

**THE THIRTEENTH
ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS' (AEM) RETREAT**

3 May 2007, Brunei Darussalam

Joint Media Statement

1. The Thirteenth ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Retreat was held on 3 May 2007 in Brunei Darussalam. H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia chaired the Retreat.

ASEAN CHARTER

2. The Ministers exchanged views on the directions and ambitions for economic integration of ASEAN and agreed that the Charter should provide for a broad direction of ASEAN economic integration beyond 2015 toward a closely integrated regional entity. The Ministers reaffirmed their determination to realise ASEAN's goal of a competitive single market and production base, with equitable economic development and full integration into the global economy. They also agreed that the region should be an open, outward-looking, inclusive, and market-driven economy consistent with multilateral rules.

TOWARDS ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY 2015

3. The Ministers noted that substantial work has been done in drafting the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, which contains clearly defined measures and timelines for accelerating ASEAN economic integration by 2015. They called on all relevant officials to closely coordinate and exert all efforts to complete the AEC Blueprint so that it could be recommended for endorsement by the Leaders at the 13th ASEAN Summit in November 2007.

INVESTMENT

4. In order to sustain the growth momentum of FDI inflow into ASEAN, the Ministers discussed the need to revise the Framework Agreement of the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) into a comprehensive investment agreement. They underscored the importance of seeking the private sector inputs in revising the Agreement.

ROADMAP FOR INTEGRATION OF LOGISTICS SERVICES

5. In working towards the goal of integrating ASEAN into one seamless market for goods, services and investment and encouraging the establishment of more production networks in the region, the Ministers considered the Roadmap for Integration of Logistics Services for signing at the 39th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting to be held in August 2007 in Manila, the Philippines.

ASEAN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

6. The Ministers exchanged views on the latest developments in ASEAN's on-going FTA negotiations and agreed that all efforts should be exerted to complete the negotiations so that business community can benefit from these arrangements. The Ministers emphasised the important contribution of these economic partnerships to ASEAN economic integration.

RECOGNITION OF VIET NAM AS A FULL MARKET ECONOMY

7. Having noted significant achievements of Viet Nam in economic development and integration into the regional and global economy, ASEAN agreed to recognise Viet Nam as a full market economy and not apply paragraph 255 of the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of Viet Nam into the World Trade Organisation in relation to their trade with Viet Nam.

8. The Ministers call on the Dialogue Partners of ASEAN and other countries to provide early recognition to the full market economy status of Viet Nam.



LIST OF MINISTERS

1. **H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng**, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam;
2. **Mr. Pich Rithi**, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Commerce Cambodia (representing **H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh**, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia);
3. **H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu**, Minister of Trade, Indonesia;
4. **H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR;
5. **H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz**, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;
6. **H.E. U Soe Tha**, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar;
7. **H.E. Mr. Elmer C. Hernandez**, Undersecretary, Industry and Investment Group, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines (representing **H.E. Mr. Peter B. Favila**, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines);
8. **H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang**, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
9. **H.E. Mr. Krirk-krai Jirapaet**, Minister of Commerce, Thailand;
10. **H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen**, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam;
11. **H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong**, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

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