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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

and

THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

THE Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN Member States") and the United Nations University (hereinafter referred to as "UNU"), hereinafter referred to collectively as "the Parties";

Recalling the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as the regional intergovernmental organization to enhance coordination among the ASEAN Member States in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development;

Recalling also the mandate of UNU as a think tank within the UN system to contribute, through research and capacity development, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States;

Recognizing the common concerns and agreed regional priorities of ASEAN Member States in relation to environmental protection and sustainable development as stipulated in ASEAN Vision 2020 and the Ha Noi Plan of Action, and the mutual contribution such regional efforts makes to national and global sustainable development goals;

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Highlighting the valuable collaboration to date between the Parties, particularly in enhancing the participation in, and negotiation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), capacity development for implementation of MEAs, promotion of inter-linkages among MEAs at the national and regional levels, and capacity development on integrated approaches to biosafety;

Noting the establishment of the ASEAN Working Groups on nature conservation and biodiversity; multilateral environmental agreements, among others, to formulate and implement specific programmes and projects in related areas; and

Emphasizing the importance of further strengthening the relationship between the Parties in achieving the above goals and objectives:

The Parties have, therefore agreed to collaborate, among others, in the following areas:

- Exchange information on the state of the global and regional environment, and emerging global environmental issues, and deepen understanding and appreciation of global environmental challenges;

- Promote regional coordination and collaboration in areas of mutual interest;

- Enhance the capacity of ASEAN Member States to implement relevant decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, in particular the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

- Promote knowledge, science and technology as important tools for achieving sustainable development, particularly where appropriate, in the context of the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan 2000-2005;

- Enhance the capacity of ASEAN Member States to effectively implement integrated approaches, where appropriate, on natural resource management; biosafety; access and benefit sharing of genetic resources; and protected areas and ecosystem management

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by providing support on technical, legal, and other aspects as well as through the organization of relevant training workshops;

- Further develop and strengthen national and regional activities on capacity development and implementation of inter-linkages and integrated approaches, where appropriate, to MEAs and other related multilateral instruments;

- Enhance capacity of ASEAN Member States for effective negotiation and implementation of applicable multilateral environmental agreements by providing support on technical, legal, and other aspects as well as through the facilitation and organization of relevant training workshops;

- Assist ASEAN Member States in the preparation of the ASEAN State of Environment Reports, particularly in relation to activities on urban environmental trends and conditions, as well as government responses that would impact the urban environment;

- Enhance the capacity of ASEAN Member States in developing and implementing activities on urban environmental management and governance, including urban ecosystem assessments.

Notwithstanding the above, the Parties may seek to strengthen cooperation in other specific fields of mutual interest.

The ASEAN Secretariat and the UNU, through its Institute of Advanced Studies, shall monitor and review the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, and submit annual progress reports for the consideration of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment and the Rector of UNU.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signing and may be amended or terminated by mutual agreement.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Done in duplicate, in the English Language, at the UNU Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, on the 24th day of August in the year Two Thousand and Four.

FOR ASEAN MEMBER STATES

Ong Keng Yong
Secretary-General of ASEAN

FOR THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

J.A. van Ginkel
Rector

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