strengthen the capacity of ASEAN institutions to formulate and evaluate regional integration policies based on the use of reliable and relevant statistical data collected in-house;
- to improve regional statistics in the key areas of the AFTA, FDI and other selected fields;
- to improve the functioning and quality of output of both national statistical offices and the ASEAN Secretariat;
- to harmonise the statistical methodology between ASEAN countries and between ASEAN and EU;
- to allow an exchange of data between the EU and ASEAN, especially on trade data (as a basis for dialogue on economics and trade).

5.2.3. Expected Results

EC technical assistance to ASEAN in the field of statistics should result in improved capacity at the regional and national levels to gather, maintain and distribute harmonised and accurate statistical information to support the formulation and evaluation of regional integration policies. The data for different sectors in individual ASEAN countries should be harmonised to facilitate readability and exchange of data. It should also facilitate the development of sector-wide approaches within lesser developed ASEAN countries. Data collection practices and statistical output for trade and investment, health and education should be improved and harmonised at the regional level, while, where needs have been identified in these areas, similar improvements need to be undertaken at national level.

- Harmonised and accurate statistics in the field of AFTA and in other selected fields (FDI, health, education).

- Adoption of harmonised methodologies in key areas of AFTA, FDI and in social areas.
- National statistical offices and contributing organisms within the national statistical systems improve the quality, reliability and relevance of their statistics.
- Regional statistical coordination to be based upon European experiences.
- The production, analysis and dissemination of regional (ASEAN) statistics will be improved.
- The exchange of data between the EU and ASEC will be established on a regular basis.

Specific trade results

- Harmonisation of the classification used (HS at x digits).
- Harmonisation of the methods for collecting and aggregating data used (when possible) at country level.
- Facilitation of the production of data harmonised at regional level, automated when possible; implementation of pilot production systems and exchange of experience with European counterparts.
- Improved quality and quantity of data produced by ASEAN and exchanged with EU; mirror exercise done between EU and ASEC.
- Improved quality and quantity of data produced for trade in services.

Specific health and education results

- Improved production, analysis and dissemination of data produced, in order to harmonise the data produced by the different public institutions.

Specific results on Non-Observed Economy

- Better and more harmonised picture of the wealth of the region and the countries, i.e. to improve the exhaustiveness and the quality of the National Accounts produced, especially by taking into consideration the Non-Observed Economy according to international standards.
- Specific results on NOE and National Accounts.

5.2.4. Activities

Actions will evolve around European TA and training to be provided for both the ASEAN Secretariat and chosen national statistical offices in countries on developing a harmonised statistical methodology for the purposes of producing better and comparable regional statistics. With regard to social sector data, a particular effort will be made for those countries experiencing the greatest problems. Activities will consist of seminars, training, working groups and methodological studies, and may lead to sub-regional projects to support the National Statistical Offices most in need. The provision of equipment may be a possibility.

5.2.5. Implementation

The programme will be implemented by a TA contract. Experts will be placed within the ASEAN Secretariat to organise and support the activities under the programme. The ASEAN Secretariat will be the counterpart within this programme, and will ensure coordination of the programme with member countries (National Statistical Offices).

A Steering Committee composed of representatives from ASEC, National Statistical Offices and the European Commission along with the experts in charge of TA, will be responsible for the programme management and will report to the Jakarta EC Delegation on a regular basis.

Where possible, the programme will make use of capacities of the most developed ASEAN countries to support efforts in the lesser developed ASEAN countries (trilateral cooperation, dissemination of best practices).

5.2.6. Cross-cutting issues

Poverty as a cross-cutting issue will be addressed by this particular programme as it will help to develop capacity and knowledge, especially in the lesser developed ASEAN countries.

5.2.7 Risks and conditionalities

ASEC has limited absorptive capacity for the time being. Therefore, ASEC itself will have to increase this capacity in terms of personnel and other forms of resources in order to make this programme succeed. ASEC will be in a much better position to ensure good implementation of the project, provided that the AADCP programme design support project (PDSP) – being designed under the ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Project – provides the ASEC with the necessary staff to strengthen the statistics unit. As regards country-specific components, sufficient resources must be devoted to supporting implementation of the statistics programme and to ensure appropriate follow-up. Countries will need to take the necessary steps with regard to the organisation of their national statistical systems within the administrative bodies to support the programme (for example, partnership between Customs and National Statistical Office).

5.2.8. Main indicators

- Indicators reflecting the strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat and member countries' capacities: number of meetings, workshops, number of people trained, etc.
- Indicators related to data production, both at regional and national levels: timeliness, quality and quantity, etc.
- Indicators reflecting regional integration: harmonised methods adopted and/or applied, quantity of data exchanged, etc.

5.2.9 Estimated EC contribution

€ 4-6 million.

5.2.10. Other donors

Currently, ASEC is not receiving any TA on statistics from other donors. In the past, specific short-term assistance on statistics has been delivered by Australia and Malaysia.

5.2.11. Indicative timeframe

Implementation period is 3 years, starting in 2006.

5.3. Fight against terrorism

5.3.1. Justification

Terrorist attacks in South East Asia have demonstrated the very real threat posed to regional stability by terrorist activities. International threat assessments identify significant activity on the part of terrorist groups throughout the region. Enhanced regional cooperation, for example in terms of exchanges of information, intelligence sharing and judicial cooperation between the ASEAN countries, is a vital element of any strategy to successfully counter this threat, especially given the difficulties in effectively monitoring the extensive land and sea borders within the ASEAN region. In recognition of this, in 2002 a number of ASEAN countries signed an Agreement on Information Exchange and Communication Procedures to cooperate in the fight against organised crime, including terrorism (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia). The EU is committed to cooperating with the region and sharing its experience in the fight against terrorism. The 14th EU-ASEAN Meeting between Foreign Ministers of the EU and ASEAN (27-28 January 2003) adopted a Joint Declaration on Cooperation to Combat Terrorism. It specifies that the EU will enhance its cooperation with ASEAN to fight terrorism, in particular by providing assistance to implement all existing United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) related to terrorism, in particular Resolutions 1373 (2001), 1377 (2001) and 1390 (2002). It will endeavour to build a regional capacity to assist ASEAN members to implement UNSCR 1373, and to address the impact of terrorist activities. As a first step the EC has deployed an expert mission to the region to investigate possible areas for this cooperation. In assessing its support the EC looked at measures which could have an added value at regional level and which would be coherent with the EC Country Strategy and on-going projects in this field. It was decided at the ASEAN-EU Senior Officials Meeting on transnational crime in Hanoi (June 2003) that the mission should focus on two fairly broad issues: a) border management and immigration control and b) anti-money laundering/combating terrorist financing (AML/CTF).

The subsequent expert mission to the ASEAN region found that border management offered better prospects of successful (first time) cooperation between EU and ASEAN than fight against 'financing of terrorism'. 'Financing of terrorism' requires much more country-specific actions, notably on the law enforcement side. Taking account of the suggestions made by the expert mission and ASEAN's proper agenda, it is suggested that a framework programme be developed in the field of border management along two axes: a) awareness training, and b) security.

5.3.2 Specific Objectives

The overall objective is to promote regional cooperation within the ASEAN region on the implementation of UNSCR 1373 and to support regional capacity building within the framework of ASEAN to combat international terrorism.

To this end the programme intends to assist ASEAN countries in short and medium-term needs to strengthen cooperation in the field of border management.

The specific objective of the awareness training is to increase the capability of the Border Control Units within countries of the ASEAN region in carrying out enforcement against those elements of transnational crime that have direct links to terrorism, including trafficking in persons and illegal immigration, sea piracy and arms smuggling and financing of terrorism.

The programme also sets out to support the development of a regional approach among the ASEAN member countries on document security in an attempt to reduce illicit movements of persons crossing the borders.

5.3.3. Expected Results

Awareness training

1. (Key) operational managers, supervisors or trainers trained in those elements of transnational crime that have links to terrorism.
2. National threat assessments developed by participants.
3. National training strategy developed. Guidance received on developing training modules.
4. Guidance received on the development of national risk profiles relating to transnational crime with links to terrorism

The Regional Project on Document Security

1. Enhanced inter-agency information exchange regarding document security.
2. Secure travel documents standardised.
3. A network of document experts established that could serve as a basis for continued regular cooperation.

5.3.4. Activities

The overall framework programme will consist of two distinct sub-programmes;

Awareness training

The programme will provide awareness training on combating transnational crime and its links to terrorism for border management agencies, including immigration services, customs and border police, on a regional and multi-agency basis. The training will be targeted towards operational managers, supervisors and trainers, with the expectation that there will be national follow-up through training events for front-line officers.

The first step will be to design a detailed training programme with proposals on the number and location of events, taking into consideration sub-regional issues, including language. This will be followed by a number of regional, or sub-regional, inter-agency training events, aimed at operational management, supervisors and trainers with the clear intention that there will be a national follow-up programme for front-line officials. Whilst it might be more acceptable to call the events “conferences or seminars” they will be designed as participative training events. There is no reason to exclude any ASEAN member country that wishes to participate. Even though there are wide regional variations in threat and existing knowledge, the more advanced nations, for example Singapore, will prove to be a valuable contributor to the discussion.

A minimum programme of five regional or sub-regional conferences with 20 participants invited to each could be envisaged. Any larger number of participants would diminish the effectiveness of the events, if they were intended to be used as a basis for the development of national programmes for front-line staff.

The Regional Project on Document Security

This project would consist of three sub-components closely linked to one another:

- Information exchange
- Standardisation of travel document security features
- Network of Document Specialists

In general, it would cover the following major actions:

- Information Exchange
 - Drawing up an inventory of existing sources and resources (what are the technologies used, flows and content of information, major players)
 - Providing advice for the development of an Information Networking Strategy
 - Carrying out a study for a regional database on fraudulent/genuine documents
- Standardisation of travel document security features
 - Drawing up an inventory of the existing situation
 - Drafting a proposal for upgrading/standardisation of security features
 - Enhancement of a common approach and cooperation at regional level
- Network of Document Specialists
 - Identification of specialists and institutions
 - Establishing sustainable training programs (training would need to be followed up at national level, financed under National Projects, such as the Philippines one)
 - Promotion of networking through exchange of experiences, creation of a directory

Input would consist of: technical assistance, advice, (sub)-regional seminars and workshops, use of local expertise. This project will endeavour to establish focal points for information exchange, and support the proposal made within the framework of ASEAN for a ASEAN

Regional Information Centre. It is closely linked to the EC-supported activities developed with the Philippines in this area.

5.3.5. Implementation

The Programme will set up a supporting technical office within the premises of the designated ASEAN counterpart (*see section 6.3.7*) with the task of coordinating and organising the regional actions to implement the programme. The supporting technical office will comprise Project Coordinators on Border Management and administrative support recruited under the Programme. They will report to a Project Director from the ASEAN Secretariat and to the Head of the EC Delegation. In this way, the Programme will also develop ASEAN capacities in this domain. The ASEAN Secretariat will perform a coordinating role within the project for the ASEAN countries involved. As far as possible the programme will make use of existing institutions in the region, such as the South East Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism in Kuala Lumpur, the International Law Enforcement Agency (ILEA) facilities in Bangkok, Singapore Training Centres in lesser developed ASEAN countries or other national counter-terrorism centres (Manila, Singapore), as a venue to conduct training/seminars, etc. A programme steering committee will be set up to overview implementation of the programme. The steering committee will be made up of representatives of the participating countries in the region, the ASEAN Secretariat, the European Commission, the Project Coordinators, and a number of observers. The programme steering committee will report to the ASEAN Senior Officials on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) for their perusal and feedback. The Programme will be developed and implemented on the basis of a participative approach, with strong involvement of the national authorities of the participating states dealing with CT on a policy and operational level. National contact points will be identified for each project and a national working group will be established in each participating state to ensure that the activities developed at regional level are incorporated into the national CT strategies of each country involved.

5.3.6. Cross-cutting issue

This programme and the issue of fighting terrorism is directly linked with the cross-cutting issue of good governance. It is therefore essential for the EC and ASEAN to see that the improved capabilities of enforcement agencies are put to use whilst respecting the rule of law and human rights.

5.3.7. Risks and conditionalities

Cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism is a new area for ASEAN to become active in. A pre-condition for this programme is that a duly mandated institution will be designated by ASEAN to act as a counterpart for its implementation. Failure to agree on such a partner in due course constitutes the programme's main risk. Other risks may arise from a lack of political will and dynamism to follow through appropriate measures and actions by the various national institutions involved. The programme has been designed on an ASEAN-X approach, which allows countries to join the programme if committed and interested.

Assistance in the field of counter-terrorism is also a new area of operation for the EU. Given the sensitive and highly specialised nature of the services to be provided under the programme, the quality of the experts to provide training and organise the projects is crucial

to its success. Active assistance of EU Member States in the process of finding and recruiting these experts may be essential.

5.3.8. Main indicators

Main indicators will be: the number of staff trained, national threat assessment produced, national training strategy developed, networks set up between relevant agencies of participating countries, number of workshops and seminars organised.

5.3.9 Estimated EC Contribution

The estimated EC contribution to this programme is € 4-6 million, divided over the two sub-programme activities and covering the costs of overall programme management.

5.3.10. Other donors

The international donor community places high importance on improving the border management situation within ASEAN countries. Australia, US and Japan are the major donors in the region. Australia is heavily engaged, especially in Indonesia. Emphasis is put on maritime security, especially in Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia, and detection of fraudulent documentation. IOM is also an important international player and has regional offices, cooperative activities and projects in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. However, the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN as such do not receive donor assistance on a specific regional project.

Close coordination among donors is necessary to avoid overlapping and to promote complementary actions. The G8 AGAT meetings in the countries could play a useful role within this context. Action on money laundering needs to be properly coordinated with the ongoing project in this field within the framework of ASEM. For the approach to be coherent, the European Commission will need to ensure that ASEAN regional and national projects on counter-terrorism are closely linked.

5.3.11. Indicative timeframe

The programme should start in 2006, with a three-year implementation phase.

5.4. The 'New Partnership' information and communication Programme

5.4.1 Justification and Background

Despite ongoing efforts, overall knowledge in South East Asia of the EU and its cooperation with ASEAN could be much enhanced. A study undertaken by the EC in 2003 entitled 'survey analysis on EU perceptions in South East Asia' underlined this reality. Similarly, ASEAN regional integration is not very well known yet within South East Asia.

In response, the Commission Communication on 'A New Partnership with South East Asia' (July 2003) suggested a structured communication initiative, which would pool resources from Brussels headquarters, the Delegations, the Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat. It should aim to raise the EU's profile and the visibility of the EU-ASEAN partnership to a level which reflects the actual weight and importance of our political, trade, investment and development assistance cooperation.

This information and visibility strategy has two objectives. Firstly, it should facilitate the perception and implementation of EU policies and actions towards South East Asia. Secondly, ASEAN could increase its own visibility, legitimacy and efficacy through promoting the merits of regional integration in South East Asia and referring in particular to the EU-ASEAN partnership and EU success stories in this field.

A limited number of key messages underlining shared interests and values should help to improve South East Asians' perception of the EU and promote EU – South East Asia relations.

1. ***The EU and ASEAN are key economic partners.*** The EU is a very open single market, with many of its members operating within a single currency. Europe is not a fortress for the outside world but it does maintain high food safety standards and consumer protection rules. ASEAN is moving in the same direction and is set to become a motor of economic growth.
2. ***The EU and ASEAN are global players*** that act out a constructive role in the international arena and share a commitment to multilateralism in a multi-polar world. Through partnership and dialogue with ASEAN, the EU is actively promoting the spread of human rights, democracy, good governance and the rule of law.
3. ***South East Asia and Europe respect and promote diversity and have both chosen to embark on a regional integration process.*** Both sides recognise the importance of cultural and educational exchange.

5.4.2 Specific Objectives

Overall, the programme aims to strengthen EU-South East Asia relations (the New Partnership) and improve South East Asian countries' perception of the EU. The need to increase the visibility of the Partnership is pressing. It is clear that efforts should be devoted to publicising not only the objectives and advantages but more importantly perhaps the concrete achievements of the Partnership. Specifically, the programme aims to:

- define a coherent and proactive regional information strategy for the 'New Partnership', based upon the three key messages, with tangible and measurable results;
- foster knowledge about the EU and EU-ASEAN relations in Asia, by targeting media, politicians, civil society, businesses, academics and other focus groups, with special emphasis on young professionals;
- develop fruitful relations between the EC information services and their South East Asian counterparts (in the ASEAN Secretariat) to their mutual benefit.

The three key messages mentioned should be the point of reference for all Information and Communication activities in the region. All Delegations' speeches, messages and material should, where appropriate, refer to them. They should also be passed onto EU Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat, who could integrate them into their own communication with the media. Where appropriate, these messages would be "translated" to local situations by professionals from the information and communication sector.

The information strategy will form the basis of the country-specific information policies that are already in place in the Delegations and which may have to be adjusted accordingly. Moreover, programmes in the education and cultural field such as Asia-link, EU-ASEAN

University Network or Erasmus Mundus, include an awareness-raising component which may have an impact on the EU's overall regional visibility. Therefore, it should be ensured that these programmes information actions are in line with and incorporate the overall visibility strategy.

5.4.3. Expected Results

- Creating a 'New Partnership' image in all related activities and all the projects benefiting from EC support
- Improving the production (quality and quantity) and distribution of general information products with special emphasis on audiovisual products
- Enhancing the impact of the New Partnership and the EU's activities on the Southeast Asian countries' media
- Improving audiovisual coverage (TV, radio) in the South East Asian countries
- Supporting the information and communication activities of the European Commission (Headquarters and Delegations in ASEAN countries), and of the ASEAN Secretariat, regarding the promotion of regional integration in general and with reference to the EU model in particular.

5.4.4. Activities

The New Partnership information and communication programme will concentrate on 'New Partnership's' visibility and will comprise:

- the definition of a clear methodology to explain its basic political, social and economic rationale,
- its methods and operation and the challenges that it involves,
- its concrete results in the short, medium and long term.

The programme's specific aims are:

- to define a coherent and proactive information strategy which could lead to short-term tangible results;
- to rationalise and strengthen ongoing actions and instruments, as well as cooperation and coordination between EC Headquarters and delegations, EU Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat;
- to improve the capacity of EC delegations in ASEAN countries regarding the visibility of the partnership and the promotion of regional integration with reference to the EU model;
- to improve the capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat regarding the promotion of its own regional integration efforts.

Emphasis should be put on audiovisual communication and modern communication tools.

The wider target audience of this programme will be the citizens of ASEAN countries, as reached through specific target audiences that will be the multipliers of the key message to individual citizens:

- media journalists (TV, radio, written press),
- political bodies (national, regional and local governments),

- civil society (NGOs in the different areas, professional associations, trade unions, etc.),
- schools and universities.

Specific activities should include:

- the organisation of workshops, conferences and festivals to draw attention to the EU-ASEAN partnership in a way that is coherent with our three key messages. These activities, while being set up in one South East Asian country, should be open to counterparts from neighbouring countries, and their participation could be financed from the programme;
- the concept of a 'European Week' as a joint activity between EC Delegations and EU Member States Missions. This will be developed and introduced in South East Asian countries as appropriate;
- the setting-up and maintenance of an interactive EU/South East Asia internet portal and e-newsletter for South East Asia;
- the establishment of both databases and networks of EU and South East Asian stakeholders in the field of media/politics/culture/academia to facilitate the relevant contacts;
- the enhancement and enrichment of media relations through study visits to the EU and South East Asia by journalists/media operators from both regions;
- promotion of the use of relevant non-EC institutions, such as ASEF, EIAS, ASEAN Secretariat, etc.;
- the provision of resources and a strategy which enables EC Delegations to undertake visibility raising;
- the organisation of a joint meeting (at least twice a year) of the information officers implementing the visibility strategy in the region in order to evaluate its results and discuss new ideas and actions. Technical assistance will be responsible for disseminating evidence of best practices between Delegations in the region with regard to visibility and information.

5.4.5. Implementation

Implementation should be based on a partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat, which should host the project. European Technical Assistance should be posted in Jakarta in support of a programme director designated by the ASEAN Secretariat. One of the particular roles of European Technical Assistance will be to ensure coordination between all the stakeholders concerned (EC headquarters and delegations, EU Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat). A Steering Committee in which the Commission should participate as an observer should be established. The programme should draw up a complete regional work plan each year with contributions from all delegations in the region. The work plan should be adopted by the Steering Committee and endorsed by the Commission. Implementation will be the responsibility of AIDCO in close cooperation with DG RELEX and DG TRADE at headquarters, the EC Delegations in ASEAN countries, and the information services of the ASEAN secretariat.

5.4.6. Cross-cutting issues

The smooth functioning of the media is also inextricably linked to good governance, which is a prerequisite for the development of a vibrant civil society. A particular attention should be paid to ensure that participation in the different activities suggested shall respect gender balance.

5.4.7. Risks and conditionalities

The main risk for programme implementation is one of overstretch by spreading limited resources over a fairly wide range of activities with questionable impact.

5.4.8. Main indicators

- Number of articles/broadcasts on European issues and EU-ASEAN relations in the national (ASEAN countries) media, compared with earlier years
- Resources allocated within the ASEAN secretariat to information/communication
- Number of workshops and equivalent activities set up with number of participants
- Number of media/regional networking/information events organised.

5.4.9 Estimated EC Contribution

The programme budget is € 2 million for a two-year period.

5.4.10. Other donors

There should be no other South East Asia-wide programme with the same focus run by other donors. However, given the involvement of the Member States, the Delegations of the European Commission will be able to ensure effective coordination with possible Member State projects and actions adjacent to this programme or co-financed by it.

5.4.11. Indicative timeframe

The programme will be implemented for two years, starting in late 2005 or early 2006.

6. ANNEXES

6.1. ASEAN at a glance

6.2. EU-ASEAN Trade

6.3. MATRIX of ASEAN COOPERATION

6.1. ASEAN at a glance

	Population (million)	GDP (Euro)	GDP growth (% y-o-y)	GDP/capita (Euro)	Inflation (%)	Life expectancy at birth (2002-05)		School life expectancy (2000-01)	Population below 1\$ a day (%)
						M	F		
Brunei	0.3	4 Bn (1998)	3.21	11753	na	na	na	12.5 (1992)	
Cambodia	13	4 Bn	4.5	290	3.3	55.2	59.5	7.0	na
Indonesia	218	185 Bn	3.7	857	11.9	64.8	68.8	10.0 (1994)	7.2 (2000)
Laos, PDR	6	2 Bn	5.7	343	10.6	55.3	55.8	8.3	26.3 (1997)
Malaysia	25	101 Bn	4.2	4137	1.8	70.8	75.7	12.1	<2.0 (1997)
Burma/Myanmar	52	10 Bn	5.5	187	46.9	54.6	60.2	7.4	na
Philippines	80	82 Bn	4.6	1033	3.1	68.0	72.0	11.0	14.6 (2000)
Singapore	4	96 Bn	2.2	23137	-0.4	75.9	80.3	na	
Thailand	64	135 Bn	5.2	2120	0.6	65.3	73.5	na	<2.0 (2000)
Vietnam	80	36 Bn	5.8	456	4.0	66.9	71.6	10.4	17.7 (1998)
ASEAN total	539	656 Bn		1217					

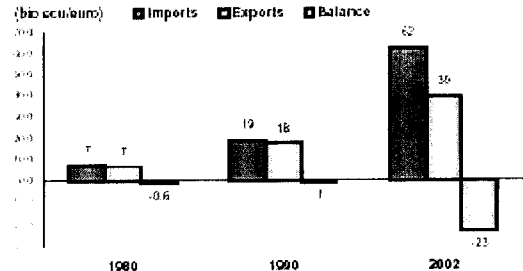
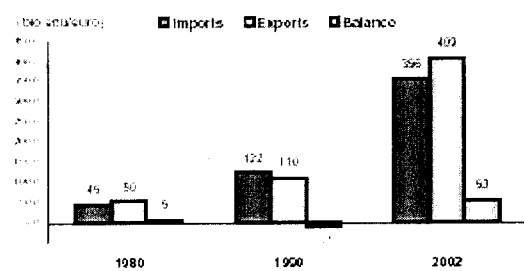
Figures for 2002 unless otherwise indicated.

Sources: EUROSTAT, ASEAN Secretariat, Asian Development Bank, United Nations Statistics Division.

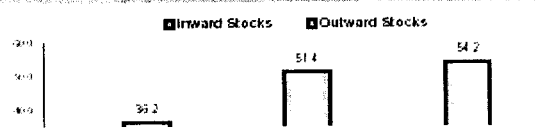
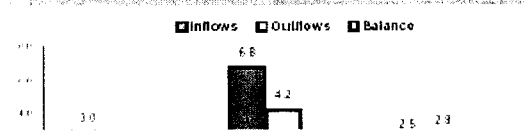
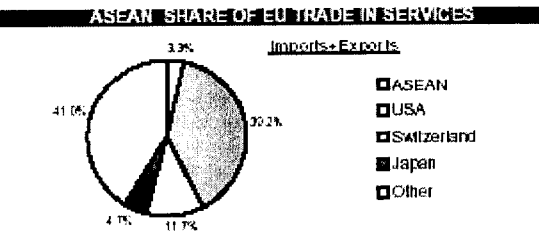
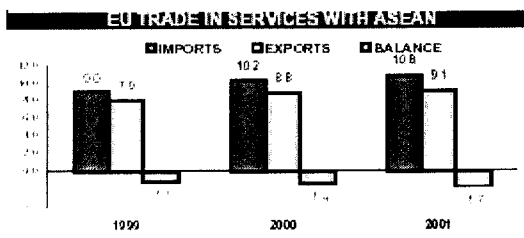
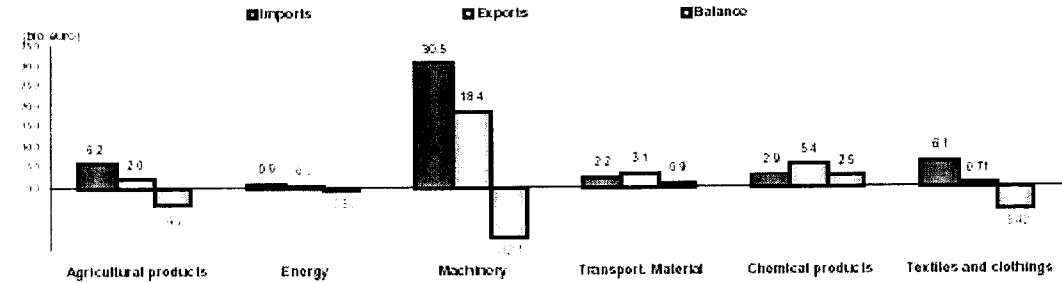
6.2 EU-ASEAN Trade

ASEAN

Population: 2002 539 Mio
 Area: (1000qkm) 2002 4,480
 Gross Domestic Product 2002 656 Bn euro Exports to GDP ratio: 62.4%
 GDP Per Capita 2002 1,217 euro



	1980	1990	2002
Imports	4.2	6.1	6.7
Exports	4.0	5.0	6.3



6.3. MATRIX of ASEAN COOPERATION (18 February 2004)

No	Dialogue Partner	Areas of Focus /Objectives	Remarks
1	Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen regional economic and social cooperation in areas of regional macro-economic and financial cooperation, and economic integration, including measures to further enhance AFTA CER linkages • To promote sustainable recovery and economic and social development • To strengthen institutional capacities in the region • To strengthen science, technology and environmental cooperation • To expedite the new Member Countries' integration into ASEAN 	Cooperation is done through three programmes: AADCP Regional Economic Policy Support Facility (REPSF), AADCP Regional Partnership Scheme (RPS) and AADCP Programme Stream (PS)
2	China	5 key areas of focus: Agriculture, HRD, ICT, Two-way Investment, Mekong River Development. Other areas: S&T, transport, tourism, economic, education, social development, transnational crime, environment, SMEs, culture	Cooperation is done on project basis. Only people-to-people interaction projects in the agreed areas will be funded by the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund.
3	Canada	To be decided	Cooperation is being revitalised with the convening of the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue on 30 March 2004 in Bandar Seri Begawan.
4	EU	To contribute to ASEAN's ongoing integration, in particular regional economic	Cooperation is done through the ASEAN Programme for

No	Dialogue Partner	Areas of Focus /Objectives	Remarks
5	India	Trade & Investment, Small and Medium Enterprises, S&T, Health and Pharmaceuticals, Transport and Infrastructure, Information Technology, HRD, Tourism and People-to-People Exchange	Cooperation is done on project basis at present. Programme-based approach is currently being explored for cooperation in ICT
6	Japan	Transfer of technology and inflow of Investment, trade and exchange of personnel, research cooperation, strengthening the ASEAN-related department of the government in ASEAN Member Countries, strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat. But there is flexibility to undertake projects in other sectors of cooperation should both sides deem them important.	Cooperation is done on project basis at the present. The JAEP/ JAGEF Management Committee reviews and approves the implementation of the projects and management of funds.
7	Korea	People to people exchange in areas of Youth, Media, Culture, and Official, Transport, S&T, Tourism and strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat. But there is flexibility to undertake projects in other sectors of cooperation should both sides deem them important.	Cooperation is done on project basis. A Joint Planning and Review Committee (JPRC) oversees the implementation of projects and management of funds.
8.	New Zealand	Regional Integration focusing on CLMV under the auspices of IAI. Areas of cooperation focuses on Customs and Standards and Conformance	Cooperation is presently implemented under a one-year work plan by NZAID
9.	US	Trade and investment, environment, ICT, transnational crime and terrorism, HIV/AIDS, agriculture, standards and conformance and assistance to the ASEAN Secretariat,	ASEAN and the US are working on an ASEAN Cooperation Plan which will include the areas mentioned in the second column.
10.	UNDP	Provides analytical and advisory support services to ASEAN in addressing current	Cooperation is done through the UNDP Partnership Facility

No	Dialogue Partner	Areas of Focus /Objectives	Remarks
11.	GTZ, WHO, UNEP	Specific cooperation in their respective areas, i.e. environment, health.	ASEAN German Forest Programme
12.	Germany	Environment (namely Forestry and Renewable Energy), Trade and Investment	Southeast Asian Forestry Programme under implementation since 2002, MoU on the "ASEAN-German Hydropower Programme" signed with the ASEAN Centre for Energy during Renewables Conference in Bonn, 3 rd June 2004