

ASEAN
(ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS)
FACT SHEET

Member Countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1967, Bangkok: Formation of ASEAN
Bangkok Declaration stating the objectives of the Association
- 1971, Kuala Lumpur: Kuala Lumpur Declaration calling for a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN)
- 1975: First meeting of ASEAN Economic and Planning Ministers
- 1976, Bali: First ASEAN Summit meeting
Treaty of Amity and Cooperation establishing mechanisms to resolve outstanding bilateral disputes
Declaration of ASEAN Concord establishing the framework for regular and sustained political and economic consultation
- 1977, Kuala Lumpur: Second ASEAN Summit
Dialogue relationship established with Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the EC (the USA became a Dialogue partner in 1978)
- Since 1979: Annual ASEAN Foreign Ministers meetings including Dialogue Partners

2. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Permanent Secretariat - Jakarta

Secretary General of ASEAN - Mr. Chan Kai Yau (Singapore)

System: The Association is dependent on the full consensus of its members. Each country has its own National Office of "Director General, ASEAN" to handle ASEAN matters. The Secretary General is responsible, therefore, only for the administration of the Secretariat. There are five economic committees, as well as various sub-committees, working groups, ad hoc bodies and expert groups. Many local non-government bodies have also federated to become ASEAN-wide organizations.