

**ASEAN-RUSSIAN FEDERATION AGREEMENT THE GOVERNMENTS  
OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION**

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), on the one part, and the Government of the Russian Federation, on the other part (collectively referred to as "the Parties", and each individual Government of a Member Country of ASEAN or the Government of the Russian Federation as "Each Party"];

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to further strengthen friendly relations between the Member Countries of ASEAN and the Russian Federation;

CONFIDENT that the Agreement shall contribute to establishing a favourable climate for the development of multifaceted cooperation between the Parties;

COGNISANT of the need to improve the conditions which have positive influences on economic, trade and investment activities and which also impact upon socio-economic, scientific, technological and cultural development;

RECOGNISING that ASEAN comprises developing countries which aim to enhance their self-reliance, economic resilience as well as social well-being of its peoples;

RECOGNISING ALSO the different stages of economic development among the Member Countries of ASEAN and the need to facilitate the effective participation of the newer Member Countries of ASEAN, namely the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in regional trade and economic-integration;

AFFIRMING the commitment to the Dialogue Partnership between the Parties as established in 1996;

Have agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE 1  
PRINCIPLES AND AIMS OF ECONOMIC  
AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

1. Cooperation between the Parties shall be based on principles of equality of rights, mutual respect and benefit, common understanding, goodwill, friendly assistance and support, taking into account the potentials of the Parties and willingness to achieve practical results.

2. With a view to strengthening their relationship, the Parties, subject to their respective national legislation, shall undertake to hold a comprehensive dialogue

and promote further cooperation between them in all sectors of mutual interest. Their efforts will, in particular, be aimed at:

(a) developing a favourable environment for the promotion and development of trade and investment between ASEAN and the Russian Federation in mutually beneficial ways:

(b) encouraging cooperation in the areas of mutual interest related to trade in goods and services as well as investment including industry, technical regulations, standards and procedures of conformity assessment, intellectual property and e-commerce in order to facilitate trade and investment flows;

(c) developing cooperation in all other sectors of mutual interest including small and medium enterprises, science and technology, energy, minerals, transport, finance, agriculture, technical cooperation, tourism, information and communication technologies, environment protection and management for the purpose of, inter alia, sustainable development and disaster management;

(d) raising the Russian Federation's role and creating a positive profile in Southeast Asia, and concurrently raising ASEAN's role and creating a positive profile in the Russian Federation;

(e) promoting participation of the business sectors in relevant areas of cooperation that have been mutually identified, which include socio-economic capacity building, personnel exchanges and technology transfer;

(f) supporting ASEAN regional integration including, inter alia, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) launched in 2000 and providing special and differential treatment for the newer Member Countries of ASEAN namely the Kingdom of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam by the Russian Federation in order to facilitate their effective participation under this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

1. The Parties shall, subject to relevant international law and their respective national legislation, cooperate in promoting trade, economic and investment activities by governmental bodies and other relevant entities. Concrete programmes may be developed, in particular through the exchange of visits of businessmen and investors of the Member Countries of ASEAN and the Russian Federation with a view to promote partnership among them.

2. In this regard, the Parties shall, as appropriate, encourage and facilitate, inter alia:

(a) exchange of information on any problems that may arise with regard to their trade and investment for the purpose of seeking mutually satisfactory solutions to these problems including information relevant to economic cooperation, in particular information exchange on macroeconomic indices and socio-economic development strategies, tariff

regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures and other non-tariff measures to facilitate trade and effective implementation of investment policy;

(b) joint studies on economic issues of mutual interest;

(c) contacts between governmental bodies and other relevant entities;

(d) trade and investment promotion activities including the organisation of relevant seminars, conferences, trade and investment fairs and business meetings;

(e) participation of governmental bodies and other relevant entities of the Member Countries of ASEAN and the Russian Federation in international and national exhibitions, shows, fairs and other promotion and information activities held in ASEAN and the Russian-Federation.

3. The Parties shall develop and further enhance cooperation in the spheres of mutual interest in accordance with relevant international law and their national legislation. ""

### **ARTICLE 3 ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

Subject to the terms of this Agreement and their respective national legislation, the Parties shall also endeavour to foster closer cooperation and interaction in areas of mutual interest including the following:

#### **I. Small and Medium Enterprises**

Recognising the important role of small and medium enterprises in maintaining the dynamism of their respective national economies, the Parties shall develop close cooperation between small and medium enterprises of the Member Countries of ASEAN and the Russian Federation. The Parties shall share their best practices and experiences aimed at developing cooperation between their small and medium enterprises in the field of technology, human resources and skills, financing and information.

#### **II. Science and Technology**

1. In accordance with their mutual interest and the aims of their policies on science and technology, the Parties shall undertake to develop and broaden cooperation in science and technology. To this end the Parties shall undertake to promote in particular:

(a) exchange of information and know-how in the field of science and technology;

(b) dialogue about the elaboration and implementation of the respective research and technological development policies;

(c) strengthening of cooperation in science and technology in sectors of common interest, such as biotechnology, microelectronics, meteorology and geophysics, nanotechnology, new materials, space technology

applications, geo-informatics and energy technology and energy efficiency,

2. The cooperation activities of the Parties shall include joint research in fields of mutual interest, the establishment of direct ties between scientific organisations, the transfer of technology on the basis of mutual benefit and jointly organising conferences, symposia, seminars and working meetings.

### III. Energy

The Parties shall promote joint studies and research, as well as contacts between the appropriate bodies responsible for developing energy policies of the Parties with a view to, inter alia, promoting efficient energy use and the wide utilisation, where possible, of renewable and alternative energy sources (solar, wind, sea tides and waves, hydro, geothermal waters, biomass and others). Where relevant, the Parties shall explore the possibility of assisting each other in training experts in areas of particular interest in the field of energy.

### IV. Mineral Resources Utilisation

The Parties shall encourage cooperation in research, innovation and application of emerging and advanced technologies in mining and geosciences including environment management, mine rehabilitation and the efficient mining, processing and recycling of minerals.

### V. Transport

The Parties shall endeavour to develop cooperation in the transport sector with a view to improving the movement of goods and passengers, promoting safety, maintaining internationally accepted operating standards, and increasing the efficiency of their transport systems. In this regard, the Parties shall endeavour to:

(a) promote exchange of information on their respective transport policies and practices, especially regarding urban transport, maritime transport, transport logistics and the interconnection and inter-operability of multimodal transport networks, as well as the management of railways, ports and airports;

(b) explore possibilities for joint cooperation in the identification and selection of routes linking the two regions and the development of transport infrastructure and networks, as well as transport-related activities.

### VI. Information and Communication Technologies

Recognising the important role of information and communication technologies for socio-economic development, the Parties shall endeavour to promote cooperation in this sphere in such areas as e-government, tele-medicine, distance education, cyber security, satellite communication and other mutually agreed areas.

### VII. Human Resources Development Cooperation

The Parties shall cooperate to realise concrete activities and programmes through, inter alia, human resources development and capacity building by means of sharing best practices, training programmes, seminars and exchange programmes.

### VIII. Environmental Management and Protection