# JOINT DECLARATION

## BETWEEN
## THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
## AND
## THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
## ON COMPREHENSIVE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK
## IN THE 21st CENTURY

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Singapore (hereinafter referred to as "the two Parties"),

- Proceeding from the traditional neighbourliness and friendship between the two countries;

- Desirous of elevating multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries to a higher plane for the socio-economic development and prosperity of Vietnam and Singapore;

- Resolved to maximize enormous potentials of both countries through bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms to respond to new challenges and make use of opportunities for sustainable development of each country, ASEAN, Asia - Pacific and the world as a whole;

- Deeply aware of their commitments to the UN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia and other international instruments;

- Convinced that strengthening of long-term, stable, reliable and comprehensive partnership between Vietnam and Singapore in the 21st century will contribute to the promotion of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in the region and the world.

Have agreed as follows:

1- The two Parties reaffirm their broad mutual interest in the maintenance of peace, stability, friendship, cooperation and development in South East Asia, Asia - Pacific and the world over.

2- The two Parties are committed to respecting fundamental principles of the UN Charter and international law. Both parties emphasize the importance of the principle of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

3- The two Parties will endeavour to enhance the partnership between the two countries as well as their cooperation with other countries in order to cope with new challenges posed by globalisation, threats of international terrorism and challenges to the international system.

4- The two Parties acknowledge the vital importance of the role of the United Nations in maintaining world peace, stability and development. Both Parties favour the strengthening of the UN's central role in promoting international security as well as efforts to reform the UN with a view to enhancing the efficiency of this Organization.

5- The two Parties shall seek to enhance the bilateral cooperation in all aspects. The two Parties shall maintain regular high-level exchanges with a view to strengthening the excellent political relationship and giving fresh impetus to the comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. The two Parties shall likewise increase the exchange of visits between their government agencies, with the aim of deepening mutual understanding and partnership.

6- The two Parties shall maintain annual consultations between the two Foreign Ministries with a view to facilitating dialogues and coordination between the two countries on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

7- The two Parties agree on the need to increase the defence and security exchanges, which will help enhance mutual understanding and trust. The two Parties shall increase the exchange of information and coordination of activities in order to combat transnational crimes as outlined in the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime. The two Parties condemn terrorism under any form and manifestation. The two Parties shall strengthen cooperation in countering terrorism.

8- The two Parties shall expand economic, trade and investment cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefits. To this ends, the two Parties pledge:

- To facilitate efforts of the two countries' business circles to promote bilateral and regional trade in line with commitments within the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA);

- To create favourable investment climate for investors in both countries. Singapore shall encourage businesses to invest in Vietnam taking into consideration the respective strengths in each country, and giving priority to sectors considered to be mutually beneficial to both Parties;

- To support the expansion of economic, trade, investment and tourism cooperation and people-to-people contacts between Singapore and Vietnam through strengthening of air links (passenger and cargo);

- To encourage and support the business communities of the two countries to promote contacts by organising and participating in workshops, seminars, fairs, exhibitions and joint ventures in each country;

- To increase information sharing and linkages between business associations of the two countries;

9- The two Parties shall step up cooperation in industry, energy, transportation, post and telecommunications, aviation, finance and banking.

10- The two Parties shall enhance cooperation in science and technology, education and training, health and human resource development within the framework of bilateral cooperation as well as cooperation programmes with third parties. The two Parties shall encourage cultural and educational cooperation such as scholarships and students exchange programmes, exchange of visits and training. Singapore will continue to assist Vietnam in its human resource development, in priority training areas as identified by Vietnam. The two Parties agree on the need to promote the role and improve the effectiveness of the Vietnam-Singapore Training Centre (VSTC) in Vietnam.

11- The two Parties shall boost the tourism cooperation between the two countries and with other countries in the region. The two Parties welcome the establishment of Tourism Promotion Office in each country and the strengthening of other forms of cooperation, such as Tourism Cooperation Programme, cooperation in tourism promotion and exchange of tourism information.

12- Both Parties shall strongly foster cooperation in culture, arts and sports to deepen understanding between the two peoples.

13- The two Parties are committed to continue close consultations on regional and international issues, especially those relating to ASEAN in an effort to build a Southeast Asia of peace, stability, friendship, cooperation and development. Both Parties welcome initiatives put forth by member countries to consolidate and enhance ASEAN solidarity unity on the basis of the principles enshrined in the Bali Concord and the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation (TAC) in 1976. In this regard, both Parties endeavour to achieve the goals set out in the Bali Concord II adopted by ASEAN leaders in 2003.

14- The two Parties shall work more closely to implement development projects with an aim to narrow the gap within ASEAN, under the frameworks of the

Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), ASEAN Investment Area (AIA), ASEAN Industrial Cooperation (AICO) Scheme, Greater Sub-regional Mekong Economic Cooperation Programme, Trans-Asia Railways and other regional and sub-regional cooperation projects that both countries are involved or have keen interest in.

15- Both Parties shall enhance the exchange of views and coordination on regional and international issues of mutual concern at regional and international fora such as the United Nations, APEC, ASEM, ASEAN and ARF. Singapore will continue to provide technical assistance to Vietnam in its WTO Accession Process.

Done in Singapore, in duplicate on the 8th of March 2004.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

**NGUYEN DY NIEN**
**MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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