

## OVERVIEW OF ASEAN-SCO RELATIONS

1. The formal contact between ASEAN and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was initiated in October 2002 when the Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation to SCO visited the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. In July 2004, the then Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Ong Keng Yong met the then SCO Secretary-General, H.E. Zhang Deguang, at the SCO Secretariat in Beijing to exchange views on development and best practices in their respective region and to explore possible areas of cooperation that the two Secretariats could forge to promote closer linkages between two regional organisations.
3. In April 2005, Secretariats of ASEAN and SCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to undertake cooperation in the following areas:

**Priority areas:** Transnational Crime, including:

- (a) Counter-terrorism;
- (b) Drugs and narcotic control;
- (c) Arms smuggling
- (d) Money laundering; and
- (e) Trafficking in persons.

**Other areas:**

- (a) Economic and Financial cooperation;
- (b) Tourism;
- (c) Environment and natural resources management;
- (d) Social development; and
- (e) Energy cooperation, especially hydroelectric power and bio-fuels

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