JOINT DECLARATION

BETWEEN

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

AND

MALAYSIA

ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR COMPREHENSIVE CO-OPERATION

IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Malaysia (hereinafter referred to as the Parties);

PROCEEDING from the traditional friendship, good neighbourliness, and existing bilateral agreements and MOUs signed between the two countries;

DESIRING to elevate the multi-faceted co-operation between the two countries to a new plane for the socio-economic development and prosperity of Vietnam and Malaysia;

RESOLVED to jointly maximize the great potentials of the two countries through bilateral and multilateral mechanism of co-operation in order to cope with new challenges and take advantage of opportunities, for the sustainable development of each country, of ASEAN, of the Asia - Pacific region and the world;

DEEPLY aware of the commitments that each country has made in the United Nations Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in South East Asia and other international laws;

CONVINCED that the strengthening of long-term, stable, reliable and comprehensive co-operation between the Parties in the 21st Century will contribute to the promotion of peace, stability, co-operation and development in the region and the world at large;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

1. The Parties reaffirm their common interests in the maintenance of peace, stability, friendship, co-operation and development in Southeast Asia, the Asia-Pacific region and the world;

2. The Parties undertake to respect the basic principles of the United Nations Charter and international laws. The Parties place special importance in regard to the respect for principles of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs;

3. The Parties shall strongly strengthen the partnership between the two countries as well as the co-operation with other countries in order to respond to the new challenges of globalisation, danger of international terrorism and challenges to international system;

4. The Parties support the enhancement of the central role of the United Nations in strengthening international security and the efforts to reform the United Nations in order to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations system;

5. The Parties agree to maintain contacts on a regular basis at all levels and people-to-people exchanges, in order to establish a long-term and reliable partnership, thus contributing to the development of a comprehensive, stable and sustainable relationship between the two countries. The Parties are committed to facilitate consultations on bilateral as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern;

6. The Parties undertake to regularly maintain and enhance the effectiveness of Joint-Commission Meetings between Vietnam and Malaysia on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Co-operation;

7. The Parties agree to conduct regular consultations between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs as well as other ministries in order to strengthen co-operation and exchange of views on bilateral issues, including the review of the implementation of this Declaration, and on other regional and international matters of mutual concern;

8. The Parties agree to promote and increase exchange of information and coordination of activities in order to prevent any act done by any group against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each country and to combat transnational crimes such as hijacking, piracy, international terrorism, human trafficking, drug and weapon smuggling, money laundering and other forms of crime. In that spirit, the Parties will promote defence cooperation;

9. The Parties agree to further expand the economic, trade and investment co-operation between Vietnam and Malaysia on the basis of mutual respect and benefits. To these ends, the Parties undertake:

- To conduct trade promotion activities and diversify products to be traded in conformity with the commitments within the framework of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), and to encourage and support the two countries' business communities to increase exchange of information and experiences through consultations, seminars and workshops, exhibitions and trade fairs.

- To create a favourable environment for investors of both countries and assist small and medium-sized enterprises. The Parties undertake to encourage investments in each countries in areas in which they have experience and expertise. The Parties shall step up their co-operation in building the ASEAN Investment Area into an attractive place for foreign investment;

10. The Parties undertake to further promote co-operation in the fields of finance and banking, oil and gas, energy, transportation and communication, post and telecommunications and aviation;

11. The Parties agree to enhance their cooperation in the fields of agriculture, rural development, livestock production and processing with priority given to the rubber, palm oil and fishery industries;

12. The Parties agree to boast co-operation in tourism and strengthen other forms of co-operation such as tourism programmes, tourism promotion and extended tours. The Vietnamese side welcomes Malaysia's investment in the tourism industry in Vietnam;

13. The Parties undertake to expand labour co-operation between the two countries on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Recruitment of Vietnamese Workers signed in December 2003 and to resolve arising issues in conformity with their common interests;

14. The Parties agree to enhance their cooperation in the fields of science and technology, education and training and human resources development. Within the framework of bilateral co-operation and co-operation program with the third party, Malaysia undertakes to assist in the development of human resources in Vietnam. The Parties agree to encourage cultural and educational exchange programmes such as scholarship exchange, student exchange, exchange of lecturers in the teaching of science and mathematics and study tours;

15. The Parties agree to promote cooperation in the areas of culture, arts, sports and health. In this spirit, the Parties encourage more exchange of visits for experience sharing, performance, friendly competitions in order to promote friendship, understanding and cooperation between the two peoples;

16. The Parties undertake to encourage direct contacts between the legislative bodies of the two countries as well as their coordination and co-operation within the framework of international parliamentary organisations like the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU);

17. The Parties agree to enhance co-operation to speed up the realisation of the development projects aim at reducing development gaps within the framework of the Initiative of Asean Integration (IAI), Asean Investment Area (AIA), Asean Industrial Co-operation (AICO), Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Co-operation Programme, Trans-Asian Railway and other co-operation projects in the region and sub-region that both countries participate in or have interest in; and

18. The Parties agree to enhance the exchange of ideas and coordination on other international issues of mutual concern at regional and international fora, such as the United Nations, APEC, ASEM, ASEAN and ARF.

Done at Putrajaya on the twenty first of April in the year 2004 in two original texts in English.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

NGUYEN DY NIEN
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA

DATUK SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS