



# ASEAN-INDIA EMINENT PERSONS' REPORT TO THE LEADERS



**asean india**  
PROGRESS & PROSPERITY

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

For inquiries contact:  
Public Outreach and Civil Society Division  
The ASEAN Secretariat  
70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja  
Jakarta 12110  
Indonesia  
Phone : (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991  
Fax : (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504  
E-mail : public.div@asean.org

General information on ASEAN appears online at the ASEAN website:  
[www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org).

Catalogue-in Publication Data

ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Report to the Leaders  
Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, October 2012

330.954

1. ASEAN – Eminent persons – India
2. ASEAN – Regional cooperation – India

ISBN 978-602-7643-19-2

The text of this publication may be freely quoted or reprinted with proper acknowledgement.

Copyright Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) 2012  
All rights reserved

**ASEAN-INDIA EMINENT PERSONS' REPORT  
TO THE LEADERS**



# CONTENTS

<b>Letter of Transmittal of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group Report on the Occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Report to the Leaders.....</b>	<b>7</b>
I. Introduction.....	7
II. Review of Past and Current Relations.....	8
III. Guiding Principles.....	9
IV. Vision for the Future .....	10
V. Recommendations.....	11
- Political and Security Cooperation	
- Economic Cooperation	
- Development Cooperation	
- Socio-Cultural Cooperation	
- Connectivity	
- Regional Architecture	
- Institutional Support and Implementation Mechanism	
VI. Conclusion.....	19
<b>Annex 1: Terms of Reference for the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Annex 2: Biographies of the Eminent Persons .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Annex 3: List of Eminent Persons' Assistants and Resource Persons .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Annex 4: ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group's Progress Report to the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit, 19 November 2011, Bali, Indonesia .....</b>	<b>38</b>



From left to right: H.E. Wynn Lwin, H.E. Dato' S. Thanarajasingam, Dr. Khiane Phansourivong, H.E. Donnilo Anwar, H.E. Long Visalo, H.E. Datin Paduka Hj. Masrainah Pg. Ahmad, H.E. Shyam Saran, Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia, H.E. Do Ngoc Son, H.E. Chitriya Pinthong, H.E. Gopinath Pillai, H.E. Laura Q. Del Rosario, H.E. Nyan Lynn



## **LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE ASEAN-INDIA EMINENT PERSONS GROUP REPORT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASEAN-INDIA DIALOGUE RELATIONS**

1 November 2012

Dear Leaders of ASEAN Member States and India,

The ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) was established to review the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and explore ways to widen and deepen existing cooperation towards a long-term strategic partnership between ASEAN and India.

We, the Eminent Persons of the AIEPG, are honoured with the tasks and responsibility entrusted to us. The AIEPG met on four occasions, namely on 2-3 August 2011 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 20-21 October 2011 in New Delhi, India, on 9-10 March 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and on 16-17 September 2012 in Kochi, India, to review the past and existing relations, and suggest various recommendations on the future areas of cooperation between ASEAN and India.

We envision the potential of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations in the areas of political and security cooperation, sustainable economic development, socio-cultural development, and connectivity, in the midst of changing global political landscape and the growing importance of Asia in the world economy. We believe that the elevation of the existing relations to a strategic partnership presents vast opportunities for stronger cooperation in maintaining peace, security and prosperity in ASEAN and India, thus strengthening economic relations between them.

We would like to acknowledge the support of our assistants and the ASEAN Secretariat in developing this report.

We hereby submit this report for your consideration.

Please accept Your Majesty, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.



**H.E. Pengiran Datin Paduka  
Masrainah Ahmad**  
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



**H.E. Shyam Saran**  
REPUBLIC OF INDIA



**H.E. Dr. KAO Kim Hourn**  
KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA



**Dr. (Mrs.) Isher Judge Ahluwalia**  
REPUBLIC OF INDIA



**H.E. Donnilo Anwar**  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



**Mr. Subramaniam Ramadorai**  
REPUBLIC OF INDIA



**H.E. Dr. Khiane Phansourivong**  
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC



**Dr. (Mrs.) Kapila Vatsyayan**  
REPUBLIC OF INDIA





**H.E. Dato' S. Thanarajasingam**  
MALAYSIA



**Dr. Sanjaya Baru**  
REPUBLIC OF INDIA



**H.E. Wynn Lwin**  
REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF  
MYANMAR



**H.E. Laura Q. Del Rosario**  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



**H.E. Gopinath Pillai**  
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE



**H.E. Chitriya Pinthong**  
KINGDOM OF THAILAND



**H.E. Do Ngoc Son**  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

# ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Report to the Leaders

## I. Introduction

1. The ASEAN Member States and India share a long and glorious history of friendly relations. They are both heirs to a cross-roads culture, situated as they are at the intersections of major land and sea routes. This enabled a dense and free flow of peoples, merchandise, cultures and ideas among them. Over the centuries, each country drew inspiration from the genius of the others and contributed to the cultural enrichment and advancement of our entire region. In contemporary times, they supported and sympathized with each other in their respective struggle for national independence and economic and social justice. This has reinforced the strong and abiding affinity they share since ancient times.
2. While peoples of ASEAN and India inhabit a shared geographical and cultural space, each country retains its distinctiveness and unique identity. It is this celebration of diversity, of plural yet related cultures, which underlies the ASEAN-India partnership. Our vision is to recreate, in a contemporary setting, the many linkages that have bound our countries together in the past and unleash a creative surge, which will impart even greater momentum to the Asian resurgence, of which we are a part.
3. At the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit in Ha Noi in October 2010, the Leaders of ASEAN and India welcomed the establishment of an ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) to take stock of the 20 years of ASEAN-India cooperation and chart future direction of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. The AIEPG report was scheduled to be submitted to the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh in November 2012.
4. The AIEPG met four times: August 2011 in Phnom Penh, October 2011 in New Delhi, March 2012 in Kuala Lumpur and September 2012 in Kochi. There were also two Intersessional Assistants Meetings of the AIEPG in January 2012 in Vientiane and May 2012 in Da Nang to facilitate the preparations of the final report.

## II. Review of Past and Current Relations

5. ASEAN-India dialogue relations have grown rapidly from a sectoral dialogue partnership in 1992 to a full dialogue partnership in December 1995. The relationship was further elevated with the convening of the ASEAN-India Summit in 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Since then the ASEAN-India Summit has been held annually. This clearly signifies the importance of the dialogue partnership to ASEAN and India and the progress made in the cooperation.
6. Since India became a Dialogue Partner of ASEAN, the collaboration has transcended the realm of functional cooperation to cover political and security dimensions. India acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) in 2003. India has also participated in a series of consultative meetings with ASEAN under the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, which include Summit, Ministerial meetings, Senior Officials meetings, and meetings at experts level, as well as through dialogue and cooperation frameworks initiated by ASEAN, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1, ASEAN Economic Ministers+1 Consultations, the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus), Mekong-Ganga Cooperation and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), which help contribute to enhancing regional dialogue and accelerating regional integration. After the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, India has designated its current Ambassador to Indonesia as concurrently accredited to ASEAN to interact with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN in the framework of the ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee (AIJCC). Currently, there are 25 mechanisms coordinating the ASEAN-India cooperation in the areas of political-security cooperation, economic and socio-cultural cooperation.
7. As a reflection of the interest of ASEAN and India to intensify their engagement, the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity, which sets out the roadmap for long-term ASEAN-India engagement, was signed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-India Summit on 30 November 2004 in Vientiane. A Plan of Action (2004-2010) was also developed to implement the Partnership. Subsequently, the new ASEAN-India Plan of Action for 2010-2015 was developed and adopted by the Leaders at the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit in October 2010 in Ha Noi.

8. On the economic front, volume of trade and investment flows between ASEAN and India remained relatively low compared with other Dialogue Partners of ASEAN. Trade with India accounted for 2.9% of total ASEAN trade in 2011. The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement which was signed on 13 August 2009 is expected to boost trade and investment between ASEAN and India. However, the tariff liberalisation under this Agreement covers only 80% of the total tariff lines compared with ASEAN's other FTAs which have a much higher ambition with tariff liberalisation covering at least 90%. At the drafting time of this report, the Trade in Services and Investment Agreements negotiations are still ongoing.
9. There have been significant developments in the agriculture, forestry and tourism sectors. There are also opportunities to significantly increase people-to-people relations. However, the promising potential in areas such as regional infrastructure development, ASEAN-India connectivity projects, small and medium enterprise development and energy security remains to be explored.
10. India has made a significant contribution towards the enhancing of ASEAN-India cooperation through the ASEAN-India Fund, the ASEAN-India Green Fund and the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund. India has also been actively participating in the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan by implementing projects such as the Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDC) and the Centres for the English Language Training (CELT) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

### **III. Guiding Principles**

11. ASEAN-India's future partnership should be based on the following guiding principles:
  - ASEAN-India relations should be based on the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and other relevant regional instruments.
  - ASEAN and India should continue to build upon existing ASEAN-India mechanisms and in line with mutually agreed processes and structures.

- India fully supports ASEAN's efforts in building an ASEAN Community. India welcomes the vital and expanding role of ASEAN at the global level particularly after the signing of Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) and looks forward to collaborate with ASEAN.
- While sharing common goals of regional peace, progress and shared prosperity, ASEAN and India should contribute to the strengthening of relations with other countries and organisations, as well as contribute to the community building in East Asia.
- India will continue to support ASEAN as the driving force of both economic and security structures and institutions that are currently emerging in this region, based on the centrality of ASEAN. ASEAN and India welcome and mutually support their increasing role at the global level. In this regard, ASEAN and India will collaborate in the solution of a number of regional and international issues of mutual concern.
- The two sides will work together to promote and strengthen inclusive and multi-track regional arrangements.

#### **IV. Vision for the Future**

12. ASEAN and India will build upon the achievements of the past and pursue enhanced cooperation within the framework of a new Vision for the Future based on a Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and India.
13. The ASEAN Member States and India welcome the growing role of Asia in the global economy and international affairs. This generates both significant opportunities for accelerated economic and social development of their countries as well as complex and difficult challenges which require their collaborative response. They are conscious of the fact that a new economic architecture is emerging in our region and new security arrangements are taking shape concurrently. It is in the common interest of ASEAN and India to work together to ensure that the evolving regional economic and security architectures will promote the goal of open regionalism and enhance the prospects for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia. As the global profile and impact of Asia over the international political and economic order increases, ASEAN Member

States and India will also have to shoulder a greater responsibility for, and make their increased contribution to, the reshaping of this order. This, too, will become an important component of their expanding partnership.

14. The two sides are convinced that a strategic partnership can be sustained through establishing strong, multi-faceted and broad-ranging people-to-people relations, in particular, among the youth of our countries. A very significant increase in people and youth-centred activities is called for. These will include, inter-alia, cultural, sports, media, tourism, parliamentary and academic exchanges.
15. ASEAN and India declared that a stable and peaceful regional environment is essential for the pursuit of sustainable development in the region. To this end, ASEAN and India recognise that the centrality of ASEAN and the strengthening of ASEAN-led processes will continue to contribute to the creation of structures for dynamic cooperation for peace, security and development.

## **V. Recommendations**

16. Over the past two decades, there has been a remarkable increase in ASEAN-India engagement and expanded cooperation across the board. As the two sides head towards the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their Dialogue Partnership in 2012, there are new and significant opportunities for forging an even closer partnership for mutual benefit. To this end, it is desirable for ASEAN and India to consider for adoption the following recommendations for 2012-2022:

### **A. Political and Security Cooperation**

17. Declare ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership in the Vision Statement to be adopted by the Heads of State/Heads of Government at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit to be held in New Delhi in December 2012.
18. India to establish its separate diplomatic mission with an Ambassador accredited to ASEAN residing in Jakarta to facilitate further the enhanced dialogue partnership cooperation in all three pillars of ASEAN Community.

19. ASEAN Member States and India being maritime nations whose prosperity throughout history has been linked to sea-faring and sea borne trade, to work together to ensure maritime security and freedom of navigation to all littoral and user countries, in accordance with international law and on the basis of open, inclusive, transparent and balanced multilateral arrangements in the region. The agenda for maritime cooperation must include combating piracy, dealing with maritime emergencies, establishing a collaborative early warning system and providing prompt and effective disaster relief.
20. Promote regular and high-level security dialogue and strengthen the implementation of the ASEAN-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism signed in Bali, Indonesia, on 8 October 2003 in order to confront the common challenge of international terrorism and threats to their societies from extremist and exclusivist ideologies, which are hostile to the respect for diversity and our culture of tolerance. A much higher level of security cooperation and information sharing would be required to overcome these growing threats.
21. India to fully support ASEAN's strong commitment to realise a drug-free ASEAN 2015 and to pursue full cooperation with ASEAN in combating and eventually eliminating drug-trafficking. In this context, to convene regular bilateral consultations between ASEAN and India on drug related matters at the senior official level.

## **B. Economic Cooperation**

22. Given the Asian resurgence and its relevance to the global economic recovery, it is incumbent upon our region to develop Asian perspectives on global issues. The ASEAN Member States and India will work towards shaping the new international financial and economic architecture in a proactive manner. In this context, ASEAN and India should establish a multi-sectoral Strategic Economic Dialogue:
23. While ASEAN and India have concluded a Free Trade Agreement in Goods, negotiations are still ongoing in the areas of services and investment. These negotiations should aim to conclude at the earliest, bearing in mind the fact that the conclusion of such Agreements would serve to cement our existing ties and, subsequently, take our economic relations to a higher plane:



24. The volume of ASEAN-India trade in 2010 was US\$ 55.4 billion and this has grown to US\$ 74.9 billion in 2011, surpassing the target of US\$ 70 billion set for 2012. There are, however, prospects for reaching a much higher level of trade and investment under the proposed strategic partnership, by improved air, sea, land and digital connectivity between the two sides, expanding trade facilitation initiatives, including through collaboration in the SME sector, which is vital to the economies of ASEAN as well as India and by fostering business to business relations:
25. Declare a target of US\$ 200 billion for bilateral ASEAN-India trade by the year 2022 under the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area.
26. Harness and pool our resources together to ensure that there is constant supply of talent within the ASEAN-India region, in recognition that human resources and skills have become a key factor in modern economic and social development. Encourage governments to work towards providing such talents with the opportunity to move seamlessly between ASEAN and India in order to share their expertise and knowledge to the mutual betterment of our economic prospects.
27. Enhance private sector engagement and encourage business-to-business relations, including the reactivation of the ASEAN-India Business Council. Establish an ASEAN-India Business Portal to facilitate exchange of economic and trade information and promote easy interface between companies and business persons.
28. Facilitate a mutually beneficial business visa regime, including the grant of long-term, multiple entry business visas and stay permits for professionals and their families.
29. Establish an ASEAN-India Meeting of Ministers in charge of SMEs to promote cooperation in the SME sector, with a Joint Working Group (JWG) and Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to prepare a detailed draft plan for the consideration of the Ministers.
30. Emphasise the importance of human resources development and, in this context, propose an ASEAN-India Knowledge Initiative which would include institution-to-institution linkages between their universities and their respective centres of excellence in different fields.

31. Launch an ASEAN-India Skills Initiative and establish a virtual network of existing, upgraded and new human resource and training institutions in identified strategic sectors. An ASEAN-India Centre for Skill Development and Vocational Education could be set up in Guwahati, India, where there is already a presence of the Indian Institute of Technology. This initiative should draw upon the strengths of ASEAN Member States and India in different sectors, including in the areas where ASEAN Member States and India have a rich reservoir of time-tested traditional skills such as in textiles, metallurgy, building architecture and medicinal herbs and holistic healing practices.
32. Set up an ASEAN-India panel of experts to draw up a Food Security Plan for the region.
33. Set up an International Centre for Water Management Technologies in India to facilitate transfer of technologies by bringing together all stakeholders including governments and corporate sectors between India and ASEAN in the sector of water, likely to be on the national and international priorities for the region in the coming years. The Government of India should announce its location in due course.

### **C. Development Cooperation**

34. ASEAN and Indian economies are in the midst of a structural transformation and confront many common challenges such as climate change, energy security, rapid urbanisation, natural disasters and food security. Cities will become the engines of growth in the coming decades and will impact on each of the cross-cutting challenges identified above. ASEAN and India will need to work together to overcome these challenges both through regional cooperation as well as through their active participation in global initiatives:
35. Enhance cooperation in bridging development gaps among ASEAN Member States, including through enhancing capacity building, strengthening human resource development and encouraging involvement of private sector and academic institutions, to contribute to the ASEAN integration and community building. In this context, ASEAN-India Eminent Persons took note of the recently held 6<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting.

36. Enhance cooperation between the ASEAN Centre for Energy in Jakarta with the International Centre for Energy being set up by India in Bangalore, given that India and ASEAN confront a common challenge in ensuring energy security for their peoples. Such an initiative should draw together expertise across sectors such as urban development, energy management, use of renewable energy sources, energy efficient building materials and architecture, in particular the adaptation of the rich traditional technologies that our countries possess, to meeting contemporary challenges in each of the above sectors. The International Centre could serve as a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices for urban public service delivery and governance patterns. This initiative would be announced at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in December 2012.
37. Strengthen cooperation in disaster management to create disaster-resilient and safer communities, enhance cooperation in addressing global environmental issues, and strengthen cooperation in responding to climate change and addressing its impacts.
38. Set up an International Centre for Natural Disaster Management and Relief in India which would collaborate with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) in providing prompt, coordinated and effective disaster relief.

#### **D. Socio-Cultural Cooperation**

39. Collaborate in promoting corporate social responsibility (CSR) to ensure that CSR is incorporated in the corporate agenda and contribute towards sustainable socio-economic development in ASEAN and India.
40. Establish a regular exchange of visits by Parliamentary delegations between the Indian Parliament and the ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly.
41. Promote online interactions for the active participation of youth in India and in each of the ASEAN Member States that would generate deeper understanding and friendship.
42. Undertake greater exchange in the area of sports through strengthened collaboration between the relevant sports associations and/or commissions in ASEAN Member States and India.

43. Announce an annual ASEAN-India Essay Competition open to school/ university students, on the theme of ASEAN-India relations in different fields.
44. Further intensify cooperation in media exchange including the exchange of resident correspondents of major media organisations and a Senior Editors Exchange Programme, whereby Senior Editor may spend a mutually agreed period of time as Guest Editors in major media organisations in India and in ASEAN Member States respectively.
45. Further support and leverage the establishment of ASEAN Promotional Chapter of Tourism (APCT) in Mumbai, India to further strengthen the tourism cooperation between ASEAN and India.
46. Pursue a sustainable programme of interactions in culture, which would include experts from ASEAN and India working together on the shared legacy in fields such as archaeology, linguistics, libraries, textiles, fine arts, performing arts etc. A regular film festival with the participation of popular film artists should be institutionalised. ASEAN and India should also hold exhibitions illustrative of civilisational links in arts and culture.
47. Further support the revival of Nalanda University as an icon of Asian renaissance and promote its networking with centres of excellence in the regions.
48. Consider establishing an ASEAN-India Centre in India to promote trade, investment, tourism, and cultural exchanges.
49. Encourage networking of existing ASEAN and India Study Centres in ASEAN and India, as well as think tanks and research institutes to promote studies on various aspects of economic, social and political development in ASEAN Member States and India.

## **E. Connectivity**

50. As Asia becomes the engine for the growth of the global economy, ASEAN and India must leverage their recommended strategic partnership through enhanced connectivity to reap the benefits from this development. India is one of the two Dialogue Partners that shares both maritime and land borders with ASEAN. Given this close proximity, there is much potential

for ASEAN and India to promote connectivity. To this end, India supports the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), which encompasses physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity. Such connectivity must be expanded to bring South Asia and Southeast Asia closer together:

51. Conclude as soon as possible the pending agreement between ASEAN and India on Open Skies.
52. Establish regular exchanges between ASEAN and the recently established Indian Inter-Ministerial Group on ASEAN Connectivity to explore ways and means to support the MPAC as well as come up with new practical initiatives to further deepen regional integration between ASEAN and India. The emphasis can be placed on promoting and upgrading regional infrastructure and inter-connectivity between ASEAN and India, combined with enabling policy framework to facilitate and promote goods in transit, multi-modal transport and inter-state transport, which would benefit both sides and a wider free trade zone.
53. While ASEAN utilises the Infrastructure Fund to finance priority projects, consider bringing in the public private partnership to support the MPAC and ASEAN Connectivity Plus. The proposed new highway project connecting India-Myanmar-Lao PDR-Viet Nam-Cambodia and the extension of the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway to Lao PDR and Cambodia as well as the development of Mekong-India Economic Corridor connecting Southeast Asia to South Asia on the eastern part of India through the Andaman Sea should receive high priority in order to add greater momentum to the growing trade and investment linkages between ASEAN and India.
54. Work together to promote the development of information and communication technology (ICT) in ASEAN Member States. In this connection, India supports ASEAN's efforts to realise the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015, drawing upon India's expertise in the sector and including through sharing of best practices in policy, regulations and technological development and capacity building programmes. ASEAN and India should establish an ASEAN-India broadband high speed optical fibre network to enhance virtual connectivity. This could become an ASEAN-India Broadband Corridor.

## **F. Regional Architecture**

55. ASEAN and India reemphasised that a stable and peaceful regional environment is essential for the pursuit of sustainable development in the region. To this end, India continues to support the centrality of ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture and the strengthening of ASEAN-led processes, which has contributed to creating a dynamic environment of cooperation in various areas:
56. Deepen coordination and cooperation between ASEAN and India at the regional and multilateral levels, particularly:
- Work towards contributing to the realisation of the goals and objectives as set out in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Vision Statement;
  - Promote cooperation projects within the ARF;
  - Continue to enhance the East Asia Summit as Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia;
  - Promote maritime cooperation through engagement in the future expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum to address common challenges on maritime issues, including sea piracy, search rescue at sea, maritime environment, maritime security, maritime connectivity, freedom of navigation, fisheries and other areas of cooperation; and
  - Promote cooperation in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus to ensure the maintenance of peace, security, stability and enhancing prosperity in the region.

## **G. Institutional Support and Implementation Mechanism**

57. The Eminent Persons Group is convinced that these recommendations will contribute significantly to the elevation of ASEAN-India relations to a strategic partnership. The Group recommends that a mid-term review be conducted by senior officials of ASEAN and India in 2017 on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations:

58. To ensure successful implementation of the recommendations, the institutional support and framework are necessary to closely coordinate, facilitate, monitor, review, and allocate resources effectively:
59. Recognising the important role played by other stakeholders, ensure inclusiveness of non-governmental agencies, private sector, academic institutions, think tanks, youth organisations, media groups, social and cultural foundations of ASEAN and India to support the implementation of these recommendations.
60. Streamline (i) the use of existing funds, such as the ASEAN-India Fund (AIF), the ASEAN-India Green Fund (AIGF), and the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF) and (ii) cooperation mechanisms under ASEAN-India relations to support the implementation of ASEAN-India cooperative activities contained in these recommendations.

## **VI. Conclusion**

61. Taking into account the past twenty years of cooperation and achievements between ASEAN and India as well as the fast changing regional and global environment and evolving regional architectures, the AIEPG has looked at ways to elevate the comprehensive partnership between ASEAN and India to a strategic level.
62. In order to achieve and strengthen the strategic partnership, it is recommended that ASEAN and India should endeavour to implement the proposed recommendations as outlined in this AIEPG Report and continue to work together with the shared values of peace, progress and prosperity.





## **ANNEXES**



# TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE ASEAN-INDIA EMINENT PERSONS GROUP

## I. BACKGROUND

1. At the ASEAN PMC+1 Session with India on 22 July 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and India agreed to establish an Eminent Persons Group (EPG), as proposed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia.

## II. PURPOSE

2. The EPG will take stock of ASEAN-India relations over the past 19 years, explore ways to widen and deepen existing cooperation between ASEAN and India as well as recommend measures to further strengthen ASEAN-India relations in the future, taking into account existing documents signed/adopted by both sides, the ASEAN Charter, Roadmap for an ASEAN Community, the three Blueprints of the ASEAN Community and other relevant documents adopted prior to the finalisation of the EPG report.

## III. SCOPE OF WORK

3. The functions of the EPG will be as follows:
  - 3.1 Assess ASEAN-India dialogue relations over the past 19 years;
  - 3.2 Identify the strengths and expertise of ASEAN and India, seek viable opportunities and recommend practical actions to deepen and broaden the ASEAN-India partnership with the view to enhance mutual trust, benefit and shared prosperity and to ensure that the ASEAN-India partnership remains one of the key pillars in the evolving regional architecture;
  - 3.3 Initiate tangible and mutually beneficial programmes/activities;
  - 3.4 Propose strategies for the effective implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the Comprehensive Partnership

for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015); and

- 3.5 Study the institutional framework of the ASEAN-India dialogue relations and recommend measures to enhance and streamline the process.

#### **IV. COMPOSITION**

4. Each ASEAN Member State will appoint one eminent person from the political, academic, socio-cultural, economic or business circles of their respective country to be members of the EPG and one assistant for each EPG member. India will appoint 2 to 5 eminent persons from the political, academic, socio-cultural, economic or business circles of India to be members of the EPG and an assistant for each of them.
5. EPG members will participate in all relevant activities in their individual capacity and not as representatives of their countries.

#### **V. SECRETARIAT OF THE EPG**

6. The ASEAN Secretary-General is to assign one of his senior staff members to act as a resource person and one assistant to keep records of EPG meetings. The ASEAN Secretariat shall assist the Co-Chairs and EPG members to draft the final report.

#### **VI. FREQUENCY AND VENUE**

7. The EPG will meet at least four times, twice in ASEAN Member States and twice in India, prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit in 2011. Additional meetings could be convened, if and when necessary, as determined by the EPG.
8. The EPG may form ad-hoc working groups, as may be deemed necessary, in order to facilitate its work. The composition of the ad-hoc working groups shall be the assistants of EPG members.

#### **VII. DECISIONS**

9. Decisions will be based on consultation and consensus.

## **VIII. CHAIRMANSHIP**

10. Meetings shall be co-chaired by the EPG member from the country coordinator of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and one EPG member from India. The EPG should select the co-chairs at its first meeting.
11. The host country will provide secretarial services and administrative assistance for meetings such as the arrangement of facilities and documentation.

## **IX. TIMEFRAME**

12. The EPG's final report recommending concrete measures to strengthen and advance the ASEAN-India partnership is to be submitted to the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit in 2011.

## **X. AGENDA**

13. The agenda of the meeting will be prepared by the co-chairs in consultation with all members of the EPG.

## **XI. FUNDING**

14. Funding support for the participation of EPG members and their assistants as well as the two representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat shall come from the ASEAN-India Fund.

## **XII. AMENDMENT**

15. This TOR may be amended by mutual written consent of ASEAN Member States and India. EPG members may also recommend amendments to the TOR through their respective countries.

## **XIII. FINAL PROVISION**

16. This TOR shall commence when the endorsement of ASEAN and India has been obtained.

## BIOGRAPHIES OF THE EMINENT PERSONS

### BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

#### H.E. Pengiran Datin Paduka Masrainah Ahmad



She was appointed as Ambassador (Special Duties) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam on 10 July 2012 upon completion of her term of service as Permanent Secretary from 4 November 2010 to 8 July 2012. Prior to this, she was the Deputy Permanent Secretary (ASEAN) from 8 May 2006. She began her career as an Education Officer in September 1980 and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in July 1984.

She graduated with B.Sc. in Biological Sciences (Portsmouth Polytechnic - 1980), Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (University College, University of Wales - 1982) and M.A. in International Studies and Diplomacy (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London - 1997). She received DPMB – the Most Honorable Order of the Crown of Brunei, Second Class (July 2002); SMB - the Most Honorable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, Third Class (July 1995); PJK the Meritorious Service Medal (1999).

### CAMBODIA

#### H.E. Dr. KAO Kim Hourn



He is currently the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia. His main responsibility includes ASEAN affairs and other assignments tasked by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, while serving as an advisor to the Prime Minister of Cambodia and a member of the Supreme National Economic Council of Cambodia (SNEC). Dr. Kao Kim Hourn

completed his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, U.S.A, in 2001. He also received an Honorary Doctor of Public Service from Ohio University, U.S.A., in 2007.

Previously, Dr. Kao was a member of the High Level Task Force on Drafting the ASEAN Charter (2007), Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) (1994-2004), Member of the International Council

of the Asia Society (2002-2003), and advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia (1996-1998). He received a number of awards including the Royal Order of Monisaraphon (Officer) [2003], Royal Order of Monisaraphon (Commander) [2006] and Royal Order of Cambodia (Grand Officer) [2007].

## INDONESIA

### H.E. Donnilo Anwar



He was born in Painan, West Sumatra, Indonesia, on 20 February 1947. He was a career diplomat and had been serving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for more than thirty years. He had been involved as Member or Head of Indonesian Delegation to various Meeting of Demarcation including Land and Maritime Borders with Australia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. He also attended other International Meetings such as Committee for the International Seabed Authority in Jamaica, ASEM in Luxembourg, Asia Africa Legal Consultative Committee in Bali and New Delhi, and related ASEAN meetings. Other meetings he attended include the sessions of the International Court of Justice, United Nations General Assembly, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on the Law of the Sea.

Before being appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to India in 2003 to 2006, he was Director for Political, Security and Territorial Treaties.

## LAO PDR

### H.E. Soubanh Srithirath



He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao Coalition Government as Director of Cabinet from 1974-1975. He served as General Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1976-1981. He had served as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations, New York from 1981-1982. He had served as Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Responsible for International Organizations Affairs, and Western and Developing Countries and responsible for the Lao National Commission on the border demarcation with Myanmar from 1982-1988.

He had served as Member of Supreme People's Assembly from 1989-1992. He had served as Minister to the Office of the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic from 1998-2010. He had served as Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, in charge of Francophonie, Chairman of the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision from 2011-2012. He passed away on 17 July 2012.

### **H.E. Dr. Khiane Phansourivong**



He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR as a Research Officer, Institute of Foreign Affairs in 1995. He had worked at Bureau of Economic Cooperation, ASEAN Secretariat as Senior Officer from 1997-2001. From July 2001-April 2004, he served as Director of ASEAN Economic Cooperation Division, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served as Deputy Director General of ASEAN Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from April 2004-Nov 2005.

From November 2005-July 2007, he had worked at the ASEAN Secretariat as Coordinator for External Relations and from July 2007-January 2008 as Assistant Director, Bureau for External Relations and Coordination. From January 2008 until now, he holds the post of Director-General, ASEAN Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR.

## **MALAYSIA**

### **H.E. Dato' S. Thanarajasingam**



He has served over 36 years with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. His last stint was as the Ambassador of Malaysia to France and Portugal from 2006 until 2010. Prior to that, he had served at Missions in Lagos, New York, New Delhi and Brasilia. He was the Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations, New York between the period of 1993-1997. In 1996, he served as Chief of Staff to the United Nations General Assembly President as well. At the local and regional fronts, he had held various distinctive positions including, as the Deputy Secretary-General for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2004-2006.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) degree from University of Malaya in 1973 and Master of Arts (M.A) degree from New York University, USA in 1985. In recognition of his contributions, he received many awards and the most recent



one was in 2010, where he was awarded the Grand Officier dans l'Ordre National du Mérite, from the Government of France. He is a Member of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission for a period of 2 years.

## **MYANMAR**

### **H.E. Wynn Lwin**



He served as the Myanmar Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of India from 1991 to 1999. He joined the Myanmar Foreign Service in 1961 and served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Myanmar Missions in Germany, India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Russia Federation. He visited many countries as member of Myanmar Goodwill Delegations led by the Head of State and the Foreign Minister. He also involved in the border and boundary matters with neighbouring countries. He attended the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee Annual Meetings (1993-1997) and Eminent Persons Meeting on Human Development, Tokyo (2003). He also served as the coordinator/facilitator of Human Rights meetings held in Myanmar.

He was the Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs (1999-2004). He also served as the Executive Committee Member of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (1999-2004) and the Secretary of the Myanmar Human Rights Committee (1999-2005).

## **THE PHILIPPINES**

### **H.E. Laura Q. Del Rosario**



She is currently the Undersecretary in the Office for International Economic Relations of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Previously, she was the Director of the Foreign Service Institute in a concurrent capacity. Her work history in the Foreign Service includes serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in New Delhi and Hanoi from November 2003 to April 2007 and April 2007 to October 2009, respectively.

She was bestowed with the Grand Mabini with a rank of Grand Cross (Dakilang Kamanong) in 2012 by the President of the Philippines for her work in promoting economic relations with India.

## SINGAPORE

### H.E. Gopinath Pillai



He holds several key public appointments. He has been Ambassador-at-Large since August 2008. He was Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Iran between 1990 and 2008. He has also served as Singapore's High Commissioner to Pakistan. Ambassador Pillai is the Chairman of the Management Board of the Institute of South Asian Studies. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the Indian Heritage Centre project and Chairman of its Concept and Content Sub-committee. Ambassador Pillai has varied business interests which include investments in education, logistics and information technology. He is the Founder Chairman of a port-related listed logistics company in India, Gateway Distriparks Ltd, and its subsidiary, Snowman Logistics Ltd. He is also a Director of AEC Education Plc, listed on AIM in London.

The Singapore government has awarded Ambassador Pillai the Public Service Star Award (BBM) in 1999 and BBM (Bar) in the 2009 National Day Awards. National University of Singapore Society made him a Distinguished Member in 2011. The Indian government has given him the Padma Shri award at the 2012 Republic Day.

## THAILAND

### H.E. Chitriya Pinthong



After completing the D.Phil. (Econ) at the University of York, U.K., she served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand from 1980 to 2011 in various capacities, inter alia, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Economic Affairs, Deputy Director-General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Director-General of Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) and Deputy Permanent Secretary and ASEAN SOM leader of Thailand. She served as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway in 2005-2007.

She remains involved in international affairs at Chulalongkorn University's Chula Global Network (CGN) and ASEAN Studies Centre and also as Vice President for International Affairs, Rangsit University.

## VIET NAM

### H.E. Do Ngoc Son



He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam in 1972. He served as Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and then Secretary (Foreign Affairs) to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers between 1983 and 1987. In 1992 he was appointed Director-General of the Department of Southeast Asia, South Asia and South Pacific and then Director-General of the ASEAN Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1994 to 1997.

Ambassador Son was responsible for Viet Nam's preparations for ASEAN Membership in 1995. He had served in the Vietnamese diplomatic missions in Indonesia, the Philippines, and as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Viet Nam to Thailand (1997-2002) and Spain (2006-2009). Between 2002 and 2006, he was Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 2009 Ambassador Son was appointed as the first Vietnamese Representative to the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights.

Ambassador Son holds a bachelor degree from La Escuela de Letras y Lenguas Modernas en la Universidad de La Habana, Cuba.

## INDIA

### H.E. Shyam Saran



Shyam Saran, 65, is a former Foreign Secretary of India and has also served as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Nuclear Affairs and Climate Change. He is currently Chairman of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries and a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. He is also a member of the National Security Advisory Board under the National Security Council. Saran was awarded the Padma

Bhushan, the third highest national award, in January 2011 for his contributions to Civil Service. He writes and speaks regularly on foreign policy, climate change, energy security and national and international security related issues.

Since joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1970, he has served in several capitals of the world including Beijing, Tokyo and Geneva. He has been India's Ambassador to Myanmar, Indonesia and Nepal and High Commissioner to Mauritius. In the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, Shyam Saran headed

the Economic Division and the Multilateral Economic Division and also headed the East Asia Division which handles relations with China and Japan. As a Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office in 1991/92, he advised the Prime Minister on foreign policy, nuclear and defence related issues. After a career spanning 34 years in the Indian Foreign Service, Saran was appointed India's Foreign Secretary in 2004 and held that position till his retirement from service in September 2006. Post-retirement, he was appointed Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Indo-US civil nuclear issues and later as Special Envoy and Chief Negotiator on Climate Change.

### **Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia**



Isher Judge Ahluwalia is Chairperson, Board of Governors, the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). She was awarded Padma Bhushan by the President of India in the year 2009 for her services in the field of education and literature. Dr. Ahluwalia was Chairperson of the High Powered Expert Committee on Urban Infrastructure and Services during 2008-2011. She is Member, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council and is on the Boards of a number of premier research institutes in India. Dr. Ahluwalia is a Member of the Eminent Persons Group on India-ASEAN set up by the respective governments. She is Vice Chairperson, Global Development Network, New Delhi and Member, Board of Trustees of the International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka. She was Chairperson, Board of Trustees of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington D.C. from 2003 to 2006. Dr. Ahluwalia was a Member of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) of the Asian Development Bank, which submitted its report, "Towards a New Asian Development Bank in a New Asia" in May 2008.

She received her B.A. from Presidency College, Calcutta University, M.A. from the Delhi School of Economics, and Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), all in economics. Dr Ahluwalia's research has focused on industrial development, macro-economic reforms, and issues in social sector development in India. She is author/co-author/editor of several books including India's Economic Reforms and Development: Essays for Manmohan Singh (OUP), which she had co-edited with Prof. I.M.D Little in 1998 and which has just been published in an updated second edition by OUP as an Oxford India Perennial.

## Mr. Subramaniam Ramadorai



In February 2011, he stepped into public service when the Indian Government appointed him as the Advisor to the Prime Minister in the National Skill Development Council, in the rank of a Cabinet Minister. The Council, which is headed by the Prime Minister, seeks to develop a strategy for Skill Development at the National level with a view to address the skill deficit. He continues as the Vice-Chairman of Tata Consultancy Services Ltd, a company that he has been associated with for the past 40 years. He is the Chairman of other Tata companies - Tata Elxsi Ltd, Tata Technologies Ltd and CMC Ltd. He is also on the Boards of a number of non Tata companies and educational institutions - Hindustan Unilever Limited, Bombay Stock Exchange and the MIT Sloan School of Management (EMSAB).

In recognition of his commitment and dedication to the IT industry he was awarded the Padma Bhushan (India's third highest civilian honour) in January 2006. In April 2009, he was awarded the CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his contribution to the Indo-British economic relations.

## Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan



She is internationally recognised for her outstanding work in the diverse fields of Culture and the Arts. As a distinguished advisor to the Government of India on matters educational and cultural for many decades, Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan spearheaded policy framework for programmes of art history, education, Sanskrit, Buddhist and Pali Studies. In this capacity she was also actively engaged in international cultural relations and in negotiating many cultural agreements, both bilateral and multilateral, with several countries.

Formerly Founder-Director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts; President, India International Centre; Member of the UNESCO Executive Board and a nominated member of the Upper House of Indian Parliament, Dr. Vatsyayan is recipient of the second highest national award Padma Vibhushan and several other awards, nationally and internationally, for her work in national integration and in promoting international understanding. Author of over 16 books and many research papers, she is presently Chairperson, IIC-Asia Project, which through its programmes of seminars and publications, has been trying to identify the diverse roots of communication between and amongst Asian countries for centuries.

## Dr. Sanjaya Baru



Dr. Sanjaya Baru, Eminent Person from India, is currently Director for Geo-economics and Strategy at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London. He is also an Honorary Senior Fellow & Member Governing Board at the Centre of Policy Research in New Delhi. During 2004-08, he was Media Advisor/ Spokesman/ principal speech writer for the Prime Minister of India Shri Manmohan Singh. Dr. Baru was Editor of Business Standard from 2009-11; Visiting Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore (2008-09); Chief Editor, The Financial Express (2000-04); Editorial Page Editor, The Times of India (1994-98); Associate Editor, The Economic Times (1990-1994); Professor, Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations (1999-2000); Departments of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University (1985-86) and University of Hyderabad (1979-1990). He has been a Member, National Security Advisory Board of India (1998-2001) and Member, ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (2011-12). He was a Visiting Fellow - School of Economic Studies, University of East Anglia, UK, and the East-West Centre, Hawaii; Consultant, Human Development Report Office, UNDP, New York (1998) and Asian Development Bank, Manila (2009, 2011). He is a Founder-Trustee of the Forum for National Security Studies, New Delhi; Member, Governing Board, Centre for Air Power Studies, New Delhi; and Member, Advisory Council, India International Centre, New Delhi.

Publications by Dr. Baru include Strategic Consequences of India's Economic Performance (Routledge, 2006), The Political Economy of Indian Sugar (Oxford University Press, 1990) and several essays in journals and newspapers in India and abroad. Dr. Baru obtained his PhD and Masters Degree in economics from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

# LIST OF EMINENT PERSONS' ASSISTANTS & RESOURCE PERSONS

## Assistants to the Eminent Persons

### BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Mr. Ak. Mohd. Amin I. Pg Hj. Sulaiman  
Second Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms. Nurussa'adah Muharram  
Department of Trade Development  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

### INDONESIA

Mr. Sugeng Wahono  
Deputy Director of South Asia  
and Pacific Directorate of ASEAN  
Dialogue Partners and Inter-Regional  
Affairs  
Directorate General of ASEAN  
Cooperation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### MALAYSIA

Ms. Norli Muadza Noor  
Director  
ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### CAMBODIA

H.E. CHETH Naren  
Director-General  
ASEAN-Cambodia  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation

### LAO PDR

Mr. Kongsada Detvongsone  
Senior Officer  
External Relations Division  
ASEAN Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### MYANMAR

Mr. San Oo Maung  
ASEAN Affairs Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## **THE PHILIPPINES**

Mr. Ralf Roldan  
*(effective September 2012)*  
Principal Assistant  
External Relations Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Julius Caesar A. Flores  
*(until August 2012)*  
Director  
External Relations Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs

## **THAILAND**

Mr. Soonthorn Chaiyindeepum  
Minister  
Royal Thai Embassy  
New Delhi

## **INDIA**

Ms. Renu Pall  
Joint Secretary  
ASEAN Multilateral Division  
Ministry of External Affairs

Ms. Rachita Bhandari  
Under Secretary  
ASEAN Multilateral Division  
Ministry of External Affairs

## **SINGAPORE**

Mr. ANG Seow Wei  
*(effective January 2012)*  
Assistant Director  
ASEAN Directorate  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. CAI Xihao *(until December 2011)*  
Desk Officer  
ASEAN Directorate  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## **VIET NAM**

Mr. Tran Duc Binh  
Deputy Director-General  
ASEAN-Viet Nam  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



## Resource Persons and Their Assistants

### ASEAN SECRETARIAT

#### Resource Persons

H.E. Nyan Lynn (*effective July 2012*)  
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN  
for ASEAN Political-Security Community Department

H.E. Pushpanathan Sundram (*until March 2012*)  
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN  
for ASEAN Economic Community Department

#### Assistants to the Resource Persons

Ms. Wan Joon Lian  
Senior Officer  
External Economic Relations Division  
ASEAN Economic Community Department

Mr. Dicky K. Wallad  
Technical Officer  
External Relations Division 1  
ASEAN Political-Security Community Department



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE ASEAN-INDIA EMINENT PERSONS GROUP'S  
PROGRESS REPORT TO THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT, 19 NOVEMBER 2011, BALI,  
INDONESIA

19 November 2011

Excellencies the Leaders of ASEAN

Excellency the Prime Minister of India

The ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG), established pursuant to the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit in October 2010, has the main task to take stock of the ASEAN-India relations over the past 19 years and explore ways to widen and deepen the existing cooperation between ASEAN and India as well as recommend measures to further strengthen ASEAN-India relations in the future.

We, the Co-Chairs of the AIEPG, have the honour to submit the Progress Report for your information and reference.

Please accept, Your Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

A blue ink signature of Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'K' followed by a horizontal line.

**Dr. Kao Kim Hourn**

Secretary of State

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation

Kingdom of Cambodia

A blue ink signature of Amb. Shyam Saran, written in a cursive style.

**Amb. Shyam Saran**

Former Foreign Secretary

Former Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of  
India on Climate Change

## **Progress Report of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group to the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit on 19 November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia**

1. At the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit on 30 October 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, the Leaders welcomed the establishment of an ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) to review the ASEAN-India relations and explore ways to widen and deepen existing cooperation towards a long-term strategic partnership between ASEAN and India.
2. The composition of membership of the AIEPG was completed in 2011 and the AIEPG has convened twice, namely on 2-3 August 2011 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and on 20-21 October 2011 in New Delhi, India. The AIEPG is co-chaired by Cambodia as Country Coordinator of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, on behalf of ASEAN, and India.
3. The AIEPG had open and fruitful discussions on stocktaking the past and existing relations as well as on the various areas of cooperation between ASEAN and India. The Eminent Persons noted with satisfaction that the ASEAN-India relations have achieved significant progress in the past 19 years since the formalisation of ASEAN-India dialogue relations in 1992 and had stronger foundation of cooperation since convening of the first ASEAN-India Summit in 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
4. In the effort of charting the future direction of ASEAN-India Partnership, the AIEPG took into account the documents that have been adopted/signed under the ASEAN-India dialogue relations framework as well as key ASEAN documents, which included the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015); the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; the ASEAN-India Aviation Cooperation Framework; the ASEAN-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism; and the Instrument of Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia by India, the ASEAN Charter, Roadmap for an ASEAN Community, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and other relevant documents.

5. The AIEPG affirmed the importance of elevating the ASEAN-India partnership to a higher plane, namely from the current level which has been based on the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity to a strategic partnership. In this regard, the AIEPG will explore and recommend bold, resourceful, practical ideas and doable actions to enhance the relationship, create opportunities and address challenges while taking cognisance of the dynamic regional and global environment. The areas of cooperation will cover the three pillars of the ASEAN Community building covering the political and security, economic and socio-cultural pillars.
6. In accordance with its mandate, the AIEPG will prepare the final report to be submitted to the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit to be held in Cambodia in 2012. In the meantime, the Co-Chairs of the AIEPG submit this progress report, as prepared by Cambodia and the ASEAN Secretariat, to the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit in Bali, Indonesia on 19 November 2011 for its information.
7. The AIEPG is currently working on the final report to be submitted to the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit, which will be visionary, concise, containing the recommendations that serve the elevation of the ASEAN-India relations to strategic partnership and enhancing the role of India to support the ASEAN Community Building, the implementation of Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, and the attainment of ASEAN Community by 2015, avoiding redundancy with the existing Plan of Action.
8. The AIEPG has scheduled two more meetings to finalise the report which will be submitted to the Leaders of ASEAN and India at the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in November 2012.



### **Description of the ASEAN-India logo:**

The ASEAN-India logo, an improvised five-spoked wind turbine, represents energy, motion, progress, connectivity and dynamism. The spokes have been stylised to symbolise the radiation of energy in an outward direction, and to reflect the spiralling motion of growth; as well as the expanding canvas of ASEAN-India partnership.

The wind turbine also represents the cleanest and most sustainable form of energy available to mankind and thereby reflects the sustainable nature of our partnership. The spokes have also been adorned in the colours of the Indian and ASEAN flags. The tagline 'Progress and Prosperity' captures the theme of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, linking it directly with the aims and objectives of the Summit.

**One Vision, One Identity, One Community**

[www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org)