

India-ASEAN Partnership in An Era of Globalization



Reflections by Eminent Persons



Research and Information System for the
Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries

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Preface

The India-ASEAN Eminent Persons Lecture Series was launched by the Government of India in December 1996 to enhance people-to-people interactions between India and the ASEAN countries to complement the growing India-ASEAN partnership. The inaugural lecture under this Series was delivered by Hon'ble Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia. The Research and Information System for Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS) has had the privilege to coordinate this prestigious programme on behalf of the Government of India.

The programme has already led to 21 exchanges with 14 leading personalities from ASEAN visiting India and seven distinguished Indian experts visiting different ASEAN member countries for delivering the lectures under the Series. (A list of the lectures delivered so far under this Series is given at the end of this Volume.)

Given the high profile of the speakers, the Lectures delivered under the Series represent an authoritative thinking. Therefore, it was decided to publish the texts of these lectures in a Volume to facilitate their further dissemination and to carry forward the debate they have generated.

This Volume puts together the texts of most of the lectures delivered under the India-ASEAN Eminent Persons Lecture Series so far. We have not been able to include the lectures by Dr Bernardo M. Villegas, University of Asia and the Pacific, The Philippines, delivered in New Delhi in June 1997 and those of Dr Kapila Vatsyayan, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, delivered in Malaysia and Indonesia during August-September 1999, because of unavailability of the written text. Some of the eminent speakers have delivered more than one lecture. However, only the lectures fitting better with the theme of the Volume have been included.

We are grateful to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for assigning the task of organizing this prestigious programme to RIS. We also thank Indian Missions in different ASEAN countries, the ASEAN

Missions in India and the MER Division of Ministry of External Affairs for their support in organizing these lectures. Some of the lectures have been organized jointly with other institutions, such as, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi; Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi and Mumbai; India International Centre, New Delhi; Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore; Asian Institute of Technology, and Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, among other organizations. We are grateful to these organizations for their cooperation and support. We are also grateful to Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman, RIS for presiding over most of the events concerning the Lecture Series and for kindly agreeing to write a Foreword to this Volume. We have also benefited from the guidance of Shri S.T. Devare, in organization of this Programme, earlier as Secretary (ER) in the Ministry of External Affairs and now as Vice-Chairman, RIS. Dr V.R. Panchamukhi, until recently Director General, RIS, not only led the organization of the lectures, but has also advised us in preparation and editing of this Volume.

I would also like to put on record my appreciation for the work done by Shri Ganapati Bhat, Shri Tish Malhotra, and Shri Saikat Sinha Roy in preparation of this Volume.

New Delhi,
24 October 2002

Nagesh Kumar
Director-General, RIS