

# SOUTHEAST ASIA BEYOND 2000

*Volume IV*

**VIETNAM'S ASEAN MEMBERSHIP**

*Edited by*

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**IRK** INFORMATION  
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CENTER

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## **PREFACE**

The third symposium on "Interaction For Progress: ASEAN-Vietnam All Round Cooperation" was held on 4-9 December 1993 in Manila, Philippines. The Information and Resource Center organised it in cooperation with several institutions: the Institute For Policy Research of Malaysia, the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, the Institute of International Relations of Vietnam, the Institute for Strategic and Development Studies of the Philippines and the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. It was given support by the Canadian International Development Agency, the Canada-ASEAN Centre, and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

It was convened along the same format as the previous two meetings held in Hanoi and Kuala Lumpur. Its aim was to deepen the process of confidence building and mutual understanding between ASEAN and Vietnam. This third time, however, the symposium addressed the issue of HOW to accelerate the process of integration instead of the issue of why to engage in the interaction process. The focus was therefore on topical issues and practical measures in order to allow the dialog partners to draw relevant conclusions for future policies.

A deputy prime minister once again led the high-ranking Vietnamese delegation of 20 members. The participation at the symposium was expanded to include delegates from Cambodia, Myanmar, Canada and Japan. Of significance was the attendance of officials from the ASEAN Secretariat including its secretary-general, Dato Ajit Singh. President Fidel V Ramos gave a keynote address to the symposium.

With this fourth meeting the ASEAN-Vietnam Interaction For Progress project was completed. It had served as a catalyst to promote interaction between the governments and peoples of ASEAN and Vietnam at an informal level. Within a year and a half of the end of the Manila meeting Vietnam became a member of ASEAN. The next step was to see the expansion of ASEAN membership to include Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.