



PROPOSALS OF THE SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS



SYMPOSIUM ON
“INTERACTION FOR PROGRESS: VIETNAM'S
NEW COURSE AND ASEAN EXPERIENCES”

Hanoi 21-23 August 1991

PARTICIPANTS' PROPOSALS

The following proposals were jointly made by the participants from the six ASEAN countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand) and Vietnam who took part, as individuals in the symposium “Interaction For Progress: Vietnam’s New Course and ASEAN Experiences” held by the Information and Resource Center (IRC) of Singapore in collaboration with the National Center for Social Sciences and the Central Institute for Economic Management of Vietnam in Hanoi from 21 to 23 August 1991.

1. Profoundly realizing that the building up of a new order in Southeast Asia requires turning Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation and further enhancing and developing thorough relationship between ASEAN and Vietnam so as to facilitate integration between ASEAN and Vietnam as well as other Southeast Asian countries. This serves as a process which will inevitably bring about practical benefits for each country and for the whole region.

2. Deeply understanding that Vietnam, having obtained numerous encouraging achievements, is now furthering its renovation process and willing to expand and develop bilateral and multilateral cooperation relationship with all countries in the region. Vietnam is following the motto: “Vietnam is a friend to all countries in the world community” and along that direction, Vietnam is, and always has been, endeavoring to create favorable conditions for integrating into cooperation processes taking place in the region and in the whole world in order to develop its national economy. Vietnam warmly welcomes regional harmony and the policy of national and regional self-development. Vietnam also welcomes the initiative of dialogue between Indochinese

and Myanmar Foreign Ministers and their ASEAN counterparts as well as that among Heads of state in the forthcoming ASEAN summit. This positive tendency of Vietnam should be supported and accelerated by ASEAN countries.

3. In view of the economic and political environments in the region and in the whole world and of the common sincere desires to contribute to the building up of a Southeast Asia of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation, it is hereby proposed that:
 1. The forthcoming ASEAN Foreign Ministerial Meeting should produce an official and vivid announcement regarding ASEAN's willingness to cooperate with Vietnam and invite Vietnam to participate in the above-mentioned meeting as an observer.
 2. Following its announcement in 1976 regarding its willingness to take part in the Bali Treaty, the Government of Vietnam should take early and necessary steps to materialize the intention, sharing the responsibilities and interests under the Treaty and contributing to the establishment of a region of peace, stability, friendship, cooperation and development. ASEAN countries should satisfy this just aspiration of Vietnam.
 3. The process of cooperation and integration between ASEAN and Vietnam requires joint efforts and close coordination between the two sides in making preparation for and taking concrete steps towards that goal. To help Vietnam accelerate its economic reform and development, ASEAN countries should positively encourage and step up their cooperative relations with Vietnam, and actively assist Vietnam in various forms which might include:
 - a. Pushing up trade and economic cooperation with Vietnam both bilaterally and multilaterally, encouraging investment in Vietnam so as to help Vietnam make use of its potentials in economic development and jobs creation.
 - b. Exchanging scholars and specialists in order to share experience with each other and increase mutual understanding. ASEAN can help Vietnam in training economic managers, economic development policy-makers and technical specialists in areas that ASEAN has acquired experience.

4. Vietnam should further embark in economic renovation, creating a stable and sound macro-economic environment and a convenient and reliable environment not only for domestic but also for foreign investors. Vietnam should also improve and develop its institutional framework of a macro-regulated market economy so as to gradually become accustomed to international practices and standards in transactions with regional and world partners. We see those not only as favorable preconditions for mutual cooperation but also as a reflection of Vietnam's commitments in the regional and world community.
5. Vietnam should extend its official invitation and ASEAN should accept Vietnam's invitation regarding a working visit to Vietnam by a high-ranking delegation from ASEAN for introducing ASEAN organization and operation, sharing ASEAN experiences in cooperation and development as well as for discussing with Vietnam on the concrete steps towards cooperation and integration between ASEAN and Vietnam. Thorough preparations should be made for this visit by both sides.
6. ASEAN and Vietnam should actively seek for funding channels facilitating to turn this symposium into a regular event once every year or every two years in order to create a forum for continuous and frequent exchange of dialogues for the development of ASEAN-Vietnam relationship, and enhancing mutual understanding. Once it is materialized, seminars of this kind should be extended to greater participation of appropriate members including those from international organizations, depending on the specific theme of each seminar. Apart from the above-mentioned objectives, the seminars should also aim at summing up and assessing the results of ASEAN-Vietnam cooperation for further recommendations.

All participants in the symposium on "Interaction For Progress: Vietnam's New Course and ASEAN Experiences" expect and strongly hope that the Governments and the people of ASEAN countries and Vietnam shall positively stand for the above-mentioned proposals with a view to bringing about practical benefits for each nation, making contribution to peace, stability, friendship and cooperation in the region.

Hanoi, 21-23 August 1991.