

ASEAN DAY

41st ANNIVERSARY



(From left) Sultan of Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Laos Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Philippines President Gloria Arroyo, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Myanmar Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Thai Prime Minister Gen Surayud Chulanont and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung at the 12th Asean summit retreat on Mactan Island, the Philippines on Jan 13, 2007.

Message from the Prime Minister of Malaysia

IT gives me great pleasure to convey my warmest greetings to all Malaysians, and citizens of Asean member states, on this auspicious occasion of the 41st anniversary of the founding of Asean.

In 1967, five states came together and declared their intention to lay the foundations for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian nations. In 1999, the process of regional integration reached a historic milestone when the association became a group of 10 states. In 2007, the group reached a new high point in regionalism when it adopted the Asean Charter. The original intention of the founding fathers of Asean will be substantially accomplished when Asean member states ratify the charter, we hope, before 2008 comes to a close. Indeed, the vision of the founding fathers will become more complete when the original Asean association finally matures as the Asean Community in 2015. Let us, therefore, work hard to ensure that the target is achieved by the deadline.

I hold great hopes for the Asean Charter because of the central role it can play in maturing the process of community-building in Southeast

Asia. I hold this view because the charter will enable Asean to become a more perfect institution when it transforms itself from a consensus-based regional association into a more rules-based inter-governmental organisation.

I firmly believe that the charter can assist us to build upon our achievements to date, and add value to the plans and projects for regional cooperation already in place. The charter would require Asean leaders to meet at least twice a year. The Asean Secretariat will be strengthened by the appointment of four deputy secretaries-general in place of the present two. Member states will appoint permanent representatives to Jakarta. The process of decision-making will be improved and the oversight function strengthened. The charter will also assure greater compliance with Asean rules and decisions. Therefore, in order to transform the process of regional integration into community-building, member states should not delay any longer the full ratification of the Asean Charter.

Undoubtedly, the task of bringing the Asean Community into fruition requires hard work. The blueprint for the

implementation of the Asean Economic Community has already been adopted by the leaders at the 13th Asean Summit in November 2007. But the drafting of the blueprints for the other two pillars of the Asean Community, namely the Asean Socio-Cultural Community and the Asean Political-Security Community, are still works in progress. We need to hasten the pace because the target date, 2015, is not far away. Unless all the three pillars upon which rest the Asean Community are in place, the Asean Charter cannot function efficiently.

Nonetheless, as an organisation dedicated to maintaining regional peace and stability, we can note with satisfaction that Asean has come a long way. There are those who say that the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, signed by Asean leaders in 1976, has no real clout. But it cannot be denied that it is the spirit of that treaty which has kept the peace in the region ever since. There has never been any armed conflict between any of the treaty parties. In fact, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the treaty, Malaysia has three times opted for peaceful international adjudication or arbitration,

using international law as the basis, in settling certain disputes with fellow members of Asean. Indeed, Article 24 of the Asean Charter continues to cite the treaty as one of the avenues for future dispute settlements.

Asean's commitment to community-building is a matter of clear record. Asean took the lead role in initiating the concept of a larger community of East Asian countries, originating in the first-ever summit meetings between Asean leaders and the leaders of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea in 1997 in Kuala Lumpur. It is, therefore, heartening to note that the recent meeting between the foreign ministers of Asean and the three countries, last July in Singapore, reaffirmed that the Asean Plus Three process would continue to be the main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community, with Asean as the driving force.

Malaysia has no doubts about the value of Asean to its regional and international existence. In the formulation of Malaysian foreign policy, the Asean factor has always been taken into account. It remains so for the foreseeable future. It is in this context that I call upon all Malaysians to join in the



commemoration and celebration of Asean Day today.

We need to make Asean more people-centric. We must all contribute to the inculcation of an Asean consciousness so that, before long, Asean truly becomes a community of caring societies where people live in peace, harmony and prosperity. Asean Day is the moment to reaffirm our commitment to the ideals upon which Asean was founded.

DATUK SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI

Message from the Minister of Foreign Affairs

TODAY, we celebrate the historic occasion of the 41st anniversary of Asean. Since its establishment in 1967 through the Bangkok Declaration, Asean has played a pivotal role in shaping a regional architecture of peace, stability and development with the goal of moving towards an Asean Community by 2015.

Asean started with five member states and it now stands at 10. Its members are more confident in their endeavours and unified in the common goal to improve the standards and quality of life for its people. Against this backdrop, we have evolved into a credible, integrated and respected regional association. There is no doubt that there are many challenges which Asean has to face in its way forward. For Asean to make greater strides, it is important that all the three blueprints — namely the Asean Political-Security Community, Asean Economic Community and Asean Socio-Cultural Community — are implemented.

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Asean Plus Three Summit, signed in 2005, reaffirmed the commitment to realise an East Asia community with Asean as the driving force that will contribute to the maintenance of regional and global peace and security, prosperity and progress.

We must ensure there is greater participation by civil society. Malaysia should work closely with other member states to promote continuous development of the nucleus of the Asean community, which enables an individual member state to flourish while remaining free to pursue its national or bilateral interests with other members or other states.

I firmly believe that the commitment of member states to Asean remains strong. Asean Day, like today, is meant to bring Asean directly to the people, especially the younger generation. Therefore, involving the people of Asean more directly in the process of community-building should be part and parcel of the process to guarantee the future survival and growth of Asean in all the three prongs.

Malaysia played a significant role in initiating the idea of having a constitutional document of Asean known as the Asean Charter, in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Dec 25, 2005. Malaysia ratified the charter on Feb 14, 2008 and deposited its instrument of ratification with the Asean Secretariat on Feb 20. It will be a milestone for Asean when the charter comes into force, we hope this year, as it represents our common vision and commitment to the



development of an Asean region of lasting peace, stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress.

Finally, it is imperative that we continue to work together to ensure our unity in this brave new world of the 21st century. Let us join hands and work together towards the bright prospect of Asean for the betterment of our country and people in line with the this year's theme, "One Asean Identity, One Asean Community by 2015".

Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim

Malaysia's contribution to Asean, past and present

MALAYSIA has made many contributions to Asean, which continues to be the cornerstone of the country's foreign policy.

As one of its five founding members, it has initiated ideas and approaches such as the Initiative for Asean Integration (IAI).

Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim says under the initiative, a focal point for Malaysia since 1981, technical assistance and training courses are provided to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

It has also done a lot on the IAI work plan, including supporting smart school projects in the four states.

"This initiative will provide them with information technology facilities and a human resources development programme package. Malaysia's commitment to the IAI for 2006-2008 is US\$2.62 million (RM8.65 million)."

On the "Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality," Rais says Malaysia had been a strong advocate, which culminated with its signing in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Nov 27, 1971.

The idea to form Asean was initiated by the foreign ministers of Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

They sat down together in the main hall of the Department of Foreign Affairs building in Bangkok, and signed a declaration on the formation of Asean.

"It was our Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman (then foreign minister) who stressed the need to establish a regional organisation upon which economic, political and cultural cooperation can be built.

"By virtue of that, Asean was born," says Rais.

Malaysia also upholds the "prosper thy neighbour" policy where Asean member states seek to narrow the development gap, reduce socio-economic disparities and eradicate poverty within its community.

Rais says the policy is in line with Asean's Vision 2015 which envisages the region as a community of caring societies in which the development gap among member economies be reduced and closer economic integration forged.

Humanitarian aid is extended to member states, such as Myanmar when it was hit by Cyclone Nargis.

The disaster, says Rais, shows an urgent need for Asean as well as the international community to coordinate efforts to deal with emergency situations in countries like Myanmar.

The minister says Malaysia played a significant role in drawing up the constitutional document embodying the fundamental principles, goals, objectives and structures of Asean — known as the Asean Charter in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration in December 2005.

Malaysia also hosted the first East Asia Summit in December 2005 that gathered leaders from 16 Asia-Pacific countries. It enforces Asean's reputation as an outward-looking regional organisation.

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Asean Plus Three summit signed in 2005 reaffirmed the commitment of the Plus Three countries to realise an East Asia community that could maintain regional and global peace and security, prosperity and progress.

Message from the Secretary-General of Asean

I APPLAUD the initiative taken by the Asean National Secretariat of Malaysia for planning this Asean Day supplement to celebrate the 41st anniversary of Asean. I hope that through this initiative, our people will gain a better appreciation of Asean and how our activities can benefit them.

We are now at a defining moment in the history of Asean. Asean started as a loosely organised regional body in 1967. Forty years on in 2007, Asean member states signed the Asean Charter at the 13th summit in Singapore.

The Asean Charter is a milestone as it will transform Asean from a loosely organised regional body towards a more rules-based inter-governmental organisation. The charter will put in place a new legal and institutional framework for Asean to improve its implementation, coordination, and

decision-making process. The charter will also provide Asean with a legal personality.

For the charter to take effect, all 10 Asean member states must ratify it. So far, seven member states - Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar - have ratified the charter. I am optimistic that by year-end, in Bangkok, at the same table that the founding fathers of Asean had signed the Asean Declaration of 1967, Asean leaders will be able to celebrate the adaptation of the charter and usher in a new era of community-building in Southeast Asia, one in which our people will be put at the centre of community-building in the new Asean.

In community-building, we are headway in the three pillars of the Asean Community. On the economic front, we are implementing the Asean Economic Community blueprint to create a single market and production base. We are now working on a scorecard system to ensure timely implementation of the economic commitments under the blueprint. At the same time, we are finalising the two blueprints for the Asean Political Security Community and the Asean Socio-Cultural Community.

In the midst of community-building, however, Asean faces other challenges. Our economies, like many elsewhere, are hurt by spiralling oil and food prices. While the region has more than enough rice to feed its people and to share with the world, our challenge is to further strengthen the scope of regional cooperation in food security to

prevent any adverse impact on the Asean economies, and most importantly, to secure steady food supply for our people.

On May 3, Cyclone Nargis struck the Irrawaddy Delta in Myanmar. After the tsunami in 2004, this is the most serious disaster to have affected one of our member states. In a demonstration of quick responsiveness and solidarity, Asean foreign ministers held a special meeting in Singapore and established an Asean-led mechanism to provide humanitarian assistance and organise international efforts to help the cyclone victims.

From my first day in office, I have articulated about a "networked" Asean, with the Asean Secretariat as its nerve centre. Asean can now move forward with confidence and clear vision. But Asean would need all the help it can get from all parties concerned; from its member states, from its people, and from its external friends and partners. The good news is that we are fortunate to have dialogue partners, friendly countries, and international organisations who want us to succeed.

If Asean succeeds, it will be good for the region and the world. At least the world will have one less region to worry about. And that is a very significant achievement and contribution, indeed.

I wish everyone a happy Asean Day!

Dr Surin Pitsuwan

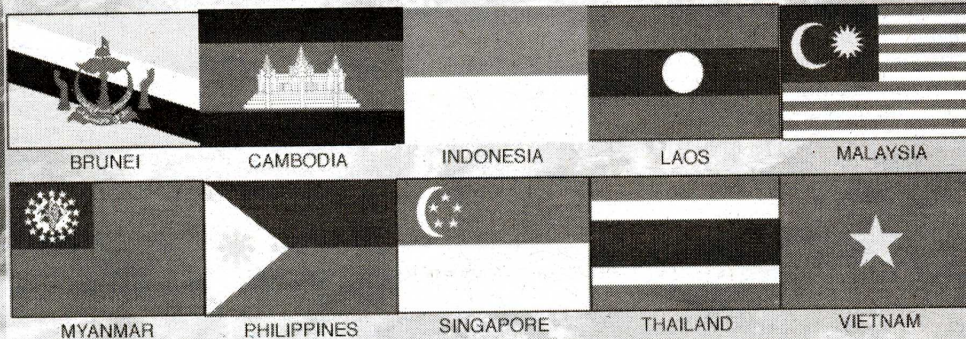


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Brave new world with charter

■ By NIK IMRAN ABDULLAH

ASEAN is on the last leg of moving away from its old framework for a new phase of life under the Asean Charter.

For ambassador-at-large Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak, the charter would be the "mother of all documents" to govern the

regional grouping.

"With the charter, Asean will have a clear-cut source of reference to conduct its affairs.

"Among others, the charter provides a legal framework to enhance integration and how we are to conduct ourselves vis-à-vis Asean countries.

"What we are going through (with the charter) is an evolution of the development of Asean as a matured organisation," says the former Foreign Affairs Ministry secretary-general.

"However, we must also remember to allow Asean to develop at a pace which is comfortable to all countries."

Ahmad Fuzi is a member of a high-level panel responsible for drafting the charter before it was tabled at last year's Asean

Summit in Singapore.

"It took us a year to draft the charter and it is an outcome of compromise between the 10 countries.

"Keeping in mind that we want Asean to remain a people-oriented organisation, we made the charter itself to be relatively easy to understand."

Another notable aspect of the charter includes an Asean identity.

Asean's principle of non-interference is also not affected with the introduction of the charter.

The charter, an international treaty intended to create a constitution for Asean, was signed by the 10 leaders last November but is still subject to ratification by the member states before it comes into force.

Apart from Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, the other seven Asean nations have ratified the charter.

"Of the three, I believe Thailand will be able to ratify it soon.

But we are hoping the

Philippines and Indonesia will also follow suit.

"Although the Charter has been signed by all 10 leaders, it will not come into force until all the member states have ratified it," says Ahmad Fuzi.

The delay in ratifying the charter could be attributed to internal processes in the three countries.

"We are quite optimistic that the three will eventually ratify the charter, after all the provisions are good for Asean," says Ahmad Fuzi.

Taken as a whole, the charter contains various proposals and provisions for the benefit of the

grouping and its people.

"It will allow for an improvement in the organisational structure, improve the decision-making process in Asean and provide more clarity in the decision-making process."

Ahmad Fuzi says that there are now two bodies operating to spell out the workings of the charter when it comes into force.

"One is the high-level panel which is presently drafting the terms of reference for the Asean Human Rights Body and the other is a high level legal experts' group to trash out legal issues related to the charter."



Ahmad Fuzi says Asean has to be developed at a pace in tune with every member country's development.



Charter — a visionary document to inspire future generations

AFTER 40 years as a close-knit albeit legally informal organisation, Asean has entered a new phase with the introduction and signing of the Asean Charter in November 2007.

Departing from the ambiguous 1967 Bangkok Declaration, which previously held the organisation together, the charter changes the nature of Asean by giving it a legal personality.

One of the advantages is the ability to represent itself as a legal body in certain circumstances under international law. Most significantly, it is able to sign treaties as a single body when all its member states agree.

The Asean Charter is an international treaty intended to create a constitution for Asean. It was signed in November 2007 by leaders of the 10 member states of Asean but is subject to ratification by all member states. Seven have done so half a year after the charter was signed.

The charter itself does not affect nor erode national sovereignty, as it does not take precedence over national laws. No country needs to amend its national legislature to be bound to it.

The charter reiterates the

common principles which bound all 10 Asean members. They include the rule of law, good governance, the principles of democracy and constitutional government; shared commitment and collective responsibility in enhancing regional peace, security and prosperity; and enhanced consultations on matters affecting the common interest of Asean.

Compared with some existing national constitutions, the Asean Charter is relatively short and straightforward. It does not use overly vigorous legal language and is relatively easy for all to understand - especially the public. This is important if it is to realise an Asean Community by 2015.

In this respect, the charter as a visionary document is also meant to inspire the people of Asean and future generations, and engage them more closely in the future of the region. With this in mind, the charter remains a live document with no finality.

The Asean Charter is at the core of Asean's strategy to adapt itself to a changing regional landscape and future challenges. Asean leaders recognise that this is an opportunity to set a clear and ambitious long-term vision, of an Asean that is relevant and

competitive, effective and credible.

With the charter, Asean intends to build a solid institutional framework that will facilitate a more focused and coordinated agenda. This will be supported by a rigorous legal framework that will reinforce Asean's cooperation and commitments in all areas.

As a clear sign of enhanced commitment, Asean leaders will double their meetings to at least twice a year - instead of past practice of only meeting once a year during the Asean annual summit.

Ministers will also meet more often in their respective communities. Asean foreign ministers will play a greater role, wearing at least five different hats: their traditional role as participants in the annual Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting; in the Asean Regional Forum; as members of the existing Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone Commission (SEANWFZ); as members of the new Asean Political Security Community Council; and as members of the new Asean Coordinating Council.

Under the charter, the secretary-general of Asean will be given an expanded role in ensuring compliance and

prompt implementation of Asean commitments and agreements. He will also engage with entities associated with Asean; play a key role in advancing the interests of Asean's legal personality; and be instrumental in representing Asean's views in meetings with external parties.

Two more deputies will be recruited to assist the secretary-general, in addition to the existing two deputies who are nominated by member states on a rotation basis.

Additionally, the 10 member states will appoint their respective permanent representative to Asean to form a committee of permanent representatives in Jakarta.

The committee will work closely with the secretary-general and the Asean secretariat in coordinating the building, strengthening and structuring of the Asean community. The committee will also interact with dialogue partners' ambassadors to Asean.

The United States has already appointed its ambassador to Asean and the other dialogue partners will follow suit.

Asean member states have certainly been committed to the

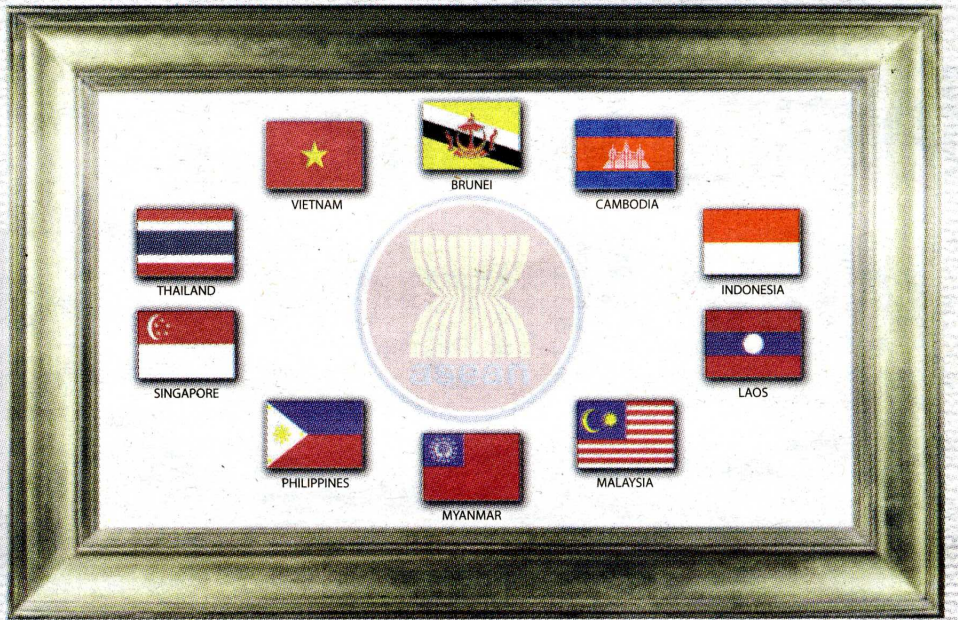
development of the charter. Its process can be traced back to as recently as November 2004, when the development of an Asean Charter was included in the Vientiane Action Programme (2004-2010).

A year later, Asean leaders at the 11th Asean Summit appointed a 10-member eminent persons' group (EPG) of senior statesmen to come up with recommendations to be included in the Asean Charter under the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the Asean Charter.

Having worked tirelessly, the EPG by January 2007 had submitted its reports to the 12th Asean Summit in Cebu and a 10-member high level task force was mandated to come up with the draft charter. Within the year, the charter was signed by all 10 Asean leaders.

The significance of the Asean Charter that unites the 10 member states cannot be overstated. Having taken 40 years to reach this stage, the charter spells out a deeper integration of the states and a clear institutional model as a legal inter-governmental organisation. It promises great things to come.

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From :



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Announcement of GCEL initiative in Asia is coming soon.



Helping victims of Cyclone Nargis



Asean Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and United Nations Under Secretary-General and UN-ESCAP executive Noeleen Heyzer visiting cyclone Nargis victims.

ON May 3, Cyclone Nargis made landfall in Myanmar, causing extensive damage in Yangon and the Irrawaddy Delta. Official figures showed that more than 84,000 people were killed, with another 53,000 missing. Cyclone Nargis was the most devastating natural disaster in the history of Myanmar.

From the onset, Asean played a leading role in providing assistance and coordinating international response in partnership with the United Nations and other partner organisations and countries. The first batch of the Asean Emergency Rapid Assessment Team or Asean ERAT was dispatched from May 9-18 to assess critical needs in the aftermath of the cyclone.

A special meeting of Asean foreign ministers, held on May 19 in Singapore, established an Asean-led coordination mechanism to facilitate distribution and utilisation of assistance from the international community.

An Asean humanitarian task force for the victims of Cyclone Nargis, led by the secretary-general of Asean Dr Surin Pitsuwan, was established. The task force comprised senior officials and experts from member states.

Supporting the task force was a coordinating office set up in Yangon. The Asean Secretariat also established the Asean Cooperation Fund for Disaster Assistance for the cyclone victims.

Following the Asean-UN International Pledging Conference on May 25, the task force established a Yangon-based Tripartite Core Group or the TCG, consisting of senior officials from the government of Myanmar, Asean and the UN. Under the chairmanship of Myanmar's Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu, the TCG coordinates, facilitates and monitors the flow of international aid into the cyclone-hit region. With the TCG in place, the international community was able to accelerate and step up the delivery of much-needed relief supplies to the cyclone-affected areas.

In June, the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (Ponja) teams were deployed to the affected areas in the Irrawaddy Delta and Yangon to conduct a joint, comprehensive and objective assessment of the impact on people affected by the cyclone. The assessment was commissioned as part of the tripartite cooperation among the government of Myanmar, Asean and the UN.

About 250 personnel from the government of Myanmar, Asean member states, the UN, local and international non-governmental organisations, and supported by technical experts from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, were deployed, covering more than 290 affected villages.

Based on Ponja's findings, the UN launched a revised appeal on July 10 in New York to meet the continuing relief and early recovery efforts to assist the victims of Cyclone Nargis. The efforts are designed to meet the urgent priorities in the coming months until April 2009, for which some US\$303 million (RM1 billion) is being requested.

The full Ponja report was released at the 41st Asean Ministerial Meeting on July 21 in Singapore. The report sets out the findings of the Ponja teams both on the humanitarian situation in the cyclone-affected areas, and on the damage and losses sustained. The report provides a broad and objective framework of the scale, scope and priority areas where assistance is needed to help the people in the delta recover from this traumatic event.

Dr Surin Pitsuwan said: "By linking hands with the UN, international NGOs and the rest of the world, Asean has shown how international humanitarian cooperation can work to help bring relief and assistance to the victims of Cyclone Nargis. At the same time, Asean is putting into action its pledge to build a caring and sharing community."

For information, visit www.aseansec.org/CN.htm

Source: The Asean Secretariat



Asean Emblem

THE Asean emblem represents a stable, peaceful, united and dynamic Asean. The colours - blue, red, white and yellow - represent the main colours of the crests of all the member states.

Blue represents peace and stability. Red depicts courage and dynamism. White shows purity and yellow symbolises prosperity.

The 10 stalks of padi represent the dream of Asean's founding fathers for an Asean comprising all the countries in Southeast Asia bound together in friendship and solidarity. The circle represents unity.

How Much Do You Know About Asean?

1. How many members does Asean have, and which countries are they?

Asean has ten members: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

2. Which of them founded the association and when?

Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand were the founding members of Asean. They signed the Asean Declaration in Bangkok on Aug 8, 1967.

3. Why was Asean founded?

The Asean Declaration committed the signatory states to cooperate for the purpose of economic growth, social progress, cultural development, and regional peace and stability.

4. When did the other countries join the association?

Brunei Darussalam joined Asean on 8 January 1984, Vietnam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999.

5. In general terms, what have been the most important accomplishments of Asean?

Asean cooperation has contributed to the peace and stability of the region. It has laid the foundations for regional economic integration. Asean has also fostered regional cooperation on the environment, transnational crime, communicable diseases, and other fields.

6. Does Asean have a secretariat? Where is it located?

Asean established a secretariat in February 1976. It is located in a building donated by the Indonesian government in Jakarta.

7. Who is the current secretary-general of Asean?

The current secretary-general of Asean is Dr Surin Pitsuwan, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. His term of office is from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2012.

8. What is the Asean Community?

In 2003, Asean leaders resolved that an Asean Community shall be established comprising three pillars, namely political and security cooperation, economic cooperation, and socio-cultural cooperation. These pillars are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing for the purpose of ensuring durable peace, stability and shared

prosperity in the region.

9. What is the aim of each pillar in the Asean Community?

The Asean Political Security Community aims to ensure that countries in the region live at peace with one another and with the world in a just, democratic and harmonious environment.

The Asean Economic Community aims to transform Asean into a stable, prosperous, and highly competitive region with equitable economic development, and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities.

The Asean Socio-Cultural Community envisages a Southeast Asia bonded together in partnership as a community of caring societies and founded on a common regional identity.

10. When will the Asean Community be established?

The Asean leaders target to establish the Asean Community by 2015.

11. Why does Asean need a Charter?

Asean needs a Charter to move from a loosely-organised regional body towards a more rules-based inter-governmental organisation in order to better meet the challenges posed by community-building, regional integration, expansion of its external linkages and rapid globalisation, and in so doing, remain an effective player on the international stage. In this context, the Asean Charter will put in place a new legal and institutional framework for Asean to improve its implementation, coordination, and decision-making process. The Charter will also provide Asean with a legal personality.

12. When was the Asean Charter signed?

The Asean Charter was signed by the Asean heads of state and government of the 10 member states on 20 November 2007, at the 13th Asean Summit in Singapore.

13. When will the Asean Charter enter into force?

All the 10 Asean member states must ratify the Charter before it can enter into force. The Charter enters into force 30 days after the deposit of the 10th instrument of ratification with the secretary-general.

14. How does one learn more about Asean?

To learn more about Asean, visit the official website at www.asean.org or enquire with the Asean National Secretariat in your country.

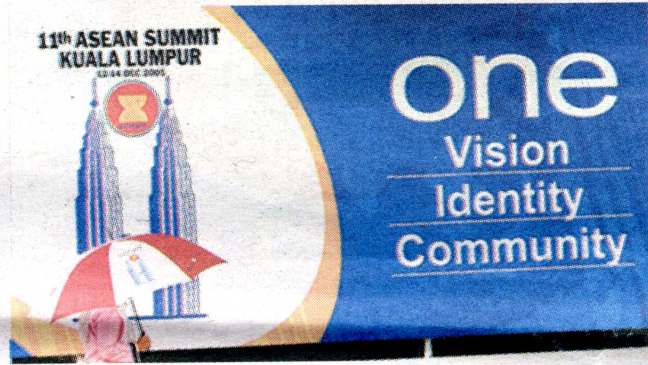


US President George W. Bush (centre) meeting Asean leaders on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Busan, South Korea on Nov 18, 2005.



Foreign ministers at the 41st Asean ministerial meeting on July 21 in Singapore.

ASEAN in action



A billboard at Jalan Pinang, Kuala Lumpur on the 11th Asean Summit, which took place on Dec 12-14, 2005.

Asean leaders after signing the declaration on the establishment of the Asean Charter at the 11th Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur on Dec 12, 2005.



Malaysian athletes at the closing ceremony of the 4th Para Asean Games held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand from Dec 6-15 last year.



A dancer emerging from the replica of a lotus during a cultural dance at the 22nd SEA Games in Ho Chi Minh City in 2003.

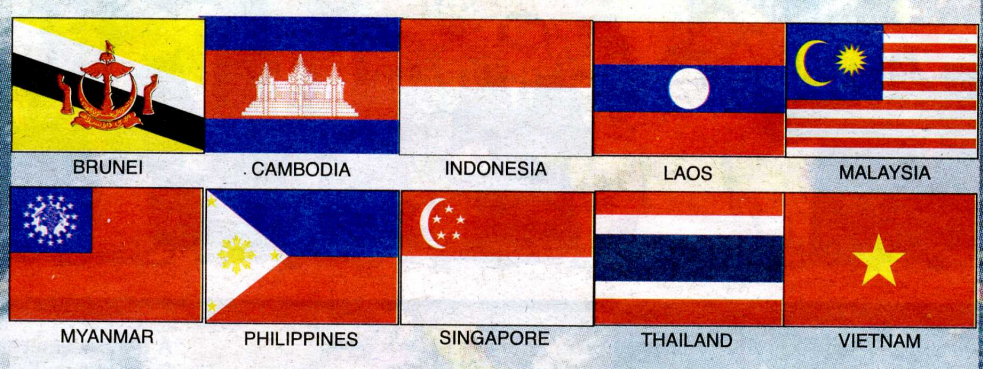


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