



Second ASEAN State of the Environment Report 2000



Our Heritage Our Future



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Foreword



I am pleased to present the ASEAN State of the Environment Report 2000 (SoER2), the second in the series. The first ASEAN State of the Environment Report was released in 1997.

SoER2 presents a portrait of the condition of the environment and natural resources in ASEAN. It discusses the socio-economic factors and external pressures affecting the environment and its management. It takes an integrated approach in presenting the facts in line with the concept of sustainable development.

The Report highlights what ASEAN has done to protect the environment and to promote sustainable development. It offers a glimpse of the prospects and challenges facing the region. At the same time, SoER2 serves as an authoritative factual manual for all who are engaged in environmental planning and intervention. It should help them to review these initiatives in terms of their impact and the lessons learnt.

ASEAN is fully committed to the goals of sustainable development. In ASEAN Vision 2020, the association's heads of state and government called for a "clean and green ASEAN with fully established mechanisms for sustainable development to ensure the protection of the region's environment, the sustainability of its natural resources and the high quality of life of its people." Strategies and actions have been laid out in the medium-term Ha Noi Plan of Action and the Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment to implement that vision. As described in this Report, the ASEAN Environment Ministers and their officials meet regularly to formulate, implement, monitor and continuously review the implementation of those action plans.

Increasingly, however, national and regional environmental problems cannot be set apart from the global environment. This is why ASEAN is fully committed to the international effort to address global environmental issues.

We sincerely hope this Report will help to enlighten people around the world about the state of the environment in our region, its unique geographical setting, the pressing socio-economic conditions that affect the environment, and the opportunities and means that are available for collaborating with ASEAN. In this respect, SoER2 serves as an invitation for collaboration with us, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, in our effort to keep our environment clean and healthy for the present and future generations.

I wish to congratulate all those involved in producing this excellent report. My appreciation goes especially to the United Nations Environment Programme for its generous financial support.



Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr.
Secretary-General of ASEAN

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