ND 627

BEIJING DECLARATION
OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
ON ASEAN-CHINA COOPERATION ON YOUTH

WE, the Ministers Responsible for Youth representing 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, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of China;

HAVING gathered in Beijing from 29 to 30 September 2004 for the First ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on Youth;

RECALLING the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China on strategic partnership for peace and prosperity;

ENDEAVOURING to further the commitment relevant to ASEAN-China cooperation on youth highlighted in the Joint Declaration's section on social cooperation stating the Leaders commitment to "attach importance to and strengthen youth exchanges and cooperation and establish a 10+1 youth ministers meeting mechanism to broaden the base for ever lasting friendship" which serves as a blue print for fostering the partnership between ASEAN and China for peace and prosperity;

SEEKING to strengthen the gains brought about by and consistent with the Jakarta Declaration of the First AMMY in 1992, the Kuala Lumpur Agenda on ASEAN Youth Development of the Second AMMY in 1997 and the Yangon 2000 Declaration on Preparing ASEAN Youth for the Challenges of Globalisation of the Third AMMY in 2000 and the Manila Declaration on Strengthening Participation in Sustainable Youth Employment of the Fourth AMMY in 2003;

REAFFIRMING that young people everywhere are key agents for social change, economic and industrial development, and technological innovation;

MINDFUL that ASEAN-China youth which comprises approximately one-third of the world youth population play a significant role in promoting progress, prosperity and overall economic development of ASEAN and China in the 21st century;

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DESIROUS to ensure that youth in our region are empowered to take advantage of the opportunities arising from globalisation, trade and investment liberalisation, and information and communication technology;

COMMITTED thus to encourage partnerships and links of solidarity between ASEAN and Chinese youth, and to ensure that they are provided with every opportunity to realise their full potential so that their energy and vision can contribute towards promoting peace, cooperation and prosperity in the region and beyond;

DO HEREBY DECLARE OUR AGREEMENT to strengthen and coordinate joint initiatives for youth by adopting the following vision and strategies:

1. We envision strong networks of youth leaders and related organisations in ASEAN and China, working together in friendship and harmony for progress and prosperity in the East Asian region. We see our youth empowered to participate meaningfully in our development strategies. Our youth shall be aware of the historical, cultural and traditional values that distinguish our region and shall continue to build on these values in working for the benefits of our societies. Their leadership qualities shall be enhanced, their skills and competencies nurtured, their entrepreneurship capabilities encouraged and their integral role recognised in building a peaceful, prosperous and caring community of nations.

2. To achieve our vision, we shall undertake to address concerns mutually shared by ASEAN and China in striving for progress in the situation of youth in our region and for their continued development, by giving priority to joint actions that will:

a. Foster and promote greater awareness and understanding of ASEAN and China among the youth through regular focused exchanges which would serve as a viable mechanism to share experiences, address shared challenges/concerns and identify and implement appropriate solutions;

b. Share knowledge and experiences among the concerned agencies and institutions in ASEAN and China on existing training programmes and policies to ensure the youth are provided with the necessary industry-relevant skills training and education to find gainful employment or means of self-employment;

c. Facilitate and encourage public-private partnerships that emphasise investing in the youth, thus creating conducive environments for employment and self-employment opportunities for the youth;

d. Facilitate access to credit, markets and business development opportunities, including the establishment of institutions, mechanisms and structures, for ASEAN and Chinese young entrepreneurs;

e. Strengthen exchange and cooperation between ASEAN and Chinese young entrepreneurs through joint training programmes for youth in business development and entrepreneurial skills;

f. Foster greater collaboration with non-governmental and community based organisations to identify the needs of young women and

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disadvantaged and differently-abled youth (including rural youth as well as out-of-school youth) to access relevant education, training and employment opportunities; and

g. Identify priority activities undertaken by the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) on ASEAN youth leadership development, and skills training, among other relevant priorities, for joint implementation with China, so as to strengthen exchange and cooperation between ASEAN and Chinese youth in various fields such as human resources development, information and communication technology, culture, education, environmental protection, agriculture, and volunteer services.

3. We shall also jointly undertake, in consultation with the other Plus Three Partners, efforts to promote the establishment of ASEAN Plus Three youth exchange programmes, building on the existing momentum of ASEAN regional cooperation on youth.

4. To realise our vision and to further deepen existing collaboration between ASEAN and China on youth development, we shall endeavour to meet once every two years, preferably in conjunction with the AMMY, and informally in between, if necessary.

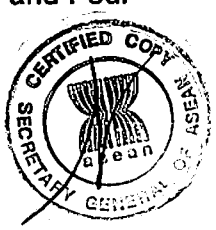
5. We task our Senior Officials to meet at least once every year, in conjunction with the SOMY, to implement the priority strategies identified by this First ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on Youth, and to report progress regularly at our future meetings.

6. We shall prioritise the implementation of exchange programmes among ASEAN and Chinese youth to further enhance collaborative efforts in the development of the youth in our countries and to cultivate unity and harmony among them.

7. We encourage and welcome partnerships and opportunities to implement mutually shared concerns with like-minded partners from the international community, including relevant regional and international organisations, and the business and private sectors, among others.

8. We hereby pledge our resolve and commitment to forge even closer partnerships for and among our youth, in addressing the call by our Leaders for a region of peace, progress and prosperity, where our young people – as the leaders of tomorrow – shall have enhanced moral, spiritual and cultural values as a strong foundation for developing their leadership skills, and shall enjoy equal opportunities and access to appropriate education and training, basic social services, and adequate support for transition to work. We are confident that our partnerships will also ensure that the creativity and energy of our youth continue to be nurtured and encouraged, and that the special needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable youth are not neglected.

DONE on the Twenty-Ninth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Four in Beijing, People's Republic of China.



For Brunei Darussalam:

PEHIN DATO HAJI AWANG HUSSAIN
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

For The People's Republic of China:

ZHOU QIANG
First Secretary of the Secretariat
Central Committee
Communist Youth League of China

For The Kingdom of Cambodia:

CHEY CHAP
Undersecretary of State
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

For the Republic of Indonesia:

DANTO NTOMA
Charge d'Affaires
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to
the People's Republic of China

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

PHONGSANEE GNOUTITHAM
Acting Secretary-General
Laos People's Revolutionary Youth Union

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For Malaysia:

DATUK AZALINA OTHMAN SAID
Minister of Youth and Sports

For the Union of Myanmar:

MAJOR-GENERAL SEIN HTWA
Minister for Social Welfare,
Relief and Resettlement

For the Republic of the Philippines:

RAOLO BENIGNO A. AQUINO IV
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
National Youth Commission

For the Republic of Singapore:

DR. VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN
Acting Minister for Community
Development, Youth & Sports,
Senior Minister of State
for Trade & Industry,
and Chairman, National Youth Council

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SECRETARY GENERAL OF ASEAN
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For the Kingdom of Thailand:

SAKHON BOONKHUM
Director-General
Ministry of Social Development and
Human Security

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

HOANG BINH QUAN
Chairman
National Committee on Youth
of Viet Nam

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