

PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE ASEAN-U.S. ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP

To realize the goals and objectives set forth in the Joint Vision Statement on the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership issued by ASEAN and the U.S. Leaders on 17 November 2005 at each of the capitals of ASEAN Member Countries and of the United States of America, this Plan of Action is formulated to serve as the master plan to enhance ASEAN-U.S. relations and cooperation in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial manner for the next 5 years (2006-2011). In order to continue to advance this partnership, negotiations for a new 5 year plan for the period 2011 and 2016 are scheduled to begin in 2010.

To support ASEAN integration to attain the end-goal of the establishment of the ASEAN Community, consisting of three pillars, namely political and security, economic and socio-cultural, through, *inter alia*, the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and the subsequent plans to achieve the ASEAN Vision 2020 as elaborated in the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II.

In the light of the above, ASEAN and the U.S. endeavour to pursue the following joint actions and measures, in accordance with their respective laws and regulations:

I. Political and Security

1. Deepening Political Cooperation

- 1.1 Explore the possibility of convening an ASEAN-U.S. Summit in the future;
- 1.2 Convene a meeting of U.S. and ASEAN Leaders on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting in Ha Noi in 2006;
- 1.3 Organize special activities to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations in 2007;
- 1.4 Continue to hold annual meetings and consultations within the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations framework, i.e., ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC+1) Session with the U.S. and the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue to discuss international and regional issues of mutual interest;
- 1.5 Enhance cooperation at the United Nations on issues of mutual interest and common concern, including, *inter alia*, UN reform, matters affecting international peace and security, terrorism, and development cooperation;

- 1.6 Cooperate to strengthen the multilateral system as well as expand and deepen interaction and coordination within multilateral frameworks, including the United Nations and other bodies within the UN system, WTO, APEC, and, when deemed appropriate, carry out consultations between ASEAN and the U.S. at the margins of those fora; and
 - 1.7 Cooperate to realize programmes for mutual support and assistance among ASEAN Member Countries to strengthen the rule of law and judiciary systems and legal infrastructure, good governance in public and private sectors and effective and efficient civil services;
- 2. Deepening Security Cooperation**
- 2.1 Strengthen confidence-building measures through, *inter alia*, facilitating dialogue, exchange and cooperation among defense officials where appropriate;
 - 2.2 Promote greater transparency and understanding of defence policies and security outlook; and
 - 2.3 Enhance regional political and security dialogue and cooperation through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), with ASEAN as the primary driving force, enhance the role of the ARF in promoting peace and stability in the region, and work jointly to strengthen the ARF process;
- 3. Enhancing Communications**
- 3.1 Increase exchanges of high-level visits of representatives of government agencies of ASEAN Member Countries and of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the U.S.;
 - 3.2 Improve channels of communication between government agencies of ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.; and
 - 3.3 Increase meetings and contacts between the ASEAN Washington Committee and U.S. government officials;
- 4. Supporting a Peaceful and Stable Region**
- 4.1 Promote deeper understanding of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as a Code of Conduct governing inter-state relations in the region to promote peace and stability;
 - 4.2 Forge closer cooperation in line with the mutual recognition of the importance of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects in Southeast Asia; and
 - 4.3 Forge closer cooperation on the issue of non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) within the

framework of national legislation and international laws, agreements and protocols, including cooperation among law enforcement agencies and strengthen commitment towards combating illicit production, usage and trafficking of WMDs, their means of delivery and related programmes;

5. Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Issues

- 5.1 Promote implementation of the World Customs Organization Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade and other international efforts to promote port and container security;
- 5.2 Enhance technical assistance and capacity-building in support of efforts to address traditional and non-traditional security issues;
- 5.3 Enhance maritime cooperation on safety of navigation, environmental protection and maritime security through, *inter alia*, the promotion of capacity-building, information sharing, and technology cooperation projects, such as through training personnel in search and rescue and other areas, where applicable;
- 5.4 Forge closer cooperation in fighting against sea piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking, and smuggling;
- 5.5 Hold ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)–U.S. Consultations on a case-by-case basis;
- 5.6 Deepen and broaden cooperation in combating terrorism, including cooperation among law enforcement agencies, based on the ASEAN-U.S. Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism and the ASEAN-U.S. Work Plan on Combating Terrorism;
- 5.7 Enhance institutional linkages and cross-sectoral coordination between all relevant ASEAN bodies and U.S. agencies, and strengthen the networking of national agencies concerned with the fight against terrorism and other transnational crimes;
- 5.8 Strengthen cooperation among law enforcement agencies, in relation to extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the domestic law of the respective ASEAN countries and the U.S. and relevant treaties;
- 5.9 Undertake necessary measures to enhance cooperation in combating terrorism on the basis of relevant conventions, protocols and UNSC resolutions, and support becoming party to and implementing the relevant counterterrorism UN conventions and protocols;

- 5.10 Ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism are adopted in accordance with international laws, in particular, where applicable, international human rights, displaced persons, and humanitarian laws;
- 5.11 Strengthen cooperation in the field of border management to jointly address matters of common concern, including forgeries of identification and travel documents, by enhancing the use of relevant technologies to effectively stem the flow of terrorists and criminals, to monitor and curb their means of operations as well as enhancing cooperation to prevent the organization, instigation and support for groups that carry out acts that are detrimental to ASEAN and U.S. security and stability;
- 5.12 Strengthen cooperation in legal migration, combat trafficking in persons and actively support the comprehensive implementation of the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children including cooperation among law enforcement agencies;
- 5.13 Implement measures consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relevant to preventing and suppressing money laundering and illegal money transfer, in particular the revenues obtained by criminal organizations and terrorist groups, to ensure that access to financial support is denied and the resources and assets of terrorists are confiscated;
- 5.14 Develop regional capacities in detection, monitoring and reporting practices of illegal money transfer and promote the international standards to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, including measures initiated by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) implemented regionally through the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG);
- 5.15 Take measures to protect non-profit organizations and well-meaning donors from having their funds abused by terrorist financiers, including, *inter alia*, the regulation of alternative remittance systems consistent with the Financial Action Task Force recommendations and guidance;
- 5.16 Enhance cooperation in information sharing on terrorist and transnational criminal organizations, including on their leaders and members, operational methods and supporting infrastructures, linkages, as well as criminal activities;

- 5.17 Enhance regional capacities in combating terrorism and transnational crime through training programmes, workshops and seminars, seeking to improve capacity among the participants, and when possible fully utilizing existing regional and international institutions, such as the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC), and the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) in Hawaii;
- 5.18 Cooperate to support development initiatives aimed at enhancing quality of life, rule of law, good governance and community awareness in order to reduce the conditions that terrorists seek to exploit;
- 5.19 Further strengthen cooperation and render mutual assistance in preventing and suppressing trafficking in illicit drugs, including cooperation among law enforcement agencies, as called for under UN counter-narcotics conventions, including controlling of precursor substances, enhancing demand reduction efforts through training and sharing of information and best practices on epidemiology, treatment and rehabilitation, as well as through the promotion of sustainable alternative development, including for illicit cultivation of poppy, marijuana and cannabis as a means to prevent and eliminate illicit drugs;
- 5.20 Assist ASEAN in attaining the Drug Free ASEAN 2015 goals;
- 5.21 Strengthen cooperation, render mutual assistance, and enhance capacity-building for preventing and suppressing illegal proliferation, smuggling, and trade of small arms and light weapons (SALW);
- 5.22 Strengthen cooperation and render mutual assistance in combating and suppressing cyber crimes and international economic crime, including cooperation among law enforcement agencies, taking account of the need to develop in each country laws to address cyber crimes; and
- 5.23 In the framework of applicable national and international law, intensify cooperation to combat corruption, including denying a safe haven to those guilty of public corruption and those who corrupt them, and cooperate in the recovery and return of the proceeds of corruption, as well as cooperate in the extradition and prosecution of those engaged in bribery, including in international business

transactions, according to the means of each concerned country;

II. Economic Cooperation

1. Trade and Investment

- 1.1 Continue to implement the Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative (EAI) and endeavour to conclude the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) to serve as a mechanism to enhance trade and investment flows between ASEAN and the U.S., taking into account the different levels of economic development among ASEAN countries, as well as hold ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) – United States Trade Representative (USTR) Consultations on a regular basis in accordance with the ASEAN-U.S. TIFA;
- 1.2 Strengthen cooperation in the multilateral trading system, especially the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and support the early accession of Lao PDR and Viet Nam to the WTO;
- 1.3 Jointly pursue the successful conclusion of the negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) while ensuring that the development dimension of the DDA is embodied in a comprehensive package that would deliver real and effective development benefits to all developing countries;
- 1.4 Consider to support the admission of ASEAN Countries that are not members of APEC to join APEC when the membership moratorium is lifted;
- 1.5 Endeavour to provide support for the realization of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and other sub-regional endeavours such as Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Greater Mekong Sub Region (GMS), West-East corridor, and the Cambodia-Lao PDR- Viet Nam (CLV) Development Triangle to narrow the development gaps in ASEAN in order to expedite regional integration;
- 1.6 Undertake immediate and appropriate measures aimed at promoting understanding of each other's legislation and regulations on trade and investment, including anti-dumping, tariff and non-tariff measures, such as Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT);
- 1.7 Promote the transparency of policies to facilitate and expand trade and investment flows, such as those

governing business environment enhancement, business visa and travel facilitation between ASEAN and the U.S. and vice versa, and trade financing;

- 1.8 Encourage U.S. and ASEAN companies to explore joint and cooperative business and trade opportunities, enhance interaction and networking, promote exchange of visits of business associations and private sectors involved in trade and investment, and promote the activities and role of bilateral business promotion organizations;
- 1.9 Facilitate mutual investment promotion missions by respective business communities;
- 1.10 Promote the cooperation and information exchange between investment promotion agencies with the aim of capacity-building and facilitating investment activities, where appropriate; and
- 1.11 Encourage ASEAN initiatives on the exchange of statistical information and promotion of capacity-building activities for national statistical bodies;

2. Financial Cooperation

- 2.1 Explore cooperation to reform, improve and strengthen international financial institutions and architecture, taking into account the development needs and special requirements of developing market economies to avert problems similar to the Asian financial crisis;
- 2.2 Forge closer cooperation in sharing of macroeconomic and financial information where disclosure of information is permitted by domestic laws and regulations of respective countries; and
- 2.3 Strengthen cooperation in capacity-building and human resources development, through activities such as the promotion of joint projects in technical training, workshops, seminars and conferences to further strengthen the competitiveness of ASEAN and U.S. financial institutions;

3. Industry

- 3.1 Promote cooperation and collaboration in industrial sectors, through, *inter alia*, sharing of information, exchange of experiences and best practices between the state authorities/private sector, where applicable, responsible for industrial promotion in the U.S. and ASEAN Member Countries;

4. Standards and Conformance

- 4.1 Enhance cooperation and mutual support aimed at facilitating ASEAN integration and improving national and regional capacity for standards, conformity assessment procedures and technical regulations as they relate to industrial and agricultural products, or other sectors of mutual interest including conducting workshops and training programmes, and forging close coordination and linkages between relevant parties, including the private sector;
- 4.2 Cooperate to support ASEAN's efforts to adopt and use international standards as the basis for technical regulations, as appropriate and consistent with WTO principles;
- 4.3 Cooperate to support ASEAN efforts in capacity building related to standards and conformity assessment, and adopting and using practices based on rules and principles of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade;
- 4.4 Exchange information with ASEAN on the importance of the principles of openness and transparency regarding development of standards, conformity assessment procedures and technical regulations, including ways in which domestic implementation of WTO TBT agreements occurs; and
- 4.5 Undertake appropriate measures to ensure greater participation and contribution of ASEAN Member Countries in the international standards setting bodies related to standards and conformance;

5. Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)

- 5.1 Undertake appropriate measures to strengthen IPR regimes in order to encourage the development of Intellectual Property (IP) industries, the commercialization of IP, and technology transfer per Article 66.2 of the WTO TRIPS Agreement and promote greater public awareness of IP and IPR issues;
- 5.2 Strive to harmonize IP laws and systems to enhance trade and investment in ASEAN;
- 5.3 Promote cooperative activities to assist ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S. to achieve levels of IP protection and enforcement consistent with mutually agreed international standards, international agreements to which ASEAN and the U.S. are parties, taking into account, where appropriate, evolving best practices in IPR enforcement, and
- 5.4 Encourage activities and capacity-building efforts and training programs to increase the level of knowledge

among a broader section of government officials and IP professionals so that they may contribute to business growth and development;

6. Transport

- 6.1 Hold senior official-level consultations on transport with a view to strengthening ASEAN integration in the transport sector, including further liberalization of civil aviation, in line with the ASEAN Roadmap for Integration of Air Travel Sector (RIATS);
- 6.2 Forge closer cooperation to enhance transport infrastructure, networks and operations, including air, maritime, road, rail, and multi-modal transport, for fast, efficient, safe, and secure movement of people and goods, as well as for clean urban transport, in and among ASEAN Member Countries and between ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.;
- 6.3 Exchange of information, experiences, and best practices in transport operation, infrastructure development, and safety measures, including the application of satellite navigation technologies in transportation systems to improve efficiency and reduce costs;
- 6.4 Enhance cooperation in the development of new transportation systems, such as “Intelligent Transportation System-ITS,” promotion of public transport, road networks and structures, environment-friendly maintenance, technological development and regulations, road safety management and disaster prevention;
- 6.5 Assist and promote the use of clean fuels and new vehicle technologies, with a particular focus on lowering the sulfur content in fuels and completing the phase out of leaded gasoline in ASEAN Member countries;
- 6.6 Enhance cooperation in capacity-building and human resources development, e.g., through seminars, workshops, study visits/exchanges, etc., in the areas of transport policy, planning and regulation and in transferring and sharing of technology as mutually agreed; and
- 6.7 Enhance cooperation in observing international rules on safety in air, land, and maritime transport according to international laws;

7. Energy

- 7.1 Hold senior official level consultations on energy cooperation and on efforts to increase diversification of energy supply and to develop sustainable alternative

- sources of energy, with a view to further develop ASEAN's energy sector;
- 7.2 Encourage the exchange of information on technology, regulations, successful renewable energy development cases, energy pricing, and market stabilizing initiatives to better manage the risks of international oil market volatility, on a voluntary basis;
 - 7.3 Forge closer cooperation in research, development, production and use of alternative, renewable and other low-emitting sources of energy, such as solar, wind, sea tides and waves, hydro, geothermal, bio fuels, biomass, marsh gas and others;
 - 7.4 Enhance cooperation in energy security, including the stability of energy supply and prevention of energy shortages;
 - 7.5 Cooperate in capacity-building to promote energy conservation and energy efficiency, as well as the use of clean and environmentally friendly technology;
 - 7.6 Endeavour to create a more favourable investment climate to enable greater investment in energy infrastructures and facilities; and
 - 7.7 Explore means of supporting the national rural electrification programmes of concerned ASEAN Member Countries;

8. Agriculture

- 8.1 Enhance cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry in key areas of mutual interest, such as agriculture techniques and management, horticultural plants cultivation, biotechnology application, fertilizer, water management, post-harvest technology, food security, food safety, food defence, aquaculture, livestock breeding, organic farming, and sustainable management of forest resources with an aim to enhancing productivity of ASEAN's agriculture products and their accessibility to global markets;
- 8.2 Promote technology transfer, as mutually agreed, and research and development in the agricultural sector, especially in food standards, food safety and food defence, and promote capacity building and technical assistance involving SPS;
- 8.3 Promote networking between government authorities concerned, as well as between agriculture and food experts, laboratories, and agricultural and food-related academic institutions of ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.;

- 8.4 Undertake to cooperate in strengthening agricultural markets and agricultural infrastructure, such as upgrading irrigation systems, in ASEAN Member Countries;
- 8.5 Enhance capacity-building and human resources development in agriculture through training courses, seminars, workshops, job attachment and scholarship schemes; and
- 8.6 Provide opportunities for ASEAN farmers, including young farmers, and agribusinesses to learn and develop more efficient farming practices and management skills through information sharing with U.S. farmers;

9. Tourism

- 9.1 Work together, where possible, to promote the development of tourism, through enhancing linkages and cooperation between tourism industries, including tourism schools and institutions, and other related industries of ASEAN and the U.S., where applicable;
- 9.2 Promote linkages and cooperation between relevant tourism authorities where applicable, as well as encourage private sector involvement with a view to increasing tourism activities in ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.;
- 9.3 Identify and promote mutual assistance in capacity building and human resources development of ASEAN Member Countries in the tourism sector;
- 9.4 Promote and strengthen tourism information exchange and cooperation among national tourism organisations covering areas such as policies and laws; and
- 9.5 Encourage flows of tourism and attract foreign visitors by exploring the possibility to enhance cooperation in promoting eco-tourism, adventure tourism, cultural tourism and long-stay in ASEAN Member Countries;

10. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

- 10.1 Recognize the role of the business community as a driving force and explore the possibility to establish a common platform for cooperation in the area of SME development;
- 10.2 Establish a conducive business environment through information linkages to share and exchange knowledge in both public and private sectors on policies relating to SMEs, general management, finance, marketing, business development services and production technology, including but not limited to research and best practices;

- 10.3 Forge cooperation in capacity-building of SMEs and encourage youth entrepreneurship, through mutually agreed technology transfer, mentoring, market research, management skill training, study/factory visits, entrepreneur's exchange and internship schemes, workshops, seminars and conferences, and encourage opportunities for ASEAN SMEs and public sector to participate in U.S. training programmes;
- 10.4 Facilitate meetings and exchanges between potential ASEAN and U.S. SMEs with the aim of encouraging joint promotion and strengthening business ties through business matching sessions, exhibitions, trade fairs and investors clubs;
- 10.5 Promote business partnership and e-commerce cooperation, so as to enhance the collaboration, partnership, and internationalisation of the ASEAN and U.S. SMEs;
- 10.6 Jointly identify and overcome barriers in SME business partnerships; and
- 10.7 Endeavour to facilitate the expansion of trade and development of SMEs within ASEAN and the U.S. by means of advisory, referral, and business matching services;

11. Minerals

- 11.1 Forge closer cooperation in sustainable minerals and mining development and enhance institutional capacity in managing mineral resources;
- 11.2 Explore cooperation in the assessment of undiscovered mineral resources and promote exchange of experiences and best practices in mining and mineral processing; and
- 11.3 Provide assistance in strengthening the regulatory framework in the mineral sector, taking into account, *inter alia*, sustainable development and poverty reduction;

12. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

- 12.1 Enhance consultations in the area of ICT, and convene meetings between senior-level officials of ASEAN and the U.S. in charge of ICT policy, as appropriate;
- 12.2 Promote cooperation activities, particularly in the areas of bridging the digital divide, telemedicine, e-government, e-commerce, distance education, network and information security, digital content and media, digital trade and for mutual recognition of electronic signatures for cross-border transactions;

- 12.3 Enhance cooperation to enable improved ICT connectivity between ASEAN and the U.S., as well as cost-effective and widespread broadband access to ICT enabled services and applications, such as video conferencing facilities and infrastructure;
 - 12.4 Forge closer cooperation in capacity building and human resources development in the area of ICT, including WTO-related ICT issues, through, *inter alia*, exchange of information and best practices, training courses, e-learning, workshops, seminars, exchange of visits of ICT experts and officials; and
 - 12.5 Strengthen cooperation in cyber-security, security and emergency response, and in prevention of cyber crimes;
- 13. Competition Law and Policy**
- 13.1 Promote dialogue in the area of competition law and policy, taking into account the different levels of economic development among the ASEAN Member Countries; and
 - 13.2 Undertake capacity building with emphasis on methodological know-how, institutional structure;
- III. Social and Development Cooperation**
- 1. Disaster Management and Emergency Response**
- 1.1 Forge closer cooperation and coordination on disaster risk management at the global and regional levels;
 - 1.2 Develop and endeavour to establish regional and global standby arrangements for disaster relief and emergency response;
 - 1.3 Support a national and regional network of early warning systems for Tsunamis and other hazards, including through real-time information sharing and public awareness campaigns;
 - 1.4 Render assistance to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, especially on risk identification, assessment and monitoring, prevention and mitigation, disaster preparedness, emergency response, rehabilitation, and technical and research cooperation; and
 - 1.5 Increase ASEAN capacity in disaster risk management and emergency response including through exchange of know-how and technology transfer as mutually agreed, exchange of information on experiences and best practices among agencies involved, particularly through seminars, workshops, training schemes and exchange of visits;

2. Reconstruction and Rehabilitation

2.1 Develop cooperation in reconstruction and rehabilitation by undertaking human resources development and capacity building, assisting in institutional building and promoting popular participation, educational exchanges and curriculum reform, and promotion of a culture of peace;

3. Public Health

3.1 Strengthen cooperation in capacity building for government authorities and members of the private sector, institutions, laboratories, and experts in the area of public health;

3.2 Promote sharing and exchange of information, know-how, experiences, and best practices in the area of public health as well as support for information sharing infrastructure for early warning on outbreaks of infectious diseases of public health importance;

3.3 Promote networking among government authorities and members of the private sectors of ASEAN and the U.S., including between laboratories, research institutions and experts;

3.4 Promote research and development and human resources development in the areas related to public health, including joint research and development, seminars, workshops and training courses both in scientific and management aspects of public health, exchange of visits and scholarships for officials and experts;

3.5 Enhance cooperation and technical assistance at the global and regional levels to prevent, control and reduce the impact of communicable and pandemic diseases, including HIV/AIDS, SARS and influenza, particularly avian influenza;

3.6 Promote research and development of anti-viral drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics for influenza viruses with human pandemic potential, particularly avian influenza, and establish a network of anti-viral drug stockpiles;

3.7 Continue to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, including planning and implementing thereof; and

3.8 Increase accessibility to safe and effective medication;

4. Science and Technology

4.1 Hold consultations between authorities concerned in the area of science and technology with the goal of

establishing an ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology Agreement to broaden and expand relations between the scientific and technological communities in ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.;

- 4.2 Enhance cooperation in capacity-building for ASEAN's science and technology authorities, institutions and laboratories, through, *inter alia*, exchange of information and best practices, training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences, research attachment, and exchange of visits by scientists and government officials; and
- 4.3 Strengthen joint scientific research and development activities, especially in the areas of agricultural biotechnology, food science and technology, macroeconomics and information technology, energy technology, material science, seismology, geoscience, space technology and geoinformatics, and marine science;

5. Environment

- 5.1 Hold consultations on environmental matters on a regular basis;
- 5.2 Forge closer cooperation in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable use of natural resources;
- 5.3 Forge closer cooperation in the following areas:
 - a. transboundary environmental pollution reduction, particularly transboundary haze pollution,
 - b. biological diversity and natural heritage conservation,
 - c. application of advanced and environment-friendly technologies and best practices,
 - d. sustainable water resource management, including groundwater,
 - e. coastal and marine environment,
 - f. sustainable forest management, including combating activities associated with illegal encroachment and destruction of forest resources,
 - g. urban environmental management and governance, especially the ASEAN Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Cities,
 - h. responsible mining and minerals development,
 - i. public awareness and environmental education,
 - j. multilateral environmental agreements, in particular climate change and chemical and chemical waste related conventions and partnerships, and

- k. air quality management;
- 5.4 Enhance cooperation in capacity building for ASEAN in the area of environment through the following:
 - a. exchanges of knowledge and experiences between and among government authorities, institutions and experts,
 - b. provision of training courses and scholarships,
 - c. undertaking joint research and development and networking among research/academic institutions;
- 5.5 Establish a framework for long-term cooperation in maritime scientific research, between the U.S. and ASEAN Member Countries;
- 5.6 Strengthen cooperation with regional and international institutions on environment-related matters; and
- 5.7 Promote sustainable development as a means to reduce negative aspects of development on the environment;

6. Education and Human Resources Development

- 6.1 Increase ASEAN capacity in the field of education, including primary, secondary and higher education, as well as technical education and vocational training;
- 6.2 Encourage investments in education and training in concerned countries, especially to accelerate learning opportunities for out-of-school children and youth and to upgrade the quality of educational institutions, including those for teacher training;
- 6.3 Enhance cooperation in human resources development, especially teachers, lecturers and administrative personnel of ASEAN Member Countries, through fellowship programmes, training courses, seminars and exchange of visits;
- 6.4 Promote collaboration and networking including R&D among schools, colleges, universities, and government authorities involved in education in ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.;
- 6.5 Increase linkages between universities in ASEAN and universities in the U.S., including through the ASEAN University Network (AUN);
- 6.6 Encourage educational exchange programmes, especially under the AUN and the University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP);
- 6.7 Promote and facilitate credit transfer between universities in ASEAN and the U.S.;
- 6.8 Organize exchange programmes for representatives of ASEAN Member Countries to visit the U.S. to address Enhanced Partnership issues;

- 6.9 Launch a research scholarship programme for ASEAN Member Country scholars and professionals focused on bilateral and regional aspects of the ASEAN-U.S. relationship;
- 6.10 Facilitate visa application procedures for students and intellectuals of ASEAN Member Countries who travel to the U.S. for academic purposes;
- 6.11 Promote ASEAN studies in the U.S. and American studies in ASEAN Member Countries; and
- 6.12 Cooperate in the development of a Sea Grant network, based on the model of applied research, outreach, and education, which will strengthen marine research and resource management capabilities in the region, and promote partnerships among universities and government agencies that encourage increased education and technology transfer related to marine issues, as mutually agreed;

7. Culture and People-to-People Contact

- 7.1 Cooperate in the promotion of people-to-people contacts involving, *inter alia*, parliamentarians, government officials, academia, youth, media, cultural experts, sports persons and representatives of business, industries, and think tank institutions;
- 7.2 Promote education, access to justice, and the empowerment of moderates in various religions as well as promote interfaith and inter-cultural dialogue to enhance mutual understanding among different cultures and religions, as well as promote universal ideals of religious moderation and tolerance, and, when possible, consider utilizing existing institutions such as the Jogjakarta International Center for Cultural and Religious Cooperation;
- 7.3 Support efforts to engage civil society in developing a people-centered ASEAN Community;
- 7.4 Encourage consultations in the field of culture;
- 7.5 Promote greater awareness of each other's culture, including through regularly held cultural festivals, art exhibitions and other events;
- 7.6 Promote interaction, networking, and exchange of visits between government authorities involved in cultural affairs, as well as between cultural institutions, museums, archives and libraries, as well as artists, experts, practitioners in theatre, music, acrobatics, dance, folk art, and cinematography;

- 7.7 Render mutual assistance and cooperation for the protection, preservation, and restoration of cultural and historical heritage, both tangible and intangible, according to the laws and regulations of each country, enhance cooperation to combat pillage, illicit trafficking and smuggling of moveable cultural property between the ASEAN Member Countries and the U.S.;
- 7.8 Promote closer cooperation and collaboration between cultural, creative and design industries of ASEAN Member Countries and of the U.S., including joint venture and co-production;
- 7.9 Encourage the showing of ASEAN and U.S. films in appropriate venues and the holding of film festivals, as a means to promote cultural understanding;
- 7.10 Increase cooperation in the area of journalism, including press, radio, and television, through recommendations of policies, practices and exchange of personnel;
- 7.11 Promote cooperation in human resources development, especially media personnel of ASEAN Member Countries, through training courses and workshops; and
- 7.12 Encourage exchange of youth who are engaged in various sectors, and in particular consider convening an ASEAN-U.S. Young Leaders Forum;

8. Promoting Development of Vulnerable groups

- 8.1 Support efforts to provide special care to vulnerable groups, such as children, youth, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities;
- 8.2 Support efforts to ensure access of persons with disabilities to opportunities and protection against all forms of discrimination;
- 8.3 Support efforts to promote equitable participation of women in the development process by eliminating all forms of discrimination against them; and
- 8.4 Strengthen cooperation in addressing violence against women, in the areas of cross-country data collection systems, involving men in related activities, and interventions designed to reduce gender-based violence and gender inequalities, and as a result minimizing the impact of HIV/AIDS in the region;

9. Training and Technical Assistance to the ASEAN Secretariat

- 9.1 Continue U.S. assistance to the ASEAN Secretariat through the ASEAN-U.S. Training and Technical Assistance Facility;

10. ASEAN-U.S. Development Assistance

- 10.1 Support development projects aimed at narrowing the development gap within ASEAN, reducing poverty, eliminating socio-economic disparity and achieving social justice and elevating standards of living;
- 10.2 Support ASEAN efforts in realizing the VAP implementation through the provision of training and technical assistance to ASEAN, as mutually agreed; and
- 10.3 Support, where possible, the activities and projects of the ASEAN Foundation in promoting ASEAN integration and awareness, and people-to-people contacts;

IV. Follow-up Mechanism

- 1.
 - a. The ASEAN Secretariat and the U.S. to develop a schedule and time frame for implementation of the Plan of Action;
 - b. Conduct joint projects to advance the objectives of this Plan;
 - c. Explore ways of establishing and developing a funding modality to help implement the Plan of Action;
 - d. Regularly review this Plan of Action through the existing mechanisms, including the ASEAN-U.S. Informal Coordinating Mechanism (ICM) and the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue; and
 - e. Submit progress reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action to the annual ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) + 1 Session with the United States of America.
- 2. When implementing the above measures, due consideration will be given to ensure gender equitable participation of all ASEAN Member Countries at regional workshops/seminars and exchange programmes, especially for activities in the social development field; and
- 3. Where appropriate, sub-regional activities and cooperative efforts that further the goals and objectives set forth in this Plan of Action will be encouraged.