



39th ASEAN DAY

'ASEAN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'

Message from the Prime Minister of Malaysia

ON the auspicious occasion of the 39th anniversary of Asean, it gives me great pleasure to convey my warmest greetings and best wishes to the people of Malaysia and on their behalf, to all the peoples of Asean.

My message this year goes out especially to the youth of Malaysia and Asean, in line with the central theme of this year's anniversary, "Asean and Young People".

Youth represent our hopes for a better tomorrow. They constitute a critical segment of the population in nation building.

This is also recognised at a global level. The world will celebrate International Youth Day on Saturday.

At the regional level, Malaysia will play host to the Asean Youth Day celebration in November this year.

With our youth making up more than 40 per cent of the population, it is necessary for the Government to place great emphasis on policy matters relating to youth development.

Youth programmes that would enrich the spiritual and physical resilience of our youth, and which would at the same time, inculcate

them with noble values, are already being introduced in schools and via other programmes at the national level in order to shape youth into well-rounded individuals.

It is my earnest hope that the young people are also equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding in order for them to be instilled with good values that would help them to take part in the process of nation building.

This is particularly pertinent, taking into account that Malaysia is a multi-ethnic and multicultural nation. In this context, our National Service Programme for Malaysian youth who have reached the age of 18 is one such programme at the national level.

At the Asean level, I would also like to encourage greater youth interaction and cooperation in the form of regional youth programmes. I believe that through such programmes, young people would nurture an Asean identity and develop a sense of belonging to the Asean Community which all Asean member countries are committed to.

It is also important to remind ourselves of the

significance of Asean's role in promoting regional peace and prosperity that we currently enjoy.

All these exist as a result of the foresight and wisdom of the founding fathers of Asean and the effective leadership and commitment of Asean leaders who followed them.

Peace did not happen by chance. We worked hard for it. It is my sincere wish that all Malaysians, particularly young people, must remember that peace must constantly be protected and built upon.

For Malaysia the strengthening of Asean is the way forward for peace and stability in the country and in the region.

Malaysia's future, and the future of Asean, lies with our youth. I am confident that the young people of Asean, equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge and good values, would be capable of meeting the great challenges of building the Asean Community.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi



Message from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

AS Asean celebrates its 39th anniversary today, I am pleased to convey my best wishes for the occasion. I am happy that this significant occasion is celebrated at the same time by all Asean member countries.

For Asean Day this year, the central theme of "Asean and Young People" is apt. Youth make up more than half of Asean population. This represents the generation in which the future of our country and our region lies.

They are the ones who will be able to realise the hopes and vision of Asean leaders who have committed themselves to the establishment of the Asean Community by 2020.

The development of young people is certainly given increasing attention by all Asean member countries. It is necessary that youth be nurtured properly, given the right guidance and provided with a safe and conducive environment in which to be creative, mature and develop into useful and constructive citizens and future leaders of Asean.

Malaysia has always been conscious of the need to increase awareness of Asean among the people, especially youth.

It is in this context that we had pursued a people-centred agenda, with the aim of "bringing Asean to the people" throughout our chairmanship of the 39th Asean Standing Committee between July 2005 and July 2006.

Asean has come a long way since its inception in 1967. But Asean also has a long journey ahead. The level of awareness of Asean, especially among the young, has yet to reach



a satisfactory level.

The recent successful conclusion of the 39th Asean Ministerial Meeting/Post Ministerial Conferences/13th Asian Regional Forum in Kuala Lumpur has further reinforced Asean's commitment to realise the Asean Community.

I believe that, with this in mind, we must prepare our youth for the challenges that they will face in building the Community.

They must be endowed with necessary knowledge and skills to face those challenges.

They must be aware of the diversity of Asean member countries in terms of economic development, culture, ethnicity, religion and the way of life.

At the same time, they must also be aware of Asean's strength and standing in the world. This is important and must be implanted in the minds of all young people in Asean.

As Malaysia progresses, our youth must be ready to take on their role in nation building as well as in building the Asean Community.

Our success will be measured by the extent to which our youth are able to maintain our national identity and yet be imbued with a sense of Asean consciousness as they emerge together with the youth of other Asean member countries in building a single Asean Community with its own distinct Asean identity.

Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar

Message from the Asean Secretary-General

IN the past year, Asean has been busy with its community-building agenda. We have begun work in earnest to realise the goal of establishing the Asean Community as spelt out by Asean leaders in the Bali Concord 11 of 2003. It is a huge undertaking and we have understood from the start that we need a good majority of Asean citizens to support us on this endeavour for Asean Community to succeed.

A key contributor to this community-building exercise will be the 60 per cent of Asean citizens who were not even born when Asean was founded 39 years ago — our young people.

This is a fairly startling statistic for government officials and policy makers of Asean to consider.

Will our Generations X and Y view Asean as something from a historical past or an organisation that is relevant to their lives? If they lack a sense of connection with Asean, they may not feel a compulsion to help shepherd Asean through the next few decades.

From my 3½ years as Secretary-General travelling the region, most Southeast Asian youth seem to have scant understanding of Asean and even struggle to name the 10 member countries.

They are not aware of this region's proud history. Such anecdotal evidence points to some form of a generation gap in Asean but I am optimistic that this can be rectified.

The choice of this year's Asean Day theme, "Asean and Young People", is a recognition that Asean wants to close this gap.

The young have to identify with Asean for it is their energy, commitment and talent



that will drive Asean Community. For this to happen, Asean has to resonate with them.

They need to see that as Asean Community grows stronger, the Asean brand name will rise in value. And being identified with this Asean brand will help them when they pursue their goals in the larger world, be it in government, business or the non-profit sector.

More specifically, Asean has, over the years, tried to inculcate a stronger sense of regional identity among our young stakeholders and showed them how Asean can enrich their lives. The region's youth have participated enthusiastically in initiatives such as Asean Youth Camp, Asean Campus Journalist Exchange Programme, Asean Youth Day Awards, interaction sessions with Asean ICT Ministers, and various youth programmes with Asean's Dialogue Partners. These activities are but a start. There is more that can and will be done.

This Asean Day, the simple message we hope to send to young people is that Asean does not only belong to the generations that created it and brought it to where it is today; Asean, especially Asean's future, belongs to our young people.

Ong Keng Yong



CONGRATULATING ASEAN
on its 39th Anniversary

THE FIBRE OF THE FABRIC

UPHOLDING A UNITED VISION AND DIVERSITY OF PARTNER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.
TOWARDS CRUCIAL COOPERATION AND BILATERAL TIES TRANSCENDING DIFFERENT SHORES.

TOGETHER WE CELEBRATE OUR 39TH ANNIVERSARY. BINDING US WITH A COMMON ASPIRATION. ACHIEVING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL.

TOGETHER TOWARDS A GREATER ASEAN.



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In youths' hearts and minds



At the opening ceremony of the 39th Asean Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on July 25.

TODAY, Asean turns 39 years of age. This year's theme, "Asean and Young People", is timely to recognise what Asean youth can contribute and achieve in the process of regional integration and community building.

Young people in Asean experience lives that are more complex compared with three generations ago.

Their lives are filled with varied challenges as well as opportunities amidst an era of globalisation and regional integration.

What does regional integration mean for young people between the ages of 15 and 25 in Asean? What is their idea of community building?

Asean youth represent 19 per cent of 550 million people in Southeast Asia. In numerical terms, it is 107 million people. Its sheer size makes it significant to member governments and communities.

Young people are active contributors in Asean by virtue of being a member of a family and a neighbourhood, a community, and are shaped and being shaped by society around them.

Over the years since the Kuala Lumpur Agenda on Youth Development in 1997, Asean has recognised that young people are a vast and dynamic resource for national and regional development.

Furthermore, the importance of youth participation in the formulation and implementation of national development policies has been underscored.

Asean celebrates its 39th anniversary with the theme "Asean and Young People" in recognition that its future lies with youths and their commitment to and understanding of an Asean community. ELAINE TAN and MARC ELIEMEL Y. TAGUB write.

Priority areas in youth cooperation in Asean have centred on strengthening Asean awareness, ensuring economic independence for its young people and inculcating leadership qualities among them.

A strong Asean identity allows young people to have a sense of belonging, of knowing who they are and their relevance in a regional and global community.

For this, much will depend on how Asean youth socialise with each other and appreciate the region's cultural diversities.

Reaching out and making friends across borders to get to know fellow Asean youth and learning Asean languages are simple forms of strengthening bonds of connection.

To sustain community building in Asean, it will have to create opportunities for Asean youth to interact, whether through youth exchange, volunteer programmes or friendly competition in order to further raise Asean awareness among its young people. This is the basis for building a strong

regional identity.

Asean Youth Camp is a key project under the Asean Committee on Culture and Information, which is held every two years.

The aim of this project is to build a stronger regional identity by raising awareness of Southeast Asia's history and heritage through the arts.

The 6th Asean Youth Camp was held in Bandar Seri Begawan from Jan 10-22 with the theme "Adhesion: Water and the Arts".

Fifty young people interacted with one another over a 12-day period by working on joint projects and activities in the arts and culture. The result: a lively exchange of ideas among these young people on their respective crafts, forming friendship and ties that will last beyond the duration of the project.

It is important to learn about a country's history to understand events and people and to avoid misconceptions.

No country and citizen of that country would want to be judged

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”

unfairly. If we understand other nations, it would be easier for us to look at the strength of each country and its people to accept our strength as a region and develop together.

Community building for Asean youth will mean that they have to be open-minded, embrace diversity and be outward-looking.

They have to be active citizens in Asean's community building ef-

orts. Asean youths who have participated in numerous Asean youth exchanges have expressed keen interest "of wanting to do more for Asean".

There is a need to create a platform in Asean that brings together different youth initiatives of promoting an Asean identity to further sustain and nurture the interest of young people in the process of regional integration and exercising active citizenship.

The establishment of a programme — Young Ambassadors of Asean — is recommended. The programme will draw on former participants of Asean youth exchanges to create a groundswell at the grassroots level to "endear Asean to our peoples and ensure that Asean will be in their hearts and minds".

These young people can be trained as facilitators to educate their peers about regional integration and its effect.

Asean sectoral bodies can also use this group of youngsters to engage them in their work by soliciting their views on policy and programme development, implementation and evaluation.

This will be a creative way of engaging young people to contribute to the work of various Asean sectoral bodies.

Youth participation strengthens young people's commitment and understanding of an Asean community.

Congratulations
Congratulations
to

asean



on its
39th Anniversary

from



Maybank

■ By Deva M. Ridzam

From a leap of faith to an act of faith

THE 12-month Malaysian stewardship of Asean ended last month.

The baton has passed on to the Philippines because Myanmar decided last year to take "time out" of Asean's rotating "carousel".

Since its founding in 1967, especially in the early years, there was a clear sense of vision and strategy, one which helped usher in peace and prosperity to a once impoverished and divided — but strategically important — part of Asia.

Indeed, the region was a cockpit for big power rivalry, inflicting in its wake crimes against innocent peoples of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

In stark contrast, Southeast Asians have come a long way in rediscovering their common history and heritage.

The region too is no more geographically or psychologically separated into mainland and island halves as it was almost three decades ago.

Four centuries of colonial rule fostered deep mistrust and suspicion between and among neighbouring states and their peoples.

But we have overcome them because of the foresightedness of the founding fathers of Asean.

The Bangkok Declaration (1967) envisaged an Asean by which the peoples of the region could seek a future of mutual trust and respect, security and welfare.

Similarly, no less visionary were leaders in Bali in 1976.

Through the Bali Concord I, including the Treaty of Amity and Corporation in Southeast Asia (TAC), they helped bring about a huge transformation of the economies and security in the region.

They too deserve as much credit for where Asean and Southeast Asia is today as founding fathers of the Bangkok Declaration.

These leaders in the 1960s and 1970s were successful because they were able to "think outside the box".

And their message was simple and clear: that individually none of its member states are powerful enough to make a difference and that to prevent history from repeating itself, they must always work collectively together to advance their common interests.

Those bold initiatives have somewhat eased the hardship of their peoples as much as they have brought about greater predictability, order and economic development in the region.

Most importantly, the guns are silent.

To sustain those achievements however remains a perpetual challenge for Asean.

Today, as in the past, the choice before our leaders and peoples remains "... whether it is our preference to remain 'flotsams' and 'driftwoods' carried about by chance or ... to manage our lives in a coordinated way and in togetherness like a cluster of 'bamboos' sharing a common fate and destiny".



General view of the plenary session at the 39th Asean Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur last month.

These were the words of the former Malaysian Foreign Minister Tan Sri (now Tun) Ghazali Shafie at a conference in Phnom Penh in 1995.

Yes, Asean has come a long way from 1967, more so, since the fall of Saigon and the killing fields of Cambodia.

Even if the member states in the last 39 years may not have solved every problem, by working together, they have created a viable and valuable framework of regional co-operation.

Simply put, they have transformed the region as a bastion of stability and growing prosperity.

So far so good — 10 years short of half a century into Asean's birth.

But, strange as it may seem, meetings of Asean today are more and more frequent but, it would seem, the talk is less and less open.

This explains why while there is a proliferation of initiatives, especially economic ones, yet there is a yawning gap between rhetoric and reality.

As a matter of fact, Asean's economic integration remains trapped in an adolescent phase.

It took Asean 22 years to eliminate tariffs under the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA).

How long would it take to bring down non-tariff barriers, let alone, liberalisation of the services sector.

We are still unwilling to pool sovereignty for the common good in order to build an effective system of region-wide economic governance.

Asean today is entering the third stage of its evolution.

The Bangkok Declaration was essentially to build mutual trust, and then Bali Concord I helped

transformed Asean into an instrument for both economic co-operation (AFTA and other economic initiatives) and regional security (TAC).

It is, therefore, time for Asean to move forward and outward more decisively.

It is also time to re-lay the foundations for trust and working more closely together with greater dynamism.

In this regard, the role of civil society who are concretely available on the ground cannot be overemphasised in realising Asean Community building.

They play the role of multipliers of the Asean message.

The bonding of the peoples of the region can only be meaningful when initiatives and projects involve societies and peoples as close to grassroots level as possible.

What that is needed today is not a leap of faith — as done by leaders in the past — but an act of faith, on the part of leaders today.

Asean governments can no longer restrict their minds and markets if we are to build a truly cohesive organisation to take Southeast Asia to the next stage.

The next steps must involve two principal issues: a viable integrated region-wide economy and issues of governance.

This is because a more prosperous and secure future is best built on principle of pooling sovereignty, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

In this regard, Asean has just to focus on these twin goals.

Last but by no means the least, is Myanmar.

The country has now made it clear of its outright refusal to work with Asean, thus rejecting a family-style solution.

Instead, it proclaims that its preference is to work only with the United Nations — where it can be assured of China's protection.

And with this latest development, Asean's policy of constructive engagement has all but failed.

Indeed, Asean-9 has been humiliateingly outmanoeuvred.

Asean's aim, all along, has been to promote peaceful and gradual change.

In other words, Asean was not interfering nor was there a desire to disturb the internal stability of a fellow member state.

We have failed because the stance of Asean-9 vis-à-vis Myanmar has not been collective.

Simply expressing disappointment or disapproval would accomplish little with a Junta so entrenched but weak, so convinced of itself yet fearful that change would cost the rulers everything.

So let us not merely blame Myanmar.

This is because Asean-9, on its part, has yet to be convinced that there is no better approach than one of concerted action.

At this year's Asean Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Bali a majority voted for retention of the status quo on Myanmar.

It is no point appealing to China and India.

China, on its part, has certainly not been behaving as an "emerging responsible member of the international community".

It continues to prop-up the Junta with an annual grant — some believe as much as US\$250 million (US\$1=RM3.6) — aside from military and diplomatic support.

Perhaps, Beijing would like to undermine Asean's drivers' seat status in East Asia and it, perhaps, wants to call the shots in

the region.

India too has done little, if anything, to live up to its claim as the world's largest democracy.

This country has truly changed in many respects in recent years.

It seems that New Delhi is also not keen to see Asean as an "effective driver" in East Asia.

However, it would not be long before China and India face serious problems arising out of their support for the Junta in Myanmar.

They will then have to stew in their own juice over drug trafficking, HIV/AIDS, money laundering, lawlessness along their borders and much more.

The United States posturing towards Myanmar is also puzzling.

The Americans merely have to ask the European Union for its dossier on Israel's long-standing shipment of intelligence and other repressive devices that are being used to crush the democratic opposition in Myanmar.

Asean must work harder to close ranks, develop its economic clout, check repression and blatant human rights abuses, and get its political and diplomatic act together.

Indeed, so long as Asean is confused about those priorities, so long will the region be mixed up too.

And so long as we do not compete successfully in the world and continue to ignore repression and flagrant abuses of human rights, Asean will continue to punch below its weight — and the peoples of Asean will be all that poorer.

■ Datuk Deva M. Ridzam is a former Malaysian ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg (1999-2005) and to Cambodia (1991-1996)

Congratulations

to



on it's
39th
Anniversary

*We are proud to be part of the occasion.
Towards cooperative peace and prosperity.*

From

**Datuk Francis Lau,
Board of Directors, Management and Staffs**



**龍合控股有限公司
LEONG HUP HOLDINGS BERHAD**

Fugitive fathers

BASED on anecdotal evidence, indignant letters to newspapers, emotional effusions on talk shows, tearful testimonies at forums, and the average of 10 women a month who seek relief from the Wanita Umno Legal Aid Bureau, it is clear that abandoned and divorced Muslim women have been getting the short end of the stick for far too long and a redress of their grievances is in order. The failure to pay alimony and child-support ordered by the Syariah Courts is certainly on the agenda of the Women, Family and Community Development Minister. However, while divorced women have the right to claim maintenance, it is another matter to assert, as she did, that "by right, there is no need to apply". It is difficult to accept that alimony and child-support should be "automatic" in this sense.

In the first place, it is false to assume that the man is always the breadwinner. Just as the husband is not always the one who walks away from the marriage, the woman is not always the traditional homemaker with no means of support. While there are many black-hearted scoundrels who refuse to pay up just to get back at their ex-wives, there are also those who are simply unable to pay. Allowing the end of a marriage to trigger the start of maintenance seems to be too arbitrary an arrangement. While it should not invariably be a matter to be decided only by the courts, it is always necessary to put in place a clear but fair means of assessment which takes due cognisance of both the cost of living as well as the ability to pay.

Since it is the flouting of court orders to pay alimony and the unwillingness or inability of the law to bring the defaulters to book that seems to be the problem, the solution appears to lie in providing legal remedies and administrative assistance to the aggrieved women. The possibility of court orders to deduct alimony and child-support from wages could be explored. Whatever the sanctions to deter non-payment, the last resort must always be jail. If they can spare the officers and resources to catch couples in close proximity and raid nightclubs, it is surely not too much to ask the State religious departments to delegate staff to track down deadbeat dads and chase payments, especially from the most incorrigible and egregious of the defaulters. The Welfare Department should also lend a hand to the women in distress.

Potholes to avoid on the Asean highway

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations appears to be at a crossroads as the 10-member bloc faces fresh challenges in the face of globalisation and economic integration, writes K.S. NATHAN.

THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations marks its 39th anniversary today. The past four decades have witnessed many challenges to its survival and development and also many successes in creating a niche for itself as a regional and global player in international politics.

Is the 10-member grouping as relevant today as it was, in a strategic sense, in 1967 when the politics of the Cold War furnished defining elements of regional security in Southeast Asia? What has been the impact of globalisation on regional security? What is the nature of Asean's relationship with major external powers? What is Asean's future political, economic and strategic trajectory? In sum, after nearly 40 years of existence, is Asean relevant or redundant?

While regional identity and empowerment are laudable goals, the complexity and practicality of managing an increasingly unwieldy assortment of nations with serious differences in perceptions, priorities and levels of development readily emerge as major challenges. The creation and consolidation of the Asean Secretariat can be regarded as a bold step in Asean institutionalism, yet its potential and productivity are being scuppered by the exigencies of national sovereignty.

To put it another way, inter-governmentalism is still a more potent force than supranationalism — a key requirement in the progress towards Asean political and economic integration. The formulation of an Asean Charter, however, is arguably a movement in the right direction as it aims to establish a corporate identity for the regional grouping with legal obligations and responsibilities, and possibly penalties for non-compliance with what is collectively and consensually regarded as adherence to minimum standards of membership.

In this regard, Myanmar seems to stand out as a sore thumb in Asean's quest to improve human rights and international acceptance. The military leadership seems to have



opted for "membership in isolation", preferring instead to set its own agenda for political reform that detracts from the general standard required by most of the other members.

But Pyinmana is not alone in pursuing an individualist course premised on national sovereignty. The second-tier members (Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia) are not totally unsympathetic to Myanmar's assertion of the Asean principle of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of member states. Until and unless the regional association can find a formula to overcome this hurdle, its political and institutional development will be somewhat curbed by sovereignty considerations. By extension, the Asean Community in its threefold economic, security and socio-cultural dimensions will continue to flounder for lack of unanimity and consensus over its roadmap.

While globalisation has integrated markets by accelerating the flow of capital, goods, services and people, its counter-productive effect can also be seen in the vulnerability of financial markets and institutions to manage globalised capital flows.

Although Asean can be said to have integrated better with global financial markets through liberalisation and deregulation, this has not necessarily led to deeper economic integration at the regional level owing to still-prevailing differences in Government and governance as well as huge disparities in economic development.

The rise of China and India puts additional pressure on Asean integration as these two giants absorb huge amounts of foreign direct investment to fuel

their economies, resulting in trade and investment diversion from Asean. Nevertheless, Asean has found a way to address this challenge by signing bilateral free trade area agreements with both China and India, thereby broadening the scope of economic engagement that would ultimately promote regional integration in Southeast Asia.

The success in meeting this enormous economic challenge as well as opportunity presented by globalisation hinges very much on the collective political will of the Asean leaders to harmonise regional as well as global trends, and to avoid marginalisation by reducing, if not rejecting, inward-looking tendencies based on protectionism. The original five members of Asean had not only a pro-Western strategic orientation but also were generally outward-looking in their philosophy and external interactions. This basic foundation of foreign policy has remained the hallmark of Asean's progress, despite the entry of the second tier.

Asean's security ideology is built on a framework of co-operation with external powers, especially the United States whose role remains critical to regional security and stability in the broader Asia-Pacific region. On the threat of international terrorism, although there are variations in emphasis as to its salience, both Asean and the US — along with China, Japan, Russia and India — do share a common platform on the dangers it poses to national, regional and international security.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's presence at the recent meeting of the Asean Regional Forum in Kuala Lumpur is a clear signal that Washington is reviewing its attitude and policy towards Asean, driven as it is by perceived shifts in the balance of power in Asia in the wake of the rise of China and India.

The Rice visit in conjunction with the 39th Asean Ministerial Meeting and Post-Ministerial Conference involving all the major dialogue partners is, nonetheless, a significant development in US-Asean rela-

tions: First, it marks the rebirth of diplomacy in shaping established and emerging interests in the new balance of power in East Asia; and, secondly, it marks a shift in US policy from the narrow confines of defining friends and adversaries in the global war on terror and towards redefining strategic interests, access and influence in a rapidly changing geo-economic and geo-political environment in which Asean figures more prominently in the broader East Asian setting.

Any assessment of Asean cannot ignore the fact that the organisation has a proven track record of resilience in facing challenges to its survival and relevance. While Asean processes might well expose the debilitating effects of an expanding self-interested bureaucracy at national and regional levels, these same processes have inevitably created an Asean strategic culture which is increasingly oriented towards dialogue, peace, development, stability and security.

Since the end of the Cold War, Asean has actively promoted the idea of co-operative security, an inclusive approach to regional security that is not threat-based and which supports constructive engagement by all actors regardless of size influence and capacity. In conflict situations, Asean has, and can perform the unique role of mediator and interlocutor. If Asean is seen as redundant, it will only be replaced by another regional body with more or less similar goals to restore its relevance.

The move towards an Asean Community and a wider East Asian Community is certain to keep regional and external actors engaged in active diplomacy for some time to come — during which more constructive approaches to regional stability and security might be explored, and Asean's relevance reiterated.

■ The writer is a senior fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore. He was previously professor of international relations at the University of Malaya.