

# **Dialogue and Research Monitor:**

## **Toward Community Building in East Asia**

**Vol. 8, January–December 2008**

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## Preface

Since 2004, JCIE's *Dialogue and Research Monitor* has regularly compiled data on multilateral policy dialogues and exchanges in East Asia in order to give policy experts and practitioners a broad picture of regional trends and to help them better understand how regional cooperation and community-building is proceeding. This carried on the work of Paul Evans, Shirley Yue, and a team of researchers at York University (and later the University of British Columbia), who published the *Dialogue and Research Monitor* from 1995 to 2003. These efforts by JCIE researchers, and previously by Paul Evans's team, were made possible from 1998 onward by Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs funding for JCIE's Asia Pacific Agenda Project. That funding has now come to an end as part of broader government budget cuts, but we wish to express our gratitude to the ministry for their long-term support of this effort, which we believe has helped strengthen the intellectual underpinnings for greater regional cooperation.

Asia has changed dramatically in the 15-year life span of the *Dialogue and Research Monitor*, and these trends have been reflected in the data. For example, while the region has long been considered "under-institutionalized" by international relations scholars, there clearly has been a dramatic growth of regional forums and dialogues that now serve as a basis for the emergence of a greater sense of regional community. For example, in 1998, the *Dialogue and Research Monitor* registered 34 Track 2 dialogues that were truly multilateral in focus, but the 2008 issue tallies some 268 Track 2 dialogues. Similar trends can be seen among government-level dialogues, which have increased nearly twentyfold. Some of this change is surely exaggerated by a gradual improvement in our data collection, but it is undeniable that there has been an explosion of regional dialogues on a diverse range of issues.

This issue will be the final *Dialogue and Research Monitor*, and we wish to thank the many people who have contributed to it over the years. In order to allow readers to keep abreast of trends in the region, we have posted a list of links on our website to the major organizers of East Asia-related multilateral dialogues and research on our Directory of Key Organizations. We hope this will continue to serve as a useful resource for those who follow regional cooperation and community-building initiatives in this increasingly dynamic region.

### **Notes on Scope and Process**

This edition of the *Dialogue and Research Monitor* contains an inventory of dialogue activities and publications occurring in 2008 that were related to security or nontraditional security—including what is increasingly regarded as "human security"—and to community building in Asia Pacific, particularly in East Asia. The regional demarcation of Asia Pacific follows the current commonly understood definition of the area, which includes East and Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and North America. Generally speaking, the dialogues covered in this volume are sponsored by institutions in Asia Pacific, have an agenda focusing on issues related to this region, and/or include participants mainly from this region. Activities that include participants from a single country or that are bilateral are not usually included.

The search for entries for this report is conducted through the network of partners in intellectual dialogues and information exchange that JCIE has developed over the years as well as through the websites, newsletters, and publications of various sponsoring organizations and prominent institutional actors in the Asia Pacific region. We rely primarily on resources available in English and Japanese. While best efforts have been made to provide a comprehensive and accurate inventory of information, there will inevitably be information that the *Monitor* has failed to cover. Nonetheless, we hope that our readers will be able to gain a sense of the issues being considered today, the contexts in which they are being studied and discussed, and the various actors involved.

**JCIE would like to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed  
to the *Dialogue and Research Monitor*:**

Kim Gould Ashizawa (2006–2010); Sachiko Aoki (2006–2010);  
David Monico (2009–2010); Lilian Haney (2009–2010);  
Shannon Helgeson (2009–2010); Maya Wedemeyer (2010);  
Anthony Walden (2009); Brian Cathcart (2008);  
Lucy van der Wall (2003–2006)



**Current and past editions (1999–2008) of *Dialogue and Research Monitor*  
are available online at [www.jcie.or.jp/drm/index.html](http://www.jcie.or.jp/drm/index.html).**

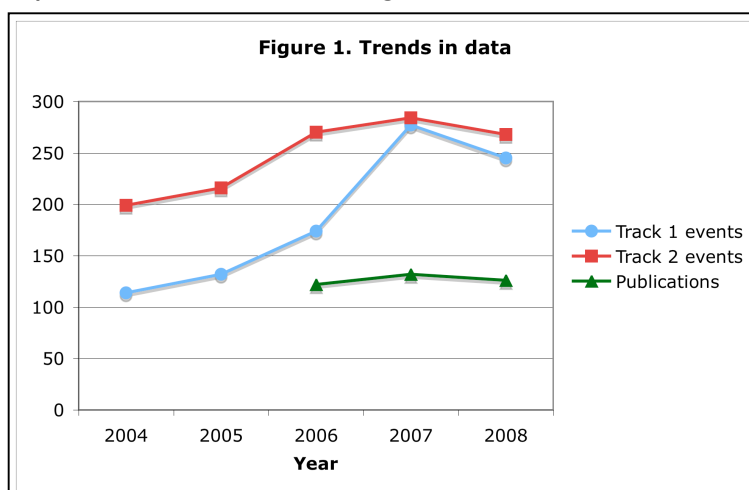
## Overview

This volume of *Dialogue and Research Monitor* includes dialogues and publications conducted or published between January and December 2008 that were focused on East Asia regional cooperation on security-related issues broadly defined or on community building. The year 2008 witnessed a mixture of constructive and destructive forces. On the one hand, the region played host to major international events as China hosted the Olympics and Japan hosted the G8 Summit. Significant new dialogues were launched, such as a trilateral China–Japan–South Korea summit meeting, and the ASEAN Charter came into force at the end of the year. On the other hand, back-to-back natural disasters struck Myanmar and China, and a manmade disaster in the form of a global financial crisis struck the region and much of the world as the subprime loan crisis that originated in the United States had a staggering ripple effect. In addition, a combination of natural and manmade factors led to a spike in the prices of oil and food, putting new pressures on efforts to alleviate poverty and hunger. And while some security issues such as piracy seemed to be improving in Asia, others, such as the situation on the Korean peninsula, appeared to be as intractable as ever. It is against this backdrop that we examine the dialogues and research products of 2008.

## The Big Picture

Our survey of dialogues and research conducted in 2008 yielded 245 Track 1 and 268 Track 2 dialogues, as well as 119 publications. As seen in figure 1, the number of Track 2 dialogues and publications held fairly steady, while there was a slight dip in Track 1 meetings. Despite this minor decline, the numbers remain much higher than the levels we saw in 2004, for example, when we identified 114 Track 1 and 199 Track 2 dialogues.

As in the past, we saw a number of new initiatives launched on the Track 1 level. A total of 16 dialogues were held for the first time, some adding another level of dialogue to an existing forum, such as the first informal consultations among foreign ministers from the East Asia Summit member nations, or the 1st Senior Officials Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Democracy Partnership. Others established new forums for the discussion of energy security, nuclear energy safety, poverty alleviation, the environment, and democracy. Interestingly, we only identified 4 new Track 2 dialogue series, down substantially from 17 last year. These new dialogues included a women's forum, a regular meeting on regional disaster risk management, a task force on regional institutional architecture, and a high-level eminent persons group. The implications of this dip in new Track 2 forums are unclear. Has the region reached a saturation point in terms of ongoing forums as opposed to project-based



meetings and conferences? Or did the onset of the financial crisis limit the ability of regional NGOs to launch new initiatives?

The following tables show the themes that appeared most frequently in the 2008 survey. Table 1 presents the predominant central themes of the meetings, while table 2 includes all issues that were on the agenda at meetings. (In other words, a meeting's main theme might be the future of the Asia Pacific region, and it would therefore be included in table 1 as "East Asia/Asia Pacific," but participants at the meeting might have discussed development, economic cooperation, and the environment, which would be reflected in table 2.)

**Table 1. Top ten dialogue themes, 2008**

<i>Track 1</i>			<i>Track 2</i>		
1	Environment	22	1	Energy	27
2	Bilateral/trilateral relations	20	2	Environment	26
3	ASEAN/ASEAN Community	18	3	Bilateral/trilateral relations	19
	Energy	18	4	Disaster	17
5	Economy/economic cooperation	17	5	East Asia/Asia Pacific (general)	16
6	Finance	16	6	Traditional security	13
7	Transnational crime (incl. human/ drug trafficking, corruption)	12	7	Development/poverty	12
8	Traditional security	11	8	Economy/economic cooperation	10
	Disaster relief/risk management	11		Health	10
10	Health	10		Integration	10

**Table 2. Top ten topics discussed at dialogues, 2008**

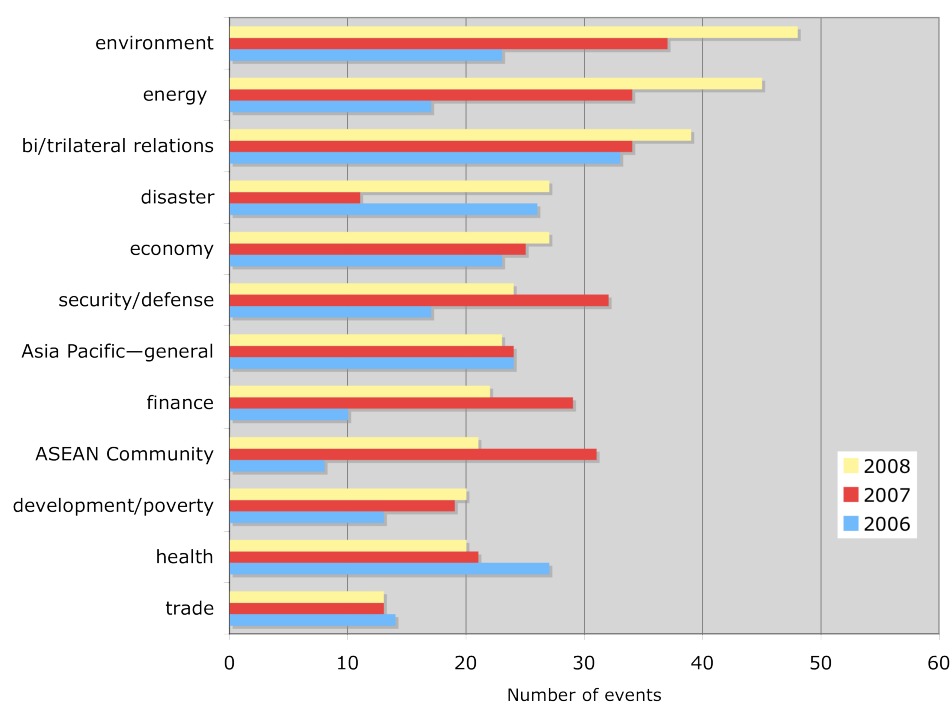
<i>Track 1</i>			<i>Track 2</i>		
1	ASEAN/ASEAN Community	54	1	Environment	79
2	Environment	53	2	Energy	52
3	Economy/economic cooperation	48	3	Development/poverty	48
4	Development/poverty	39	4	Finance	36
5	Trade	38		Economy/economic cooperation	36
6	Energy	34	6	Traditional security	31
7	Disaster relief/risk management	32		Trade	31
8	Integration	25	8	Integration	28
9	Finance	23	9	United States	27
10	Health	22	10	China	25
	Terrorism	22			

Figure 2 shows the combined total of dialogues and publications in major categories, offering a snapshot of trends over the past three years. As will be discussed below, this shows a steadily increasing focus on bilateral and trilateral relations and on development and poverty, as well as a significant leap in attention to energy and the environment. In this overview, we will explore some of these key trends that we observed in 2008.

## ASEAN and East Asia Community Building

ASEAN community building was moving forward in 2008, but it was a year in which there seemed to be less talk and more action. Whereas 2007 had marked ASEAN's 40th anniversary and was therefore a time for reflection, the focus in 2008 was on developing blueprints for the ASEAN Political-Security Community and Socio-cultural Community to complement the economic blueprint developed the previous year. Moreover, because the ASEAN Charter had been adopted in November 2007, there were substantially fewer meetings focused on that topic in 2008 (just two). Each member government needed to focus domestically during the year to ratify the charter in its country, and the charter then officially came into effect at the end of the year after being ratified at the annual ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting.

**Figure 2. Trends in total number of events in major categories, 2006–2008**



As in previous years, the development of the **ASEAN Community** was a topic left primarily to official discussions. Of the 22 meetings that specifically focused on ASEAN, only 4 were Track 2 dialogues. These included a workshop on the nature of the proposed ASEAN Community and the obstacles standing in its way, a roundtable on the ASEAN Charter, and a roundtable on the Economic Community Blueprint—all of which involved Indonesia’s Institute of Southeast Asian Studies—and an ASEAN Business Advisory Council business and investment summit. Officials at Track 1 meetings focused their attention on how to implement the provisions of the ASEAN Charter and how to establish an ASEAN Human Rights Body, as well as on the drafting of the blueprints noted above. The subject of ASEAN community building was on the agenda of 79 meetings in all, and here again, more than 70 percent were Track 1 events.

The expanded use of the **ASEAN+3** framework continues to be evident in this year’s list. A total of 27 ASEAN+3 events were identified (as compared to 25 in 2007), led by 6 meetings each on energy and health-related issues (primarily infectious disease). Other meetings addressed issues related to agriculture, development, disaster management, the economy, finance, the environment, labor, and drug trafficking.

Fifteen meetings on our list—13 Track 1 and 2 Track 2—were conducted by the **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**, down just slightly from last year’s survey. In addition to more traditional security and confidence-building issues, meetings also examined disaster relief, energy security, terrorism, and peacekeeping. For example, ARF members called for greater cooperation on disaster management and relief and, having held a desktop exercise in May 2008, they subsequently agreed to hold the first ARF disaster relief field exercise, during which civil and military participants would respond to a hypothetical typhoon disaster in Luzon, Philippines.

The **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** forum organized 23 of the dialogues on our list—9 Track 1 and 14 Track 2—which was up from 18 in 2007. In addition to

meetings on the economy, finance, trade, and regional integration, topics included growth, equity, and sustainable development; emergency preparedness; renewable energy; education; and aging. The key theme for APEC in 2008 was “A New Commitment to Asia Pacific Development,” and they examined how to promote regional integration in ways that would reduce the gap between developed and developing member economies.

The **East Asia Summit (EAS)** was not held in 2008. It was postponed until 2009 as a result of domestic political instability in the host country of Thailand. Work did proceed, however, on energy and environmental issues—topics identified as priorities at the 2nd and 3rd EAS—as six task force and ministerial meetings were held in addition to meetings of EAS senior officials and foreign ministers.

The respective roles of the EAS and other regional forums such as ASEAN+3, ARF, and APEC were still vague, and questions remained at the end of 2008 as to how to ensure that they are complementary rather than redundant, and whether they will contribute to the formation of a broader, institutionalized East Asian community. As will be discussed below when we examine the publications, the question of regional architecture was on people’s minds in 2008. For example, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) launched a two-year task force to assess the current architecture of the region, while the APEC Studies Centers Consortium Meeting looked at the regional institutional architecture as part of its discussions on the role of APEC, and other meetings considered the regional and subregional security architecture.

## **Major Powers in the Region and Subregional Community Building**

The role of major powers in the region was a less prominent issue in 2008 than in previous years. **US involvement in Asia** was touched upon in just 32 meetings, of which more than half were bilateral or trilateral dialogues, such as the ROK-US-Japan Security Workshop, the US-Japan-China Trilateral Conference, the Japan-US-Australia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue, and so on. Only a few dialogues examined the relationship of the United States with the region, such as “New Power Dynamics in Southeast Asia: Issues for US Policy” or “2nd Japan-US-Asia Dialogue: An East Asian Community and the United States.” With the exception of one project on cultural issues—“The Role of Islam in Multicultural Asia and the Changing Role of the United States in the Region”—the rest of the projects were examining general security and strategic relations. As in the past, these events failed to look at the US role in addressing transnational challenges in the region.

**Japan** was on the agenda of 29 discussions (the second year in a row that it has decreased), and **China’s** role in the region was discussed at 30 meetings (a significant drop from the previous year). As was the case with the United States, China and Japan were discussed primarily in the contexts of bilateral or trilateral relations, the balance of power in the region, economics, and security. There was less emphasis than in 2007, however, on the “rise of China” and its implications for the region, which may be a reflection of the economic downturn. Discussions of **India** similarly seemed to be declining in 2008, as only 12 events included the topic on their agenda in contrast to 21 the previous year.

**Community building in Northeast Asia** was the focus of 3 Track 2 dialogues and served as the geographical context for more than 26 dialogues in all—8 governmental meetings and 18 nongovernmental meetings—which was a significant drop from 40 the previous year. Of note among Track 1 meetings was a trilateral meeting held in



December 2008 among the leaders of China, Japan, and South Korea—the first time such a summit was held independently from other multilateral events. The meeting examined ways to promote cooperation and set forth guiding principles for trilateral cooperation, including openness, transparency, trust, common interest, and respect for the diverse cultures. Specifically, the leaders agreed to further regional cooperation to stabilize financial markets and to fight against protectionism. In addition, they agreed to take necessary measures to increase economic growth and expand domestic demand; addressed ways to strengthen disaster management for earthquakes, typhoons, floods, and other natural disasters; and discussed regional issues including North Korea and such global challenges as the environment, disarmament, and nonproliferation.

Energy and security continued to be the key themes for this subregion, with the Korean Peninsula being a key concern. As will be discussed below, progress in the **Six-Party Talks** was erratic at best in 2008, and this cast further doubts on the appropriateness of the Six-Party process as a model for the creation of a Northeast Asian regional institution, although the desirability and possible paths for such an institution were discussed in various dialogues and publications in 2008.

The majority of discussions regarding the **Southeast Asian region** continued to be framed primarily in the context of ASEAN. Just three Track 2 dialogues examined issues within that subregional context, looking at the “new power dynamics,” “democracy, crisis management and new regionalism,” and “bilateralism versus multilateralism.” As was the case last year, among the 26 dialogues that included Southeast Asia on the agenda, topics were more varied than those looking at Northeast Asia, ranging from the environment to nonproliferation, democracy, energy, migration, maritime security, terrorism, trade, and transportation. Five of the events looked at relations between individual countries and the region, such as a “Workshop on Changing Interactions between China and Southeast Asia at the Turn of the 21st Century,” and “The United States and Southeast Asia: Toward a Strategy for Enhanced Engagement.”

A number of events also focused on **smaller subregions**, such as the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines–East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA); the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle; the CLMV countries (Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam region); the Greater Mekong Subregion; and the Pacific Islands. Some of these groupings primarily target the promotion of trade and development, but a number of meetings also addressed transnational issues. In particular, projects related to the Mekong region (seven Track 1 and six Track 2) covered the environment—e.g., the impact of climate change on development, food security, energy security, and tourism in the region—agriculture, human trafficking, regional integration, and drug use among the youth of the region.

## Economic Community Building

The ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint was officially adopted in November 2007 with the goal of transforming ASEAN into “a single market and production base, a highly competitive economic region, a region of equitable economic development, and a region fully integrated into the global economy.” Fifteen meetings in 2008 looked at the issue of **regional economic integration**, including five at the Track 1 level. Some were ongoing meetings, such as the 13th High-Level Task Force Meeting on ASEAN Economic Integration, or the meeting of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force, which

looks at subregional integration among the CLMV nations. Several meetings compared European and Asian integration experiences, while others focused on issues such as regulatory reform that will lay the groundwork for further integration.

Economic integration gained even greater saliency in 2008—just one decade after the Asian financial crisis, a new **global economic crisis** had begun, triggered by the collapse of Lehman Brothers in the United States in September 2007. The following year would see the impact of the subprime mortgage crisis create ripples throughout the world. Not surprisingly, then, the economy was fifth on our list of main topics for Track 1 dialogues in 2008, and if you add in the meetings that focused on trade, finance, and economic integration, it would be well in the lead. Much of the discussion centered on the need for continued integration in the Asian financial markets, liberalization of trade within the region, and coordination to overcome the crisis. In May 2008, for example, ASEAN+3 finance ministers worked to set up an emergency fund to help stabilize the region's financial markets. And in November, when the 16th APEC forum was held in Peru, the theme of "A New Commitment to Asia-Pacific Development" ended up being overshadowed by the global recession. In the face of this crisis, the leaders stressed the need for coordinated action and a continued commitment to trade liberalization, including further exploration of the potential for a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific.

Roughly a dozen Track 2 meetings also examined the impact of the crisis on the region. Several meetings that involved Asia and Europe, for example, emphasized the ways in which the ongoing crisis was affecting both regions, such as a meeting in December that gathered scholars, policymakers, and business executives to examine the causes of the crisis, its consequences, and the actions needed at the global, regional, and national levels. Another meeting, which drew 300 participants in November, examined "The Future of Economic Integration in Asia: Challenges amid Global Financial Turmoil." The annual Future of Asia forum and the annual meeting of the Trilateral Commission's Pacific Asia Group both featured sessions that examined the effects of the financial crisis on East Asia and on regional integration. Naturally, meetings in which the business sector was heavily involved also took up the issue, such as the APEC Business Advisory Council's final meeting of the year, which considered how to seize the opportunity in responding to the global economic crisis to chart a course toward recovery and renewed growth in all APEC economies, or the ASEAN Business & Investment Summit that looked at ASEAN responses to the crisis.

The impact of the crisis on regional development was also a concern given that the World Trade Organization's Doha Round negotiations came to a standstill in July 2008 when the United States, India, and China failed to reach an agreement on agricultural trade issues. **Development** and the **alleviation of poverty** were the focus of 8 Track 1 dialogues and 12 Track 2 dialogues, showing a slight increase over 2007. There was also a substantial increase in the number of publications we found in this field—10 publications in 2008 as compared to just 5 in each of the previous 2 years. As was the case in 2007, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) played a dominant role in this field, organizing half of the dialogues we identified that focused specifically on development or poverty in the region and one-quarter of all regional meetings that included the topic on their broader agendas.

## Security Cooperation in the Region

**Traditional security** issues declined slightly as a major focus of regional discussions, dropping from a total of 73 dialogues in 2007 to 52 in 2008. They still account for roughly 10 percent of the meetings in our survey, however, and roughly the same percentage of the publications. Interestingly, the drop was even more significant if we look at how often this topic was discussed in broader contexts. The biggest gains, on the other hand were seen in **nontraditional security** issues, including environmental issues and energy security. This section will examine trends in both traditional and nontraditional security.

Nonproliferation was one of the topics that showed a significant drop in terms of its inclusion on broader agendas. It was the main focus of 11 meetings in 2008, down just slightly from the previous two years, but whereas it was discussed at 47 meetings in 2007, it was only addressed at 28 events in 2008. Of course, the Korean Peninsula looms large in the region's discussions of nonproliferation. The **Six-Party Talks** seemed to be making some progress in the middle of the year—in June the North Korean government destroyed the cooling tower of the nuclear reactor at Yongbyon to show its commitment to denuclearization, leading to a resumption of the talks in July after a nine-month break. By September, however, the International Atomic Energy Agency was reporting that North Korea had suspended the disabling of the Yongbyon nuclear facility and expelled UN monitors from its reprocessing plant. In October, the United States announced that it had removed North Korea from its State Sponsors of Terrorism List (despite Japanese objections) and North Korea announced that it would allow the monitors back in. In December, Six-Party Talks were held in Beijing, but the parties failed to agree on a protocol to verify North Korea's declaration regarding its nuclear activities, leading to further tensions and threats. The number of events focused on the Korean peninsula dropped from 11 in 2007 to just 2 in 2008, and those were both meetings of the Six-Party Talks.

**Maritime security** has been a key issue in the region in past years, but in 2008 it was brazen piracy off the Horn of Africa that was making headlines, while the Southeast Asian waterways were relatively calm. This was primarily a result of increased cooperation between Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia, and thanks to international capacity-building assistance in recent years. The number of events focusing on maritime security fell from seven in 2007 to just three in 2008.

Nor was **terrorism** a front-page issue in East Asia in 2008, although South Asia suffered a terrorist attack in November, when gunmen launched a coordinated assault in Mumbai. We identified 8 regional dialogues focused on terrorism in 2008 (7 Track 1 and 1 Track 2), while the overall number of meetings that included terrorism on the agenda dropped from 46 to 29 over the past year.

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was the main actor in the security field, holding 10 meetings on general issues of regional security as well as additional meetings on terrorism, peacekeeping, disaster relief, and energy security. The 15th ARF was held in July, but there again it was disaster relief that dominated discussions rather than the traditional security issues, although the meeting did also address North Korea's nuclear program, terrorism, the border dispute between Cambodia and Thailand, and the current food and energy crisis. The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) was a key player on the Track 2 side, holding meetings on regional security, nonproliferation, maritime security, and energy security.

Energy security and food security figured prominently among the **nontraditional security** issues of 2008. **Energy** ranked fourth in terms of Track 1 topics (18 dialogues) and first among Track 2 (27 dialogues), continuing a trend that we first saw in 2007. It did not show up prominently yet among publications, however. This increased interest in energy was in part a reflection of the jump in oil prices, which topped US\$100 in January and climbed to over US\$140 later in the year, highlighting the need for greater energy self-sufficiency among those countries dependent on imports, and also the need to explore alternative sources of energy. A second, related issue was **food security**. The prices of grains around the world were rising rapidly in 2008, in part due to the diversion of corn for use as a source of biofuel (i.e., the lower supply of corn available for human consumption and for feed caused prices to rise), but also due to surging demand for rice and other grains in developing nations like China, and to poor harvests caused by droughts and other environmental factors. Several major rice exporters imposed export controls to ensure the food supply for their own populations. The ability of nations to secure a stable food supply for their citizens, the implications of this for development, and the interconnectedness of environment, energy, food, development, and human security were brought to the forefront in 2008.

When Japan hosted the G8 Summit in July 2008, food and energy security were among the key issues on the agenda. ASEAN, ASEAN+3, ARF, the EAS, and ASEM all held meetings on energy security, including two new initiatives: the ASEAN Nuclear Energy Safety Sub-Sector Network was established to discuss civilian nuclear energy safety and security issues and to develop a nuclear safety regime at the regional level that meets international standards, while ASEM held its first Forum on Energy Security as well, discussing energy security policy and cooperation and concentrating on new and renewable energies, energy substitutes, maintaining traditional energies, intensifying energy security, and sharing Asian and European experiences on energy policy planning, technology transfer, and investment facilitation. Among the 27 Track 2 dialogues, the focus ranged from regional energy cooperation and public-private partnerships for energy security, to the benefits and challenges of biofuels and their impact on development, energy trade and investment, and climate change and energy security.

While the number of dialogues focused exclusively on food security remained small—just four Track 1 meetings—there was a noticeable leap in the number of projects that included food security on the agenda (from 10 in 2007 to 36 in 2008). It was discussed in the context of broader regional economic dialogues, meetings on nontraditional security, meetings on information technology's impact on emerging issues in the region, meetings on energy, meetings on the environment, and meetings on bilateral and trilateral relations. In December 2008, for example, ESCAP held a high-level policy dialogue that addressed the food and fuel crises and the issue of climate change in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

## **Regional Cooperation on Transnational and Global Issues**

In addition to the issues discussed above, three common issues continued to serve as focal points for regional cooperation, all of which have security implications as well: disaster prevention and relief, health issues, and the environment. There were 10 Track 1 dialogues that focused on **disaster relief and prevention** in 2008, and a total of 32 events included discussions on the topic; among Track 2 dialogues, 17 were focused on disasters. These numbers are up significantly from 2007, but are similar to what we

saw in 2006. To some extent, of course, the number of dialogues on this topic will inevitably reflect the number and severity of incidents that occur in a given year. In 2008, the region was struck by two major disasters that tested new regional and global mechanisms that were developed in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar on May 2, killing close to 140,000 people according to many estimates, and affecting millions. Less than two weeks later, a 7.9-magnitude earthquake hit Sichuan Province in Western China, killing about 70,000 people and leaving thousands missing. These two disasters highlighted the political complexities of disaster relief and the potential impact of regional integration efforts. Despite the devastation it faced, the government of Myanmar initially turned away American and French ships carrying relief supplies. It did, however, agree to work with the ASEAN Secretariat, and by May 9, an ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team comprised of government officials, disaster management experts, and NGOs from ASEAN member nations, was on the ground in Myanmar, assessing the damage and the needs. This resulted in the creation of an ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force to handle the diplomatic aspects of recovery, and a Tripartite Core Group in Yangon (consisting of ASEAN, the government of Myanmar, and the United Nations) that oversees the daily implementation of recovery assistance. This was the first such effort for ASEAN. Many have pointed to ASEAN's policy of constructive engagement with the Myanmar junta—including its success in engaging Myanmar in many of the types of dialogues we survey in this publication—as having been instrumental in enabling ASEAN to assist the people of Myanmar in a time of crisis.

China also received aid from its regional neighbors following the earthquake, including the dispatch of rescue teams from Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Russia, and Taiwan. This was the first time that the Chinese government had accepted foreign professionals for a domestic disaster rescue and relief operation. The outpouring of sympathy and aid from Japan reflected a positive shift in bilateral relations, and the fact that China was willing to accept Japanese aid (although it did refuse to allow Japan's military planes to deliver that aid), showed progress as well. In late June, a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer delivered earthquake relief supplies to Zhanjiang, becoming the first Japanese warship to visit China since WWII.

The Chinese government was generally praised for its quick response to the earthquake and for allowing more freedom in the media coverage of the disaster. On the other hand, the collapse of a number of buildings—particularly schools—due to diverted funds and shoddy construction, drew attention to the ongoing issues of graft and governance in the region, while the government's attempts to silence those who spoke out on the school construction issue served as a reminder of the ongoing human rights issues in the country. Nonetheless, the topic of **human rights** did not figure prominently in regional discussions in 2008. It was the focus of just 2 Track 1 and 4 Track 2 events in our list—as compared to 3 and 10 respectively in 2007—and there was an even more dramatic drop in terms of the number of meetings that included human rights on the agenda. Similarly, **governance** and **corruption** were only the focus of two events each in 2008.

The **health** field has been a major area of regional cooperation in Asia Pacific, but has seen a steady drop in our listings over the past few years, both in Track 1 and Track 2 dialogues, and in publications as well. In 2008, there were 10 Track 1 dialogues focused on health issues, with the main focus being on **infectious diseases**. The ASEAN+3 Health Ministers Meeting, however, examined the topic from a slightly different angle, looking at

“Trade Liberalization: Its Adverse Impact on our Borderless Health Problems.” The health ministers examined the positive and negative implications that globalization and trade liberalization have for the health sector in terms of cost saving and ensuring equitable and affordable access to quality care. Among the 4 Track 2 dialogues in 2008, there was a similar focus on infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS and avian influenza. The one outlier here was the Pacific Health Summit, which this year took on the issue of nutrition, looking at the complex challenge of there being too little of the right nutrition for vulnerable populations, and too much of the wrong kind of nutrition in both developed and developing societies. It is still unclear whether this apparent decline in the regional focus on health is a temporary phenomenon or a long-term trend, perhaps caused by greater coordination at the international rather than regional level.

Moving in quite the opposite direction numerically is the **environment**, which was the number one topic among Track 1 events in the region and number two among Track 2 events. If we look at overall agendas, those rankings flip—the environment was second only to building the ASEAN community on the Track 1 side, and on the Track 2 side, it was the leading topic by a significant margin (79 dialogues in all discussed environmental issues, as compared to the runner-up, energy, with 52).

Among the 21 Track 1 events focused on the environment, perhaps the two most notable traits are the focus on subregional groupings such as the Greater Mekong Subregion or Northeast Asia, and the overwhelming number of ongoing events. Only a handful of the dialogues were not part of a preexisting dialogue series, and of these only one, the ASEM Seminar on Adaptation to Climate Change, seems to be a one-time-only event. The others appear to be creating new dialogue series in the region, including the Inaugural EAS Environment Ministers Meeting; the 1st ASEAN-Japan Environment Dialogue; the 1st Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (TWG Mekong); and the BIMP-EAGA Regional Environment Program Inception Meeting. Among the Track 2 events, there was an ongoing focus on air quality issues, biodiversity, and “green growth,” but also an increased focus on climate change, particularly with an eye to the post-Kyoto protocol; on the connection between fuel, food, and climate change; and on the development–climate change balance. Several meetings also stressed the benefits of climate change initiatives from an economic perspective, such as a “US-Japan Workshop on the Co-benefits of Climate Actions in Asia,” in which participants from the United States, China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand exchanged views on policies and measures to achieve developmental goals while also reducing emissions of greenhouse gases; “Green Asia—Moving toward Win-Win through Change,” which addressed public-private partnerships in the green energy sector; and a PECC seminar on “Climate Change and Green Opportunities—Business, Society, and Cooperation.”

## By the Book

The *Dialogue and Research Monitor* reviews the year’s literature related to East Asia as a barometer of research being conducted in recent years. Because our list is limited to English-language publications, there is naturally some bias in this selection. It is more reflective of research aimed at the broader, international community than at a domestic constituency, which may slant the way issues are framed and analyzed. It also focuses on books and reports of a substantial length (in general, 50 pages or more) because we believe these are more indicative of ongoing research projects or collaborative

dialogues. Despite these caveats, we believe that the list sheds light on what research has been done over the past several years and what publications might be shaping the debate in the years to come. As noted above, we were able to identify 119 relevant publications that were released in 2008, which was a slight dip from the previous year. While there was a wide array of topics, the top themes addressed in these studies are summarized in table 3 below.

**Table 3. Main themes of publications in 2008**

<i>Theme</i>	<i>No.</i>
Traditional security/defense	10
Development/poverty	10
Regionalism	9
Bilateral/trilateral relations	6
ASEAN community	6
International relations/balance of power	6
Economy/economic cooperation	5
Asia Pacific/East Asia—general	4
Southeast Asia	4
Environment	4
Energy	4

Once again, publications that focused primarily on ***traditional security and defense*** issues were the most prevalent. Five of the 10 publications in this field, however, were broad, annual reviews of regional security issues—*Asia Pacific Security Survey 2008* (East-West Center, USA); *Asian Strategic Review 2008* (Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, India); *CSCAP Regional Security Outlook 2008*; *East Asian Strategic Review 2008* (National Institute for Defense Studies, Japan); and *Strategic Asia 2008–09: Challenges and Choices* (National Bureau of Asian Research, USA). Among the remaining five, one is a look at Asia-Pacific security issues undertaken as part of a joint Japanese-Russian research project. Another looks at the shifting security relations between India and Southeast Asia. A third looks at the impact of globalization on the economies, security policies, and military-industrial complexes in Asia Pacific. And the final two publications look specifically at Northeast Asia and the potential for a regional institution or architecture to promote peace and security.

Another topic at the top of the list with 10 publications was ***development and poverty***—up from just 5 publications each of the previous two years. Three of the publications in 2008 were annual surveys: the ADB’s *Asian Development Outlook 2008*; the UNDP’s *Asia-Pacific Human Development Report 2008*, which focused on corruption this year; and ESCAP’s *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008: Sustaining Growth and Sharing Prosperity*, which calls for a comprehensive liberalization of global trade in agriculture. Several publications focused on the Millennium Development Goals and the progress made to date in achieving those targets in Asia Pacific. ESCAP published *A Future Within Reach 2008: Regional Partnerships for the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific*, as well as *Delivering As One: Asia-Pacific Regional MDG Road Map 2008–2015*. Other publications looked at such issues as the impact of the global financial crisis on Asian development, and on reducing poverty through sustainable fisheries or through agriculture and secondary crop development. It is

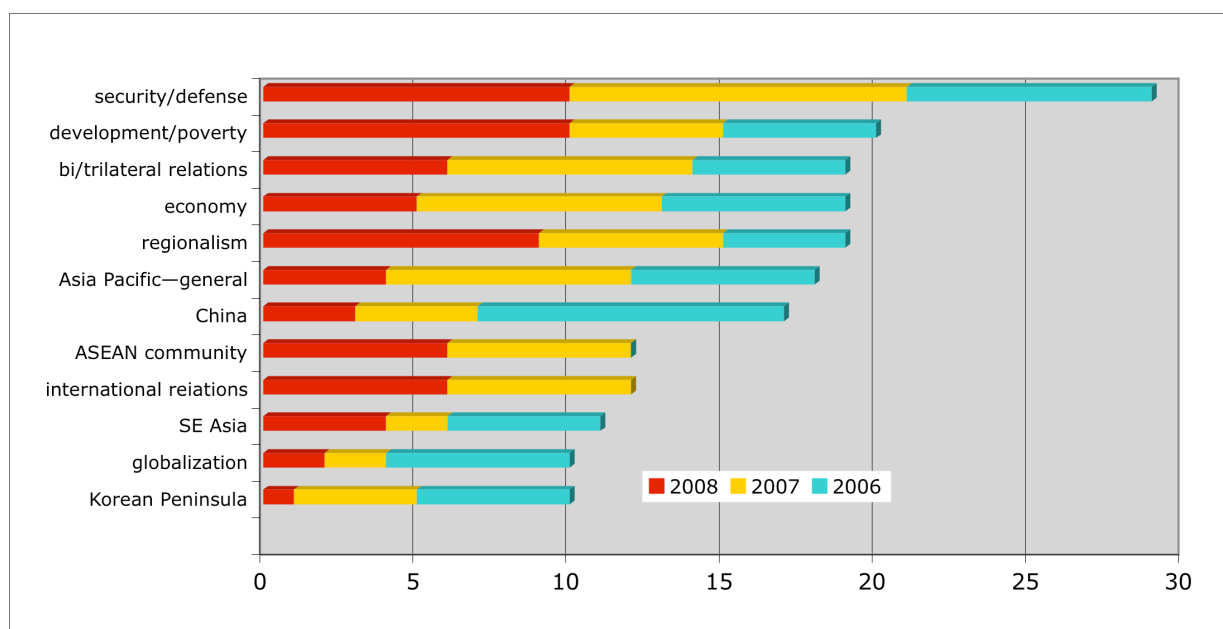
important to note, however, that out of these 10 publications, 8 were published by international agencies rather than academic institutions or think tanks.

While our survey does not include publications that only examine a single country, we do include those that focus on the role or influence of a country on the region. Such books, however, are on the decline. Compared to 2006, when 10 books looked at **China's impact on Asia**, only 3 were found this year. These included *A Rising China and Security in East Asia*, and *China, East Asia and the Global Economy*. Interestingly, this number was matched by publications on the role of the **United States in Asia**, such as *America's Role in Asia: Asian and American Perspectives*. There was just one publication on **North Korea** in our survey, *Nuclear Matters in North Korea: Building a Multilateral Response for Future Stability in Northeast Asia*, and no publications focused on **Japan**. There were also a number of studies that looked at the **bilateral or multilateral relationships** among these countries, such as *Japan and China in East Asian Integration*, or *Bridging Strategic Asia*, which looked at the US-Japan-India triangle.

**Energy**-related publications showed a slight increase in 2008, up by two over the previous year. These included broader surveys of the field, such as *Northeast Asia Energy Outlook*, as well as two publications on energy security in the region. We anticipate that this issue will become more prominent in the coming years, particularly in light of rising fuel prices and the increasing focus on the nexus between fuel, food, and climate change.

The number of publications on the **environment** held steady, with four publications this year focused on climate change. One, for example, looks at the domestic institutional processes in Asia to address climate change, circumstances impeding countries from fully participating in the climate change debate, and Asian perspectives on a plausible climate regime following the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period. Two others look at the post-Kyoto regime as well, and one looks at ways to reunite climate change and sustainable development.

**Figure 3. Publications in top 12 categories, 2006–2008**





Finally, the topics of **regionalism, integration, and the ASEAN community** continued to be key subjects for researchers, reflecting the trends in dialogues as well. JCIE's *East Asia at a Crossroads*, for example, looks at the dynamics of community building in the region. Perhaps most striking among this year's publications was the heavy emphasis on the institutional underpinnings of regional and sub-regional integration. Titles include, for example, *Institutions of the Asia-Pacific: ASEAN, APEC and Beyond*; *Asia's New Institutional Architecture: Evolving Structures for Managing Trade, Financial, and Security Relations*; *Institutional Balancing in the Asia Pacific*; and *Do Institutions Matter? Regional Institutions and Regionalism in East Asia*. Two publications focus on the potential for greater institutionalization of relations in Northeast Asia: *Peace and Security in Northeast Asia: Ways for Institutionalization* and *Institutionalizing Northeast Asia—Making the Impossible Possible*. While this was an underlying current of discussions at many of the dialogues, it seems to be explored much more directly and explicitly in the research.



For more than a decade, the *Dialogue and Research Monitor* has tracked developments in dialogue and research on security and community building in Asia Pacific. We have catalogued the steady increase in governmental and nongovernmental events and research on a broad range of topics, including longer-term issues of international relations, regional institutions, economic integration, and governance, as well as more immediate and pressing transnational issues such as disaster management and relief, energy security, food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, responses to financial crises, and terrorism.

The English-language literature on these topics has expanded, but there still tends to be a bias toward single-country studies (not included in this survey) and traditional security studies, which undoubtedly reflects traditional academic and institutional frameworks. This disconnect between research and the policy discourse in the field needs to be bridged to ensure that the rich array of dialogues in the region, many of which are becoming increasingly institutionalized, are grounded in an equally broad range of empirical research and contextual analyses. It is essential that dialogues go beyond being mere “talk shops” and that they do not expand in a way that creates redundancies or saps essential resources. In particular, at a time when new regional dialogues and initiatives are proliferating, there is a need to look at how these pieces fit together, to consider what is working and what is not, and to present best practices on specific issues of common concern.

There can be no question that increased dialogue in Asia Pacific has led to confidence building among nations and to greater stability in the region. While certain tensions do remain and challenges abound, the underpinnings of the regional community are gradually being put into place and should continue to be developed and strengthened in the years to come.



# Chronological Index of Dialogues

## Track 1: Governmental Meetings

<i>January</i> .....	17
1. 2nd Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Strategic Action Planning Meeting	
2. ASEAN High-Level Meeting on Good Practices in The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Reporting and Follow Up	
3. Japan-Mekong Foreign Ministers Meeting	
4. Special Meeting of ASEAN Director Generals	
5. 1st Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials of the 39th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting	
6. ASEAN-Republic of Korea Workshop on Knowledge Transfer to Combat Narcotics Crime	
7. 16th Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum	
8. Special ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation	
9. 1st Meeting of the ASEAN Nuclear Energy Safety Sub-Sector Network (NES-SSN)	
10. Seminar on the Promotion of Accession to the International Counter-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols	
11. ASEAN Workshop on Forging Cooperation among Anti-Terror Units	
12. 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety	
13. 9th Project Steering Committee Meeting for the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) Pilot Project	
14. ASEAN Foreign Minister's Session at the World Economic Forum	
15. 1st ASEAN Infrastructure Financing Mechanism Working Level Meeting	
16. 2nd Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Environment Ministers' Meeting	
17. 2nd Workshop on ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) Task Force and Working Group Development	
18. 5th ASEAN+3 Energy Security Forum	
19. ASEAN+3 Research Group Wrap Up Meeting	
20. Working Group on Zone of Peace Freedom and Neutrality/Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone	
21. Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) 2nd Planning Meeting	
22. 2nd Working Group on ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement	
23. 5th ASEAN +3 Oil Market Forum; 6th ASEAN +3 Oil Stockpiling Forum	
24. 3rd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting	
<i>February</i> .....	22
25. E-Bond Conference (4th Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Bond Market Linkages Working Group)	
26. 5th ASEAN-Russia Senior Officials Meeting	
27. 8th ASEAN Capital Markets Forum	
28. 4th ASEAN Workshop on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Control and Eradication: The Way Forward with the (New) ASEAN Regional Strategy for the Progressive Control and Eradication of HPAI for 2008-2010; 7th ASEAN HPAI Taskforce Meeting	
29. 4th Session of the Senior Officials Committee on Energy Cooperation in Northeast Asia	
30. ASEAN Foreign Ministers Retreat	

31. 1st APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and Related Meetings
32. Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO) 3rd General Meeting
33. 6th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime
34. Asian Bond Markets Initiative Working Group Meeting
35. 3rd Working Group on ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement
36. Working Group Meeting for the ASEAN-Japan Partnership Project and the South-South Cooperation Project; Symposium on Prospective on Agricultural Policy Development in ASEAN Countries
37. 30th Meeting of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force
38. OECD-ADBI 9th Tokyo Round Table on Capital Market Reform
39. 3rd Special Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB)
40. Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization Task Force Meeting

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41. ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies Working Group Meeting
42. ASEM Senior Officials Meeting
43. 9th ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee; 9th ASEAN-China Cooperation Committee Working Group Meeting
44. 2nd Meeting of the Committee under the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution; 1st Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (TWG Mekong)
45. 35th Meeting of the Energy Working Group (EWG); 20th Expert Group Meeting of the EWG; Business Forum on Energy
46. 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials of the 39th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting
47. 1st Meeting on the Drafting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint
48. 28th Session of the Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)
49. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Asia and Europe
50. 43rd Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council Conference; 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Education (ASED)
51. 3rd Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum
52. 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM); 2nd ACDM+3 Senior Officials Meeting
53. 4th Working Group on the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement
54. Regional Symposium on Regional Disaster Management Support System—Satellite Information Access Mechanism
55. 4th ASEAN+3 New and Renewable Energy (NRE) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Forum
56. NEASPEC Expert Group Meeting and 13th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)
57. 14th ASEAN-China Senior Officials Consultations (SOC); 3rd ASEAN-China SOC on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea
58. Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting
59. Workshop on Promoting Regulatory Reform in Support of ASEAN Market Integration
60. 1st Official Meeting for the East Asia Summit (EAS) Environment Minister's Meeting and 1st ASEAN-Japan Environment Dialogue
61. 3rd Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Summit

<i>April</i> .....	32
62. ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting (AFDM); Informal and Formal ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meetings+3 (AFDM+3); 12th ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting (AFMM) and Retreat	
63. ARF Defense Officials Dialogue	
64. ARF Intersessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy	
65. 6th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Conference on Counter Terrorism	
66. Joint Roundtable Discussion on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children	
67. 4th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution; 4th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution	
68. ARF Seminar on Anti-Personnel Mines	
69. 13th High Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration	
70. 1st ASEM Forum on Energy Security	
71. 2nd ARF Seminar on Energy Security	
72. 2nd ACD High-Level Study Group Meeting	
73. Joint Thematic Working Group Meeting of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries	
74. Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Regional Environment Program Inception Meeting	
75. 4th Coordinating Committee on the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community (ASCC)	
76. Planning Workshop for the Finalization of Report on Gender and Social Research of ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) Programme	
77. 10th Session of the Special Body on Pacific Islands Developing Countries	
78. 13th ASEAN-India Working Group, 10th ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), 10th ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting	
79. ASEAN Forum on Labour and Migration	
80. 64th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)	
81. 5th Asian Senior-Level Talks on Nonproliferation	
82. 21st Meeting of the ASEAN Crisis Communications Team	
83. ASEAN Special Senior Officials Meeting	
84. 2nd Meeting on the Drafting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint	
<i>May</i> .....	39
85. ARF Desktop Exercise on Disaster Relief	
86. ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat	
87. 11th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers Meeting (AFMM+3); ASEAN+3 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting (AFDM+3); 8th Trilateral Finance Ministers' Meeting among China, Japan, and Korea	
88. 4th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), ASEAN SOM+3; East Asia Summit Ad-Hoc SOM Consultations; ASEAN Special SOM Working Group on Security Cooperation	
89. 6th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Development Planning (SOMDP)	
90. Preparatory ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Labour (SLOM) and SLOM+3; 6th SLOM; 20th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM); ASEAN+3 Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM+3)	

91. 5th ARF Security Policy Conference; ARF Defence Officials Dialogue and Meeting
92. 7th ADPC Regional Consultative Committee Meeting on Disaster Management
93. ARF Senior Officials Meeting
94. 21st ASEAN-US Dialogue
95. 5th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue
96. 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Nuclear Energy Safety Sub-Sector Network (NES-SSN)
97. 5th Meeting of the Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty Reduction on Hunger
98. Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting
99. 2nd APEC Senior Officials Meeting and Related Meetings
100. 15th Annual Meeting of the Renewable Energy Sub-Sector Network (RE-SSN) of the ASEAN Energy Cooperation
101. 22nd ASEAN-Australia Forum
102. 2nd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting Working Group on ASEAN Political Security Community Blueprint
103. 28th ASEAN Chiefs of Police Conference (ASEANAPOL)
104. 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN)
105. 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Multilateral Environmental Agreements
106. 11th Steering Group Meeting of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific
107. ASEAN-EU Senior Officials Meeting
108. 25th Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM)
109. Southeast Asia Bioterrorism Workshop: Multi-Sectoral Policy Responses To International Bioterrorism
110. 29th Session of the Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
111. 11th ASEAN+3 Directors-General (ASEAN+3 DGs) Meeting
112. APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade

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113. Workshop, Training and Working Group Meeting on Facilitating the Entry Into Force and Implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism
114. 31st Meeting of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force
115. 2008 Forum Regional Security Committee Meeting
116. Japan-US-Australia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue Senior Officials Meeting
117. 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials of the 39th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting
118. APEC Education Ministers Meeting
119. Asian ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting
120. Special Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment to discuss ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint
121. Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea
122. 8th ASEM Financial Ministers' Meeting
123. ASEAN+3 Forum on Nuclear Energy Safety: "Cooperation on Nuclear Power as Alternative Source"
124. 8th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (8th SOMTC) & related meetings
125. 17th Meeting of ASEAN Customs Directors-General
126. 16th Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM); 12th BIMP-EAGA Ministers Meeting

127. 5th Meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Transboundary Haze Pollution
128. Cooperation on Developing Water Knowledge and Lessons: Workshop on New Concepts in Integrated Management of the Urban Water Cycle
129. 5th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution
130. 8th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management
131. 7th East Asia Summit Energy Cooperation Task Force Meeting
132. 3rd Japan-US-Australia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue
133. ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)
134. 3rd Drafting Meeting of the ASEAN Socio-cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint

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135. 18th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity
136. 9th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment
137. Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering Annual Meeting 2007 and Technical Assistance Forum
138. 1st BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation
139. 4th APEC Senior Finance Officials Meeting (SOM)
140. Heads of Delegation Meeting of the Six Party Talks (6th Round, 2nd Session)
141. 32nd Meeting of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force
142. 7th Meeting of ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) Task Force III on Law Enforcement; 6th Meeting of ACCORD Task Force IV on Alternative Development
143. Meeting of the Working Group of the Exco of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Commission
144. 4th Meeting of the 41st ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC)
145. ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and Senior Officials Meeting Informal Working Dinner
146. 41st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting
147. Meeting of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Commission
148. ASEAN+3 Senior Officials Meeting (ASEAN+3 SOM), Ad-Hoc Consultations among East Asian Summit (EAS) Senior Officials, 9th ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM+3), East Asian Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers Informal Consultations
149. ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences+1 Sessions; 6th South-West Pacific Dialogue
150. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Defence Dialogue (DD)
151. 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) Indonesia/Thailand
152. 15th ASEAN Regional Forum
153. Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of Member States of SCO

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154. Structural Reform Ministerial Meeting
155. 19th Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN); 5th ASOEN+3; 2nd Officials Meeting for East Asia Summit Environment Ministers' Meeting (EAS EMM)
156. 4th Meeting of the 39th Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM), Senior Economic Officials Consultations with Ministry of Commerce of China (SEOM-MOFCOM), Republic of Korea (SEOM-ROK), Japanese Ministry of Economic, Trade & Industry (SEOM-METI), CER Consultations (SEOM-CER), India (SEOM-India); European Union

- (SEOM-EU), and Australia (SEOM-AUSTR) Senior Economic Officials+3 Consultations (SEOM+3)
157. 26th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM); ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy Meeting; 5th AMEM+3
  158. 2nd East Asian Summit Energy Ministers Meeting
  159. 9th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP)
  160. Senior Leaders Seminar on Pandemic Influenza
  161. 3rd APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)
  162. 3S Asian Regional Seminar on Infrastructure Development for the Introduction of Nuclear Power Generation
  163. 39th Pacific Islands Forum
  164. 11th Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS)
  165. Preparatory Senior Economic Officials Meeting
  166. 29th Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drugs (ASOD); 4th Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime+3 on Narcotics
  167. ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX-08); 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee in Disaster Management
  168. 6th OPCW Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia
  169. 40th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM), including meetings with ASEAN Investment Area Council, ASEAN Free Trade Area Council, ASEAN Business Advisory Council, and the US Advisory Business Council
  170. 32nd Pacific Armies Management Seminar (PAMS)
  171. 37th Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar (PASOLS)
  172. Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (CHS SCO)
  173. ASEAN+1 Economic Ministers Consultations; Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam—Japanese Ministry of Economic, Trade & Industry Consultation (CLMV-METI); ASEAN Economic Ministers+3 Consultations (AEM+3); ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) Ministerial Meeting
  174. 10th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting; 12th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting

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175. 6th Meeting of the Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty Reduction on Hunger
176. 30th Session of the Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
177. Meeting on Documentation of Good Practices of ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) Programme
178. 3rd Meeting of the Senior Officials on the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters
179. Asia-Pacific High-Level Meeting on International Migration and Development
180. 2nd Consultative Meeting of the Project on Minimum Standards for Joint Outbreak Investigation of ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Disease Programme
181. Meeting between the High Level Panel on an ASEAN Human Rights Body with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
182. Workshop on Finalization of Report on Gender and Social Research of ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) Programme
183. Meeting of ASEAN Ad hoc Task Force on Food Security
184. High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Myanmar
185. ACD Ministerial Meeting on the Sidelines of the 63rd UN General Assembly



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186. ASEM Seminar on Adaptation to Climate Change
187. 3rd Meeting of the Committee under the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COM-3); 4th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP-4); 11th Informal Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME); 7th ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM); East Asian Summit (EAS) Environment Ministers Meeting
188. 11th Informal Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME); 7th ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM); East Asian Summit (EAS) Environment Ministers Meeting
189. 5th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Investor Seminar; Informal ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting
190. 2nd NARBO Thematic Workshop on Water-Related Disaster Management
191. Preparatory Senior Officials Meetings on Health Development; 9th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM); 3rd ASEAN+3 Health Ministers Meeting; 2nd ASEAN Plus China Health Ministers Meeting
192. ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy
193. ASEAN-Russia 6th Joint Planning and Management Committee Meeting and the 7th Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting
194. Inaugural East Asia Summit (EAS) Environment Ministers Meeting
195. 3rd ASEAN+3 Health Ministers Meeting
196. 6th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) and 1st ASEAN+3 Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE+3)
197. Japan-US-ROK Vice-Ministerial Consultation
198. 24th ASEAN-Japan Forum
199. 7th ACD Ministerial Meeting
200. Asian Exim Banks Forum: Changing Business Landscape
201. 7th ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM)
202. Senior Officials Meeting of the 30th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture & Forestry (SOM AMAF); 8th SOM AMAF+3
203. 15th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Ministerial Meeting; 5th Governors and Chief Ministers Forum
204. 6th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution
205. 7th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW)
206. 4th Meeting of Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime
207. Special ASEAN Summit Meeting
208. 7th Asia-Europe Summit (ASEM 7)
209. SCO Heads of Government Council
210. 1st Senior Officials' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Democracy Partnership (APDP)
211. High Level Regional Policy Meeting on Networking toward Gender and Poverty Sensitive Energy Policies

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212. 16th Meeting of ASEAN Task Force On AIDS
213. 30th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation

214. 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General Of Immigration Departments and Heads Of Consular Affairs Divisions Of Ministries Of Foreign Affairs
215. Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) 17th Senior Officials Meeting/13th Ministers Meeting (SOM/MM)
216. 6th Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT) Senior Officials Meeting
217. 14th ASEAN Transport Ministers and Associated Meetings; 26th Senior Transport Officials Meeting
218. 15th APEC Finance Minister Meeting
219. Ayeyawady–Chao Phraya–Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Ministerial Meeting; ACMECS Summit
220. 4th Cambodia–Lao PDR–Myanmar–Vietnam (CLMV) Summit
221. 6th ASEAN-Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) Leaders Conference
222. 13th BIMSTEC Senior Officials’ Meeting; 11th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting; 2nd BIMSTEC Summit
223. 11th Annual Chiefs of Defense Conference (CHOD)
224. 7th ASEM Conference for Directors General on Migratory Flows
225. 20th APEC Ministerial Meeting
226. 2nd Meeting of the Subregional Energy Forum (SEF-2), 7th Meeting of the Regional Power Trade Coordination Committee (RPTCC-7), 7th Meeting of the Focal Group (FG-7), 6th Meeting of the Planning Working Group (PWG-6)
227. 4th Roundtable Discussion on Human Rights in ASEAN: Realizing the People-Oriented ASEAN Community with Human Rights
228. 22nd Meeting of the ASEAN Crisis Communications Team
229. 16th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting
230. 1st ASEAN-MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) Ministerial Meeting
231. 3rd ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM)
232. Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM)
233. ASEAN+3 Deputy Finance Ministers and Deputy Central Bank Governors Meeting
234. Forum on Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA)

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235. 5th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD); 4th SOMSWD+3
236. 8th Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM DR)
237. 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
238. 10th ASEAN-US Informal Coordinating Mechanism
239. 8th ARF Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR)
240. Six Party Talks (7th Round, 1st Session)
241. Bali Democracy Forum Ministerial Meeting
242. Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Policy Consultation on Foreign Policy towards Africa
243. Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting
244. Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting
245. 5th Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area Summit

## Track 2: Multisectoral Policy Meetings

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1. 4th US-Japan-China Trilateral Conference	
2. ASEF Workshop on Irregular Migration	
3. 11th Regional Outlook Forum	
4. Capacity Building Seminar on Environment Mainstreaming Using the Application of Green Growth Policy Tools in Sustainable Development Decision Making	
5. Workshop on Capacity Building for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans	
6. International Workshop: "External Impacts on Freedom and Democratization in Southeast Asia"	
7. Panel Discussions on Climate Change, the human Welfare Aspects of MDGs and Avian Influenza/Pandemic Preparedness	
8. International Conference on Regional Integration-Asia and Europe Compared	
9. Sentosa Roundtable on Asian Security 2008	
10. Asian Perspectives on the Future Role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)	
11. Conference on the India-China-USA Triangle	
12. 1st APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Meeting of 2008	
13. Workshop on Research Activities on Avian Influenza and other Transboundary Animal diseases in Southeast Asia / International Symposium on Avian Influenza	
14. 2nd Japan-US-Asia Dialogue: An East Asian Community and the United States	
15. 1st Regular Meeting of 2008 of the Advisory Group on APEC Financial System Capacity Building	
16. Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR) Brainstorming Meeting	
17. UN Regional Forum on Bioenergy Development	
18. Aid for Trade and Development: Global and Regional Perspectives	
19. Northeast Asian Network (NEAN) 2008	
20. 4th Regional Dialogue of Air Quality Management Initiatives and Programs in Asia	
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21. 4th Meeting of the Track II Study on the Feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Arrangement for East Asia	
22. 15th IUSTI Asia Pacific Congress	
23. 10th Asian Security Conference: Asian Security in the 21st Century	
24. ASEAN Regional Workshop on Gender Equality Legislation	
25. 4th Trilateral Defense Workshop on Jeju "Peace Island"	
26. 4th ROK-US-Japan Security Workshop	
27. 3rd East Asian Symposium on Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	
28. Expert Group Meeting on Urban Safety for the Poor in Asia and the Pacific	
29. ESCAP/ITC High-Level Consultation on Trade in Services for Regional Integration	
30. 9th EADN Annual Forum	
<u>March</u> .....	91
31. 10th Session of the Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking	
32. 2nd ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting	
33. ADB-OECD Expert Meeting on Beneficial Private Sector Participation in Water and Sanitation	
34. APEC Business Forum on Energy	

35. A New Nuclear World Order: Asian Perspectives
36. Rising Asia: The Next 10 Years
37. Joint Conference on European and Asian Integration: Achievements and Challenges
38. High-level Workshop on Community-based Disaster Risk Management in PDR SEA-4
39. International Conference on the Implications of the ASEAN Charter for East Asian Integration
40. 12th Session of the Consultative Meeting of Executive Heads of Sub-regional Organizations and ESCAP
41. Workshop on Economic and Financial Linkages between Asia and Europe
42. Business Awareness Creating Seminar on the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
43. Asian Mediation Retreat 2008
44. Forum on Clean Energy, Good Governance and Regulation
45. 1st Meeting of Japan-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group
46. Workshop on International Year of Sanitation
47. Tokyo Peacebuilders Symposium 2008: Peacebuilding Experience and Knowledge from Asia to the World
48. 3rd Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Asia Pacific Cooperation for Energy Security
49. PECC-ABAC Conference: Demographic Change and International Labor Mobility in the Asia Pacific Region-Implications for Business and Cooperation
50. East Asia Forum Dialogue
51. 5th Disaster Management Practitioners Workshop on Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)
52. East Asia Workshop on Transparency and Integrity in the Water Sector
53. Promoting Regulatory Reform in Support of ASEAN Market Integration

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54. 12th Japan-US-China Trilateral Security Conference
55. 2nd Meeting of the (Renewed) Study Group on Facilitating Maritime Security Cooperation
56. 5th Disaster Management Practitioners Workshop
57. Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) 2nd Meeting of the Regional Water Knowledge Hubs Network
58. Micro-Economic Foundations of Economic Policy Performance in Asia
59. Williamsburg Conference: The Role Of Islam In Multi-Cultural Asia and the Changing Role Of The United States In The Region
60. Financing Village-Level Energy for Development in Asia and the Pacific Region
61. 5th United States Asia Pacific Council Conference: New Challenges in a Changing Environment
62. Boao Forum for Asia 2008: Green Asia-Moving toward Win-Win Through Changes
63. 4th NEAT Working Group Meeting on East Asian Financial Cooperation
64. 2nd Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers
65. Workshop on ASEAN Community: Unblocking the Roadblocks
66. 2nd Expert Group Meeting on Eco-efficiency Indicators
67. Concluding Regional Workshop on Sharing Experience and Expertise on Building Community Resilience to Natural Disasters through Partnership
68. US-Japan Workshop on the Co-benefits of Climate Actions in Asia
69. Kick-off Meeting of Asia-Pacific Gateway to Climate Change and Development
70. Conference on Key Development Issues in Asia

71. Dialogue among APEC Economies, Business Community, and Key International and Regional Partners on Emergency Preparedness
72. PECC Regional Institutional Architecture Task Force Meeting
73. 7th Meeting of the UNESCAP Business Advisory Council
74. Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2008: Energy Security-Opportunities through Regional Energy Cooperation and Public-Private Partnerships
75. 3rd Northeast Asia Forum
76. Regional Workshop on Poverty Reduction and Social Development in ASEAN: toward an ASEAN Roadmap for the Implementation of MDGs Plus
77. 2008 Energy Security Conference: Opportunities and Constraints-Prospects for Russian Oil and Gas Supply to Asia

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78. 15th ASEAN-ISIS Colloquium on Human Rights (AICOHR)
79. The Experiments with Democracy in East and Southeast Asia: Two Decades After
80. 41st ADB Annual Meeting
81. 2008 Northeast Asian Energy Outlook
82. 5th Meeting of the Working Group on Energy Planning and Policy (WG-EPP)
83. UNESCAP 2nd Meeting on Developing Effective Policies and Practices to Manage Problematic Drug Use of Young People in the Greater Mekong Sub-region
84. NEAT Working Group Meeting on East Asian Investment Cooperation
85. Contemporary Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia: Structures, Institutions, and Agency
86. East Asia Investment Forum 2008: East Asia Investment Cooperation in the Context of Global Financial Turbulence
87. Expert Group Meeting on Progress on International Commitments to Combat HIV/AIDS in the Asian and Pacific Region
88. 2nd APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Meeting of 2008
89. Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts and Related Natural Disasters in East Asia
90. Regional Seminar on Enhancing Social Services Policies to Strengthen Family Well-being in Asia and the Pacific
91. 5th Meeting of the Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty Reduction on Hunger
92. Workshop on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights: "Supporting the Establishment of Regional Human Rights Mechanism in ASEAN"
93. Women's Forum Asia
94. 2nd Greater Mekong Subregion Development Dialogue on Climate Change (Public-Private Partnerships)
95. Seminar on Southeast Asian Trade Security and Sea Routes
96. Financial Market and Ageing in APEC
97. The Future of Asia 2008-14th Nikkei International Conference
98. 7th Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Asia Pacific
99. Workshop on Changing Interactions between China and Southeast Asia at the Turn of the 21st Century
100. ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST+3): New Energy Forum for Sustainable Environment
101. 2nd PECC Seminar on Water Management in Islands, Coastal, and Isolated Areas
102. Asia NGO Consultative Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction
103. 18th Asian Corporate Conference

104. 7th IISS Asia Security Conference (Shangri-La Dialogue)

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105. 29th CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting
106. Asia's Strategic Challenges: In Search of a Common Agenda
107. 22nd Asia Pacific Roundtable (APR)
108. Asia Clean Energy Forum 2008: Investing in Solutions that Address Climate Change and Energy Security
109. 8th NEAT Country Coordinators Meeting
110. Japan-East Asia Dialogue: Cooperation in Environment and Energy
111. 13th Poverty and Environment Partnership (PEP) Meeting
112. Managing SE Asia Porous Borders II in the Maritime Domain Conference
113. Korea and Southeast Asia: Expanding Relations and New Challenges
114. 7th Workshop on Human Rights Mechanism for ASEAN
115. ASEM Conference - Asia, Europe and the Future of Regional Economic Integration
116. World Economic Forum on East Asia 2008: Responding to New Uncertainties
117. Pacific Health Summit 2008: The Global Nutrition Challenge-Getting a Healthy Start
118. Regional Meeting on the Development of Intermodal Interfaces
119. International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation—Workshop on Enhancing Capacity Building for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Focusing Mainly on the Experiences in Southeast Asia
120. New Power Dynamics in Southeast Asia: Issues for US Policy
121. Regional Policy Dialogue in "Financing for Development"
122. Sino-US-Japan-ROK Seminar on East Asian Security: Challenge, Trend and Prospect
123. International Workshop on Buddhism and the Crises of Nation-States in Asia
124. APEC Study Centers Consortium Meeting
125. ARTNeT Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Capacity Building Workshop on Regional Integration and Competitiveness: The European Experience
126. International Workshop on Autonomy and Armed Separatism in South and Southeast Asia
127. Asia-Pacific Water Forum Regional Consultation Meetings on Climate Change Adaptation and Water-Related Disaster Management
128. Energy Future in East Asia
129. Workshop on Managing China-Japan-US Relations and Strengthening Trilateral Cooperation

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130. 14th Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Working Group on the Environment
131. Energy Resources Cooperation and Corporate Strategy in Northeast and Central Asia
132. 2nd Meeting of the Commission on AIDS in the Pacific
133. 2008 Senior Policy Forum
134. 4th Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Asia Pacific Cooperation for Energy Security
135. 2nd APEC Public-Private Sector Forum on Bond Market Development
136. North Pacific International Symposium: The Future for East Asia and the Role of China
137. Democracy, Crisis Management and New Regionalism in Southeast Asia
138. Asian Power Forum 2008: What Is Asia's Power Energy Industries Next Step?
139. Expert Roundtable Discussion on the Road to Ratification and Implementation of the ASEAN Charter: Its Strengths and Weaknesses

140. Asian Noodle Bowl Conference
141. 14th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting
142. Nuclear Stability in Asia
143. Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) Research Team Meeting on TRAs and Production Networks Linkages
144. 3rd Annual Meeting of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network
145. Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on Promoting Sustainable Social Protection Strategies to Improve Access to Health Care]
146. Inaugural Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Management Meeting for Pacific CEOs of Finance/Planning and Disaster Management
147. ASEAN Roundtable 2008: ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint
148. International Workshop: Natural Resources and the Development-Environment Dilemma in the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia
149. 13th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions
150. ARTNeT Research Team Meeting: Impact of IT-based Trade Facilitation Measures on Inclusive Development
151. Conference on Return Migration in Asia: Experiences, Ideologies and Politics

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152. Japan-China-ROK Joint International Research Conference
153. 9th Asia Pacific Forum, Awaji Conference
154. 3rd APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Meeting of 2008
155. 10th Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers 2008
156. ASEAN Energy Business Forum 2008
157. Asia-Pacific Security Forum
158. Workshop on East Asia Facing a Rising China
159. Conference on Negotiating Strategies for Creating a Liberalized Air Transport Bloc in Northeast Asia
160. East Asia and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents
161. 3rd ACD High-Level Study Group (HLSG) Meeting
162. ARTNeT Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Initiative Research Team Meeting - Political Economy of Regional Integration in the GMS: A Stakeholder Analysis
163. Roundtable on Information Technology Infrastructure
164. 6th Annual NEAT Conference; 9th NEAT Country Coordinators Meeting of NEAT
165. 4th Meeting of the CSCAP Export Controls Experts Group
166. Energy, Climate, and Food Security Conference: Responding to Global Challenges through Regional Cooperation and Public-Private Partnership
167. 20th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues
168. Regional Workshop on Energy and Nontraditional Security
169. Workshop on Consensus Building in Asia: Developing Energy and Natural Resources, Building Sustainable Society
170. J-Global Forum

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171. 6th Meeting of the Working Group on Energy Planning and Policy
172. 6th Meeting of the Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty Reduction on Hunger
173. ADB Urban Day 2008
174. 5th Baikal Economic Forum

175. ADB Transport Forum: Asia on the Move-Energy Efficient and Inclusive Transport
176. Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking
177. Emerging Asian Regionalism: Trends and Challenges
178. Joint International Symposium on Disaster Risk Management
179. Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO Asia) 2008
180. Pacific Island Nation Security Issues Workshop
181. 3rd Berlin Conference on Asian Security: China in Asia's Future—Perspectives from Asia, the United States, and Europe
182. Restructuring Beyond the Subprime
183. 6th Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVFORUM) Roundtable
184. 3rd Policy Forum of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth: Addressing Climate Change through the Green Growth
185. Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in Asia and the Pacific
186. 5th Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion Working Group on Agriculture
187. Integrated Workshop on Coping with Climate Change in the Typhoon Committee Area
188. Policy Dialogue on Bio-fuels in Asia: Benefits and Challenges
189. 7th Japan-ASEAN Dialogue: Prospect of Japan-ASEAN Partnership after the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation
190. Workshop on Migration and Diversity in Asian Contexts
191. The United States and Southeast Asia: Toward a Strategy for Enhanced Engagement
192. Trilateral Relations among China, Russia, and the USA: Structure, Reception, and Politics
193. Emerging Asian Regionalism: ASEAN-India FTA and Beyond
194. APEC Energy Trade and Investment Roundtable

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195. Meeting to Review Study Results on Urban Safety for the Poor in Asia and the Pacific
196. Bilateralism Versus Multilateralism in Southeast Asia
197. Advancing ASEAN-EU Relations in the 21st Century
198. Workshop on Developing, Planning and Administering Humanitarian Disaster Relief
199. 23rd Pacific Economic Community Seminar: Climate Change and Green Opportunities-Business, Society, and Cooperation
200. Policy Forum on Towards a Copenhagen Consensus: Opportunities and Challenges
201. European Integration and the Northeast Asian Community: Lessons Learned and Prospects
202. 10th East Asia-Europe Think Tank Dialogue: Institutional Development in Regional Organizations-Charter Making in the EU and ASEAN
203. APEC 2009 Symposium
204. 6th East Asia Forum (EAF)
205. 5th ROK-US-Japan Joint Workshop
206. 3rd Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe
207. China-ASEAN Think Tank Strategic Dialogue: Managing Challenges, Expanding Cooperation
208. Sub-regional Workshop on Addressing Multi-sectoral Determinants of Maternal Morality in the ESCAP Region
209. Asia-Pacific Development Cooperation Forum: Regional Workshop on Trends and Progress in Triangular and South-South Cooperation
210. Expert Group Meeting on Sustainability of Economic Growth, Resource Efficiency and Resilience



211. WIPO/ESCAP High-level Regional Round Table Dialogue on Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights and Development
212. 5th Meeting of Disaster and Environment Working Group of Asia (DEWGA)
213. 2nd Informal Consultation with South East Asian Countries on Perspective for a Post 2012 Climate Change Framework
214. 11th PIIC Beijing Seminar on International Security: Building a Harmonious World of Stability and Win-Win
215. Transnational Security Challenges and Cross-Regional Cooperation
216. 17th Northeast Asia Economic Forum (NEAEF)
217. International Conference on Sustainable Urban Environmental Practices
218. Asia-Pacific Forum: "EAFTA, CEPEA, FTAAP and Beyond"

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219. 2nd Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institute Meeting (NADI)
220. Natural Catastrophe Risk Insurance Mechanisms for the Asia and Pacific Region
221. Regional Workshop on Institutional Changes Required to Achieve the MDG on Sanitation in Asia and the Pacific
222. 2nd Annual Convention of the Consortium of Nontraditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia)
223. 1st Regional Workshop on the Development of Eco Efficient Water Infrastructure for Socio-economic Development in Asia and the Pacific Region
224. Informal Consultation with the Asian-Pacific Developing Countries on Perspectives for a Post 2012 Climate Change Framework
225. Better Air Quality 2008: " Air Quality and Climate Change: Scaling Up Win-Win Solutions for Asia"
226. Jeju Peace Institute–Konrad Adenauer Foundation Joint Conference: Peace and Security in Northeast Asia: Ways for Institutionalization
227. The 2008 EWCA International Conference
228. 3rd ARF Experts and Eminent Persons Meeting
229. Building an Asia Pacific Community
230. Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration, Including Human Trafficking
231. 9th Trilateral Commission Pacific Asia Regional Meeting
232. 3rd Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit
233. Financial and Macroeconomic Issues in Asian Economic Integration
234. 19th Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue
235. 3rd Korea-ASEAN Cooperation Forum
236. Asia Pacific Regional Water Conference 2008: "A Shared Future In Water"
237. 4th APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Meeting of 2008
238. UNESCAP/International Labor Organization (ILO) Sub-regional Workshop on Sharing Experiences between Asian and Pacific Countries to Improve Income and Employment Opportunities for Vulnerable Groups—Paving the Way for National Action Plan
239. Expert Group Meeting on World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+5 and Emerging Issues in Asia and the Pacific
240. 16th International Conference of the East and Southeast Network for Better Local Governments
241. 3rd PECC Seminar on Water Management in Islands, Coastal, and Isolated Areas
242. APEC CEO Summit
243. The Future of Economic Integration in Asia: Challenges amid Global Financial Turmoil

- 244. 7th Asian Public Intellectuals (API) Workshop
- 245. South China Sea Conference 2008
- 246. Conference on Energy and Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities
- 247. Expert Group Meeting on Economic and Social Performance and Issues in the ESCAP Region
- 248. Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific
- 249. Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument: Workshop on Cybercrime Legislation in ASEAN Member States
- 250. Global Energy Fulcrum: Asian Development and International Response

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- 251. 30th CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting
- 252. 36th Meeting of the APEC Energy Working Group
- 253. 3rd ASEAN GO-NGO Forum
- 254. 6th East Asia Congress
- 255. Governance of a Globalising World: Whither Asia and the West?
- 256. 6th CSCAP Biannual General Conference
- 257. ASEM Workshop on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development
- 258. 4th Asia Economic Summit
- 259. 2nd Asia-Europe Economic Forum (AEEF) Conference-The Global Financial Crisis: Policy Choices in Asia and Europe
- 260. ARTNeT-PEP Policy Forum on Trade, Investment, and Domestic Policy
- 261. High-level Regional Policy Dialogue on “The Food-fuel Crisis and Climate Change: Reshaping the Development Agenda”
- 262. Global Development Learning Network Seminar on Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in East Asia and the Pacific - Session 1: Lessons Learned and Knowledge Sharing Seminar on Post-disaster Recovery Planning
- 263. 13th Talks on the Hill: Ethnicity, Race, and Politics
- 264. Meeting of Chairs of the Typhoon Committee Working Groups
- 265. Renewable Energy Asia 2008 and an International Conference & 4th SEE Forum Meeting
- 266. 2008 ASEAN Business & Investment Summit
- 267. International Conference on Energy Security in the North Pacific
- 268. Promoting the Universality of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Annexed Protocols in South Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands
- 269. International Conference on Trans-boundary Air Pollution in North-East Asia

## Track 1: Governmental Meetings

### January

1. **2nd Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Strategic Action Planning Meeting**  
*Date:* January 14–15, 2008  
*Location:* Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia  
*Organizers/Sponsors:* ASEAN
2. **ASEAN High-Level Meeting on Good Practices in The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Reporting and Follow Up**  
*Date:* January 14–15, 2008  
*Location:* Vientiane, Laos  
*Organizers/Sponsors:* ASEAN

Attended by delegates from all 10 members states, this ASEAN meeting on eliminating discrimination against women reaffirmed the importance of the CEDAW as a guiding framework for various ASEAN and international declarations and its relevance to the implementation of the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the ASEAN Charter. The delegates recognized the steady progress achieved in ASEAN member countries in the enhancement of the role and contributions of women and in mainstreaming gender into policies, plans, programs, and budgets.

The delegates recognized the CEDAW as one of the important international instruments for gender mainstreaming together with the Beijing Platform for Action and MDGs. They agreed to continue to share experiences and good practices, and to enhance the CEDAW implementation, monitoring, and reporting through a variety of agreed-upon guidelines. Participants also agreed to continue to undertake national efforts for sustainable capacity building as well as to enhance cooperation and partnerships among all stakeholders, both regionally and internationally.

3. **Japan-Mekong Foreign Ministers Meeting**  
*Date:* January 16, 2008  
*Location:* Tokyo, Japan  
*Organizers/Sponsors:* Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Recognizing the growing interdependence of the Mekong region and the key role Japan has played in the region's economic growth, a Japan-Mekong Region Partnership Program was announced in January 2007. This was the first foreign ministers meeting held under that initiative. Foreign ministers from Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Lao PDR discussed regional projects to promote trade and investment in the region, calling for the promotion of dialogue and capacity-building projects. They also discussed ongoing regional efforts and Japanese initiatives to address human security and transnational threats such as infectious disease, terrorism, environmental protection, disaster mitigation, drugs, and human trafficking. Myanmar was encouraged to work with the UN to promote national reconciliation. Global issues such as climate change, denuclearization, and the MDGs were also on the agenda. The year 2009 was set as "Mekong-Japan Exchange Year," and various dialogues and exchanges were planned. This meeting was followed by a series of bilateral meetings on January 16–17, and by a seminar on investment promotion.

4. **Special Meeting of ASEAN Director Generals**  
*Date:* January 17–18, 2008  
*Location:* Singapore  
*Organizers/Sponsors:* ASEAN

5. **1st Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials of the 39th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting**

**Date:** January 19–22, 2008

**Location:** Baguio City, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

6. **ASEAN-Republic of Korea Workshop on Knowledge Transfer to Combat Narcotics Crime**

**Date:** January 20–22, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, Korea

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

ASEAN and South Korea launched an ASEAN-ROK Knowledge-Transfer Programme on Narcotic Crimes in 2007. In 2008, Lao PDR became the first country to receive drug control assistance from Korea to strengthen its drug law enforcement capacity.

7. **16th Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum**

**Date:** January 20–24, 2008

**Location:** Auckland, New Zealand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum

Participants from 21 member parliaments and nine observer countries convened for the annual meeting, which was organized into three plenary sessions. During the first session, concerning political and security issues, the delegates made resolutions on the situation in the Korean Peninsula, cluster munitions, the Middle East peace process, the situation in Iraq, and the situation in Myanmar. In the plenary session on economic and trade issues, the delegates made resolutions on climate change and sustainable development, energy security, international and regional trade developments, people-centered information, and science and technology. The delegates in the final session, on regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, discussed a wide range of topics relevant to the region, including disaster preparedness and pandemic disease, South Pacific fisheries management, interfaith dialogue, and promoting women's participation in politics and the economy.

8. **Special ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC)**

**Date:** January 21–22, 2008

**Location:** Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Building on the results achieved under the EC-ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Cooperation Program (ECAP) I and II, the EC designed and proposed a concept paper on the ECAP III. At this Special Meeting, participants considered and endorsed in principle the "Concept Paper on ECAP III." A formulation mission conducted by a team of experts started later that month.

9. **1st Meeting of the ASEAN Nuclear Energy Safety Sub-Sector Network (NES-SSN)**

**Date:** January 22–23, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The NES-SSN was established to discuss civilian nuclear energy safety and security issues, and to develop a nuclear safety regime at the regional level that meets international standards. In attendance at the first meeting as observers were two representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), who presented the IAEA's program on nuclear safety and security, with particular emphasis on the global nuclear safety and security regime and the

Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN). The participation of the IAEA provided an opportunity for mutual exchange of information and for exploring a broader utilization of the ANSN by ASEAN. Additionally, the meeting sought to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and the IAEA in the area of nuclear safety.

10. **Seminar on the Promotion of Accession to the International Counter-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols**

**Date:** January 22–23, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Government of Japan

The fifth in a series, the seminar aimed to to deepen knowledge on the international legal frameworks of counter-terrorism. The discussions focused on the possibilities for eliminating the technical difficulties associated with concluding conventions on counter-terrorism among participating countries. Since this seminar series was first convened, accession to international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols by the participating countries has expanded, with the total number of ratified conventions increasing from 85 among the 13 participants in 2006 to 101 in 2008.

11. **ASEAN Workshop on Forging Cooperation among Anti-Terror Units**

**Date:** January 23–24, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Government of Japan

The workshop resulted from the implementation of one of the priorities of the second ASEAN-Canada Cooperation Work Plan 2007–2010, which the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference+1 Session with Canada issued on August 1, 2007, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-Canada partnership. The priorities of the work plan for the period 2007–2008, were (1) counter-terrorism and transnational crimes, (2) economic cooperation, (3) health security, (4) interfaith dialogue, and (5) technical assistance and capacity building with the ASEAN Secretariat.

12. **6th Meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety**

**Date:** January 23–25, 2008

**Location:** Makati City, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Eight of the ASEAN countries were in attendance for the sixth ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety meeting, where they discussed common issues for ASEAN cooperation, such as the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme measures on food safety. Progress and achievements were noted in the implementation of the ASEAN Food Safety Improvement Plan, especially in some areas of the Programme on Food Inspection and Certification and discussed the possibility for funding this project by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Participants also considered ways to improve the sharing of information, including ways to strengthen the ASEAN Food Safety Network (AFSN).

13. **9th Project Steering Committee Meeting for the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) Pilot Project**

**Date:** January 24–25, 2008

**Location:** Xiamen, China

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

EAERR held its Project Steering Committee meeting in an ASEAN+3 country for the first time since its establishment in 2004. This meeting played a crucial role in considering the draft ASEAN+3

Emergency Rice Reserve Agreement and determining the programs and activities proposed by the EAERR Management Team during its extension period after the 7th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)+3 Meeting. It was agreed to extend the pilot project for one more year (ending February 2009). Participants approved the budget and plans for 2008 and approved a plan to implement the Tier 3 Program to help disaster victims in some areas in Indonesia and to conduct a cooperative program between Lao PDR and EAERR to study national rice reserve management.

Representatives from all ASEAN+3 countries attended, as did representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency's Lao office. National and local government representatives from China participated as observers.

14. **ASEAN Foreign Minister's Session at the World Economic Forum**

**Date:** January 25, 2008

**Location:** Davos, Switzerland

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

15. **1st ASEAN Infrastructure Financing Mechanism Working Level Meeting**

**Date:** January 28–29, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

At the 11th ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting in April 2007, ministers agreed that infrastructure investment would accelerate regional growth and integration. They therefore called for the establishment of a new infrastructure financing mechanism that would help mobilize regional savings and international capital for regional development and would increase intraregional flows of investment and services. To promote greater and competitive levels of investments in ASEAN infrastructure projects, they agreed to set up a task force to work out the details of establishing a new infrastructure financing mechanism. This was the first working meeting on that initiative.

16. **2nd Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Environment Ministers' Meeting**

**Date:** January 28–29, 2008

**Location:** Vientiane, Lao PDR

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asian Development Bank (ADB), UNEP

The GMS comprises six countries sharing the Mekong River, including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and China. This meeting reviewed the progress of implementation of the Core Environment Program, which was developed as a joint initiative of GMS member countries and endorsed at the first Environment Ministers' Meeting in May 2005 and the second GMS Summit of Leaders in July 2005. The program seeks to empower GMS countries to effectively manage their environment and economic development through enhanced connectivity, improved competitiveness, and a better sense of community in the subregion in order to achieve an overall and sustainable improvement in people's lives. Development challenges faced by the GMS member countries include a declining resource base, acid rain, insufficient capacity for sustainable environmental planning, and challenges to equitable economic development.

17. **2nd Workshop on ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) Task Force and Working Group Development**

**Date:** January 28–30, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

ASEAN-WEN is a platform for more effective coordination and information sharing across national and regional agencies in the fight against the illicit harvesting and trafficking of wildlife. Since the

launching of ASEAN-WEN in 2005, each ASEAN-WEN member country has increased its cross-border efforts to stop nature-related crimes and criminal organizations. Participants discussed relevant aspects of the Vientiane Action Plan and other ASEAN agreements on food, agriculture, and forestry.

**18. 5th ASEAN+3 Energy Security Forum**

**Date:** January 29, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The forum was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, in addition to the staffs of the ASEAN Centre for Energy, ASEAN Council on Petroleum Secretariat, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the Institute of Energy Economy of Japan. Experts presented papers on energy consumption trends in ASEAN+3, the progress on the second ASEAN Energy Outlook, and the activities of the ASEAN Forum on Coal, and discussed the status of the ASEAN+3's energy communication system and collection of oil price data.

**19. ASEAN+3 Research Group Wrap Up Meeting**

**Date:** January 29, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The ASEAN+3 Research Group was proposed by Japan at the Informal ASEAN+3 Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting in November 2002, and agreed upon by ASEAN+3 in August 2003. The Research Group aims to explore ways to further strengthen financial cooperation and promote financial stability in the region by soliciting academic input from researchers and research institutes in ASEAN+3 countries.

This session wrapped up research conducted in 2007/2008, the topics of which included measures for promoting financial stability in the Asian region, development of a database on corporate credit information, and developing the capital market to widen and diversify SMR financing.

The three study topics for 2008/09 were: development of a corporate credit information database and credit guarantee system; the trends of trade, FDI, and monetary flows in East Asia; and new financial products and their impact on the Asian financial markets.

**20. Working Group on Zone of Peace Freedom and Neutrality/Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone**

**Date:** January 29, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

In 1995, the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) was signed in Bangkok, establishing the SEANWFZ as a component of ASEAN's 1971 Declaration on a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality.

**21. Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) 2nd Planning Meeting**

**Date:** January 29–30, 2008

**Location:** Phuket, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The main goal of the second planning meeting was to prioritize the existing projects under each of the working groups in the IMT-GT Roadmap for Development 2007–2011 for

implementation in 2008. The goal of the roadmap is to strengthen trade and investment, increase exports by enhancing competitiveness, and create employment, educational, and cultural opportunities in the IMT-GT region.

**22. 2nd Working Group on ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement**

**Date:** January 29–31, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

In August 2007, the ASEAN Economic Ministers agreed to revise the Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area signed in 1998 into a comprehensive investment agreement. The objective was to improve the agreement to enhance ASEAN's competitiveness in attracting inward investments into ASEAN. An initial meeting was held in November 2007 to discuss the agreement, and this was the second meeting.

**23. 5th ASEAN +3 Oil Market Forum; 6th ASEAN +3 Oil Stockpiling Forum**

**Date:** January 30, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

At the Oil Market Forum, experts provided insights into historical trends and current issues related to oil and geopolitics. Presentations at the Oil Stockpiling Forum included an updated report on Japan's petroleum stockpiling and its international cooperation, strategic oil stockpiling in Korea, planning and progress of China's oil reserve, Thailand's oil market and oil stockpiling, and the progress on the Philippines' and Vietnam's national oil stockpiles.

**24. 3rd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting**

**Date:** January 30–31, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

**February**

**25. E-Bond Conference (4th Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Bond Market Linkages Working Group)**

**Date:** February 1, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

**26. 5th ASEAN-Russia Senior Officials Meeting**

**Date:** February 4, 2008

**Location:** Moscow, Russia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The 5th ASEAN-Russia SOM undertook a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of ASEAN-Russia relations. The participants agreed to strengthen relations in the fields of renewable energy, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, science and technology, and economic cooperation. ASEAN and Russian senior officials also exchanged views on a host of regional and global issues including the evolving structure of ASEAN, the ASEAN Charter, participation of dialogue partners in the ASEAN process, the proposed participation of Russia in the East Asia Summit, the prospects for greater collaboration between ASEAN and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the ongoing review of the ASEAN Regional Forum. ASEAN and



Russian senior officials also reviewed the current situation in the Korean Peninsula, and the recent political developments in the Middle East.

27. **8th ASEAN Capital Markets Forum**

**Date:** February 8, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The 8th ASEAN Capital Market Forum (ACMF) was held with the aim of preparing reports for the ASEAN Finance Ministerial Meeting (March 31 to April 4). The ACMF 8 discussed measures to establish regulations on information, financial reports, and stock distribution; and to create favorable conditions for cross-border stock offerings. It also looked at measures to control capital inflows. Through these measures, the ACMF sought to facilitate coordination among the various ASEAN assigning boards.

28. **4th ASEAN Workshop: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Control and Eradication; 7th ASEAN HPAI Taskforce Meeting**

**Date:** February 13–15, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asian Development Bank (ADB); ASEAN

Supported under an ADB project, Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza in Asia and the Pacific, the workshop was the fourth in a series of meetings to assess and share experiences in the implementation of the Regional Framework for the Control and Eradication of HPAI in ASEAN. Engaging all relevant stakeholders, including the ASEAN+3 and East Asia Summit participating countries, the workshop initiated the implementation of the new ASEAN Regional Strategy for the Progressive Control and Eradication of HPAI 2008–2010. It also discussed expected outcomes and activities for implementing the new strategy, and defined the mechanisms to come up with a roadmap for HPAI control in ASEAN. In addition, the workshop elaborated on implementation arrangements, including definition of roles and partnerships, as well as establishing the commitments of each stakeholder.

29. **4th Session of the Senior Officials Committee on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia**

**Date:** February 19–20, 2008

**Location:** Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** UNESCAP and hosted by the Government of South Korea and the Korea Energy Economics Institute.

Participants of the fourth session began by welcoming the implementation of the Intergovernmental Collaborative Mechanism on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia. In addition, a policy dialogue was organized to deepen the understanding of this mechanism. The committee also reviewed the activities of the Working Group on Energy Planning and Policy (WG-EPP). It was attended by member countries of Northeast Asia—Mongolia, Republic of Korea, China, and the Russian Federation—as well as experts from the Energy Research Institute of the Development and Reform Commission in China, the Korea Energy Economics Institute, and the Nautilus Institute in Seoul.

30. **ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat**

**Date:** February 19–20, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

This annual retreat has no formal agenda, but allows foreign ministers to engage in an open, frank, and free-flowing discussion on important issues affecting the region. Discussion topics included regional developments, ASEAN integration, and implementation of the ASEAN charter following its signing at the 13th ASEAN Summit in Singapore last November.

31. **1st APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and Related Meetings**

**Date:** February 19–March 3, 2008

**Location:** Lima, Peru

**Organizers/Sponsors:** APEC

At the 1st APEC SOM, officials met to discuss WTO negotiations and regional economic integration. Supporting the multilateral trading system remained the highest priority for APEC economies and they noted the recent positive developments in the Doha Round. The APEC senior officials reaffirmed the importance of the role that the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) has played in promoting trade, investment, and economic growth in APEC economies over the last 10 years, and agreed to work together to ensure that the integrity and original spirit of the ITA is maintained. They agreed on a plan to implement the recommendations of a report on regional economic integration endorsed by the APEC economic leaders in 2007, including practical and incremental steps to explore a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific. It was also agreed that APEC should play a role in the work on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the region, incorporating CSR into APEC's broader agenda of improving the business environment and economic prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.

32. **Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO) 3rd General Meeting**

**Date:** February 20–22, 2008

**Location:** Solo/Surakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Organized by NARBO and hosted by the Bengawan Solo River Basin Organization

NARBO convenes its general meeting every two years to review the implementation of the organization's action plan for the previous year and to consolidate ideas for the next year. The 3rd general meeting reviewed the implementation of the NARBO Action Plan for 2006–2007, revisited the NARBO Charter, and welcomed new member organizations, now totaling 56. Representatives from these organizations discussed and approved the NARBO Action Plan for 2008–2010, as well as future orientations for integrated water resources management (IWRM) training and the development of a water knowledge hub for IWRM. They also participated in a study visit on IWRM issues in the river basin and in workshops on topics related to IWRM. NARBO was established to share knowledge and build capacity for IWRM in river basins throughout Asia and to strengthen river basin organizations' capacity and effectiveness in promoting IWRM and improving water governance.

33. **6th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime**

**Date:** February 21–22, 2008

**Location:** Semarang, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Attended by representatives from all ARF member countries, participants reviewed issues related to counter-terrorism and transnational crime, including recommendations made by ARF for cooperation on combating these threats. Other topics of discussion included: cooperation on threats, measures, and strategies related to counter terrorism in the region; the role of media, NGO's, enterprises and other civil society organizations; social participation on counter terrorism; stocktaking transnational crimes in the region; strategies and measures on transnational crimes;

social participation in preventing transnational crimes; and cooperation between governments and civil society in combating transnational crime.

34. **Asian Bond Markets Initiative Working Group (ABMI) and Asian Bond Markets Initiative Focal Group Meetings**

**Date:** February 25-26, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

35. **3rd Working Group on ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement**

**Date:** February 25-27, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

In August 2007, the ASEAN Economic Ministers agreed to revise the Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area signed in 1998 into a comprehensive investment agreement. The objective was to improve the agreement to enhance ASEAN's competitiveness in attracting inward investments into ASEAN. This was the third meeting.

36. **Working Group Meeting for the ASEAN-Japan Partnership Project and the South-South Cooperation Project; Symposium on Prospective on Agricultural Policy Development in ASEAN Countries**

**Date:** February 25-28, 2008

**Location:** Langkawi, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan

The ASEAN-Japan Partnership Project (2006-2010) is intended to enhance ASEAN-Japan economic partnership, particularly in the agricultural sector. It entails dispatches of experts, training programs, and other activities. The South-South Cooperation Project (2006-2010) is intended to disseminate the advanced ASEAN countries' technology and experiences to LDCs in ASEAN, other areas of Asia, and Africa in order to enhance productivity in agriculture, forestry, and fishery sectors. It is also intended to strengthen ASEAN-Japan cooperation in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

37. **30th Meeting of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force**

**Date:** February 26, 2008

**Location:** Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

This was the 30th meeting of the IAI Task Force, which meets regularly to review the implementation of the projects under the IAI program. That program addresses infrastructure development, human resource development, information and communications technology, and the promotion of regional economic integration among the Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

38. **OECD-ADBI 9th Tokyo Round Table on Capital Market Reform**

**Date:** February 26, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The ninth of the Roundtable series which started in 1999 as a forum for discussion on emerging and outstanding issues related to capital market reform in Asia, about 60 participants representing capital market authorities, ministries of finance, central banks/monetary authorities, and private sector from selected OECD and East Asian countries participated in the two-day event. The

Roundtable discussed the recent development of Asian capital markets, best practices on capital market regulation and corporate governance, progress of regional initiatives on capital market development and integration, the roles of capital markets in supporting public-private partnership (PPP) in infrastructure investment, and challenges to mitigate financial market turbulences.

39. **3rd Special Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB)**

**Date:** February 28–29, 2008

**Location:** Tagaytay City, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity's draft third progress report and fourth annual work plan were discussed at the third special meeting attended by delegates from ASEAN member states and the ASEAN secretariat, the Thai Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, and the Thai Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The AWGNCB also considered and approved the five project proposals submitted by the ASEAN member states to the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity for funding under the Centre's Joint Research/Initiatives Programme for 2008. The proposals include, "Conservation of Peatland Biodiversity" (Global Environment Centre); "Development of the Asian Zingiberaceae Information Centre" (The Herbarium, Singapore Botanic Gardens); "Management of Invasive Alien Species" (Vietnam Environmental Protection Agency); "Payment for Ecosystem Services" (Cambodia); and "Regional Plan of Action for the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security" (Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources).

40. **Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization Task Force Meeting**

**Date:** February 28–29, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization Task Force, comprised of deputy finance ministers, meets regularly with the aim of creating a network of bilateral swap arrangements among ASEAN+3 countries to address short-term liquidity difficulties in the region and to supplement the existing international financial arrangements.

**March**

41. **ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies Working Group Meeting**

**Date:** March 1, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

This meeting was in preparation for the official ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting held in April in Vietnam as part of the 12th ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting.

42. **ASEM Senior Officials Meeting**

**Date:** March 2–3, 2008

**Location:** Bled, Slovenia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The ASEM SOM is held twice a year, once on the eve of ministerial or summit meetings and once separately. No chairman's statement is issued publicly after these meetings, although the chairman

does write to participants, summarizing the main conclusions of the meeting. The conclusions are reported to foreign ministers.

43. **9th ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee; 9th ASEAN-China Cooperation Committee Working Group Meeting**

**Date:** March 3–5, 2008

**Location:** Chongqing, China

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The purpose of the China-ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee (ACJCC), created in 1997, is to strengthen policy cooperation and information sharing. It promotes cooperation in various fields, particularly human resource development and personnel and cultural exchanges. The ACJCC acts as the coordinator for all the ASEAN–China mechanisms at the working level.

44. **2nd Meeting of the Committee under the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution; 1st Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (TWG Mekong)**

**Date:** March 4–7, 2008

**Location:** Chiang Mai, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The Committee under the Conference of the Parties (COP) oversees operation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control; develops, implements, and monitors the operational work program; and advises the COP on the management of the ASEAN Haze Fund. The TWG Mekong was established in September 2007. Its members include Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. This was the group's first meeting. It selected key activities to be implemented in the first year.

45. **35th Meeting of the Energy Working Group (EWG); 20th Expert Group Meeting of the EWG; Business Forum on Energy**

**Date:** March 5–6, 2008

**Location:** Iquitos, Peru

**Organizers/Sponsors:** APEC

In order to further the goals laid out at the eighth Meeting of Energy Ministers in Australia in 2007, the working group met to tackle issues related to the initiative on energy security for the Asia Pacific market, the efficient use of energy resources and reducing costs with advanced technology, and the benefits of managing various forms of clean energy. The working group also discussed advances in information systems, joint actions to combat global warming, possible scenarios of the energy market, and planning of supply and demand in 30 years. The event started with the 20th expert group meeting and included the Business Forum on Energy, which brought together participants from a range of Peruvian sectors.

46. **2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials of the 39th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (2/39 SEOM)**

**Date:** March 10–11, 2008

**Location:** Siem Reap, Cambodia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

47. **1st Meeting on the Drafting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint**

**Date:** March 12–13, 2008

**Location:** Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN; Government of Thailand

As they move toward the establishment of an ASEAN Community by the year 2015, ASEAN members gathered for the first meeting to draft a blueprint for the ASCC, which will function as one of three pillars of the envisioned ASEAN Community, along with the ASEAN Security Community and the ASEAN Economic Community. The ASCC will build on the core elements articulated in the ASEAN Charter and will have five key characteristics: human development, social welfare and protection, social justice and rights, environmental sustainability, and building an ASEAN identity.

The meeting was considered part of Thailand's preparations for assuming the chairmanship of ASEAN in July 2008. Participants agreed on the structure, elements, and strategic objectives of the ASCC. The draft ASCC Blueprint was then circulated to the ASEAN directors-general for national consultations with their respective sectoral bodies, NGOs, and civil societies.

48. **28th Session of the Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)**

**Date:** March 12–13, 2008

**Location:** Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Organizers/Sponsors:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Trade and Investment Division

The 28th session was convened by UNESCAP to discuss the fourth round of negotiations, including issues of the time frame, modalities, coverage, and supplementary criteria for rules of origin. In addition, the participants discussed the expansion of the membership of the APTA, the existing APTA trade data exchange mechanism, and the status of notification of the APTA to the World Trade Organization.

49. **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Asia and Europe**

**Date:** March 12–14, 2008

**Location:** Berlin, Germany

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The workshop focused on confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy in Europe and strengthening dialogue and cooperation between regional organizations in Asia and Europe. The meeting agreed that the OSCE experience, in particular the presentations on the implementation of transparency-related confidence-building measures and verification activities, provides significant lessons for the future development of the ARF. Participants also concluded that the usefulness of the ARF Annual Security Outlook could be enhanced by a more standardized and structured reporting format.

50. **43rd Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council Conference; 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Education (ASED)**

**Date:** March 13–15, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

One of the major activities to take place at the 43rd conference was the signing of a renewed agreement between SEAMEO and UNESCO, which provides for closer cooperation between the two organizations in the broad areas of education and development in Southeast Asia. In addition, there was a discussion forum presented by UNESCO on the "Education for all (EFA) Progress in Southeast Asia: Results and Recommendations of the EFA Mid-Decade

Assessment.” The participants also reviewed the programs and activities of the 15 SEAMEO regional centers and discussed policy concerns on education among the SEAMEO member countries. Over 152 participants attended, including delegations from the 11 SEAMEO member states, 4 associate members, and observer delegations from regional and international bodies. It was held back-to-back with the third meeting of the ASEAN ASED convened by education ministers from ASEAN member countries.

51. **3rd Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum**

**Date:** March 17–19, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD); Japanese Ministry of the Environment

The third meeting focused on the issues of environment and transport, specifically in formulating effective strategies to deal with the rapid motorization in Asia, which has resulted in growing problems related to air pollution, traffic congestion, and poor road safety. The participants discussed policies and initiatives to promote environmentally sustainable transport and took further steps to facilitate the full implementation of the objectives in the Aichi Statement and the Kyoto Declaration toward realizing safer, cleaner, greener, and more efficient transport systems in Asia. This meeting involved the participation of South Asian countries for the first time, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, in close coordination with the South Asian Cooperative Environment Program. Other participating countries include ASEAN member countries, Mongolia, China, South Korea, and Japan.

52. **11th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM); 2nd ACDM+3 Senior Officials Meeting**

**Date:** March 17–19, 2008

**Location:** Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The 11th ACDM Meeting, held back-to-back with the 2nd ACDM+3 Meeting, was attended by delegates from all ASEAN member states except Cambodia and Vietnam, as well as representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, the Government of Japan, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, the Red Cross, the United Nations, and other international agencies. The meeting reviewed progress to date, relevant decisions made at ASEAN meetings, the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, the development of ASEAN standby arrangements for disaster relief and emergency response, the progress in the operationalization of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, and plans for the next ministerial meeting on disaster management and for ARDEX-08.

53. **4th Working Group on the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement**

**Date:** March 19–21, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

In August 2007, the ASEAN Economic Ministers agreed to revise the Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area signed in 1998 into a comprehensive investment agreement. The objective was to improve the agreement to enhance ASEAN’s competitiveness in attracting inward investments into ASEAN. This was the fourth meeting.

54. **Regional Symposium on Regional Disaster Management Support System—Satellite Information Access Mechanism**  
*Date:* March 19–21, 2008  
*Location:* Bangkok, Thailand  
*Organizers/Sponsors:* United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

The symposium was part of the activities of the UNESCAP project, “Towards Improved Capacity in Disaster Management Using Satellite-based and Spatial Information System in Asia and the Pacific,” which is supported by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. The symposium targeted policymakers from national disaster management authorities and implementing agencies, aiming to enhance their understanding of the effectiveness of utilizing space technologies such as satellites for disaster management activities. At the symposium, the participants reviewed the latest trends in space technologies and were briefed on how the technologies are currently used in specific countries for national disaster prevention. The participants also discussed the establishment of a creation of a network among national disaster management agencies and space agencies.

55. **4th ASEAN+3 New and Renewable Energy (NRE) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) Forum**  
*Date:* March 20, 2008  
*Location:* Seoul, Korea  
*Organizers/Sponsors:* ASEAN

Attended by ASEAN+3 member countries as well as the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), ASEAN Secretariat, and the Institute of Energy Economics of Japan, delegates provided country reports and discussed the cooperation plan through 2017. In particular, the ASEAN member states noted the importance of Korea’s cooperation on renewable energy and supported private sector collaboration on biofuels. Japan’s continued cooperation to implement the “Fueling Asia” program was also welcomed.

56. **NEASPEC Expert Group Meeting and 13th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)**  
*Date:* March 20–21, 2008  
*Location:* Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia  
*Organizers/Sponsors:* Northeast Asia Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)

Launched in 1993, NEASPEC celebrated its 15th anniversary at the 13th SOM. The occasion was used to explore new roles for the organization in encouraging regional action toward environmental protection and sustainable development. Senior environmental officials from Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation participated, along with representatives from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies and the United Nations Environment Programme. They discussed the need to revitalize NEASPEC by developing new program areas, enhancing ownership of the member countries, and making existing institutional arrangements more effective. In addition, they listened to a progress report on the preliminary exchanges between the Russian Federation and the NEASPEC Secretariat on the development of a biodiversity conservation project in Northeast Asia. The participants also explored the implementation of an Asian Development Bank Regional Technical Assistance project on the mitigation of transboundary air pollution from coal-fired power plants as well as a Mongolian proposal for a demonstration project on dust and sandstorm monitoring.



57. **14th ASEAN-China Senior Officials Consultations (SOC); 3rd ASEAN-China SOC on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea**

**Date:** March 24–28, 2008

**Location:** Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Hongbo and senior officials and representatives from the foreign ministries of the 10 ASEAN countries, as well as the deputy secretary-general of the ASEAN attended this meeting, which reviewed the past year's progress in China-ASEAN relations. It also focused on further implementation of the consensus reached at the China-ASEAN Summit last year and strengthening proposals and measures to deepen the strategic partnership for peace and prosperity between China and ASEAN. The two sides also exchanged in-depth views on their development situations and East Asian cooperation as well as international and regional issues of common concern. In addition, all relevant parties exchanged views on jointly implementing follow-up actions of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

58. **Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting**

**Date:** March 24–28, 2008

**Location:** Auckland, New Zealand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Pacific Islands Forum

Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Forum met to discuss primarily the situation in Fiji and in particular, to review the progress being made towards a parliamentary election in the first quarter of 2009. Ministers received a report from the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum-Fiji Joint Working Group on the Situation in Fiji, on the Working Group's discussions and activities, particularly its efforts to encourage and support the return of Fiji to democracy. They made a series of recommendations to the Fiji government to ensure a democratic and safe elections. Ministers also considered appropriate mechanisms for the Forum to continue monitoring and supporting Fiji's progress toward holding an election in the first quarter of 2009 and decided that a Ministerial Contact Group should be formed to further monitor the progress of Fiji's preparations for the election and the return to democracy.

59. **Workshop on Promoting Regulatory Reform in Support of ASEAN Market Integration**

**Date:** March 27–28, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, Korea

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Attended by ASEAN+3 member countries as well as the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), ASEAN Secretariat, and the Institute of Energy Economics of Japan, delegates provided country reports and discussed the cooperation plan through 2017. In particular, the ASEAN member states noted the importance of Korea's cooperation on renewable energy and supported private sector collaboration on biofuels. Japan's continued cooperation to implement the "Fueling Asia" program was also welcomed.

60. **1st Official Meeting for the East Asia Summit (EAS) Environment Minister's Meeting and 1st ASEAN-Japan Environment Dialogue**

**Date:** March 28, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Attended by the environmental ministers of EAS member countries, with the exception of Lao PDR and India, this meeting was convened in advance of the October 2008 inaugural EAS Environment Ministers Meeting. The meeting began with a briefing on the key decisions of the third EAS,

especially the need for the environment ministers to follow through on the decisions reflected in the Singapore Declaration on Energy, Climate Change and the Environment. The officials had an extensive discussion on possible themes for the inaugural ministers meeting that would incorporate the Singapore Declaration's key issues. They ultimately agreed that the theme would be to "achieve environmentally sustainable cities in East Asia," and that other environment-related priority areas under the Singapore Declaration could be addressed in subsequent ministers meetings. They agreed to seek two types of outputs from the upcoming ministers meeting, namely a joint ministerial statement and a progress report and action plan to be presented at the fourth EAS. Concurrently with the meeting, officials from ASEAN and Japan convened for the inaugural ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation, where they discussed the dialogue's terms of reference as well as potential avenues for environmental cooperation.

**61. 3rd Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Summit**

**Date:** March 30–31, 2008

**Location:** Vientiane, Lao PDR

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Under the theme of "Enhancing Competitiveness through Greater Connectivity," leaders from the six GMS countries, including prime ministers from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam discussed ways to deepen economic cooperation for their countries' shared prosperity. They discussed how cooperation could help expand markets, improve access to social services, and protect the environment. The president of the ADB attended the summit and reported at a closed-door session on the progress and challenges ahead for the GMS program. At the conclusion of the summit, the six countries issued a joint summit declaration that included an agreement on the comprehensive five-year Vientiane Plan of Action for GMS Development, which aims to spur growth, reduce poverty, promote social development, and enhance environmental protection in the subregion.

**April**

**62. ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting (AFDM); Informal and Formal ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meetings+3 (AFDM+3); 12th ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting (AFMM) and Retreat**

**Date:** April 1–4, 2008

**Location:** Da Nang, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The AFMM+3 is held every May in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank. At this year's meeting, ASEAN+3 finance and central bank officials exchanged views on global and regional economic developments and discussed progress in the implementation of the Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN and other regional initiatives. They reaffirmed their commitment to enhance financial cooperation leading to the realization of an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 as set forth in the November 2007 ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint. The ministers discussed the external challenges to the region arising from financial market turbulence, but noted that the region's strengthened financial system continued to exhibit greater resilience. They were also encouraged by the growth in intraregional trade and investments, which will continue to mitigate the external challenges. Delegates also touched upon cooperation initiatives within ASEAN+3, including the Asian Bond Market Initiative and the Chiang Mai Initiative. The meeting ended with a session on economic review and policy dialogue for each ASEAN+3 member.

63. **ARF Defense Officials Dialogue**

**Date:** April 2, 2008

**Location:** Ottawa, Canada

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia Regional Forum (ARF); Department of National Defense of Canada

The second annual dialogue revolved around two major subjects: 21st century challenges to defense, and how the defense establishment could help strengthen the ARF. The delegates discussed institutional challenges, the need for more coordination between their armed forces and other government agencies, and the growing incidence of nontraditional threats such as cyber-terrorism. In terms of improving the ARF, they recommended further enhancement of defense dialogues and exchanges, an emphasis on practical activities, and continued focus on traditional areas of ARF interest, such as maritime security, nonproliferation, and disaster assistance. Defense representatives from all but four ASEAN countries participated.

64. **ARF Intersessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy**

**Date:** April 2–4, 2008

**Location:** Ottawa, Canada

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

Representatives from most ARF countries, the ARF unit of the ASEAN secretariat, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific met to discuss views on current challenges being faced by ARF defense establishments and discussed how they can add further value to the ARF process in the future. The participants noted that the further integration of the ASEAN Community and the healthy relations between the major powers in the region have ensured a positive trend in regional security in the region. They welcomed and showed strong support for the ASEAN Charter, which conferred a legal nature on the organization and also stressed strong support for the development of ASEAN's Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Community blueprints. The participants expressed their desire to achieve early adoption of these blueprints to complement the Economic Community blueprint already in place. The participants also exchanged views on various international relations and nontraditional security issues as well as on enhancing ties between Track I and II.

65. **6th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Conference on Counter Terrorism**

**Date:** April 3–4, 2008

**Location:** Madrid, Spain

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Participants from ASEM partners and a variety of relevant counterterrorism institutions met as part of a continuous effort to strengthen Asia-Europe mutual cooperation through discussion and exchange of experiences about counterterrorism. The conference recognized terrorism as a threat to international peace and security in Europe and Asia and underlined its support for the implementation of the UN Global Strategy against Terrorism, stating the importance of a comprehensive approach from the international community to fight terrorism. The conference also analyzed recent terrorism threat assessments in Asia and Europe and emphasized the need for broadening and enhancing mutual understanding among cultures and civilizations. The conference concluded with a series of steps that should continue to be taken by ASEM countries.

66. **Joint Roundtable Discussion on the Promotion and Protection on the Rights of Women and Children**

**Date:** April 7–8, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

ASEAN member-state officials from government agencies dealing with women and children's affairs took part in a two day joint roundtable discussion on the establishment of a Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children. The commission's possible structure, nature, terms of reference, mandate, funding modalities, and mechanisms for consultation were explored in detail and it was agreed that the commission would proceed independently and separately from the proposed ASEAN human rights body. At the meeting, representatives from the Office of Human Rights and Social Development and the Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism presented a joint research paper that laid the foundation for the commission's establishment in accordance with the working group's 2005 mandate by ASEAN to assist with the implementation of the human rights issue areas of the Vientiane Action Program, specifically concerning the clause that called for the creation of a commission on women and children.

67. **4th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution; 4th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution**

**Date:** April 8, 2008

**Location:** Putrajaya, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The MSC on Transboundary Haze Pollution is part of ASEAN's governance structure to effectively develop, coordinate, and implement regional initiatives to ensure that the goals of environmentally sound sustainable development are achieved. At the fourth meeting, the MSC recognized the urgency and importance of continued preparedness and collaboration in tackling land and forest fires as well as transboundary haze pollution. The committee also expressed satisfaction with the significant progress made by Indonesia in implementing its plan of action to address transboundary haze pollution, and that the Indonesian private sector had significantly increased the budget allocation for land and forest fire control for 2008, amounting to more than 800 billion rupiah. The committee also noted that progress had been made between Malaysia and Indonesia with the signing of a memorandum for collaboration in Riau Province.

68. **ARF Seminar on Anti-Personnel Mines**

**Date:** April 8–10, 2008

**Location:** Penang, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

Representatives from the ARF member countries, NGOs, and relevant international organizations met to examine the prospects and challenges involved in attaining a universal ban on anti-personnel mines, which was the aim of the Mine Ban Treaty written at the 1997 Ottawa Convention. The seminar sought to encourage more countries to become parties to the treaty and to establish contact points among the ARF on mine action. On the general status and implementation of the treaty, it was noted that the EU is ready to support mine action wherever it is needed and that the ARF can play an important role in constructive cooperation. Participants also continued to push for the destruction of stockpiles, shared experiences clearing mined areas as well as assisting victims of landmines, and sought further areas for international and regional cooperation. There are still 37 states that have not yet signed the treaty, including the United States and China.

69. **13th High Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration**

**Date:** April 9–10, 2008

**Location:** Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

With the participation of the ASEAN secretary-general, participants deliberated on key strategic issues pertaining to the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint and the deepening and strengthening of ASEAN economic integration. Vice-ministers, permanent secretaries, and director-generals of the trade and industry ministries of member countries attended the meeting. In particular, they focused on the AEC scorecard mechanism to track and assess the implementation of the AEC Blueprint and a comprehensive communications plan to engage and involve all stakeholders in supporting AEC, the business community, government agencies, and the media. Other ongoing initiatives concerning ASEAN economic integration and free trade agreements with dialogue partners were also discussed.

70. **1st ASEM Forum on Energy Security**

**Date:** April 11–12, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

In the context of increasing oil prices, leaders from Asia and Europe met in this inaugural forum to discuss policy and cooperation on energy security, and sustainable development. The forum concentrated on policies on developing new and renewable energies, energy substitutes, maintaining traditional energies, intensifying energy security, and sharing experiences on energy policy planning, technology transfer, and investment facilitation among ASEM members. ASEM is an informal medium for international cooperation that includes the ASEAN Secretariat, the European Commission, 27 EU members, and 16 Asian countries.

71. **2nd ARF Seminar on Energy Security**

**Date:** April 15–17, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

Attended by ARF member countries, the seminar participants shared their respective national efforts to enhance energy security and exchanged views on how to deal with their respective challenges. There was agreement among participants that energy security encompasses a broader agenda that includes not only energy diversification and mix, but also energy diplomacy, energy conservation, infrastructural challenges, environmental protection, and the development of alternative and renewable sources of energy. Participants shared the view that governments should take a holistic approach to enhancing energy security in an increasingly interdependent world, where climate change imperatives have to be taken into consideration. Furthermore, participants discussed the importance of security transit routes and the potential of alternative energy to enhance energy security by allowing for a more diverse energy mix as well as international efforts to mitigate the threat to climate change. They agreed on a broad range of recommendations related to energy security to be considered by ARF ministers.

72. **2nd ACD High Level Study Group Meeting**

**Date:** April 17–19, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, Korea

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

The 29 ACD member countries met to discuss the issues such as of the desirability of creating an ACD Secretariat, ACD funding, and Track II participation, as well as wider issues of cultural dialogue and ACD membership.

73. **Joint Thematic Working Group Meeting of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries**

**Date:** April 18, 2008

**Location:** Jeju, South Korea

**Organizers/Sponsors:** World Health Organization (WHO); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Representatives from the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), the Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health, and the UNEP and WHO secretariats met to discuss the progress and challenges in the implementation of the TWG's work plans. Representatives from the TWGs gave progress reports on the implementation of projects addressing specific issues, including air quality; water supply, hygiene, and sanitation; solid and hazardous waste; toxic chemicals and hazardous substances; climate change, ozone depletion, and ecosystem changes; and contingency planning, preparedness, and response in environmental health emergencies. The participants also discussed the progress made by the advisory board and secretariat since the first Ministerial Regional Forum held in August 2007.

74. **Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Regional Environment Program Inception Meeting**

**Date:** April 18–19, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asian Development Bank (ADB); BIMP-EAGA

The BIMP-EAGA Inception Meeting was a two-day meeting organized by the Asia Development Bank in Manila. The meeting launched the implementation of the Regional Technical Assistance on Strengthening Sound Environmental Management in the BIMP-EAGA and was attended by 55 representatives from BIMP-EAGA countries, the ADB, development partners, experts and selected NGOs. Among the topics the participants discussed included methods for implementing program's projects, as well as its draft work program for the next 15 years. BIMP-EAGA was established in 1994 by the four governments as a way to accelerate the development of the economy of Brunei and subregions of the three other countries via regional cooperation.

75. **4th Coordinating Committee on the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community (ASCC)**

**Date:** April 21–22, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The coordinating committee of ASCC met to discuss the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors in the community's draft blueprint. One of the three pillars of the ASEAN Community—the brainchild of the 2003 ninth ASEAN Summit slated for establishment in 2015—ASCC aims to develop human potential and strengthen the norms of social justice to create greater regional social cohesion to complement political and security cooperation and economic integration. The conference was attended by the chairperson of ASCC's sectoral bodies, the ASEAN directors-general, and representatives from the ASEAN national secretariats.

76. **Planning Workshop for the Finalization of Report on Gender and Social Research of ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) Programme**

**Date:** April 21–22, 2008

**Location:** Ha Long, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

This planning workshop was held to orient the three teams participating in a workshop later in the year on mainstreaming gender and social dimensions in the prevention and control of EIDs. They went over the research objectives and the mechanisms for conducting research, including sampling and fieldwork.

77. **10th Session of the Special Body on Pacific Islands Developing Countries**

**Date:** April 22–23, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

At its tenth session, the deliberations of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries were focused on issues pertaining to economic and social policies to address labor market trends in Pacific island developing countries and territories. The participants noted that while labor migration within the region has alleviated hardship, it needs to be better managed and that migrant labor needs to be protected. The special body also noted that formulation of national sustainable development strategies requires countries to strengthen targeting, resourcing, and monitoring of those strategies.

78. **13th ASEAN-India Working Group, 10th ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), 10th ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting**

**Date:** April 22–24, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The JCC has been a key institutional mechanism for providing substantive content and implementing programs of cooperation between ASEAN and India. The two bodies agreed in 2003 to establish an ASEAN-India Regional Trade and Investment Area and signed the Joint Declaration for Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism. The JCC focuses on actualizing ASEAN-India cooperation in trade and investment, science and technology, tourism, infrastructure, human resource development, and people-to-people interaction. Over the years, ASEAN-India sectoral cooperation has been gaining strength with the establishment of working group-level meetings on the subjects of development cooperation, science and technology, tourism, transport and infrastructure, and telecommunications.

79. **ASEAN Forum on Labour and Migration**

**Date:** April 24–25, 2008

**Location:** Makati, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The first event to follow up on the 2007 ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, the two-day forum served as a venue for ASEAN member states to have an informal exchange on the subject of their labor migration policies and actual experiences in labor migration management, either as sending or receiving countries. The open session in the forum included discussions from representatives of the International Labor Organization and the International Organization for Migration, as well as civil society organizations, the Scalabrini Migration Center, and Migrant Forum Asia. Participants agreed to recommend to the Senior Labor Officials Meeting (SLOM) that the forum be institutionalized

and held on a regular basis and also agreed to suggest to the SLOM to convene the first meeting of the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers before the 14th ASEAN Summit.

80. **64th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**

**Date:** April 24–30, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** UNESCAP

This year, leaders from approximately 50 Asia-Pacific countries met in Bangkok. The first three days of the meeting focused on reviewing the recent work of the UNESCAP secretariat and the work program and resources mobilization for the period 2009–2010. The three-day ministerial segment discussed international cooperation on energy security and sustainable development. Members agreed to facilitate technological development and transfer by working together with multilateral funding agencies, sub-regional groupings, and research institutions, and participating in public-private partnerships and initiatives. The session also adopted resolutions on issues such as the Millennium Development Goals, resilience to disasters, and transport. In regards to the latter, they agreed to establish the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, which will provide strategic guidance for the development of efficient, reliable, and cost-effective transport services.

81. **5th Asian Senior-Level Talks on Nonproliferation**

**Date:** April 25, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

Senior governmental officials in charge of non-proliferation policies from the ASEAN member countries met for a day to exchange views on the state of regional and international non-proliferation efforts. They exchanged views on strengthening non-proliferation measures in Asian countries, especially the importance of: (1) domestic implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions related to non-proliferation; (2) strengthening of the export control system; and (3) universalization of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Additional Protocol. Participants discussed the infrastructure development necessary for the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including the 3S's—Safeguards, Safety, and Security. They also examined new tools of non-proliferation, such as the Pacific Shield Initiative and the 2005 Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation. Additionally, the leaders discussed the Six Party Talks, developments in Iran, and the concerns over Syria announced by the US government.

82. **21st Meeting of the ASEAN Crisis Communications Team**

**Date:** April 25, 2008

**Location:** Vientiane, Laos

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

83. **ASEAN Special Senior Officials Meeting**

**Date:** April 27–29, 2008

**Location:** Putrajaya, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN



**84. 2nd Meeting on the Drafting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint**

**Date:** April 28–30, 2008

**Location:** Putrajaya, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN and Government of Lao PDR

This meeting followed on a meeting held on March 12–13, 2008, and continued the preparations for the ASCC Blueprint.

**May**

**85. ARF Desktop Exercise on Disaster Relief**

**Date:** May 1–2, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

Representatives from all ARF participating countries except Mongolia and Myanmar participated in the exercise as well as a number of national disaster relief, emergency management, government aid agencies, the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Assistance, the International Federation of the Red Cross, and the International Committee of The Red Cross. The ARF and Disaster Management Units of the ASEAN Secretariat were also represented.

**86. ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat**

**Date:** May 2–3, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

At the retreat, the economic ministers stressed the importance of food security, affirming that access to adequate and reliable supplies of rice and stable prices are fundamental to the region's economic and social well-being. The ministers agreed that effective responses would require a broad range of measures, including creating suitable and favorable conditions to increase productivity through effective transfer of technology, research and development, increase in agricultural land, and substantially increased public and private investment. The ministers also pledged to continue fair trade practices and to achieve an orderly regional rice trade. In addition, the ministers discussed the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, examined a proposal for an AEC scorecard system to provide a comprehensive and objective picture of progress on economic goals, and endorsed an AEC communications plan to engage stakeholders in the creation of the economic community.

**87. 11th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers Meeting (AFMM+3); ASEAN+3 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting (AFDM+3); 8th Trilateral Finance Ministers' Meeting among China, Japan, and Korea**

**Date:** May 3–4, 2008

**Location:** Madrid, Spain

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

At the AFMM+3, finance ministers exchanged views on regional and economic and financial developments and reviewed the progress of regional financial cooperation initiatives, including the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) multilateralization process, the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), and the ASEAN+3 research group. They also explored ways to further enhance these initiatives. At the Trilateral Finance Ministers Meeting, participants exchanged views on current macroeconomic and financial developments, regional financial cooperation, and expressed their support of the progress on the CMI and ABMI initiatives.

88. **4th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), ASEAN SOM+3; East Asia Summit Ad-Hoc SOM Consultations; ASEAN Special SOM Working Group on Security Cooperation**

**Date:** May 5–8, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

89. **6th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Development Planning (SOMDP)**

**Date:** May 7–8, 2008

**Location:** Vientiane, Lao PDR

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

This was the 6th meeting of the SOMDP, which facilitates the integration of ASEAN's goals, objectives, and implementation of the VAP into national development plans of member countries.

90. **Preparatory ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Labour (SLOM) and SLOM+3; 6th SLOM; 20th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM); ASEAN+3 Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM+3)**

**Date:** May 7–8, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

ASEAN and ASEAN+3 senior labor officials gathered to discuss joint labor initiatives with their counterparts from the region. It was preceded by the 20th ALMM, which was held under the theme, "Promotion and Enhancement of Decent Work for the Vulnerable Categories of Labor." Ministers also discussed the future of labor within the ASEAN community and noted the increasing cooperation with the International Labor Organization.

91. **5th ARF Security Policy Conference; ARF Defence Officials Dialogue and Meeting**

**Date:** May 7–9, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

The ARF conference allowed participants to exchange views on the regional defense and security outlook, touching on the evolving strategic landscape and its implications for regional peace and stability. It also noted that the relatively stable relations among the major powers continued to play a key role in stabilizing and enhancing the security of the Asia-Pacific region. The conference recognized ongoing traditional and non-traditional transnational security challenges and that all defense establishments and militaries shared the common tasks of maintaining peace and stability. It further recognized several potential hotspots, including the Korean Peninsula, Iran and the Middle East, and the South Pacific islands. At the defense officials dialogue, participants discussed terrorism, maritime security, and other non-traditional security challenges such as disease and food security.

92. **7th ADPC Regional Consultative Committee Meeting on Disaster Management**

**Date:** May 8–10, 2008

**Location:** Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC); Government of Sri Lanka

The role of the consultative committee is to provide the ADPC with an informal mechanism for development of action strategies for disaster reduction in the region and promotion of cooperative

programs on a regional and subregional basis. Members of the ADPC board of trustees and advisory council who comprise the consultative committee met for a special meeting on rights-based community-led disaster risk management and hosted a special session co-organized by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction on progress on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia. The participants discussed lessons learned from recent disasters as well as progress made on the implementation of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management program on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development.

93. **ARF Senior Officials Meeting**

**Date:** May 9, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Senior officials of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) gathered in Singapore to prepare for the ARF ministerial meeting that was to be held in July. The meeting touched on developments in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and other security-related issues taking place around the world. Christopher Hill, Washington's point man on the North Korean nuclear issue and Kim Kye-gwan, North Korea's deputy foreign minister and chief negotiator at the Six-Party Talks were expected to be present at the Singapore gathering. Another topic on the agenda was a proposal submitted by the EU for improving ARF working methods to expedite ARF decision-making. Participants affirmed the need to establish an 'expedited' procedure for endorsement of ARF activities in view of possible urgent situations.

94. **21st ASEAN-US Dialogue**

**Date:** May 10, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

95. **5th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue**

**Date:** May 12–14, 2008

**Location:** Ho Chi Ming, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Attended by representatives from the ASEAN member states, Canada, and the ASEAN Secretariat, the meeting discussed various international and regional issues of common interest such as energy, food, and health security; environment, climate change, and sustainable development; natural disaster management; and the situation in the Middle East and Afghanistan. On the future direction of ASEAN-Canada dialogue relations, the meeting agreed to further advance the partnership through the implementation of the Second ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Work Plan (2007–2010). ASEAN and Canada also shared the desire to develop a Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership and a comprehensive plan of action for submission to the foreign ministers at the ASEAN-Canada Post Ministerial Conference in 2009.

96. **2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Nuclear Energy Safety Sub-Sector Network (NES-SSN)**

**Date:** May 13–14, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

This was the follow-up meeting to the January 2008 inaugural session of the NES-SSN. Proceedings were not made public.

97. **5th Meeting of the Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty Reduction on Hunger (RTWGPH)**

**Date:** May 13–14, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

This was the follow-up meeting to the January 2008 inaugural session of the NES-SSN. Proceedings were not made public.

98. **Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting**

**Date:** May 19, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

A special meeting was called to discuss assistance efforts in the wake of Cyclone Nargis, which hit Myanmar on May 2 and 3. The ministers reaffirmed their support for the people of Myanmar and agreed to establish an ASEAN-led coordinating mechanism to facilitate effective distribution and utilization of assistance from the international community, including the expeditious and effective deployment of relief workers, especially health and medical personnel. They agreed to establish a task force headed by the ASEAN secretary-general, to work closely with the UN and with a central body set up by Myanmar to realize this ASEAN-led mechanism. The ministers agreed that Myanmar should allow more international relief workers into the stricken areas and affirmed that ASEAN would work with the UN to hold an ASEAN-UN international pledging conference, held in Yangon on May 25.

99. **2nd APEC Senior Officials Meeting and Related Meetings**

**Date:** May 20–29, 2008

**Location:** Arequipa, Peru

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

At the second SOM, ministers discussed progress on issues such as regional trade and investment liberalization and business facilitation, corporate social responsibility, economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH), human security, and APEC reform. The ministers also agreed on an Investment Facilitation Action Plan (IFAP) for 2008–2010, designed to reduce trade barriers to international investors and encourage investment in the Asia-Pacific. As a complement to the IFAP, a number of actions will be taken to improve the investment climate over the next three years. Other participants included the APEC Secretariat executive director along with the chairs of the Committee on Trade and Investment, the Steering Committee on ECOTECH, and the Budget and Management Committee.

100. **15th Annual Meeting of the Renewable Energy Sub-Sector Network (RE-SSN) of the ASEAN Energy Cooperation**

**Date:** May 21–23, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The Meeting was attended by 17 delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand. Also in attendance were representatives from Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities/Authorities (HAPUA), ASEAN Secretariat, Indonesian Renewable Energy Society (IRES), Bandung Hydro Association (BHA) and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE). Meeting participants began by providing country reports regarding the status and development of renewable energy projects in their respective nations as well as discussing the definition of renewable energy. Presentations were also given by ACE on their activities on renewable

energy; IRES on the implementation of renewable energy projects in Indonesia; BHA discussed micro-mini hydro technology development; and the HAPUA Working Group #4 representative updated the participants on their renewable energy and the environment activities. Finally, meeting participants reviewed the work plan for 2008-2009, while also making recommendations for the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2009-2014 work plan.

**101. 22nd ASEAN-Australia Forum**

**Date:** May 22, 2008

**Location:** Canberra, Australia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The forum recognized the long-standing partnership between Australia and ASEAN and welcomed the adoption of a plan of action for ASEAN-Australia comprehensive partnership. Furthermore, participants had an in-depth exchange of views and discussion on various international and regional political, security, and economic issues of common interest. In regards to Cyclone Nargis, the forum discussed how existing regional mechanisms for disaster response could be better coordinated and how to link management mechanisms among ASEAN member states with other existing disaster management mechanisms. On the economy, participants welcomed news of the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program II 2008–15 with the goal of promoting economic growth and supporting the establishment of the proposed ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. Participants also discussed the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand free trade agreement, which was in the final phase of negotiations; the upcoming APEC meetings; and the progress on the WTO Doha round of negotiations.

**102. 2nd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting Working Group on ASEAN Political Security Community Blueprint**

**Date:** May 22–23, 2008

**Location:** Medan, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

**103. 28th ASEAN Chiefs of Police Conference (ASEANAPOL)**

**Date:** May 25–29, 2008

**Location:** Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The objectives of the conference were to enhance police professionalism, forge stronger regional cooperation in police work, and promote lasting friendship among the police officers of ASEAN countries. Attended by delegates from ASEAN countries, national police force members, and guests from the ASEAN secretariat and Interpol, the conference focused on a variety of topics of mutual interest, including illicit drugs trafficking, terrorism, arms smuggling, human trafficking, maritime fraud, commercial crime, bank offenses and credit card fraud, cyber crime, fraudulent travel documents, transnational fraud, mutual assistance in criminal matters, and exchange of personnel and training programs among ASEAN police forces. They also discussed progress on the establishment of a permanent ASEANAPOL secretariat as well as on an electronic ASEANAPOL database system.

**104. 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN)**

**Date:** May 26–27, 2008

**Location:** Vientiane, Laos

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The third meeting was attended by delegates from all ASEAN member states and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat. Representatives of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Secretariat, the US Department of State and Department of Justice, the US Agency for International Development, and Wildlife Enforcement Group of New Zealand attended as observers as well as those from partner organizations and NGOs. Participants discussed progress in implementation of policy frameworks to foster ASEAN cooperation in forestry, especially as related to the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint. Member states presented country progress reports on the ASEAN-WEN and breakout sessions were formed to deliberate the areas of special investigations, capacity building, and communications and fundraising.

**105. 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (AWGMEA)**

**Date:** May 26–28, 2008

**Location:** Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

This was the 12th meeting of the AWGMEA, which promotes cooperation among ASEAN member countries with regard to multilateral environmental agreements. The AWGMEA was created to strengthen cooperation among ASEAN countries; to identify problems that prevent ASEAN countries from participating in or implementing international environmental agreements or instruments; and promote and support the effective participation of ASEAN countries in the negotiation, implementation, review, and governance of such agreements.

**106. 11th Steering Group Meeting of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific**

**Date:** May 27–28, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asian Development Bank (ADB); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Representatives from the 28 members who have signed the ADB/OECD Initiative's Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific, members of the plan's advisory group, and representatives from observer countries and international organizations met to review progress on the implementation of the action plan. They also discussed reform progress on the group's recommendations in its first thematic review on "Curbing Corruption in Public Procurement." In addition, the participants discussed strategic directions and the work program of the initiative for 2009–2011.

**107. ASEAN-EU Senior Officials Meeting**

**Date:** May 27–28, 2008

**Location:** Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The ASEAN-EU senior officials launched a concrete action plan to implement the Nuremburg Declaration, the roadmap for closer cooperation between ASEAN and the European Union. The two sides also preliminarily agreed on a working plan for the 17th ASEAN-EU foreign ministerial meeting, which would take place in 2009 in Cambodia. In addition, the delegates reviewed the achievements of the two groupings from the start of their dialogue in 1977, and discussed issues of mutual concern such as food and energy security, avian flu and other communicable diseases, counter-terrorism, and human trafficking.

108. **25th Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM)**

**Date:** May 27–29, 2008

**Location:** Arequipa, Peru

**Organizers/Sponsors:** APEC

Under the theme, “One Vision, One Identity, One Community,” transportation officials met to discuss policy support measures needed for the development of transport infrastructures and to strengthen transport linkages and connectivity to enhance regional integration and competitiveness. Topics included a strategic schedule and scorecard for ASEAN transport cooperation in the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint; a midterm assessment of the ASEAN transport action plan; the ASEAN transport cooperation agreements and initiatives; consideration of reports from the STOM working groups; ASEAN transport infrastructure projects; progress of transport cooperation with dialogue partners such as China, India, Japan, Korea, and the European Union; the ASEAN logistics development policies; new initiatives to enhance transport cooperation in ASEAN; and the schedule of the signing of the “open skies” agreement of ASEAN member countries. Participants in the meeting included representatives from all 10 ASEAN member states.

109. **Southeast Asia Bioterrorism Workshop: Multi-Sectoral Policy Responses To International Bioterrorism**

**Date:** May 28–30, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counterterrorism and Japan International Cooperation Agency

110. **29th Session of the Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement**

**Date:** May 29–30, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** UNESCAP

The 29th Session convened to discuss membership expansion, the trade data exchange mechanism, and World Trade Organization notification issues. In addition, there was discussion on the the Fourth Round negotiations, including tariff concessions; framework agreements on trade in services, investment, and trade facilitation; information exchange on non-tariff measures; and supplementary criteria for rules of origin.

111. **11th ASEAN+3 Directors-General (ASEAN+3 DGs) Meeting**

**Date:** May 30, 2008

**Location:** Kyoto, Japan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The directors-generals of all the ASEAN economies, plus those of Japan, China, and South Korea, met in Kyoto to follow up on the ASEAN+3 summit held in November 2007. At the meeting, they focused their attention toward the implementation of the Second Joint Statement on East Asian Cooperation, which was adopted at the summit. The ASEAN+3 DGs meeting is held in spring and autumn every year, with the meetings hosted by Japan, China, and South Korea in turn. ASEAN+3 cooperation began at an informal summit in December 1997 where leaders expressed greater resolve in further strengthening and deepening East Asia cooperation on several levels and in various areas, including economic, social, and political fields.

112. **APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade**

**Date:** May 31–June 1, 2008

**Location:** Arequipa, Peru

**Organizers/Sponsors:** APEC

With the theme of “A New Commitment to the Development of the Asia Pacific,” participants encouraged initiatives that would make a substantial contribution to advancing APEC’s goals of trade and investment liberalization and facilitation in the region, and would strengthen the focus on the social dimension of the APEC agenda. In particular, emphasis was given to the crucial importance of building a multilateral trading system and strengthening economic integration in the Asia Pacific region in order to improve the business environment and build capacity and sharing technical expertise and assistance. Discussions also focused on the crisis caused by dramatic increases in food prices and on the human security challenges the region. Promoting greater interaction with the business community was also considered in conjunction with developing corporate social responsibility in the Asia Pacific. The meeting was attended by APEC trade ministers, the WHO director general, the APEC business advisory council, and the APEC secretariat.

## **June**

**113. Workshop, Training and Working Group Meeting on Facilitating the Entry Into Force and Implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism**

**Date:** June 3–5, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

**114. 31st Meeting of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force**

**Date:** June 4, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The 31st meeting of the IAI Task Force went over the stages of implementation of IAI projects currently underway, as well as their funding. The task force meets regularly to review the implementation of the projects under the IAI program, which addresses infrastructure development, human resource development, information and communications technology, and the promotion of regional economic integration among Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

**115. 2008 Forum Regional Security Committee Meeting**

**Date:** June 4, 2008

**Location:** Suva, Fiji

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Pacific Islands Forum

The two day meeting between leaders of 16 Pacific Island nations discussed a number of issues of mutual interest including, transnational crime, counter terrorism, border management, money laundering, various human security issues, land management, and contemporary political and security challenges in the region. A series of reports on security issues, including the Transnational Crime Assessment report were also presented.

**116. Japan-US-Australia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue Senior Officials Meeting**

**Date:** June 9, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Senior officials from the three countries met in Tokyo to discuss issues of mutual interest and to explore how to strengthen trilateral cooperation in the Asia Pacific. The meeting was attended by Kenichiro Sasae, the Japanese deputy minister for foreign affairs, William J. Burns, the US under-



secretary of state for political affairs, and Michael L'Estrange, the Australian secretary of the department of foreign affairs and trade.

**117. 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials of the 39th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (3/39 SEOM)**

**Date:** June 10–12, 2008

**Location:** Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Singapore

**118. APEC Education Ministers Meeting**

**Date:** June 11–13, 2008

**Location:** Lima, Peru

**Organizers/Sponsors:** APEC

Under the theme of “21st Century Competence and Skills for All,” education ministers from APEC countries focused on four main areas—math and science; language learning; career and technical education; and information and communications technologies and systematic reform. Ensuring quality education for all was also discussed to bridge the economic chasm within the economies and throughout the Asia Pacific region in order to improve the citizens’ quality of life and enable them to enjoy the benefits of globalization as well as the economic integration of the region. They also renewed their commitment to support APEC’s Education Network activities and projects that aim to have stronger, dynamic, more inclusive, gender sensitive, and accessible education systems throughout the Asia Pacific region.

**119. Asian ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting**

**Date:** June 12–13, 2008

**Location:** Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

**120. Special Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment to discuss ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint**

**Date:** June 12–13, 2008

**Location:** Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

**121. Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Japan, the People’s Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea**

**Date:** June 14, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Government of Japan

The three foreign ministers discussed positive progress made in trilateral cooperation and exchanged views on the future development of the trilateral cooperation, both on specific issues as well as on international and regional issues of common concern. The three ministers agreed that the trilateral cooperation is very important for peace, stability, and prosperity in Asia. They pledged to seize opportunities, grasp the general direction of friendly cooperation, and actively implement the achievements reached during the exchanges of visits between leaders. They agreed to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation on political, diplomatic, economic, social, cultural, and personnel exchanges, and to carry out new cooperative efforts on disaster management and relief. The three ministers also agreed to enhance communication and coordination on major international and regional issues and strengthen cooperation on promoting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia, combating

climate change, promoting environment protection, food and energy safety, support to African development, and reform of the United Nations system.

**122. 8th ASEM Financial Ministers' Meeting**

**Date:** June 14–16, 2008

**Location:** Jeju Island, Korea

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

The eighth meeting was attended by the finance ministers of 16 ASEM Asian member countries, 24 member states of the European Union, and the European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the ADB, European Central Bank, ASEAN Secretariat, and the IMF, as well as five new member countries—Bulgaria, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Romania. At the meeting ministers adopted the “Jeju Initiative,” which calls for greater cooperation in public-private-partnership financing for infrastructure development in member states. Other topics addressed were recent global economic developments, infrastructure finance and micro-finance, climate change, and cooperative partnerships.

**123. ASEAN+3 Forum on Nuclear Energy Safety: “Cooperation on Nuclear Power as Alternative Source”**

**Date:** June 16–17, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The Forum was a follow-up to the 4th AMEM+3 in August 2007 as well as the 11th ASEAN+3 Summit in November 2007, in which Ministers encouraged more dialogues and discussions on the more viable nuclear technologies and exchange information on the development of nuclear energy as a safe and sustainable option. Sessions included topics on; global and regional cooperation on nuclear safety regimes; regional experiences in promoting nuclear energy safety; environmental impact protection including waste management; promoting public awareness and capacity building; nuclear energy in ASEAN countries; and the future direction on nuclear energy safety cooperation among ASEAN+3 countries. The Forum was attended by officials and experts of the ASEAN+3 countries and representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), ASEAN Secretariat, and ASEAN Center for Energy also participated as resource speakers.

**124. 8th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (8th SOMTC) and related meetings**

**Date:** June 16–20, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The 8th SOMTC was organized by the Malaysian Ministry of Home Affairs with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat. Issues discussed at the closed-door meeting included human trafficking and counter-terrorism, and a comprehensive plan draft.

**125. 17th Meeting of ASEAN Customs Directors-General**

**Date:** June 17–19, 2008

**Location:** Vientiane, Laos

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The 17th meeting was attended by customs directors-generals and commissioners of the ASEAN member states and the deputy secretary-general for economic integration of ASEAN. They agreed that the annual meeting should be a forum for regulatory cooperation and emphasized the need to achieve concrete deliverables in customs integration in order to support the establishment

of the proposed ASEAN Economic Community. The meeting agreed on priority work areas, including activation of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document, development of the ASEAN Customs Transit System through the finalization of draft protocols under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Goods in Transit, and putting into place a regional scheme of guarantees for transit operations. The meeting also discussed various issues related to global customs such as the promotion of Authorized Economic Operators and requirements for scanning all shipments to the United States.

**126. 16th Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM); 12th BIMP-EAGA Ministers Meeting**

**Date:** June 18–19, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Belait, Brunei

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The purpose of these annual meetings is to serve as a platform for regional economic cooperation and to set guidelines and directions to accelerate development in the BIMP-EAGA. Participants included signing ministers for the BIMP-EAGA, officials from the four national secretariats, other government officials, and members of the BIMP-EAGA Business Council.

**127. 5th Meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Transboundary Haze Pollution**

**Date:** June 22, 2008

**Location:** ASEAN

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Singapore

The fifth meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat. Delegate members reviewed fire and haze occurrences and forecasts for meteorological conditions, received a briefing from the ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre, and discussed the operationalization of India's comprehensive plan of action in dealing with trans-boundary haze pollution. The participants agreed that member states should be vigilant and continue to undertake concrete actions, particularly on proactive preventive and mitigation efforts toward these issues. They also noted that more comprehensive studies are needed on the impacts of climate change on regional weather patterns including vulnerability and adaptation measures.

**128. Cooperation on Developing Water Knowledge and Lessons: Workshop on New Concepts in Integrated Management of the Urban Water Cycle**

**Date:** June 22–27, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for High Education (UNESCO-IHE) Institute for Water Education; the Singapore Public Utilities Board (PUB); Asian Development Bank

A workshop at the Singapore International Water Week was organized by the cooperation under the theme, "New Concepts in Integrated Management of the Urban Water Cycle," focusing on innovative concepts in urban water management, and their introduction and current use in Asia's cities. Senior management officials who are involved in urban water planning, policy formulation, and project implementation attended the workshop. The cooperation itself aims to make knowledge exchange and experiences sharing among Asia's foremost water institutions and professionals faster and more efficient. It is particularly keen on supporting the development of water knowledge and lessons. One of the cooperation's core activities is to review water capacity development and experience within the region and explore opportunities for further collaboration in capacity development.

129. **5th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution**

**Date:** June 23, 2008

**Location:** ASEAN

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Singapore

Environment ministers or their representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand met for a ministerial steering committee meeting on transboundary haze pollution. The ministers discussed the changing meteorological conditions as a result of La Niña, which created drier weather and, as a result, increased hotspot activities. They agreed that the relevant national agencies shall remain vigilant and take all necessary proactive measures to prevent and mitigate land and forest fires. They noted their appreciation of Indonesia's efforts in implementing its Plan of Action in Dealing with Transboundary Haze Pollution and to prepare for the coming dry season. The ministers also discussed the memorandum of understanding on sustainable management of peatlands signed between the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and leaders of fire-prone districts in the Riau province of Indonesia. In addition, Indonesia and Singapore will be exploring two new action programs focusing on peatland management and capacity building for alternative livelihoods in the region.

130. **8th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management**

**Date:** June 23–25, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

131. **7th East Asia Summit Energy Cooperation Task Force Meeting**

**Date:** June 26–27, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, Korea

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

132. **3rd Japan-US-Australia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue**

**Date:** June 27, 2008

**Location:** Kyoto, Japan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Foreign ministers from Australia, Japan, and the United States met to exchange views on both regional and global issues of mutual interest and to discuss ways to further trilateral cooperation. The three ministers shared the view that the Asia-Pacific region, while undergoing a dynamic change in political and economic terms, is faced with a wide range of security challenges, both traditional and non-traditional. They confirmed their commitment to further strengthen trilateral initiatives with respect to these challenges and to be forward looking and responsive to emerging security issues. They welcomed the progress of the Trilateral Counter-Terrorism Consultations between the three countries and recent efforts to address the threat of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear terrorism; terrorist financing; and efforts to promote counter radicalization. They confirmed their commitment to further enhance partnership in the areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief through practical cooperation and also reaffirmed their commitment to ensure better development outcomes for the Pacific Island countries.

133. **ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)**

**Date:** June 29–30, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

The ASEM Senior Officials Meeting focused on substantive preparations for the seventh ASEM Summit. The SOM is held twice a year, once on the eve of ministerial or summit meetings and once separately. No chairman's statement is issued publicly after these meetings, although the chairman does write to participants to summarize the main conclusions of the meeting. The conclusions are also reported to the ASEM foreign ministers.

134. **3rd Drafting Meeting of the ASEAN Socio-cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint**

**Date:** June 30–July 1, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN; Government of Thailand

At the third drafting meeting of the ASCC Blueprint, leaders agreed that the chair of the ASCC Drafting Meeting would write to the chairperson of all ASEAN sectoral bodies, requesting to provide inputs and submit the agreed text on the specific areas by August 31, 2008.

**July**

135. **18th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB)**

**Date:** July 2–4, 2008

**Location:** Siem Reap, Cambodia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

This was the 18th meeting of the AWGNCB, which aims to promote regional coordination on implementing biodiversity conservation-related conventions and activities. Participants discussed strengthening wildlife and biodiversity protection in the region and charted a course of action for collaborative efforts between the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), including cooperation in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Trade on Endangered Flora and Fauna.

136. **9th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment**

**Date:** July 3–4, 2008

**Location:** Pasig City, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

137. **Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering Annual Meeting 2007 and Technical Assistance Forum**

**Date:** July 7–11, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)

The annual meeting was attended by more than 320 delegates from over 52 jurisdictions and organizations. Amendments were made to the APG's mutual evaluation procedures in relation to the adoption of joint Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF)/APG mutual evaluation reports to better reflect the APG's associate membership arrangements within the FATF. At the meeting, members also adopted mutual evaluation reports for Canada, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Palau. The meeting resulted in a number of other major

achievements, including adoption of a new “Strategic Implementation Planning Framework” to assist low capacity jurisdictions to effectively respond to recommendations made in their mutual evaluation reports. Changes were also made to the peer review mechanism to improve the quality and consistency of all APG reports.

**138. 1st BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation**

**Date:** July 9, 2008

**Location:** Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

With great potential for developing intra-regional trade, investment, and tourism, senior officials from BIMSTEC countries met to discuss poverty alleviation efforts and share experiences in dealing with the challenges of poverty eradication. It was noted that there is huge potential for developing intra-regional trade, investments, and tourism, and that BIMSTEC provides unique link between South Asia and Southeast Asia and has the potential to become a powerful forum for multi-sectoral cooperation in the region. Officials from Nepal were asked to prepare a draft Plan of Action on Poverty Alleviation with inputs from the other member states to be submitted at the subsequent ministerial meeting. The participants also discussed possible events in member states to highlight the Millennium Development Goals, a training programs on vocational education for human resource development, and proposals for cooperation on climate change.

**139. 4th APEC Senior Finance Officials Meeting (SOM)**

**Date:** July 10–11, 2008

**Location:** Cusco, Peru

**Organizers/Sponsors:** APEC

At the APEC SOM, participants discussed global and regional macroeconomic and financial issues, including financial market turbulence, implications of the US subprime mortgage crisis, inflationary issues, and food and fuel prices. The finance officials also discussed capital markets issues, including strengthening market infrastructure, improving access and standards of use, strengthening risk assessment and management, broadening and diversifying investor bases, developing derivative and swap markets, and Increasing regional cooperation toward more integrated regional capital markets. In particular, participants also discussed the Hanoi Medium Term Agenda, regional economic integration, and a review of the Finance Ministers’ Process policy initiatives. Senior officials also received updates from the APEC Business Advisory Council, APEC Senior Officials Meeting, APEC Economic Council, and APEC Secretariat. Finally, preparations for the upcoming finance ministers’ meeting were made.

**140. Heads of Delegation Meeting of the Six Party Talks (6th Round, 2nd Session)**

**Date:** July 10–12, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Governments of China, Japan, North Korea, Russia, South Korea, and the United States

The parties spoke highly of the positive progress made in the second phase actions for the implementation of the joint statement and reached important consensus on the full and balanced implementation of the second-phase actions. They agreed to establish a verification mechanism within the Six-Party Talks framework to verify the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which would consist of experts from the six parties as well as a monitoring mechanism to ensure that all parties honor and fulfill their respective commitments made, including non-proliferation and economic and energy assistance to the DPRK. The parties also formulated a timetable for economic and energy assistance along with disablement of the Yongbyon nuclear facilities. It was agreed that

the Disablement of the Yongbyon nuclear facilities and the remaining heavy fuel oil (HFO) and non-HFO assistance to the DPRK by other parties will be fully implemented in parallel with all parties working to complete their assistance by the end of October.

141. **32nd Meeting of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force**

**Date:** July 17, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

This was the 32nd meeting of the IAI Task Force, which seeks to integrate the newer ASEAN member countries, including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV), into the ASEAN economic mainstream by narrowing the development gap between the six older ASEAN member countries and the newer members. The CLMV countries organized the IAI task force, which meets regularly to review the implementation of the projects under the IAI work plan.

142. **7th Meeting of ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) Task Force III on Law Enforcement; 6th Meeting of ACCORD Task Force IV on Alternative Development**

**Date:** July 17–18, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Member states shared concerns over the illegal activities of drug syndicates in the region, and their trafficking routes and methods of operation. The meeting reported that the Golden Triangle region had seen a sharp decline in opium production, but an alarming rise in production of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). Member states also agreed to focus on establishing an intelligence sharing mechanism through adaption of an existing mechanism within the ACCORD framework.

143. **Meeting of the Working Group of the Exco of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Commission**

**Date:** July 17–18, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

144. **4th Meeting of the 41st ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC)**

**Date:** July 19, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The final meeting of the 41st ASC took place to summarize the year's achievements and to discuss future actions. Over the course of the year, ASC participants had met frequently to discuss various blueprints and work plans in relation to the ASEAN Charter and stepped up cooperation with dialogue partners. It was also announced that on January 1, 2009, ASEAN would establish the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which would take over much of the regional-level coordination that was previously under the ASC umbrella. The ASC will continue to handle the day-to-day issues of ASEAN between summits.

145. **ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)**

**Date:** July 18–19, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The ASEAN ministerial meeting is supported by the ASEAN standing committee and the ASEAN SOM in its efforts to oversee ASEAN's community-building efforts, external relations, strategic policy, and development cooperation. In 2008, the SOM continued to make the human rights mechanism a priority.

**146. 41st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting**

**Date:** July 21, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

ASEAN foreign ministers met under the theme of "One ASEAN at the Heart of Dynamic Asia" to reaffirm their common desire and collective commitment to the establishment of an ASEAN community of peace, stability, prosperity, and social progress. They reviewed developments pertaining to regional and international issues that may have political, economic, and sociocultural impact on ASEAN and agreed to further intensify efforts in all three pillars of the proposed ASEAN Community in order to establish such a community by 2015. They reaffirmed their resolve to pursue more region-wide cooperation programs and activities geared toward accelerating the ASEAN community-building process and reiterated the importance of maintaining ASEAN's central role in regional processes. In addition, they discussed regional security, narrowing the development gap, disaster management, and human rights in the region. The ministers also endorsed the terms of reference for the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN and the High Level Panel on the ASEAN Human Rights Body, and established the High Level Legal Experts' Group on Follow-Up to the ASEAN Charter.

**147. Meeting of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Commission**

**Date:** July 21, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

**148. ASEAN+3 Senior Officials Meeting (ASEAN+3 SOM), Ad-Hoc Consultations among East Asian Summit (EAS) Senior Officials, 9th ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM+3), East Asian Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers Informal Consultations**

**Date:** July 22–23, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues such as the ongoing Six-Party Talks, rising oil and food prices, climate change, and the global financial situation. They also reviewed the implementation of the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN+3 Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). The ministers also noted that ASEAN+3 cooperation had grown over the past 11 years to encompass 14 ministerial processes covering cooperation in 20 fields and to this extent launched the ASEAN+3 cooperation fund with an initial contribution of US\$3 million to provide the needed resources to implement more projects as envisaged by the second joint statement and the work plan.

At the EAS foreign ministers' consultations, they had an exchange of a wide-range of views on key regional and international issues. This was the first time that the EAS foreign ministers had gathered for an informal consultation meeting.

**149. ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC)+1 Sessions; 6th South-West Pacific Dialogue**

**Date:** July 23, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN



At the PMC+1 sessions, representatives from ASEAN's ten dialogue partner countries reviewed actions to implement the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership, the second ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Work Plan, and progress on ASEAN-ROK cooperation. ASEAN and the European Union agreed to further intensify cooperation in the areas of climate change and the environment, energy and food security, and disaster management, while the ASEAN-India meeting highlighted the importance of people-to-people contact in laying a solid foundation for the partnership. ASEAN and Japan stressed the need for closer cooperation in promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy, food security, and combating infectious diseases. China expressed satisfaction that ASEAN-China cooperation has continued to grow, while ASEAN welcomed Russia's keen interest in further enhancing its relations. The meeting with the United States underscored the strategic importance of ASEAN-US relations, and reaffirmed the United States' strong commitment to continuing engagement in the region. The meeting was concurrently held with the sixth South-West Pacific Dialogue, which brought together the foreign ministers of East Timor, Indonesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Australia to discuss issues of common interest and relevance to the Southwest Pacific, including climate change, counter-terrorism, maritime security, and responses to HIV/AIDS and avian influenza.

**150. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Defence Dialogue (DD)**

**Date:** July 23, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ARF

In conjunction with the 15th ARF, the ARF DD provided an opportunity for ARF defense officials to exchange views on regional security and defense outlooks and to discuss issues of mutual concern. They discussed security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region, and noted that the security situation remained relatively stable, a trend which had promoted economic growth and development. The officials also stressed that the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula would be essential in maintaining peace and security for the region and expressed their support for the Six-Party Talks as an important mechanism in resolving the nuclear issue and other outstanding concerns.

**151. 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) Indonesia/Thailand**

**Date:** July 23–25, 2008

**Location:** Indonesia/Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The AWGESC was formed in 2003 to develop strategies and action plans to drive the Regional Environmentally Sustainable Cities Programme, which focuses on urban environmental management and governance in ASEAN cities. The AWGESC aims to develop a framework for sustainable cities in ASEAN that accommodates the prevailing but varied circumstances among ASEAN cities. It seeks to promote the sharing of expertise in environmental protection and management to further enhance environmental sustainability in ASEAN cities, to recommend common targets and indicators to assess sustainability for cities in ASEAN, to facilitate and organize seminars and workshops to promote intercity environmental cooperation, and to foster better understanding and closer cooperation among relevant agencies of ASEAN member countries and international and community-based organizations in the area of urban environmental management and monitoring.

**152. 15th ASEAN Regional Forum**

**Date:** July 24, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The ministers reaffirmed the importance of the ARF as the main multilateral political and security forum in the region, and reiterated their support for ASEAN as the primary driving force of the ARF. They agreed that confidence building and preventive diplomacy should be mutually reinforcing and parallel processes and should address both traditional and nontraditional security challenges confronting the region. The ministers also recognized that the challenges facing the Asia Pacific region are becoming more complex and interrelated and require greater regional cooperation. Given the wide range of issues involved, such as counter terrorism, non-proliferation, disaster relief, maritime security, avian and pandemic influenza, and human and drug trafficking, the ministers agreed on the need for the ARF to strengthen its efforts and carefully consider how to focus on the issues most relevant to its mandate, capabilities, and membership. The meeting was attended by the foreign ministers from all the ARF member countries and by the ASEAN secretary general.

**153. Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of Member States of SCO**

**Date:** July 25, 2008

**Location:** Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

The parties, including heads of SCO member states and representatives from the SCO observer states of India, Iran, Mongolia, and Pakistan, discussed the positive work that had been done over the year to deepen and expand cooperation in the fields of security, politics, economy, and culture. A level of convergence of approaches to the key problems of modernity was noted as the parties exchanged opinions on strengthening regional stability and security, and reaffirmed the need to deepen practical cooperation with the SCO observer states in areas of mutual interest. In addition, the meeting stressed the importance of increasing engagement with Afghanistan, particularly through increasing the activities of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group.

**August**

**154. Structural Reform Ministerial Meeting**

**Date:** August 3–5, 2008

**Location:** Melbourne, Australia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Australia and APEC SOM

Ministers from across the Asia Pacific shared experiences and ideas about vital structural reforms to strengthen their respective economies. In particular, the meeting focused on “behind the border” reforms within economies that are critical to boosting economic growth, such as tackling overregulation and barriers to competition. They agreed on a number of concrete measures to support APEC’s structural reform agenda, including maintaining effective institutions, minimizing the regulatory burden on business while balancing the need for effective protection, and developing a program of practical support and capacity building initiatives. Also taking part in the meeting were business representatives from the region, who took part in discussions about the role that business can play to complement government efforts to produce structural reform.

**155. 19th Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN); 5th ASOEN+3; 2nd Officials Meeting for East Asia Summit Environment Ministers’ Meeting (EAS EMM)**

**Date:** August 4–7, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Among the topics discussed were the development of the ASEAN Climate Change Initiative, a proposal by the ASEAN secretary-general on a “Cool ASEAN, Green Capitals Initiative,” the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan 2008–2012, and the draft ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint. The meeting also discussed preparations for the Inaugural ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Award, which would be conferred at the 11th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment. The main objective of the ESC Award is to recognize exemplary efforts and to serve as an incentive for ASEAN member states to promote environmentally sustainable practices in their cities. Following the 19th ASOEN, the fifth ASOEN+3 and the second EAS EMM were held in order to discuss preparations for the seventh ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers’ Meeting and the inaugural EAS Environment Ministers’ Meeting.

156. **4th Meeting of the 39th Senior Economic Officials Meeting (4/39 SEOM), Senior Economic Officials Consultations with Ministry of Commerce of China (SEOM-MOFCOM), Republic of Korea (SEOM-ROK), Japanese Ministry of Economic, Trade & Industry (SEOM-METI), CER Consultations (SEOM-CER), India (SEOM-India); European Union (SEOM-EU), and Australia (SEOM-AUSTR) Senior Economic Officials+3 Consultations (SEOM+3)**

**Date:** August 4–8, 2008

**Location:** Brunei Darussalam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

157. **26th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM); ASEAN Senior Officials Meetings on Energy Meeting; 5th AMEM+3**

**Date:** August 4–8, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Senior ASEAN energy officials met to discuss topics such as the progress of the trans-ASEAN gas pipeline, the implementation of a memorandum of understanding on a ASEAN power grid, and the new ASEAN plan of action on energy cooperation. Ministers at the 26th AMEM covered topics on; accelerating energy cooperation in the ASEAN economic community; OPEC activities and the impact of volatile oil prices and oil dependency; expanding external energy cooperation; and progress of the energy agenda under the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) 2004–2010 and ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2004–2009. At the 5th ASEAN+3 Ministers exchanged views on recent national, regional and international developments on energy and reviewed the progress of regional cooperation initiatives. The Ministers acknowledged and reaffirmed the 10-year ASEAN+3 Work Plan to enhance ASEAN+3 relations and cooperation.

158. **2nd East Asian Summit Energy Ministers Meeting**

**Date:** August 7, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The second meeting was attended by the energy ministers from the ASEAN member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. The ministers noted developments in energy cooperation in three areas: energy efficiency and conservation, energy market and integration, and bio-fuels for transport and other purposes. They acknowledged the adoption of the Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and agreed to intensify ongoing cooperation to improve energy efficiency and the use of cleaner energy, including the use of renewable and alternative sources. Other issues discussed included general energy and environmental issues as well as the crucial role of international cooperation.

159. **9th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP)**

**Date:** August 9–13, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

A biennial gathering for discussion of scientific, programmatic, and policy developments in the global response to HIV/AIDS, the theme of the ninth ICAAP was “Empowering People, Strengthening Networks.” Researchers, community leaders, and policy specialists shared the latest information and experiences in various plenary sessions. Participants discussed topics such as addressing legal barriers against and criminalization of at-risk populations, and prevention, care support, and treatment of those affected by HIV and AIDS. Furthermore, 32 skills building workshops were also held in order for delegates to improve various skills that can applied to their daily work, along with satellite meetings and exhibitions showcasing civil society and private sector responses to HIV and AIDS. ICAAP is the second largest AIDS forum in the world, with approximately 3,000 delegates from 51 Asian and 14 Pacific countries attending the congress.

160. **Senior Leaders Seminar on Pandemic Influenza**

**Date:** August 12–14, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Malaysian Armed Forces Health Services; US Department of Defense

Senior leaders briefed some 80 upper-level government, military, and ministry of health representatives on global and regional issues related to pandemic influenza threats. 14 countries from the Southeast and South Asian regions were represented at the event. The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, which carried out the event for the US Pacific Command, conducts pandemic influenza seminars in order to improve coordination in containing pandemic outbreaks by enhancing the laboratory capacities and protocol measures of key civilian and military entities in the Asia-Pacific region.

161. **3rd APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)**

**Date:** August 12–23, 2008

**Location:** Lima, Peru

**Organizers/Sponsors:** APEC

Senior officials of APEC member countries reviewed a few items carried over from three prior meetings (SOM I, II, and III), which had been conducted throughout the year, including the APEC Food System and engagement with ABAC and the Counter Terrorism Report. In addition, they discussed support for the WTO and agreed that a conclusion to the Doha Round continued continues to be the highest trade priority for APEC economies. Also discussed was the progress on the APEC Regional Economic Integration Agenda, trade and investment liberalization and business facilitation, structural reform, economic and technical cooperation, anti-corruption and transparency, and human security.

162. **3S Asian Regional Seminar on Infrastructure Development for the Introduction of Nuclear Power Generation**

**Date:** August 18–22, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Supporters:** Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Atomic Energy Agency

The Japanese government and the International Atomic Energy Agency invited officials from nine Asian countries that are considering introduction of nuclear power generation in the future in order

to discuss the importance of ensuring “3S” (safeguards, safety, and security) in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to introduce Japan’s experiences. The “International Initiative on 3S-Based Nuclear Energy Infrastructure” was launched at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit held in July 2008. Following this initiative, Japan co-hosted this seminar with the aim of deepening understanding in Asia of the importance of ensuring the safe use of nuclear energy.

163. **39th Pacific Islands Forum**

**Date:** August 19–21, 2008

**Location:** Niue

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Pacific Islands Forum

The forum endorsed the first-ever climate change declaration for the region, the Niue Declaration on Climate Change, in light of deep concern that the Pacific Islands region is one of the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including its exacerbation of climate variability, sea level rise, and extreme weather events. Leaders welcomed the progress made by the international community in the “Bali Road Map” toward a comprehensive global climate change agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, along with the accompanying Bali Action Plan that covers mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology, and a dramatic enhancement of effort under the Kyoto Protocol.

164. **11th Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS)**

**Date:** August 20, 2008

**Location:** Busan, South Korea

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Republic of Korea Navy

The WPNS aims to increase naval cooperation in the Western Pacific among navies by providing a forum for discussion of both global and regional maritime issues with the goal of generating a flow of information and opinion between naval professionals leading to common understanding.

165. **Preparatory Senior Economic Officials Meeting**

**Date:** August 24, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Senior economic ministers met in advance of the 40th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting held on August 25 and 26 in Singapore in order to prepare for the 2008 summit.

166. **29th Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drugs (ASOD); 4th Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime+3 on Narcotics**

**Date:** August 24–27, 2008

**Location:** Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

ASOD moved ahead with their plans to achieve a “Drug Free ASEAN by 2015.” They noted success in eradicating illicit crops with the promotion of alternative development in the Golden Triangle, but also recognized the growing threat of amphetamine-type substances. Five working groups in preventive education, human rehabilitation, law enforcement, research, and alternative development met to come up with recommendations and reports to be made for future ASEAN meetings. The meeting was also the first consultation with India on stemming new smuggling routes for ketamine and other precursor chemicals from India.

**167. ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX-08), 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee in Disaster Management**

**Date:** August 24–29, 2008

**Location:** Pattaya, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

ASEAN member countries and international organizations took part in this exercise not only to assess integrated collaboration, mitigation, and capacity building in disaster management systems among ASEAN member countries, but also to make revisions to the emergency response system if necessary. ARDEX-8, which simulated a typhoon that had struck the Gulf of Thailand and the mobilization of ASEAN regional countries as well as international assistance in order to suppress the incident, was distinguishable from previous exercises in terms of multi-hazards, exercise operation sites, emergency rapid assessment teams, and the overall review of the ASEAN Standby Arrangement and Standard Operation. As a result, the exercise provided further guidance in facilitating a close and effective collaboration in effective emergency response policy at the regional level.

**168. 6th OPCW Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia**

**Date:** August 25–26, 2008

**Location:** Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The meeting focused on issues related to the adoption of comprehensive national legislation to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), including the rights and obligations of states party to the CWC and the legal basis for the control of toxic chemicals and combating illicit trafficking. During the discussions, participants reiterated the importance for all states party to the CWC to adopt the necessary legal measures expeditiously in order to prosecute any violation of the convention. Parliamentarians from states that had yet to complete their national implementing measures reiterated their commitment to do so. The participants also reaffirmed the need for continued parliamentary oversight of the national implementation of the convention and welcomed the process of interaction between the parliamentarians and the OPCW. 65 participants, including 26 parliamentarians and 15 national authority representatives, attended the meeting.

**169. 40th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM), including meetings with ASEAN Investment Area Council, ASEAN Free Trade Area Council, ASEAN Business Advisory Council, and the US Advisory Business Council**

**Date:** August 25–27, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

At their 40th meeting, ASEAN economic ministers discussed the development of an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint scorecard mechanism to track the implementation of their commitments in the AEC Blueprint at the 39th meeting and noted progress in its development by all relevant sectoral bodies. Among other economics topics discussed, ministers welcomed the progress on the Roadmap for ASEAN Integration of the Logistics Services Sector, the conclusion of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement to be signed in December 2008, and the implementation of the ASEAN Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Electrical and Electronic Equipment. The 40th AEM was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Senior Economic Officials Meeting and respective joint meetings with the ASEAN Investment Area Council and the ASEAN Free Trade Area Council.

170. **32nd Pacific Armies Management Seminar (PAMS)**

**Date:** August 25–29, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC)

PAMS is the US army's largest Asia Pacific theater security cooperation program event and provides an opportunity to extend communication and dialogue among the Asia Pacific armies. More than 170 delegates, observers, spouses, and support staff from 30 nations convened to share ideas while building the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding. In keeping with the seminar's theme, topics of discussion included "Gaining and Maintaining Situational Awareness in the Contemporary Operating Environment," "Training and Educating Forces for Success in Complex Coalition Operations," and "Transitioning from Conflict to Post-Conflict Coalition Operations." Delegates also discussed the future of the Asia Pacific armies in hopes of developing mutual information exchanges and effective communication techniques in order to preserve dignity and harmony within Asia Pacific nations.

171. **37th Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar (PASOLS)**

**Date:** August 25–29, 2008

**Location:** Christchurch, New Zealand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** US Pacific Area Command (PACOM)

PASOLS is an annual meeting sponsored by PACOM. It is a politically neutral forum for senior logistics officers from Asian, Pacific, and Indian Ocean regions to exchange ideas and review logistics initiatives introduced by their regional neighbors. The present three-year rolling agenda for their annual meeting focuses on peacekeeping operations (PKOs). The groups were broken out to focus on topics such as pre-deployment planning for UN PKOs; deployment; reception, staging, onward movement, and integration issues related to UN PKOs; and sustainment and transition of PKOs.

172. **Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (CHS SCO)**

**Date:** August 28, 2008

**Location:** Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

The heads of state exchanged opinions on regional and international issues. At the culmination of the meeting, the leaders signed the Dushanbe Declaration, which included agreements to stage joint counter-terrorism exercises by the member states of the SCO as well as to combat illegal circulation of weapons, ammunition, and explosives. They also signed the Memorandum on Partnership Relations between the Interbank Association of the SCO and the Eurasian Development Bank, and set development priorities for the next meeting of the CHS and beyond.

173. **ASEAN+1 Economic Ministers Consultations; Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam–Japanese Ministry of Economic, Trade & Industry Consultation (CLMV-METI); ASEAN Economic Ministers+3 Consultations (AEM+3), ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) Ministerial Meeting**

**Date:** August 28–29, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Annual consultations were held among ASEAN and China, Japan, South Korea, India, and the United States. At the 7th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China consultation (AEM-MOFCOM Consultations), global and regional

issues were discussed, particularly those relating to the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and China, including a review of the Trade in Goods Agreement, negotiations on the ASEAN-China Investment Agreement, and other on-going cooperation projects between ASEAN and China. ASEAN and Japanese Ministers at the 15th AEM-METI meeting focused mainly on the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. At the fifth consultation between AEM and Korea, the ministers discussed the implementation of the Agreement on Trade in Goods (TIG) and Agreement on Trade in Services, ongoing negotiations on the Agreement on Investment, and economic cooperation. The sixth AEM-India Consultations provided the opportunity for ministers to exchange views on issues and developments affecting global and regional trade, particularly issues that are significant to the bilateral trade between ASEAN and India. They also announced the conclusion of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement negotiations for trade-in-goods. At the AEM+3 consultations, economic ministers focused on the status of the implementation of projects under the AEM+3 framework and East Asia Study Group recommendations as well as a program identified under the ASEAN+3 Cooperation Work Plan (2007–2017) endorsed by the ASEAN+3 Summit in November 2007. Participants also discussed the progress of the in-depth study on the proposed East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA). Ministers at the 13th consultations between the AEM and the ministers of Australia and New Zealand (Closer Economic Relations – CER) welcomed the conclusion of the negotiations between ASEAN, Australia, and New Zealand for the ASEAN, Australia, and New Zealand Free Trade Agreement. The 10th ministerial meeting of the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) took note of progress made on the implementation of AMBDC projects; progress on the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link Project; and also discussed that the AMBDC process needs to be realigned and synchronized with the building of the ASEAN Economic Community.

**174. 10th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting; 12th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting**

**Date:** August 29, 2008

**Location:** New Delhi, India

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Bay of Bengal Initiative for MultiSectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

Attending BIMSTEC ministers approved a memorandum for a center for weather and climate in India, a memorandum of understanding for a cultural industries commission and cultural industries observatory, and the setting up of a joint working group, among other things. The meeting concluded with the reiteration of their commitment to the founding objectives and principles of BIMSTEC to accelerate economic and social growth in the region. BIMSTEC, established in 1997, provides a link between South Asia and Southeast Asia states. The annual ministerial meetings are hosted by the member states on the basis of alphabetical rotation.

**September**

**175. 6th Meeting of the Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty Reduction on Hunger**

**Date:** September 9–10, 2008

**Location:** Shanghai, China

**Organizers/Sponsors:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Participants discussed issues relevant to the fourth round of negotiations on the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, including tariff concessions; framework agreements on trade in services, investment, and trade facilitation; information exchange on non-tariff measures; and supplementary criteria for rules of origin. Additional topics included membership expansion, trade data exchange mechanisms, and WTO notification issues.



176. **30th Session of the Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement**

**Date:** September 9–10, 2008

**Location:** Shanghai, China

**Organizers/Sponsors:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Participants discussed issues relevant to the fourth round of negotiations on the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, including tariff concessions; framework agreements on trade in services, investment, and trade facilitation; information exchange on non-tariff measures; and supplementary criteria for rules of origin. Additional topics included membership expansion, trade data exchange mechanisms, and WTO notification issues.

177. **Meeting on Documentation of Good Practices of ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) Programme**

**Date:** September 16, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

A preparatory meeting for the project to document and share good practices on the prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases was held to discuss and agree on the country topics for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and China. The meeting also identified topics for the Philippines (decentralized government system for disease control), Japan (law and policy development), Vietnam (rabies control), and Korea (modeling system for improving disease control). The workshop participants made a commitment to complete the writing process of these good practices by end of December 2008, for a presentation in a regional forum scheduled in February 2009.

178. **3rd Meeting of the Senior Officials on the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters**

**Date:** September 18, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Delegates discussed difficulties and solutions for the implementation of a treaty on region-wide mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. The need for such a treaty was brought up at an ASEAN senior law officials meeting in June 2002; the treaty itself was adopted and signed in 2004 by eight of the ASEAN member countries, and then later by Thailand and Myanmar. The treaty calls for the creation of a multilateral instrument on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters and of an effective tool to enhance efforts to combat transnational crime in the ASEAN region, and to facilitate interregional assistance in evidence collection.

179. **Asia-Pacific High-Level Meeting on International Migration and Development**

**Date:** September 22–23, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

This meeting served as a regional preparatory meeting for the Second Global Forum on Migration and Development, scheduled for October 2008. The meeting facilitated discussion on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and its linkages with inclusive development, and supported member states in formulating effective policies to manage migration. In particular, the participants focused on issues such as the social dimensions of international migration;

remittances for development; international migration in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states; and data and research on international migration and development.

180. **2nd Consultative Meeting of the Project on Minimum Standards for Joint Outbreak Investigation of ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Disease Programme**

**Date:** September 22–24, 2008

**Location:** Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

181. **Meeting between the High Level Panel on an ASEAN Human Rights Body with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community**

**Date:** September 22–24, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN and Government of Indonesia

182. **Workshop on Finalization of Report on Gender and Social Research of ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) Programme**

**Date:** September 22–26, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The workshop brought together research teams from Cambodia, Indonesia, and Vietnam to conduct field research on mainstreaming gender and social dimensions in the prevention and control of EIDs. Representatives of the ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD) from Cambodia and Indonesia joined the workshop on the last day to review and provide clearance to the research report.

183. **Meeting of ASEAN Ad Hoc Task Force on Food Security**

**Date:** September 23–25, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The task force was formed to develop detailed work plan on food security in the ASEAN region, the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework, which is supported by the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security.

184. **High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Myanmar**

**Date:** September 27, 2008

**Location:** New York

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Office of the UN Secretary-General

Established and chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in December 2007, this was the first high-level meeting of the group and the sixth meeting since its inception. Participants in the group included ministers from the five permanent members of the UN security council, the EU high representative, and representatives from other relevant ASEAN countries, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia, EU, and Norway. While noting recent positive actions taken by the government of Myanmar, the members of the group encouraged it to work more closely with the UN to address key issues of concern to the international community, including the release of political prisoners and the initiation of an all-inclusive dialogue between the government and the opposition.

185. **ACD Ministerial Meeting on the Sidelines of the 63rd UN General Assembly**

**Date:** September 29, 2008

**Location:** New York

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

With a focus on the Asian food crisis, the meeting kicked off with South Korea transferring its chairmanship to Kazakhstan. Representatives at the event gave presentations on their countries' food security policy frameworks and recommended proposals for discussion at the next ministerial meeting. Kazakhstan's foreign minister thanked the participating countries and agreed that the current food crisis is the underlying issue for many of the region's problems, in addition to the issue of scarce water resources. Participants came from many of the 30 ACD countries, spanning the entire continent.

**October**

186. **ASEM Seminar on Adaptation to Climate Change**

**Date:** October 2–3, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

Officials and experts from ASEM member countries and organizations attended the seminar in order to discuss "adaptation" to the negative effects caused by climate change by focusing on five fields—water resources, health, agriculture, disaster prevention, and biodiversity. The primary aim of the meeting was the sharing of scientific knowledge and experience among the ASEM members and improving the capacity of each country to cope with the effects of climate change.

187. **3rd Meeting of the Committee under the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COM-3); 4th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP-4); 11th Informal Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME); 7th ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM); East Asian Summit (EAS) Environment Ministers Meeting**

**Date:** October 6–10, 2008

**Location:** Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

ASEAN member state environmental ministers met to review ongoing programs on the environment and discuss future cooperation to promote regional cooperation. They reviewed national, sub-regional, and regional activities to address land and forest fires in the region and its associated trans-boundary haze pollution. They presented for the first time the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City Award to ten cities, townships, or districts in ASEAN that have made exemplary efforts toward environmental sustainability. Ministers and their counterparts from China, Japan, and Korea also exchanged views on global environmental issues and agreed to implement activities in specific areas such as biodiversity, climate change, environmental education, water resources management, promotion of environmentally sound technology and cleaner production, and solid waste and hazardous waste management.

188. **11th Informal Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME); 7th ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM); East Asian Summit (EAS) Environment Ministers Meeting**

**Date:** October 6–10, 2008

**Location:** Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

ASEAN member state environmental ministers met to review ongoing programs on the environment and discuss future cooperation to promote regional cooperation. They reviewed national, sub-regional, and regional activities to address land and forest fires in the region and its associated trans-boundary haze pollution. They presented for the first time the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City Award to ten cities, townships, or districts in ASEAN that have made exemplary efforts toward environmental sustainability. Ministers and their counterparts from China, Japan, and Korea also exchanged views on global environmental issues and agreed to implement activities in specific areas such as biodiversity, climate change, environmental education, water resources management, promotion of environmentally sound technology and cleaner production, and solid waste and hazardous waste management.

189. **5th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Investor Seminar; Informal ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting**

**Date:** October 7, 2008

**Location:** Dubai, UAE

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Hosted by ASEAN finance ministers and senior government officials to attract capital from the Gulf countries to Southeast Asia, the seminar was attended by hundreds of Gulf-based executives, including business leaders, fund managers, and investors. It was the first such seminar to be conducted outside Southeast Asia and included regional briefings, country presentations, and panel discussions to showcase investment opportunities in the region. The ASEAN finance ministers reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen economic and financial cooperation in the Gulf region and expressed full confidence in the resilience of Southeast Asian markets.

190. **2nd NARBO Thematic Workshop on Water-Related Disaster Management**

**Date:** October 7–10, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO); Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The second workshop focused primarily on the United Nations Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 (HFA), a guideline to reduce vulnerabilities to natural disasters. This three part workshop series aims to develop NARBO member organizations' capacities for water-related disaster management by identifying basic concepts and principles in water-related disaster management; sharing country-specific issues, challenges, and strategies; and formulating individual country action plans. Middle to senior level officials from NARBO member organizations and relevant government agencies directly involved in water resources management, particularly on disaster management activities and decisions, were invited to attend.

191. **Preparatory Senior Officials Meetings on Health Development; 9th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM); 3rd ASEAN+3 Health Ministers Meeting; 2nd ASEAN Plus China Health Ministers Meeting**

**Date:** October 7–10, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Ministers of health from the ASEAN member states, China, Japan, and Korea convened to exchange views on the theme of “Trade Liberalisation: Its Adverse Impact on our Borderless Health Problems.” Among a variety of regional and international topics, the health ministers shared the common view that globalization and trade liberalization have both positive and negative implications for the health sector in terms of cost saving and ensuring equitable and affordable access to quality care. In addition, they recognized that the current trend of increased movement of qualified and competent health professionals may lead to shortages of health professionals in the originating countries, putting less privileged communities at risk. In addressing the threat of emerging infectious diseases like avian and pandemic influenza, the health ministers recognized that preparedness and response mechanisms are generally in place in all the ASEAN member states.

**192. ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy**

**Date:** October 8–10, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

This first meeting was attended by representatives of all ARF countries, except the DPRK; the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat; and representatives from the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) and the ASEAN Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Participants exchanged views on the regional and international security situation, and non-traditional security issues. The meeting was briefed by Track 2 presenters from ASEAN-ISIS and CSCAP. They discussed the future direction of ARF, with consensus that more needed to be done in disaster management and relief among ARF member countries. The meeting also considered Thailand’s work plan on developing the ARF Vision Statement, which would outline ARF’s purposes, functions, and direction up to the year 2020.

**193. ASEAN-Russia 6th Joint Planning and Management Committee Meeting and the 7th Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting**

**Date:** October 9, 2008

**Location:** St. Petersburg, Russia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Attended by representatives from the Russian Federation, ASEAN member states, and the ASEAN secretariat, the meeting discussed the progress achieved in priority areas such as culture, tourism, energy, disaster management, and counter-terrorism, science and technology in order to draw a roadmap for the implementation of a comprehensive program of action to promote cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation. It was noted that three projects were ready for implementation and would begin as soon as all financial and other formalities were completed. In addition, three other projects were in various stages of preparation and would be expedited.

**194. Inaugural East Asia Summit (EAS) Environment Ministers Meeting**

**Date:** October 9, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Attended by environment ministers or their representatives from the 10 ASEAN member states, the inaugural meeting provided the opportunity to exchange views on various issues relating to the environment, particularly on actions contained in the Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment. The ministers supported a phased and prioritized approach to implementation of the Singapore Declaration, while acknowledging the need to continuously take action on all areas of environmental protection. The ministers showed their support for ongoing

and new initiatives promoted by member countries on topics such as developing low carbon societies, compact cities, eco-cities, environmentally sustainable transport, water environment partnership, the Asia 3R Forum, and a network among ASEAN universities network entitled ProSPER.Net among others.

195. **3rd ASEAN+3 Health Ministers Meeting**

**Date:** October 10, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

United by the common aim of improving the health situation in the region, the members discussed the progress in implementing joint activities in the health sector and explored areas for future collaboration. They welcomed the achievements made in implementing the Year 1 Action Plan (July 2007–June 2008) of the ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Program, which aims to enhance regional preparedness and capacity through integrated approaches to prevention, surveillance, and timely response to emerging infectious diseases, including SARS and avian and pandemic influenza. They also endorsed the Year 2 Action Plan of the ASEAN +3 EID Program in hope that the activities will bring the ASEAN+3 countries in closer collaboration in preparing for future threats of disease outbreaks, including those related to natural disasters, bio-terrorism, and pandemic influenza, and will facilitate partnerships among existing networks and experts in the region on public and animal health.

196. **6th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) and 1st ASEAN+3 Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE+3)**

**Date:** October 13–15, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Attended by delegates from ASEAN member countries, the ASEAN secretariat, and, for the first time, delegates from China, Japan, and Korea for the SOMRDPE+3, the meeting discussed and endorsed sections of the draft ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint related to poverty alleviation. In addition, the meeting reviewed the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. At the SOMRDPE+3, participants exchanged ideas on furthering ASEAN+3 cooperation on rural development and joint poverty eradication projects on issues such as micro-financing, narrowing the development gap, rising food prices, natural disasters and poverty reduction, and climate change adaptation in the context of rural development and poverty alleviation. They also discussed addressing poverty among socially vulnerable groups, engaging community leaders, and the feminization of poverty.

197. **Japan-US-ROK Vice-Ministerial Consultation**

**Date:** October 14, 2008

**Location:** Washington, DC

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Government of the United States

This meeting was the first Japan-US-South Korea Vice-Ministerial Consultation held to discuss issues of mutual interest amongst three countries. It was attended on the Japanese side by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Kenichiro Sasae, on the US side by Under Secretary for Political Affairs William J. Burns, and on the Korean side by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Lee Yong-joon.

198. **24th ASEAN-Japan Forum**  
**Date:** October 15–16, 2008  
**Location:** Luang Prabang, Laos  
**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

At the forum, members discussed the ASEAN integration process as well as ASEAN-Japan cooperation to address current challenges faced by the region such as transnational crime and international terrorism, infectious diseases, environment and climate change, food and energy security, and disaster management. The forum also exchanged views on the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, people-to-people cooperation programs including youth exchanges, and preparations for the 12th ASEAN-Japan Summit to be held in December 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand.

199. **7th ACD Ministerial Meeting**  
**Date:** October 16, 2008  
**Location:** Astana, Kazakhstan  
**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

The ACD is an Asia-wide cooperative framework founded in 2002. At the seventh meeting, the ACD ministers discussed a wide range of issues, including the current food, energy, and financial crises, in an effort to find solutions through cooperation. In addition, members agreed to explore the establishment of the Asian Credit Transfer System on a voluntary basis and reaffirm the role of the Asia e University as an instrument for human capacity building, closing the digital divide, increasing higher education accessibility, and promoting e-education for the benefit of all ACD member countries. The ministers agreed to lift the moratorium on accepting new members and subsequently admitted the Republic of Kyrgyzstan as the ACD's 31st member. They also agreed to accept Morocco as an ACD development partner. Furthermore, "cultural cooperation" was accepted as the 20th project under the ACD framework, with Iran as prime mover and India as co-prime mover.

200. **Asian Exim Banks Forum: Changing Business Landscape**  
**Date:** October 16–17, 2008  
**Location:** Manila, Philippines  
**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The forum was convened with the goal of enhancing the capacity of selected Asian export-import banks and export credit agencies to address topical issues such as public and private environmental risk management, infrastructure financing in emerging markets, new risk mitigation products, governments' management of contingent liabilities, and compliance with financial standards in Asia. Its top objectives included helping to promote development goals and to encourage closer ties among Asian countries through regional cooperation and integration. Participants discussed a range of issues, including strengthening regional policy dialogue on issues such as infrastructure, trade, and investment; money and finance; regional public goods; and improved public-private partnerships on regional cooperation and integration issues.

201. **7th ASEAN Law Ministerial Meeting (ALAWMM), 12th ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM)**  
**Date:** October 20–21, 2008  
**Location:** Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei  
**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Law ministers noted the significant impact that the recent ASEAN charter would have on ALAWMM, with an increasing need for its mandate to further legal understanding and cooperation

among ASEAN. The ministers discussed proposals to develop a model law on maritime security, a framework agreement on the conservation of coastal and marine environment, and the conduct of another ASEAN government legal officers program as well as Brunei Darussalam's proposal on progressive liberalization of trade in legal services. The ministers commended the updating of the ASEAN government law directory and the developments made by the ASLOM with regard to the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, the ASEAN legal information authorities, exchange of study visits, the model ASEAN extradition treaty, and the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. The ministers also endorsed the recommendations made by the ASLOM Working Group on Examining Modalities for the Harmonization of Trade Laws.

202. **Senior Officials Meeting of the 30th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture & Forestry (SOM AMAF); 8th SOM AMAF+3**

**Date:** October 20–25, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

ASEAN agriculture and forestry ministers met at the 30th SOM AMAF to discuss recent socio-economic impacts on the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors in ASEAN. The ministers agreed that ASEAN needs to take a strategic and comprehensive approach and apply concrete policy measures to promote regional food security catering to the long-term need and potential emergency situation through increased food production and innovation, while ensuring market efficiency and regional integration process and trading mechanism. The meeting's sessions focused on the ASEAN community and regional integration, responses to the impact of climate change, sustainable forest management, and partnerships with dialogue partners and international organizations.

203. **15th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Ministerial Meeting; 5th Governors and Chief Ministers Forum**

**Date:** October 21–23, 2008

**Location:** Palembang, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Attended by provincial and state-level delegates representing the private and public sectors as well as government officials from IMT-GT member countries, the meeting focused on various economic topics critical to the region. It was noted that the IMT-GT working groups had largely responded to the previous IMT-GT leaders' summit directives to make the IMT-GT program more responsive to member countries' needs in the light of recent global financial instability and other developments. In addition, the participants agreed that the leadership of the IMT-GT would rotate from country to country every five years, that there would be an accelerated development of the website, and that cross-cutting themes would be mainstreamed in working group activities. Proposed 2009 initiatives included continuing IMT-GT capacity building, institution strengthening, and private sector development.

204. **6th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution**

**Date:** October 22, 2008

**Location:** Phuket, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Environment ministers and their representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand met to discuss issues related to transboundary pollution. Specifically, participants discussed the 2009 weather forecasts and a planned workshop involving relevant experts and agencies to discuss how to enhance the reporting of the sub-region's weather and



haze outlook. Participants discussed Indonesia's efforts to reduce its hotspots, implementation of its plan of action and the new actions it is undertaking, progress on implementing several programs under the Jambi Master Plan between Indonesia and Singapore, and progress in the collaboration between Indonesia and Malaysia in the Riau Province following the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

205. **7th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW)**

**Date:** October 22, 2008

**Location:** Ha Noi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Almost 100 delegates from ASEAN member countries' agencies for the advancement of women gathered to discuss issues involving the promotion and advancement of women in ASEAN. The meeting focused on the draft master plan to build an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, the establishment of an ASEAN committee for the advancement and protection of rights of women and children, and wider ASEAN+3 cooperation in enhancing the role of women.

206. **4th Meeting of Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime**

**Date:** October 22–23, 2008

**Location:** New Delhi, India

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

The BIMSTEC member nations adopted a multilateral convention on cooperation in combating terrorism, organized crime, and drug trafficking, which was presented to the BIMSTEC foreign ministers meeting in December 2008 for ratification. The convention deals with intelligence sharing, legal and law enforcement issues, financing of terrorism, and prevention of trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursor chemicals.

207. **Special ASEAN Summit Meeting**

**Date:** October 23, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

On the sidelines of the seventh Asia-Europe meeting, ASEAN leaders gathered to exchange views on the current global financial crisis and explore ways to prevent its spreading to Southeast Asian economies. Although ASEAN is on more solid economic footing than 10 years ago, the leaders agreed that precautionary actions are still necessary to send a clear signal that ASEAN is indeed better prepared. The leaders agreed on the importance of continuing ASEAN's economic integration and cooperation to pursue economic growth and development. They also agreed that multilateralized reserve pooling arrangements under the Chiang Mai Initiative should be intensified and expedited and that a working group in cooperation with finance ministers, central bank governors, and the ASEAN secretariat should be established to study country proposals. They urged officials to implement recommendations from a recent informal ASEAN finance ministers' meeting, especially the setting up of a new high-level macroeconomic and finance surveillance office in the ASEAN secretariat.

208. **7th Asia-Europe Summit (ASEM 7)**

**Date:** October 24–25, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEM

Attended by the heads of state and government of 16 Asian and 27 European nations, the president of the European Commission, and the secretary-general of ASEAN Secretariat, it was the first ASEM meeting since its enlargement to 45 member countries. The leaders discussed international and regional issues of common concern under the overarching theme of “Vision and Action: toward a Win-Win Solution.” Key topics at the Beijing meeting included the promotion of political dialogue, economic cooperation, sustainable development, deepening social and cultural exchanges, and the future of ASEM. They also reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, marking its 60th anniversary.

209. **SCO Heads of Government Council**

**Date:** October 30, 2008

**Location:** Astana, Kazakhstan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Prime ministers from SCO member states met to discuss the promotion of cooperation, issuing a joint declaration on the status quo of, and prospects for, pragmatic cooperation within SCO in such fields as politics, economy and trade, and culture. Members vowed to implement the consensus reached by SCO leaders at the August Dushanbe summit in a bid to promote the steady and sustained development of multilateral cooperation. They also agreed to deepen cooperation in all fields in line with an amended guideline concerning the implementation of the multilateral economic and trade cooperation approved at the meeting. In addition, member states agreed to boost cooperation in enhancing energy efficiency, developing clean energy, utilizing renewable energy, and ensuring energy security. Members reiterated the importance of cooperation in disasters prevention and relief and acknowledged that the participation of observer countries in member states’ meetings is conducive to attracting these countries to participate in cooperation projects within the SCO framework.

210. **1st Senior Officials’ Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Democracy Partnership (APDP)**

**Date:** October 31, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, South Korea

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Chaired by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT), Government of South Korea

The first senior officials’ meeting convened to discuss the APDP, including its mandate, structure, and future direction. It was attended by representatives from the following 12 countries: Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and the United States. The APDP was proposed by the United States in 2007 to foster multilateral cooperation for promoting and strengthening democracy in the Asia Pacific region.

211. **High Level Regional Policy Meeting on Networking toward Gender and Poverty Sensitive Energy Policies**

**Date:** October 31, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** UNESCAP, International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA)

The focus of the two-day event was the link between gender, poverty, and energy in the Asia Pacific region. The meeting brought together policymakers from around the region to discuss how best to bring a gender perspective to the national energy policies of developing countries. The first day of the meeting consisted of opening addresses by ENERGIA’s international coordinator and UNESCAP’s deputy executive secretary, followed by a series of presentations on issues such as energy needs and options for rural poor and women. The meeting’s second day consisted of

several breakout sessions and presentations, before concluding with the launching of a policy innovation forum, which focused on energy policy innovations from a gender perspective with a specific focus on services to poor households.

### **November**

**212. 16th Meeting of ASEAN Task Force On AIDS**

**Date:** November 3–5, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Attended by 10 ASEAN member representatives and international organizations, the meeting was organized as part of an effort within ASEAN to increase regional cooperation in curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS and to reinforce its ties with other regional and international organizations in addressing this issue.

**213. 30th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation**

**Date:** November 3–7, 2008

**Location:** Da Nang, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

With the support of several other ASEAN member countries, Singapore proposed the ASEAN Patent Examination Co-operation at the meeting, which would be the region's first patent cooperation project. The goal of this program is to increase the efficiency of ASEAN intellectual property offices and to help avoid patent application backlogs.

**214. 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General Of Immigration Departments and Heads Of Consular Affairs Divisions Of Ministries Of Foreign Affairs**

**Date:** November 4–5, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The meeting reviewed the progress on the work program to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action on Immigration Matters adopted in 2002. In this regard, the participants discussed progress on implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption and development of a comprehensive plan of action to implement the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism. They also discussed the ASEAN–European Commission (EC) Border management and Document Security Program. The meeting reiterated the need for strengthening collaboration and cooperation on immigration related issues with ASEAN dialogue partners and regional and international organizations. It was attended by the immigration officials and consular affairs heads of ASEAN member states, as well as by representatives of the ASEAN secretariat.

**215. Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) 17th Senior Officials Meeting/13th Ministers Meeting (SOM/MM)**

**Date:** November 4–6, 2008

**Location:** Makassar, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

This year, SOM/MM gathered key public officials and private sector members of the EAGA countries to discuss and assess the revitalization road map for BIMP-EAGA and recommend strategic directions for the coming year. They reviewed the status of assistance from the ADB, presented the activities and concerns of the private sector, and listened to updates from BIMP-

EAGA agencies developing transport, infrastructure and technology, natural resources, small and medium enterprises, and joint tourism initiatives. The organization aims for economic cooperation among Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, which host the annual SOM/MM on a rotation basis.

216. **6th Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT) Senior Officials Meeting**

**Date:** November 5–6, 2008

**Location:** Vientiane, Laos

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

Under the theme of “Addressing Emerging Issues: Linking Policy with Practice in Addressing Human Trafficking,” senior officials shared their experiences and discussed how they could best respond to the increase in human trafficking in this subregion. Each of the six countries involved—Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam—presented a progress report as well as a country case study. Participants also discussed matters relating to the sustainability and achievements of COMMIT; other regional efforts in combating human trafficking; and engaging with ASEAN, donors, and countries outside the region.

217. **14th ASEAN Transport Ministers and Associated Meetings; 26th Senior Transport Officials Meeting**

**Date:** November 6–7, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

ASEAN transport ministers gathered to discuss issues of mutual importance, including transportation issues within the proposed ASEAN Economic Community, greater aviation growth in the region, the strengthening of transport facilitation and logistics environment, and deepening transport integration. The ministers also concluded the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on Air Services and the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on the Full Liberalization of Air Freight Services, as well as the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport. In addition, they agreed to intensify concerted efforts toward the timely implementation of the AEC Transport Strategic Schedule and Scorecard and in this regard welcomed the formulation of the supporting ASEAN Strategic Transport Plan 2011–2015.

218. **15th APEC Finance Minister Meeting**

**Date:** November 6–7, 2008

**Location:** Trujillo, Peru

**Organizers/Sponsors:** APEC

The APEC finance ministers gathered along with representatives of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, the Andean Development Corporation, and the APEC Business Advisory Council. They discussed the turmoil in global financial markets from the perspective of both short-term immediate actions as well as longer term action for reform of the regulatory and institutional regimes for the world's financial sectors. They also strongly endorsed the recommendations of the Financial Stability Forum and the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Plan of Action. In addition, they considered two policy themes consistent with the Hanoi Medium-Term Agenda: results-based budgeting as an instrument to improve the quality of public expenditure, and capital market reform.

219. **Ayeyawady - Chao Phraya - Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Ministerial Meeting; ACMECS Summit**

**Date:** November 6–7, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ACMECS

Prime ministers from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam gathered to discuss various issues of mutual concern. They agreed to boost cooperation in the areas of economy, trade, investment, and tourism to cope with the negative impact of the global economic downturn as well as approving specific proposals, which focused on promoting ACMECS cooperation in the agriculture, industry, energy, transportation, tourism, and health sectors. The leaders also agreed to incorporate environmental protection into the ACMECS cooperation program and to establish an environmental task group within the framework of ACMECS.

220. **4th Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Vietnam (CLMV) Summit**

**Date:** November 7, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The summit gave the prime ministers of the four countries an opportunity to discuss concrete measures with one another and to promote cooperation along the principles of equality, mutual benefit, and development. They acknowledged progress in implementing cooperative CLMV programs over recent years, which began with the 2004 Vientiane joint statement on enhancing economic cooperation among the four countries. They agreed to continue efforts toward implementation the CLMV action plan to integrate the region's trade and investment, agriculture, industry and energy, transportation, information and communications technology, tourism, and human resource development.

221. **6th ASEAN-Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) Leaders Conference**

**Date:** November 7, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The transportation ministers discussed a range of issues on cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, including the outcome of the recommendations developed under the Manila Action Plan for the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership 2009–2013. The ministers agreed to intensify efforts to promote the “Manila Action Plan” and welcomed the work plans for 2008–2009 in the four policy pillars of transport logistics, safety and security, environment, and common infrastructure. In particular, the ministers endorsed two important initiatives: first, the ASEAN-Japan Eco-Airport Guideline, which addresses improvements in air pollution, noise and vibration, energy consumption, and recycling in airports in ASEAN and Japan. Second, the ASEAN-Japan Seafarers Training Cooperative Program aims to enhance the expertise of ASEAN seafarers and merchant mariners in terms of specialization and training standards.

222. **13th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting; 11th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting; 2nd BIMSTEC Summit**

**Date:** November 11–13, 2008

**Location:** New Delhi, India

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

Preceded by the 11th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and the 13th Senior Officials' Meeting, heads of government from BIMSTEC countries met to discuss topics of mutual interest at the second

BIMSTEC Summit. They expressed their satisfaction at the progress in the negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement in trade in goods and called for an early conclusion of these negotiations. They also welcomed the establishment of the Centers for Energy and for Weather and Climate in India and the BIMSTEC Cultural Observatory in Bhutan. They also discussed the threat terrorism poses to the region and the importance of finalizing the BIMSTEC Convention on Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking.

223. **11th Annual Chiefs of Defense Conference (CHOD)**

**Date:** November 11–14, 2008

**Location:** Hawaii, USA

**Organizers/Sponsors:** US Pacific Command (USPACOM)

The heads of defense from 26 nations met to discuss key issues affecting the Asia Pacific region. The conferences focused on international issues such as energy, global security, and the environment. The CHOD conferences bring together the senior military leaders from the Asia Pacific to meet and discuss mutual security challenges, improve mutual relationships, and foster security cooperation.

224. **7th ASEM Conference for Directors General on Migratory Flows**

**Date:** November 17–18, 2008

**Location:** Paris, France

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit

Directors general of immigration and immigration officials from 14 Asian and 24 European countries as well as officials from the European Commission attended the conference, which aimed to strengthen links between member states' immigration authorities and to permit exchanges of information and practices in the field of international migration. The conference included presentations by the Korean delegation on their migration policy and by the UK and Portuguese delegations on their biometric systems for managing migration, as well as a comprehensive exchange of views in relation to the use of biometrics by Japan and India. Three workshops focused on professional migration, the impact of the international financial and economic crisis on migration, and circular migration and reintegration. The conference concluded with two regional meetings, where Asian ASEM members recognized the need to strengthen coordination on migration matters and the need to utilize the existing ASEM system of contact points.

225. **20th APEC Ministerial Meeting**

**Date:** November 19–20, 2008

**Location:** Lima, Peru

**Organizers/Sponsors:** APEC

The APEC ministers gathered for the 20th APEC ministerial meeting, which also welcomed the participation of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the APEC Secretariat, and other APEC official observers. Under the theme, "A New Commitment to Asia-Pacific Development," they discussed the major economic, human security, environmental, and social challenges facing the region. They reviewed progress made this year on APEC's key priorities and the possibilities for institutional report. Topics discussed at the meeting included the global financial crisis, support for the WTO and the multilateral trading system, the regional economic integration agenda, and APEC trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. Participants also examined private sector engagement, corporate social responsibility, improving food security in the Asia-Pacific, anti-corruption and transparency, and enhancing human security in the region.

226. **2nd Meeting of the Subregional Energy Forum (SEF-2), 7th Meeting of the Regional Power Trade Coordination Committee (RPTCC-7), 7th Meeting of the Focal Group (FG-7), 6th Meeting of the Planning Working Group (PWG-6)**

**Date:** November 19–21, 2008

**Location:** Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The SEF-2 meeting discussed the medium term (2008–2015) road map for expanded Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) energy cooperation and considered the proposed work plan for realizing the road map. The SEF-2 meeting also exchanged information on developments in the energy sectors of GMS countries. In addition, sessions included topics on the Climate Change Implementation Plan (CCIP) and the linkage with environment work in Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) 6440 and those of the Environment Operations Center (EOC) as well as application of the work done by the EOC on strategic environmental impact assessment for RETA training purposes. It was attended by representatives of the six GMS member countries, as well as by representatives of organizations such as the ADB, the Agence Francaise de Developpement, the Australian Agency for International Development, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Mekong River Commission, RTE International, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and the World Bank.

227. **4th Roundtable Discussion on Human Rights in ASEAN: Realizing the People-Oriented ASEAN Community with Human Rights**

**Date:** November 20–21, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The roundtable was divided into six sessions, which focused on topics such as the ASEAN Charter and human rights in ASEAN, promotion and protection of women and childrens' rights in ASEAN, protection of migrant workers' rights, the role of national human rights institutions in the changing environment of ASEAN, and the establishment of an ASEAN human rights body and its relationship with other human rights mechanisms in ASEAN. Participants included government representatives from ASEAN agencies working on the rights of women, children, and migrant workers; national human rights institutions; members of the working group; and observers from funding organizations.

228. **22nd Meeting of the ASEAN Crisis Communications Team**

**Date:** November 21, 2008

**Location:** Kuching, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

229. **16th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting**

**Date:** November 22–23, 2008

**Location:** Lima, Peru

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

APEC economic leaders met under theme of "A New Commitment to Asia Pacific Development," highlighting the importance of reducing the gap between developed and developing member economies. Key issues included advancing economic integration and the social dimension of globalization. In relation to the former, the leaders welcomed five new model measures, resulting in 15 completed chapters for regional trade agreements (RTAs) and free trade agreements (FTAs) that will promote high-quality RTAs/FTAs and greater consistency and coherence among these agreements in the region. In addition, leaders addressed enhancing human security in the region, climate change, energy security, clean development, and strengthening APEC. A separate statement

was also produced affirming their resolve to address the deteriorating global economic situation and support a prompt conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda negotiations.

**230. 1st ASEAN-MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) Ministerial Meeting**

**Date:** November 24, 2008

**Location:** Brasilia, Brazil

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Government of Brazil

The first ASEAN-MERCOSUR meeting was attended by the ministers and high-level representatives of the respective member countries as well as the ASEAN Secretariat. The participants discussed various international issues of common interest in the spirit of South-South cooperation, including the WTO-Doha Round and the international financial situation. They also considered the means to enhance MERCOSUR-ASEAN cooperation in areas such as intellectual property, energy and food security, transportation, tourism, environment, and technical cooperation. The participants stressed the constructive roles of both MERCOSUR and ASEAN in the promotion of stability, prosperity, and sustainable development within their member countries.

**231. 3rd ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)**

**Date:** November 24–27, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

The ministers discussed a broad range of security issues, including the threat of terrorism, challenges of disaster relief, and regional maritime security. Three papers were adopted, namely the ADMM-Plus Concept Paper, the Protocol to the ADMM Concept Paper, and the ADMM Three-Year Work Program. These three papers will help chart the evolution of the ADMM in the coming years. As a symbol of the ADMM's commitment to enhance regional peace and stability, the ministers also signed the ADMM Joint Declaration.

**232. Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)**

**Date:** November 26–27, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The objectives of the SOM were to review the status of implementation of the Vientiane Plan of Action for GMS Development (2008–2012), review draft sector strategies in human resource development and energy, and discuss the preliminary results of the evaluation of ADB's Regional Cooperation Strategy and Program for the GMS (2004–2008). Participants also discussed recent and planned activities under the GMS Economic Corridors Forum as well as preparations for the 15th GMS Ministerial Conference.

**233. ASEAN+3 Deputy Finance Ministers and Deputy Central Bank Governors Meeting**

**Date:** November 27–28, 2008

**Location:** Hakone, Japan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Government of Vietnam; Government of Japan

Deputy finance ministers, deputy central bank governors, and representatives from international institutions met to discuss the progress of implementing the ASEAN+3 financial cooperation initiatives, including the Chiangmai Initiative (CMI) and Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI). Regarding the CMI, the attendants agreed to make efforts to ensure the early build-up of regional financial supporting mechanisms for member countries that are facing difficulties in payment balance. Member countries also agreed take continued measures to restore and maintain market confidence, such as implementing deposit insurance programs, ensuring liquidity for banks, and



enhancing surveillance operations. At the regional level, the countries committed to foster information sharing and policy coordination. Reviewing the ABMI, the deputy finance ministers recognized the progress of the action plan to 2013 on the basis of the newly adopted ABMI roadmap to improve ASEAN bond markets.

**234. Forum on Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA)**

**Date:** November 28, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Cabinet Office of Japan; Japan Atomic Energy Commission; Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines

Ministerial-level and senior officials in charge of development and utilization of nuclear technology from the nine FNCA member countries gathered to share experiences and discuss areas of potential cooperation. All nine countries delivered country reports focusing on their respective activities, while highlighting relevant regional and international cooperation. In addition, a speech by a Japanese representative in session four set off a roundtable discussion on the possibilities of cooperation among FNCA member countries in the area of developing nuclear power infrastructure.

**December**

**235. 5th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD); 4th SOMSWD+3**

**Date:** December 1, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The SOMSWD and SOMSWD+3 serves as the preparatory assembly for the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD).

**236. 8th Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM DR)**

**Date:** December 1, 2008

**Location:** Banda Aceh, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Government of Indonesia; European Union

The meeting was attended by delegates from ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) member countries, representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Bank, and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. Participants discussed recent case studies of disaster relief operations in the region as well as ASEAN and global level cooperation activities, listened to a briefing by the Australia delegation on the ARF strategic guidelines for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and addressed the future direction of the ARF ISM DR.

**237. 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**

**Date:** December 2–4, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Government of Malaysia, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UNISDR)

The theme of the third ministerial conference, “Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia and Pacific region,” focused in particular on public private partnership for

disaster risk reduction and community-based disaster risk reduction activities. Held every two years, the conference represents a unique opportunity for ministers in charge of disaster management from the Asia Pacific region to reaffirm their commitment to Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) implementation and to exchange valuable experiences on successful practices and innovative approaches in implementing HFA's five priorities for action at the national and local levels. It was also attended by other key partners, including senior government representatives engaged in disaster risk reduction in their respective countries, together with disaster risk reduction experts and practitioners, scientists, civil society representatives, academic institutions, UN agencies and regional organizations, the donor community, and the media.

**238. 10th ASEAN-US Informal Coordinating Mechanism**

**Date:** December 4–5, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The 10th meeting reviewed the ASEAN-US dialogue cooperation, and exchanged views on the ways and means to further strengthen partnership between ASEAN and the United States. Both sides expressed satisfaction on the progress on the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership and reiterated their commitment to work closer together to enhance and deepen cooperation and relations.

**239. 8th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR)**

**Date:** December 5–6, 2008

**Location:** Banda Aceh, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

Participants at the ISM on DR reviewed a draft disaster relief plan while discussing emergency preparedness, disaster relief and management, and disaster rehabilitation, emphasizing the need to intensify cooperation, training, technical assistance, and coordination among ARF members in advance of disasters. It was agreed upon that the Philippines and the United States would co-sponsor the first ARF disaster relief field exercise, termed the Voluntary Demonstration of Response, where ARF participating countries would engage in demonstrations of niche capabilities in response to a hypothetical major typhoon in Central Luzon. Civil and military participants are expected to provide actual care to local populations during the exercise. This joint exercise will help elevate the level of civilian and military cooperation in ARF, which consists of 10 ASEAN nations and 17 additional nations, including the EU, the United States, Japan, China, Russia, and India.

**240. Six Party Talks (7th Round, 1st Session)**

**Date:** December 15–16, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

At the summit, leaders from the BIMP-EAGA countries discussed current developments and future directions of cooperation, and recognized that the challenges of narrowing the development gap and reducing poverty in the subregion remain formidable, particularly in light of the global economic slowdown. In this regard, the participants called upon their agriculture ministers to take the lead in formulating strategies and exploring innovative ways to enhance the competitiveness of the BIMP-EAGA agriculture sector, and in facilitating the establishment of subregional production networks and value chains in selected priority crops and commodities. In addition, the participants encouraged their agricultural ministers to promptly conclude the legalization process in order for the BIMP-EAGA Facilitation Center to fulfill its role as a full-fledged subregional facilitation center

and central secretariat beginning in 2009. A midterm review of the BIMPE-EAGA Roadmap to Development (2006–2010) was also conducted.

241. **Bali Democracy Forum Ministerial Meeting**

**Date:** December 9, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Government of Indonesia

Conceptualized by Indonesia's minister of foreign affairs, the forum promoted the consolidation of democracy and increasing its significance in Asia and in the international arena. Government representatives from throughout Asia attended the one day forum.

242. **Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Policy Consultation on Foreign Policy towards Africa**

**Date:** December 9, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Government of Japan

At the meeting, country representatives exchanged views on Japan, China, and Korea's priorities on Africa policy as well their economic relations and development cooperation with Africa. This consultation was the first of its kind to discuss the three countries' economic policies and development cooperation with African nations.

243. **Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting**

**Date:** December 13, 2008

**Location:** Fukuoka, Japan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Government of Japan

At the first trilateral summit between Japan, China, and Korea held independently of other events, leaders from the Northeast Asian countries expressed their resolve to promote cooperation in a future-oriented manner and put forth a set of guiding principles for trilateral cooperation, including openness, transparency, mutual trust, common interest, and respect for the diverse cultures. Specifically, the leaders agreed to further regional cooperation in order to stabilize financial markets and to fight against protectionism. In addition, they agreed to take necessary measures to increase economic growth and expand domestic demand, including strengthening the Chiang Mai Initiative and increasing the capital of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and to strive for cooperation concerning the World Trade Organization negotiations. They also agreed to strengthen disaster management for earthquakes, typhoons, floods, and other natural disasters, and discussed regional issues, including the North Korea issue, as well as global challenges such as the environment, disarmament, and non-proliferation.

244. **Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

**Date:** December 15, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The main objectives of this special meeting were to continue the discussion of the foreign ministers and representatives from ASEAN member states concerning the rescheduling of the 14th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits and to have a preliminary discussion on how ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat should implement the various provisions set forth in the ASEAN Charter. In relation to implementing the ASEAN Charter, delegates discussed the issues of operationalization, restructuring the ASEAN Secretariat, and the establishment of the ASEAN Human Rights Body. The meeting also served as the first meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council, which will meet twice a year and is responsible for, among other things, coordinating the

implementation of decisions of the ASEAN Summit and for coordinating with the ASEAN Community Councils to enhance policy coherence among them.

245. **5th Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit**

**Date:** December 15–16, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

At the summit, leaders from the BIMP-EAGA countries discussed current developments and future directions of cooperation, and recognized that the challenges of narrowing the development gap and reducing poverty in the subregion remain formidable, particularly in light of the global economic slowdown. In this regard, the participants called upon their agriculture ministers to take the lead in formulating strategies and exploring innovative ways to enhance the competitiveness of the BIMP-EAGA agriculture sector, and in facilitating the establishment of subregional production networks and value chains in selected priority crops and commodities. In addition, the participants encouraged their agricultural ministers to promptly conclude the legalization process in order for the BIMP-EAGA Facilitation Center to fulfill its role as a full-fledged subregional facilitation center and central secretariat beginning in 2009. A midterm review of the BIMP-EAGA Roadmap to Development (2006–2010) was also conducted.

## Track 2: Multisectoral Policy Meetings

### *January*

1. **4th US-Japan-China Trilateral Conference**

**Date:** January 6–8, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Japan Center for International Exchange; Brookings Institution; China Foreign Affairs University; cooperating institutions included Peking University and the Center for Strategic and International Studies

Nearly 30 senior policy experts from China, Japan, and the United States gathered in Beijing for the fourth US-Japan-China Trilateral Conference. Over a period of two days, members covered various aspects of the complex trilateral relationship, ranging from the inter-linkages among domestic politics and foreign policy in the three countries to energy issues and regional challenges such as cross-strait relations and North Korea. Additional meetings were also held on January 6th and 7th with Chinese officials.

2. **ASEF Workshop on Irregular Migration**

**Date:** January 7–9, 2008

**Location:** Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Scholars from Asia and Europe convened for a workshop titled, “Now You See Them, Now You Don’t: Defining Irregular Migrants in Europe and Asia and the Immigration Measures Applied to Them.” The aim of the workshop was to examine the definition of irregular migration and discuss country responses to irregular migration issues. By looking at different European and Asian country case studies, the goal was to compare irregular migration across different social and political contexts. A variety of papers were presented, and the participants concluded that more academic discussions on irregular migration should take place between European and Asian scholars.

3. **11th Regional Outlook Forum**

**Date:** January 8, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)

Researchers from around the Asia-Pacific region gathered for the annual Regional Outlook Forum organized by ISEAS. Participants examined regional security issues such as the relationship among the United States and East Asia, India’s changing strategic profile in East and Southeast Asia, the transitioning international system, and China’s forward-looking strategy and policy. Also discussed were both the progress and challenges of ASEAN integration. In addition, the participants examined the economics of environmental disaster and its socio-cultural impacts as well as the economic and business environment in the countries of Southeast Asia. Other topics included political trends in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam, and the turbulent social movements occurring in Indonesia and Thailand. Based on this forum, ISEAS publishes both a forum summary and its Regional Outlook: Southeast Asia series each year.

4. **Capacity Building Seminar on Environment Mainstreaming Using the Application of Green Growth Policy Tools in Sustainable Development Decision Making**

**Date:** January 14–15, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** UNESCAP

Designed by UNESCAP's Green Growth team and attended by government leaders and civil servants, the three day workshop focused on environment and sustainable economic growth. The participants discussed the five tracks of UNESCAP's Green Growth program-green tax and budget reform, development of sustainable infrastructure, green businesses and environment as business opportunities, promotion of sustainable consumption and production, and development of "eco-efficiency" indicators-and their application in government policies and measures.

5. **Workshop on Capacity Building for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans**

**Date:** January 14–18, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

Policymakers and experts on biodiversity from 23 Asian countries and various international organizations met to review progress in the development, implementation, and review of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Participating countries included Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, China, DPRK, Japan, Korea, and Mongolia.

6. **International Workshop: "External Impacts on Freedom and Democratization in Southeast Asia"**

**Date:** January 15–17, 2008

**Location:** Bandung, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; UNPAR

This workshop aimed to measure and analyze external impacts on democratization processes underway in Southeast Asia as well as to evaluate the success of the effort by international development agencies to promote good governance and democracy in the region.

7. **Panel Discussions on Climate Change, the human Welfare Aspects of MDGs and Avian Influenza/Pandemic Preparedness**

**Date:** January 16, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** UNESCAP

8. **International Conference on Regional Integration-Asia and Europe Compared**

**Date:** January 17, 2008

**Location:** Venice, Italy

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Universita Ca Foscari; Euro-Asia Center, University of Limerick, Venice

The conference, attended by European and Asian academics, examined the successes, challenges, and steps forward for economic and political integration in Asia, using the European integration experience as a framework for comparison. The discussions included individual country experiences in Asia, including Korea's external economic strategy, environmental challenges in China and India, and India's economic performance, policies, and prospects. The participants looked at general issues facing the region, such as FDI and technology transfer, economic integration and competitiveness, monetary relations and macroeconomic concerns, and security issues. The participants also examined issues specifically concerning the relationship between the two regions, including whether the EU pursues a regionalist agenda in Asia, and the possible economic impacts of an EU-ASEAN free trade agreement.

9. **Sentosa Roundtable on Asian Security 2008**

**Date:** January 17–18, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Sasakawa Pan Asia Fund (Sasakawa Peace Foundation)

With a focus on building a security community, the annual roundtable gathered experts from Japan, the United States, Australia, and Thailand to explore new ideas for the management of peace and security in the region. This year, participants discussed the significance of intergovernmental institutions in regional community building in Asia, examining ASEAN, ASEAN+3, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the East Asia Summit, and APEC. They also looked at regional NGOs such as the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies, the Council for Security Cooperation in Asia-Pacific, and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council. The roundtable concluded that both top-down (fashioned by regional governments) and bottom-up (fashioned by non-governmental entities) approaches were necessary, but that the effectiveness of these efforts have been constrained by regional conditions such as lack of state capacity, dependence on sovereignty and nonintervention norms, and great-power dynamics.

10. **Asian Perspectives on the Future Role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

**Date:** January 18, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES); Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Senior experts from ministries of finance, central banks, the IMF, and think tanks gathered for a second meeting in a series focusing on the current situation and reform of the IMF. The outcomes of these regional meetings were presented at a side event to the IMF/World Bank meeting in April 2008. This Singapore meeting focused on Asian perspectives toward the IMF and the issues and challenges associated with reform of the institution.

11. **Conference on the India-China-USA Triangle**

**Date:** January 21–23, 2008

**Location:** Kerala, India

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Center for National Renaissance of India

The Centre for National Renaissance (CNR), an Indian think tank, in association with Harvard's John Fairbank Center and Tsinghua University's Institute for International Studies and Centre for China in the World Economy, hosted and organized a three-day international conference on the India-China-US triangle. Participants discussed academic papers they had prepared on four main questions: (1) Will India and China continue to grow economically and militarily in the coming decades or are there obstacles to such growth? (2) Will India and China, as future candidates for developed country status, be an economic opportunity for or a threat to the projected US economic situation in terms of jobs, access to energy, and innovations? (3) Will the United States be able to strategically partner with India, China, or both for a new world order? (4) How politically stable will India and China be in future decades?

12. **1st APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Meeting of 2008**

**Date:** January 21–23, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)

The ABAC, created by APEC leaders in 1995 to advise member economies on matters of primary importance to business in the region, focused its 2008 meeting on how globalization should lead to sustainable development for all economies. To that end, the council met with

APEC senior officials to make recommendations on intergovernmental processes. Major priorities included further exploration of the concept of a free trade area of the Asia-Pacific, the WTO Doha Development Round, and business facilitation. Energy security and climate change was a major priority as well, with proposals presented on ways to achieve the APEC regional goal to reduce energy intensity by 25 percent by 2030. The council is developing a multi-year roadmap to address wealth creation, poverty reduction, and stability in the APEC region capital markets. In addition, it is exploring social security and safety net issues, deepening and strengthening capital markets, and improving infrastructure and regulation.

**13. Workshop on Research Activities on Avian Influenza and other Transboundary Animal Diseases in Southeast Asia / International Symposium on Avian Influenza**

**Date:** January 21–22, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD); Royal Veterinary College of the University of London; World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Bringing together more than 50 scientists from a number of disciplines from the region and abroad to share their research on various aspects of avian influenza and other transboundary diseases, the ultimate aim of the workshop was to discuss the promotion of science-based disease risk management in Southeast Asia. Specifically, the participants reviewed what is known about the main transboundary animal diseases (TADs) present in the region and sought to identify the most important knowledge gaps research still outstanding. The workshop's sessions included research on the ecology and epidemiology of avian influenza and other TADs in Southeast Asia, the human impacts of the spread of TADs, and the control and prevention of the diseases.

**14. 2nd Japan-US-Asia Dialogue: An East Asian Community and the United States**

**Date:** January 22, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Global Forum of Japan; Council on East Asian Community; Pacific Forum CSIS; supported by Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership

Split into two sessions, almost 100 participants gathered to discuss and exchange opinions on matters of significant importance related to the future of Japan-US-Asia relations. The first session focused on "Community Building after the Second Joint Statement on East Asian Cooperation," with the second focusing on "An East Asian Community and the US." Keynote speakers included members of academia, government, and research institutions from across East Asia and the United States.

**15. 1st Regular Meeting of 2008 of the Advisory Group on APEC Financial System Capacity Building**

**Date:** January 23, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ABAC-PECC

The finance ministers of the 21 APEC member economies established the Advisory Group on APEC Financial System Capacity Building at a meeting in 2003. They created the group with three major goals in mind: (1) to collaborate in strengthening and developing the region's financial systems; (2) to promote public-private sector collaboration in these capacity-building efforts; (3) and to create a platform from which to exchange information on these efforts. The group's agenda for its 2008 work program included undertaking the coordination of the second APEC Public-Private Sector Forum on Bond Market Development, developing specific proposals on capacity-building that could be endorsed by the APEC finance ministers,



exchanging information and updates on current initiatives by participating organizations, finalizing the work program, preparing the agenda for the second Forum on Bond Market Development, and identifying steps to address these issues until the next regular meeting.

16. **Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR) Brainstorming Meeting**

**Date:** January 23–24, 2008

**Location:** Kobe, Japan

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Asian Disaster Preparedness Center; Asian Disaster Reduction Center; Disaster Recovery Institute; Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI); International Recovery Platform Secretariat; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Kobe University; Kyoto University; United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); UN-Habitat; United Nations/International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR); United Nations University (UNU); World Health Organization (WHO)

Recently opened in Kobe, UN/ISDR was created to develop synergy in disaster risk reduction in the region and to act as a focal point for the functioning of the RTF-URR. The long-term goal of the RTF-URR is to influence the urban policy of various vulnerable countries to enable and strengthen urban risk reduction and contribute to building resilient city environments. The brainstorming meeting provided an opportunity for the participants to facilitate cooperation among agencies; share information and minimize overlap; promote joint local, national, and regional activities; and promote action to take advantage of ongoing priority initiatives globally and regionally. Participants also discussed the feasibility of establishing a regional task force on urban disaster risk. Member organizations included various UN agencies, JICA, Kobe University, Kyoto University, and the WHO.

17. **UN Regional Forum on Bioenergy Development**

**Date:** January 23–25, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

The forum addressed issues including the current status of bio-energy development in Asia and the Pacific and emerging bio-energy technologies, balancing its potential benefits with the risks associated with environmental degradation and food security, financing bio-energy projects, and recommendations on viable policy options for bio-energy development. Policymakers working on agro-industry and bio-energy issues from Asia Pacific countries, along with UN experts and representatives from the private sector, participated in this forum.

18. **Aid for Trade and Development: Global and Regional Perspectives**

**Date:** January 24–25, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

At this pre-event to the 12th UN Conference on Trade and Development, representatives from the donor community and from the major UN agencies active in development cooperation discussed ways to sustain momentum for implementation of the World Trade Organization's Aid for Trade initiative and the supportive role to be played by the UN system in promoting development and helping to bring about a reduction in poverty. The participants discussed the opportunities for trade to serve as a catalyst for progress in their nations in light of the increased globalization and economic liberalization expected to result from the Doha Round and other trade talks and agreements. Participants in the meeting noted that the Aid for Trade initiative must be sizeable and

act as an addition to current aid programs to respond to the vast needs for trade development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

19. **4th Regional Dialogue of Air Quality Management Initiatives and Programs in Asia**

**Date:** January 30–31, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Clean Air Initiative (CAI)-Asia Center and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Thirty-one participants representing 21 development agencies and programs focusing on air quality management, energy management, and climate change mitigation in Asia identified a variety of potential areas for collaboration during the regional dialogue. Among the trends discussed, they looked at air quality in Asian cities and the regional air quality priorities, and identified gaps in financing of air quality management (AQM). In addition, the CAI-Asia Center presented the results of its annual Asia-wide survey that covers organizations working in AQM-related areas.

**February**

21. **4th Meeting of the Track II Study on the Feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Arrangement for East Asia**

**Date:** February 1–2, 2008

**Location:** New Delhi, India

**Organizers/Supporters:** 10th Asian Security Conference: Asian Security in the 21st Century

This conference aimed to contribute to the process of regional economic integration in Asia and to provide input for the third East Asia Summit (EAS) in November 2007. Participants, who included the heads of policy think tanks, eminent scholars, academics, and senior government officials, deliberated on the economic, strategic, and business perspectives of the relevance of Asian economic integration in the EAS framework and such specific issues concerning integration of trade and investment regimes, and monetary and financial cooperation. In recent years, Asian countries have begun to exploit the potential of regionalism for their development. A virtual economic community is emerging from a complex web of free trade agreements (FTAs) linking ASEAN and its six dialogue partners. However, these FTAs remain suboptimal as they fail to provide a seamless regional market important for fuller exploitation of the potential synergies. The participants agreed that a broader regional architecture was needed to complement these initiatives.

22. **15th IUSTI Asia Pacific Congress**

**Date:** February 3–6, 2008

**Location:** Dubai

**Organizers/Supporters:** International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI)

Held in conjunction with the second annual International Infectious Disease Congress, more than 500 participants from 47 countries convened on the subject of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) with special focus on HIV/AIDS. The objectives of the union were to bring together all forces devoted to the fight against the STIs and HIV/AIDS, and to promote activities throughout the world aimed at research, prevention, and control of the diseases and to encourage its members to contribute to public health programs. There were also workshops on dermatology and HIV case scenarios.

23. **10th Asian Security Conference: Asian Security in the 21st Century**

**Date:** February 5–7, 2008

**Location:** New Delhi, India

**Organizers/Supporters:** Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses

The 10th conference attained particular significance in view of the continuing trouble spots in the continent and the wider implications these would have for international stability and security as a whole. It focused on the myriad of challenges to Asian security in the 21st century, with particular reference to the strategic outlook of major political actors in Asia, the emerging challenges to the nuclear order, the future of Afghanistan, the challenges posed by transnational terror networks and sectarian violence, and the multilateral framework for managing conflict and fostering cooperation among political actors in Asia. The conference featured six sessions seeking to address the major trends in the Asian strategic context and to suggest creative solutions for management of conflict and cooperation in the new century. It was attended by ministers, diplomats, scholars, and security analysts, both from India and abroad.

24. **ASEAN Regional Workshop on Gender Equality Legislation**

**Date:** February 13–15, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEAN; UNIFEM; hosted by the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development of the Thai Ministry of Human Security and Social Development

The workshop brought together legal drafters and technical staff of the national women's organizations, ministries of justice, and gender equality advocates from ten ASEAN countries and East Timor to discuss gender equality legislation. The workshop provided participants a theoretical framework for drafting and analyzing gender equality laws in terms of the scope, substantive content, effective monitoring, and implementation mechanisms as prescribed by the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). A comparative study of good practices from around the globe and from the Southeast Asian region was also presented to offer practical guidance to legal drafters and gender advocates for better laws on gender equality. In addition, the workshop contributed to the skill building of legal practitioners and further promoted ASEAN partnership and cooperation toward the effective implementation of the CEDAW.

25. **4th Trilateral Defense Workshop on Jeju "Peace Island"**

**Date:** February 18, 2008

**Location:** Jeju, South Korea

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Korea Institute for Defense Analysis

Researchers, senior military, and civilian officials from Korean, Japanese, and US defense ministries met under the theme, "The Military's Role in Responding to New Security Threats in the 21st Century." The participants discussed joint military cooperation for disaster relief in the Asia-Pacific region through a Track 1.5 approach. The workshop included presentations by researchers from the three participating countries, providing insights as to how each country had dealt with a variety of disasters. The main focus points included disaster relief cooperation in man-made disasters such as oil spills, large-scale epidemics such as avian flu, and natural disasters such as earthquakes.

26. **4th ROK-US-Japan Security Workshop**

**Date:** February 18–19, 2008

**Location:** Jeju Island, Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** Korea Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA); Institute for Defense Analyses; National Institute for Defense Studies

The 2008 ROK-US-Japan security workshop searched for an effective way to deal with non-conventional security threats, including national disasters. The annual workshops, organized this year by KIDA, are hosted in rotation by research institutes of the three countries, and are conducted as Track 1.5 meetings, involving both government officials, including defense officers from each country, as well as nongovernmental representatives.

27. **3rd East Asian Symposium on Environmental and Natural Resource Economics**

**Date:** February 19–21, 2008

**Location:** Kunitachi, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Hitotsubashi University

Academic experts gathered to promote exchange of academic experiences and dissemination of sustainable development strategies in East Asia. The symposium's goals included facilitating academic research cooperation and collaboration in environmental and natural resource economics, discussing and exchanging academic experiences and practices on sustainable development, promoting research cooperation in environmental and natural resource economics, and discussing the practical procedures of establishing an East Asian association of environmental economics. It was organized into two plenary sessions, "Circular Economies for Sustainable Development in East Asia" and "Environmental Governance for Sustainable Development in East Asia."

28. **Expert Group Meeting on Urban Safety for the Poor in Asia and the Pacific**

**Date:** February 26–27, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

Seven experts from the private sector and academia met with United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) representatives to discuss urban safety for the poor as part of the Safer Cities Asia initiative. Safer Cities Asia encompasses a three year UNESCAP-UNHABITAT regional initiative titled "Pro-Poor Urban Safety through Local Government Capacity Building in Asia-Pacific" that began in 2006. The project addresses the safety concerns that generate fear and insecurity in urban poor communities. It aims to build the capacity of urban local governments and their partners in initiating effective safety policies for the poor with the support of community-based organizations, local government training programs, and research institutions in the Asia-Pacific region.

29. **ESCAP/ITC High-Level Consultation on Trade in Services for Regional Integration**

**Date:** February 28–29, 2008

**Location:** Macao, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP Trade and Investment Division; International Trade Centre (ITC)

This meeting brought together a variety of stakeholders from government, academia, and the private sector to examine trends and developments arising from the services liberalization efforts driven by multilateral and bilateral/regional negotiations. The consultations were expected to generate policy guidance on desirable services trade strategies for the developing and the least developed countries. Sessions covered the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the current services round: intra-regional services trade and market access beyond GATS; tourism-related services and regulation; examples from the banking and insurance, logistics, and transport sectors on regulation; policy innovation and business opportunities in environmental services; supply chains and the role of off-shoring and outsourcing services.

30. **9th EADN Annual Forum**  
**Date:** February 28–29, 2008  
**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand  
**Organizers/Supporters:** East Asian Development Network (EADN)

The annual forum brought together 48 scholars and experts from EADN members, the International Development Research Centre, Australian National University, and Doshisha University, among other institutions. It was divided into seven sessions covering the presentation of individual research projects as well as a final session on future activities. Some of the presentation topics included mapping East Asia competitiveness in monetary and the real sector, the economic integration of ASEAN, and various policy implications in Vietnam. Participants also discussed the impacts of temporary labor migration, economic fluctuations in East Asian economies, food security, the Malaysian micro-electronics sector, and the social impact of market liberalization.

### **March**

31. **10th Session of the Regional Thematic working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking**  
**Date:** March 4, 2008  
**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand  
**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

Established in 2005, the working group consists of 16 UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations that focus on issues related to international migration. The group met four times in 2008 to share information on recent activities undertaken to address international migration issues such as human trafficking. Its activities culminated in October 2008 with the publication of the Situation Report on International Migration in East and South-East Asia, which identified recent levels and patterns of international migration at national and subregional levels in the region. The report provided an overview of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and explored specific migration issues such as gender, health, and regional cooperation.

32. **2nd ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting**  
**Date:** March 4–6, 2008  
**Location:** Singapore  
**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

Under the theme of “Planning for Peace Operations-Achieving Mission Success in Diverse Environments,” the objective of the second ARF peacekeeping experts’ meeting was to provide an overview of the diverse range of peace operations and to enhance knowledge of peace operations planning. It further aimed to develop an almanac of planning points of contact and a planning template that might be modified for wider operations. The meeting was organized into keynote addresses, plenary discussion sessions, and discussions focusing on specific aspects of planning for peacekeeping operations planning, including military planning, pre-deployment training, command and information operation considerations, logistics, and medical support.

33. **ADB-OECD Expert Meeting on Beneficial Private Sector Participation in Water and Sanitation**  
**Date:** March 5, 2008  
**Location:** Manila, Philippines  
**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The expert meeting aimed to advance the debate on private sector participation in the water and sanitation sector by providing a forum for participants to discuss and better define the key elements of a beneficial partnership. After the New Partnership for Africa's Development-OECD investment initiative roundtable organized in Lusaka in November 2007, the ADB-OECD expert meeting was the second opportunity to discuss the draft OECD guidance on private sector participation in water and sanitation infrastructure, which built on the experience of Asian countries. The meeting was organized into sessions focusing on the broad principles to private sector participation, a conducive institutional and regulatory environment, and the responsibilities of various stakeholders. Participants also discussed access to financing as a major constraint to the development of the water and sanitation sector and to further involvement of the private sector.

34. **APEC Business Forum on Energy**

**Date:** March 5, 2008

**Location:** Iquitos, Peru

**Organizers/Supporters:** APEC

In conjunction with the meeting of the APEC Working Group on Energy, a meeting was held bringing together participants from a range of Peruvian business sectors with APEC representatives. The Forum included a presentation showing the Peru's main domestic energy projects, through which Peru hopes to become a net exporter of energy.

35. **A New Nuclear World Order: Asian Perspectives**

**Date:** March 6–7, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Brookings Institution; Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

In order to explore the direction of current debate on nuclear policy, and to ensure an Asian input, the workshop convened experts from China, India, Japan, Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea, and the United States for a discussion on the future of nuclear weapons. Participants focused both on regional nuclear developments in South Asia and East Asia, as well as changes and challenges at the global level. Participants reached consensus that the South Asian scenario would be relatively insulated from shifts in America's nuclear posture. Apprehension was voiced by attendees as to whether a dramatic reduction in warheads would decrease the credibility of the US nuclear umbrella in Asia. With this in mind, some participants stressed the need for better dialogue and consultation mechanisms between the United States and its Asian allies.

36. **Rising Asia: The Next 10 Years**

**Date:** March 10, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA); AXN ASIA

Attended by political, academic, and business leaders from throughout Asia, the dialogue raised pressing issues that Asia is facing today. The first session, "Engaging Asia: Competition and Cooperation," discussed trends that shape the Asian economy. Participants evaluated how corporations in the region can remain competitive and can better equip themselves to seize the opportunities for economic growth. Lead discussants also shared their views on desirable public governance in relation to business engagement. The second session, "Leadership and Public Governance in Asia," drew attention to the continued political vulnerabilities in the region and possible solutions to these weaknesses. Panelists discussed the role of public governance and difficulties in translating ideas into policies and practices timely and effectively. 10 influential individuals who have exemplified the current success and future leadership of Asia were also honored.

37. **Joint Conference on European and Asian Integration: Achievements and Challenges**

**Date:** March 10, 2008

**Location:** Brussels, Belgium

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB); European Commission

This conference aimed to shed light on how Asian monetary and financial integration, which is still at an early stage despite several initiatives, could be further enhanced to cope with global financial turmoil through lessons learned from the EU. Participants compared and contrasted the EU and Asian experiences, and discussed the applicability to Asia of EU integration and cooperation processes, regional practices, and decision-making mechanisms. Approximately 150 participants from various state governments, think tanks, the business sector, academia, NGOs, and the media participated.

38. **High-Level Workshop on Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in PDR SEA-4**

**Date:** March 10–11, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

39. **International Conference on the Implications of the ASEAN Charter for East Asian Integration**

**Date:** March 12, 2008

**Location:** Pasay City, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** AIM Policy Center; Fidel V. Ramos Research Chair in Policy Studies; Japan Economic Foundation

The high-level conference brought together Asian leaders to discuss the prospects for regional integration through bilateral and regional free trade agreements. The conference sought to explore current developments toward regional integration, particularly in the context of the newly crafted ASEAN Charter. The conference's three sessions included topics on the changing environment of Asian economic integration, opportunities for and obstacles to East Asian integration, and the development of ASEAN as precursor of East Asian integration. The last session completed via video conference linking ASEAN officials in Singapore with the conference participants in the Philippines.

40. **12th Session of the Consultative Meeting of Executive Heads of Sub-regional Organizations and ESCAP**

**Date:** March 12–13, 2008

**Location:** Noumea, New Caledonia

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

At the 12th session, executive leaders of various subregional organizations met under the theme, "Promoting Asia-Pacific Linkages through Regional Cooperation." The participants included leaders from UNESCAP, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, and the ASEAN Secretariat as well as various agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific. The consultation meeting was held in response to a request for stronger support for Pacific island states made by the New York-based organization Pacific Ambassadors in September 2007. At the meeting, the UNESCAP executive secretary heard from the assembled Pacific leaders about how UNESCAP can better serve their countries' needs. A roundtable consultation on Pacific connectivity was also organized to bring together public and private sector organizations to discuss ways of enhancing connectivity in the Pacific region.

41. **Workshop on Economic and Financial Linkages between Asia and Europe**

**Date:** March 13, 2008

**Location:** Belgium

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Economic Forum; National Bank of Belgium

The one-day event was intended to provide an opportunity for in-depth exchanges of views on the economic and financial linkages between Asia and Europe, with a particular emphasis on the way the ongoing crisis is affecting both areas. The first session focused on the implications of recent macroeconomic and financial developments for Europe and Asia, while the second session focused on the channels of economic interdependence between the two regions. In this session, the participants described the strong economic and financial links between Asia and Europe and discussed how the recent developments have affected the short and medium-term prospects of an adjustment to global imbalances. In third session, participants discussed the financial interdependence between Europe and Asia, particularly with regard to the challenges and the opportunities presented by sovereign wealth funds (state-owned investment funds). High-level experts from Asia and Europe participated in the event.

42. **Business Awareness Creating Seminar on the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement**

**Date:** March 13, 2008

**Location:** Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

Participants from the private and government sectors gathered to enhance awareness about the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) and promote trade under the APTA among the business community of Sri Lanka. Attended by the UNESCAP director for trade and investment, the meeting included discussion on the results of the APTA's Third Round and issues of rules of origin. Presentations were made on the potential benefits of the APTA for Sri Lankan business, including a roundtable discussion between representatives from the Sri Lankan business community and APTA participating states on APTA's Fourth Round and the implications for developing trade and business relations between Sri Lanka and other APTA states.

43. **Asian Mediation Retreat 2008**

**Date:** March 15–17, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** China Institute of International Studies (CIIS); Center for Humanitarian Dialogue; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway

The Asian Mediation Retreat is a component of the Oslo Forum, a process to improve practice in conflict mediation led by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. Over 50 officials and scholars from Norway, the United States, Russia, the UK, Japan, Australia, Sweden, Switzerland, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore, Nepal, and Sri Lanka as well as representatives from the UN, the EU, and ASEAN attended the event. The participants discussed topics such as Asian mediation practices, big power negotiations and the challenge of reconciliation, energy politics and conflict, and mediation and security in fragile states.

44. **Forum on Clean Energy, Good Governance and Regulation**

**Date:** March 16–18, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Centre on Asia and Globalisation; World Resources Institute, Prayas Energy Group; the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership; support from the Asian Development Bank



The workshop brought together electricity regulators, civil society members, and independent experts from South and Southeast Asia, the United States, the UK, and Australia to exchange views on innovative approaches to promoting clean energy through regulatory processes. Participating electricity regulators from India, the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand prepared case studies of their institutions' initiatives to promote sustainable energy, which served as the basis for the discussions.

45. **1st Meeting of Japan-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group**

**Date:** March 18, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEAN

The establishment of the Japan-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group was agreed upon at the 10th ASEAN-Japan Summit with the aim of offering concrete recommendations from a wide point of view, to further deepen future cooperation between Japan and ASEAN, and to broaden the strategic partnership between Japan and ASEAN.

46. **Workshop on International Year of Sanitation**

**Date:** March 20, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

In the UNESCAP region, World Water Day 2008 highlighted sanitation issues in accordance with the International Year of Sanitation 2008. Under the theme, "Accelerating Progress on Sanitation to Help Save Lives and Foster Economic and Social Development," the goal was to raise awareness and to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goal target to reduce the current 2.4 billion people without access to basic sanitation in half by 2015. A special program was formulated in keeping with the 2008 theme, including a week-long exhibition and roundtable workshop on the International Year of Sanitation. Several water and sanitation-related agencies of Thailand and international organizations working in the region as well as experts from governments, NGOs, and the private sector took part in the event.

47. **Tokyo Peacebuilders Symposium 2008: Peacebuilding Experience and Knowledge from Asia to the World**

**Date:** March 24–25, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** United Nations University; Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

With participation from a broad range of peace building practitioners and academics from Asia and other regions, the symposium drew on the various insights and suggestions from the participants on contributing to peace building from an Asian perspective and strengthening the regional and global networks in the peace building field. Topics included Cambodia and Timor-Leste's experiences in peace building, state building and governance, community development and human security in Asia, and promoting Asian contributions to global peace building.

48. **3rd Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Asia Pacific Cooperation for Energy Security**

**Date:** March 24–26, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP); co-chaired by CSCAP-Singapore and CSCAP-India

The two main objectives of the study group are to produce a monograph volume comprising a series of expert papers on energy security cooperation in Asia as well as a shorter memorandum outlining the broad thrust of the group's objectives. While the second meeting of the study group focused on issues such as the development of alternative fuels, energy markets, and common sharing of infrastructure, the Beijing meeting, composed of 28 participants, looked into issues relating to interdependency and cooperative security measures. The meetings included sessions on prospects for a common energy market in Asia, cooperation in infrastructure security, prospects for common stockpiling of energy resources, and alternative options to traditional fuel sources.

49. **PECC-ABAC Conference: Demographic Change and International Labor Mobility in the Asia Pacific Region-Implications for Business and Cooperation**

**Date:** March 25–26, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC); ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC); Korea Power Engineering Company (KOPEC); and Korea Labor Institute

The PECC-ABAC conference on demographic change and international labor mobility in the Asia Pacific region aimed at assessing the normative basis of those policies from the national and regional perspectives. The event examined and developed the agenda for policy cooperation among the APEC governments, undertook a descriptive analysis of the current international labor movement trends in the APEC region and assessed future trends, and analyzed the impacts of these trends on the economies of destination and origin as well as on the APEC region as a whole. The conference brought together a wide range of experts, including labor migration and social policy experts, officials from PECC economies, foreign ministry officials, business leaders, and experts from international organizations such as the International Labor Organization and International Organization for Migration.

50. **East Asia Forum Dialogue**

**Date:** March 26, 2008

**Location:** Sydney, Australia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Australia National University (ANU)

The forum, which provides a national platform for research and intellectual dialogue on Australia's interests in East Asian regional cooperation, was led by ANU academics and analyzed the major issues facing the region-economic development, energy and environmental security, terrorism, and security. Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered his first major foreign policy address at the ANU dinner, sharing memories of his time at ANU and as a diplomat in China with the audience, and outlining his vision for Australia's role in East Asia. The meeting brought together more than 60 top policymakers, leading scholars, and business figures from throughout the Asia Pacific region.

51. **5th Disaster Management Practitioners Workshop on Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)**

**Date:** March 26–, 2008

**Location:** Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The fifth workshop focused on "Sustaining Partnerships: Meeting the Challenges of Scaling Up CBDRM Programs" and contained four sub-themes-revisiting the link between CBDRR and development, sharing of best practices and lessons learned on CBDRR, strengthening partnerships on CBDRR, and CBDRR skill building. It aimed to provide a venue for disaster

management practitioners in South East Asia and other parts of the region to discuss lessons learned in managing and sustaining CBDRR program initiatives. The workshop was attended by disaster management practitioners from at-risk communities, government agencies, nongovernment organizations, the private sector, academic institutions, and the media in Southeast Asia and other sub-regions of Asia.

52. **East Asia Workshop on Transparency and Integrity in the Water Sector**

**Date:** March 27–28, 2008

**Location:** Mandaluyong City, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** IBON Foundation; Water Integrity Network (WIN)

The workshop brought together water sector stakeholders and anti-corruption advocates to share ideas and experiences on promoting transparency, improving accountability, and preventing corruption. It aimed to promote awareness on corruption and transparency issues and their impact on the water sector in the sub-region; promote sharing of experiences, initiatives, and strategies at the national and sub-regional levels; promote tools and strategies for ensuring transparency, integrity, and accountability in the water sector; establish new partnerships between water sector and anti-corruption advocates and organizations; and forge commitments and create proposals for WIN activities. Around 50 participants from East Asia participated in the workshop, including representatives from water resources sectors and anti-corruption advocates, civil society organizations, nongovernment organizations, media, government, and the private sector.

53. **Promoting Regulatory Reform in Support of ASEAN Market Integration**

**Date:** March 27–28, 2008

**Location:** Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Organizers/Supporters:** World Bank

The workshop aimed to support CMLV countries' needs for regulatory reform and help implement regulatory change in advance of the proposed ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). The participants agreed that meeting the AEC challenge will demand new policies to increase economic growth, strengthen economic competitiveness, increase domestic and foreign direct investments, and expand private sector enterprises. As such, the acceleration of the AEC will bring the need for regulatory reform by participating members in order to adapt and comply with the new regulatory landscape being created.

**April**

54. **12th Japan-US-China Trilateral Security Conference**

**Date:** April 1–2, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS), Pacific Forum Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS); support from Center for Global Partnership (CGP) and US-Japan Foundation (USJF)

The purpose of the 12th conference was to explore how Japan, the United States, and China could promote their trilateral cooperation on security issues in a broad context, from military operations to environmental cooperation. The three countries face a diversified series of bilateral and trilateral security concerns, and one of the themes of the conference was to highlight the increasing importance of non-traditional security issues in the trilateral relationship, although traditional security issues should also not be underestimated. The topics of discussion at the meeting included US-Japan relations, the nuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, Taiwan and cross-strait relations, and environmental issues relevant to the three countries.

55. **2nd Meeting of the (Renewed) Study Group on Facilitating Maritime Security Cooperation**

**Date:** April 2–3, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, South Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)

The objective of the Seoul meeting, hosted by CSCAP's South Korean branch, was to develop guidelines for maritime cooperation in enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, including issues requiring functional cooperation and joint management arrangements. The meeting concluded that cooperation in the many seas of the Asia Pacific was still far from desirable, largely due to the existence of sovereignty disputes and the lack of agreed maritime boundaries. The meeting was attended by 28 experts from the 13 CSCAP branches.

56. **5th Disaster Management Practitioners Workshop**

**Date:** April 2–4, 2008

**Location:** Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Disaster Preparedness Center; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

The fifth workshop focused on "Sustaining Partnerships: Meeting the Challenges of Scaling Up Community Based Disaster Risk Programs" and aimed to provide a venue for disaster management practitioners in Southeast Asia and other parts of the region to discuss lessons learned in managing and sustaining community based disaster risk reduction program initiatives. The workshop was attended by disaster management practitioners from at-risk communities, government agencies, civil society, academic institutions, and the media from Southeast Asia and other Asian sub-regions.

57. **Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) 2nd Meeting of the Regional Water Knowledge Hubs Network**

**Date:** April 2–5, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** PUB Singapore; Asia-Pacific Water Forum; facilitated by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

The APWF was conceived to increase the region's access to improved water supplies and sanitation, protect and restore river basins, and reduce vulnerability to water disasters. It is composed of development institutions committed to solving the region's water issues. Built upon the results of the first meeting in October 2007, the forum continued discussions on establishing a network of water knowledge hubs. The meeting's objectives were to peer review the business plans developed by the candidate regional water knowledge hubs using guidelines circulated in January 2008, fine-tune the business plans through a workshop, and develop the work program and organizational arrangements of the APWF's Network of Regional Water Knowledge Hubs.

58. **Micro-Economic Foundations of Economic Policy Performance in Asia**

**Date:** April 3–4, 2008

**Location:** New Delhi, India

**Organizers/Supporters:** National Council of Applied Economic Research; East Asia Bureau of Economic Research

The working conference carried forward research and dialogue on issues of microeconomic and institutional foundations of South Asian integration and economic policy performance. Four sessions with a panel of experts focused on the following themes—the role of micro-economic

policy reform in regional integration, institutional foundations of economic reform and integration, Asian trade potential and existing trade and investment structures, and regional cooperation and economic growth through integration in Asia.

59. **Williamsburg Conference: The Role of Islam in Multi-cultural Asia and the Changing Role of the United States In the Region**

**Date:** April 3–6, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Society and Centre for Strategic and International Studies

Over 50 leaders from government, business, academia, civil society, and journalism convened to discuss both the changing role of Islam and of the United States in Asia. Six years ago, American and Asian leaders gathered seven months after the terrorist attacks in the United States to discuss the global economic downturn, the prospects for a new generation of leaders in Asia, the role of the United States in the region, and terrorism. These same pressing issues were examined even deeper in this conversation. Participants discussed ways to promote understanding of Islam in the United States and throughout the Western world and also addressed the issue of the changing role of the United States in the region, including Asian advice to the next US president.

60. **Financing Village-Level Energy for Development in Asia and the Pacific Region**

**Date:** April 9–11, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Dozens of energy experts from across Asia met to help the ADB formulate a new strategic approach to increase access to modern forms of energy for the 1 billion people in Asia without electricity. More than 60 representatives from governments, financial institutions, and civil society attended the three-day workshop at the ADB looking at how the organization can develop a new strategic approach to mainstream support for replicating and scaling up successful initiatives to increase access to modern energy services. The workshop is part of ADB's "Energy for All" initiative, which is being financed by a \$2.3 million grant from the Netherlands, and helps ADB build on its expertise and respond to requests from its developing member countries to implement energy access projects aimed at a more efficient use of energy for the rural and urban poor.

61. **5th United States Asia Pacific Council Conference: New Challenges in a Changing Environment**

**Date:** April 11, 2008

**Location:** Washington DC, USA

**Organizers/Supporters:** East-West Center

The program featured commentary from distinguished experts from business, government, and policy institutions. Topics discussed included Asia's changing role in global trade and finance, emerging challenges in key US bilateral relations, Congressional initiatives toward Asia, and trends in Asian and US public opinion. The conference keynote speaker was John D. Negroponte, US deputy secretary of state, who identified three major tasks that the United States faces in the coming decade in Asia: (1) further improving regional cooperation to complement existing bilateral security alliances, (2) promoting continued prosperity, and (3) accommodating rising Asian powers into the international system while also challenging them to assume global leadership on major international issues.

62. **Boao Forum for Asia 2008: Green Asia-Moving toward Win-Win Through Changes**

**Date:** April 11–13, 2008

**Location:** Boao, Hainan, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Boao Forum for Asia

More than 1,700 officials, business leaders, intellectuals, and journalists from around the globe gathered under the theme, “Green Asia-Moving toward Win-Win Through Change.” Among various country and private sector experiences discussed, topics at the conference included public-private partnerships in the green energy sector, financial reform, climate change, telecommunications, socially responsible investing, and Internet 3.0. In addition, several country case studies were presented. Established in 2001, the Boao Forum for Asia is a pan-Asian platform of dialogue for key issues relating to Asia and the world.

63. **4th NEAT Working Group Meeting on East Asian Financial Cooperation**

**Date:** April 12–13, 2008

**Location:** Shanghai, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT)

Scholars and experts from the 10 ASEAN member countries, China, Japan, and Korea participated in the working group. The discussions included topics such as the impact of global financial turmoil on East Asia, policy recommendations for Chiang Mai Initiative multilateralization (self-managed reserve pooling), Asian currency cooperation, and cooperation on the Asian Bond Markets Initiative among financial sectors.

64. **2nd Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers**

**Date:** April 14–18, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

The conference assembled over 50 participants, mainly national security officers, to encourage a shared understanding in the fight against terrorism and to deliberate on other national security challenges. The first session dealt with the national security strategic framework adopted by Singapore. The second session was a broader debate on national security and the concept of resilience, while the third discussed the overview of domestic and international terrorism. Sessions four through eight dealt with state resilience in different forms, while the final section discussed risk assessment and horizon scanning.

65. **Workshop on ASEAN Community: Unblocking the Roadblocks**

**Date:** April 15, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)

The closed-door workshop gathered Southeast Asian experts for a brainstorming session on the nature of the proposed ASEAN Community, including the three pillars of the ASEAN Economic Community, the ASEAN Security Community, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. The participants examined the benefits expected from regional community building for Southeast Asia and the obstacles that stand in the way of its achievement. The participants discussed the newly signed ASEAN Charter, including the significance of its provisions, how it could help build the ASEAN Community, and how it might fall short of doing so. The participants also received a short briefing on the aims and functions of the ISEAS ASEAN Studies Centre, which was launched in July 2008.

66. **2nd Expert Group Meeting on Eco-efficiency Indicators**

**Date:** April 17–18, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The second expert group meeting convened to review and discuss UNESCAP's initiative to create eco-efficiency indicators (EEI) to assess the sustainability of economic growth in the Asia Pacific region and discuss the outcomes from a preliminary calculation of a set of potential EEI for some countries in the region. The participants also discussed the practical aspects of EEI development, such as data quality and availability. International and regional experts in the field of eco-efficiency indicators, experts from relevant academic institutions and national statistics offices, and representatives from UN agencies and other international organizations attended the meeting.

67. **Concluding Regional Workshop on Sharing Experience and Expertise on Building Community Resilience to Natural Disasters through Partnership**

**Date:** April 21–23, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

A concluding regional workshop was held for the UNESCAP program on building community resilience to natural disasters, an initiative that promoted regional cooperation in disaster risk management. At the workshop, participants discussed a final discussion paper that documented the process and outcomes of UNESCAP capacity building. The workshop was attended by UN representatives, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and over 40 experts from nine UNESCAP-member countries that had been affected by the 2004 tsunami, including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

68. **US-Japan Workshop on the Co-benefits of Climate Actions in Asia**

**Date:** April 22, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment, and the US Environmental Protection Agency

The workshop examined opportunities for enhancing the policy impact of co-benefits initiatives on climate change in Asia. Prominent speakers from Japan and the United States, along with participants from China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand exchanged the views on the policies and measures to achieve developmental goals while also reducing emissions of global greenhouse gases. The discussions touched on the achievements and future prospects of co-benefit initiatives launched by the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Ministry of Environment Japan, the Clean Air Initiative-Asia, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of the Asia Pacific. Participants also discussed the obstacles to capturing co-benefits in the transportation sector and the need for recognizing and rewarding co-benefits in the post-2012 climate regime.

69. **Kick-off Meeting of Asia-Pacific Gateway to Climate Change and Development**

**Date:** April 22–23, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

Organized to coincide with the launch of the Asia-Pacific Gateway to Climate and Development—a platform to assist Asia Pacific countries in making concrete efforts to address climate and development—the participants discussed efforts to support the integration of

climate adaptation measures into development policies and discussed the promotion of a co-benefits approach to addressing climate change. Participants from 14 countries participated, including government officers in charge of development planning and climate change.

70. **Conference on Key Development Issues in Asia**

**Date:** April 24, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

This conference addressed some of the key emerging development issues in Asia. Topics discussed included the challenges facing infrastructure development in Asia and infrastructure's role in lowering Asia's trade costs, lessons from Europe in constructing an Asian currency unit, emerging Asian economies' recent experience in managing capital flows, and the role of organic agriculture as one of the most promising market-based solutions to mitigate climate change. Participants also explored how to contribute to the income and non-income targets of the Millennium Development Goals, the eight international development goals that the vast majority of UN members have agreed to achieve by 2015. It also discussed the role of ADB's capacity building and training programs in promoting the adoption and implementation of best practices in development management.

71. **Dialogue among APEC Economies, Business Community, and Key International and Regional Partners on Emergency Preparedness**

**Date:** April 24–25, 2008

**Location:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Organizers/Supporters:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs; National Committee for Research and Rescue of Vietnam

In response to Vietnam's initiatives to cope with the huge destruction caused by natural disasters, a dialogue was held on emergency preparedness among the APEC economies, the business community, and key international and regional partners. In particular, delegates from Thailand, Taiwan, and Vietnam shared their experiences on relief, recovery, and reconstruction after catastrophic events. The result of the seminar were to be reported to the Task Force for Emergency Preparedness and the APEC Foreign and Trade Ministerial Summit in 2008.

72. **PECC Regional Institutional Architecture Task Force Meeting**

**Date:** April 25, 2008

**Location:** Washington DC, USA

**Organizers/Supporters:** Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and US-Asia Pacific Council

The seminar on regional institutional architecture launched a two-year task force to assess the current architecture of the region. This task force will examine the environment in which regional cooperation takes place and will produce a set of recommendations for the region's leaders on the design of a regional architecture.

73. **7th Meeting of the UNESCAP Business Advisory Council**

**Date:** April 26, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

Consisting of 23 senior business executives from the region, the UNESCAP Business Advisory Council gathered under the theme, "Energy Security: Opportunities through Regional Energy Cooperation and Public-Private Partnerships." Each year, the Asia-Pacific Business Forum has been



attended by over 250 participants, including trade and investment policymakers, senior executives of major businesses, and senior representatives of international development agencies.

74. **Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2008: Energy Security—Opportunities through Regional Energy Cooperation and Public-Private Partnerships**

**Date:** April 27, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Over 250 participants from government, the business community, civil society, international organizations, and academia convened under the theme of “Energy Security: Opportunities through Regional Energy Cooperation and Public-Private Partnerships.” In particular, they discussed issues pertaining to the provision of energy security and sustainable development, and made recommendations to enhance energy security through regional cooperation and public-private partnerships.

75. **3rd Northeast Asia Forum**

**Date:** April 28, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Nihon Keizai Shimbun (Japan); Xinhua News Agency (China); JoongAng Ilbo (South Korea)

More than 40 prominent political, business, and academic experts from China, Japan, and South Korea called for closer cultural and educational cooperation at the forum. They proposed a series of measures including compiling a dictionary that would show the use of Chinese characters to convey different meanings in different countries, establishing a culture ministers’ meeting mechanism to resolve differences and promote understanding, the creation of a scholarship fund to increase opportunities for young people to pursue cultural exchanges, and the establishment of a program exploring the history of rice farming as an integral part of the region’s history. They also discussed promoting joint events with high public visibility in the cultural sphere, covering such areas as theater, music, and folklore. In addition, participants explored establishing language centers at selected universities to promote language education among young students.

76. **Regional Workshop on Poverty Reduction and Social Development in ASEAN: toward an ASEAN Roadmap for the Implementation of MDGs Plus**

**Date:** April 28–29, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

This workshop was the culmination of a research project led by scholars from the Australian National University. The project was conducted under Phase II of the Regional Economic Policy Support Facility (REPSF), which is a component of the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program. REPSF II (January 2007-June 2008) focused on economic integration and cooperation between ASEAN and the other EAS participants.

The research examined progress toward achievement of the first seven development MDGs in the eight developing members of ASEAN. Broadly speaking, the results indicated that the more developed ASEAN countries are better advanced towards achievement of the MDGs than the less developed ASEAN member states. The prospects of some countries achieving their MDGs is mixed, as is the prospect of achieving certain MDG targets, such as poverty reduction, maternal mortality and environmental protection. The research identified common challenges among the above eight countries and some of the lessons learned and best practices adopted in these countries. An abstract of the final report is available online.

77. **2008 Energy Security Conference: Opportunities and Constraints-Prospects for Russian Oil and Gas Supply to Asia**

**Date:** April 29–30, 2008

**Location:** Washington DC, USA

**Organizers/Supporters:** National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR)

Representatives from corporations, government, and academia convened for the fourth annual Energy Security Conference under the theme of “Opportunities and Constraints: Prospects for Russian Oil and Gas Supply to Asia.” Participants examined a range of issues, including the role of energy in Russia’s strategic vision, regional perspectives on Russia as a reliable energy supplier, and implications for US policy in the region.

**May**

78. **15th ASEAN-ISIS Colloquium on Human Rights (AICOHR)**

**Date:** May 1–2, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEAN and Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)

This year’s AICOHR focused on the opportunities for the ASEAN human rights body. Among those present at AICOHR were experts from human rights mechanisms in Africa, Europe, and Latin America. They presented the evolution and dynamics of their respective systems from which their counterparts in Southeast Asia can draw lessons from. Speakers from the region discussed other challenges and the corresponding opportunities that are facing the human rights body. One of the most contentious issues was ASEAN’s practice of deciding by consensus. Some participants feared that ASEAN will be unable to detail the full potential of the human rights body if it is too accommodating to the differing views of ASEAN governments. Others, however, noted that a consensus vote will encourage ASEAN governments to be more open to a human rights body that will meet all international human rights standards.

79. **The Experiments with Democracy in East and Southeast Asia: Two Decades After**

**Date:** May 2–3, 2008

**Location:** Hong Kong

**Organizers/Supporters:** Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong; sponsored by Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange and Hang Seng Bank Golden Jubilee Education Fund for Research

The conference evaluated the achievements of and explored the continuing challenges to the new and revived democracies that have emerged in East and Southeast Asia in the past two decades. It built on works carried out at the center on regional development with democratic forms of governance. The conference featured four sessions-examining the social and political developments subsequent to the transitions, emerging challenges to the new democracies, evaluating newly-emerged political and democratic institutions in the region, and reviewing the impacts of the transition on global and regional dynamics.

80. **41st ADB Annual Meeting**

**Date:** May 3–6, 2008

**Location:** Madrid, Spain

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The annual meetings are occasions for the board of governors to provide guidance on ADB administrative, financial, and operational directions. The 41st meeting focused on the theme of how the ADB can evolve with a changing Asia. Gathering in Madrid for the four-day program were some 3,000 participants, including government ministers, financiers, academics, media, and representatives of international organizations and civil society. In addition to three business sessions, the meeting included a seminar series on issues such as the emerging Asian economies, changing market dynamics, trends in financial innovation and transparency, private-public partnerships, large urban infrastructure projects, investment for climate change mitigation and adaptation, economic integration, and Strategy 2020, the ADB's new long-term strategic framework. The meeting also featured a program for civil society representatives, which included meetings with senior officials, an open forum on ADB-civil society cooperation, panel discussions on labor standards and safeguards to protect the poor, and discussions on long-term energy imperatives in Asia.

81. **2008 Northeast Asian Energy Outlook**

**Date:** May 6, 2008

**Location:** Washington DC, USA

**Organizers/Supporters:** Korea Economic Institute

The policy seminar on energy security and diplomacy in Northeast Asia featured an overview of the energy sectors of Korea, Japan, and China. Panel topics included energy use projections and energy security in Northeast Asia; energy diplomacy in the region; and renewable, alternative, and clean energies. Participants included experts from non-governmental and academic institutions as well as government officials from Northeast Asia and the United States.

82. **5th Meeting of the Working Group on Energy Planning and Policy (WG-EPP)**

**Date:** May 7–8, 2008

**Location:** Chiang Mai, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** Korean Energy Economics Institute, UNESCAP

The main purpose of the fifth WG-EPP meeting was to review the strategy on the Northeast Energy Development Potential Report, prepare for the second Northeast Asia Government-Business Dialogue, and discuss a five-year strategy for energy cooperation in Northeast Asia (NEA). The meeting also reviewed coal trade in Northeast Asia and progress on the Trust Fund on Energy Cooperation in NEA.

83. **UNESCAP 2nd Meeting on Developing Effective Policies and Practices to Manage Problematic Drug Use of Young People in the Greater Mekong Sub-region**

**Date:** May 7–9, 2008

**Location:** Vientiane, Laos PDR

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The fifth meeting began with an overview of the coal trade in Northeast Asia. Participants then reviewed the strategy on the Northeast Energy Development Potential Report and implementation plan, and discussed preparations for the second Northeast Asia Government-Business Dialogue. In addition, the participants discussed a five-year strategy for energy cooperation in Northeast Asia, including progress on the Trust Fund on Energy Cooperation in Northeast Asia.

84. **NEAT Working Group Meeting on East Asian Investment Cooperation**

**Date:** May 9–10, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT)

Scholars and experts from eight ASEAN member countries as well as China, Japan, and South Korea participated in the meeting. Discussions focused on opportunities for East Asian cooperation on infrastructure investment, including suggestions concerning the creation of an East Asian infrastructure investment fund.

85. **Contemporary Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia: Structures, Institutions, and Agency**  
**Date:** May 9–10, 2008  
**Location:** Hong Kong  
**Organizers/Supporters:** Southeast Asia Research Centre

The aim of this workshop organized by the Southeast Asia Research Centre was to develop new methodological tools by which to consider whether distinctive new forms of authoritarianism are emerging in Southeast Asia. The workshop papers became the basis for a special issue of *The Pacific Review*. A dozen researchers from Hong Kong, Singapore, the United States, the UK, Australia, and Japan participated in the event.

86. **East Asia Investment Forum 2008: East Asia Investment Cooperation in the Context of Global Financial Turbulence**  
**Date:** May 11, 2008  
**Location:** Beijing, China  
**Organizers/Supporters:** Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT)

Scholars and experts from the ASEAN member countries, with the exception of Brunei and Myanmar, as well as experts from China, Japan, and South Korea, participated in the NEAT working group meeting on East Asian investment cooperation, hosted by China Foreign Affairs University. The discussions focused on issues of East Asian cooperation concerning infrastructure investment, with several participants suggesting the creation of an East Asian infrastructure investment fund.

87. **Expert Group Meeting on Progress on International Commitments to Combat HIV/AIDS in the Asian and Pacific Region**  
**Date:** May 12–13, 2008  
**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand  
**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

An expert group meeting convened to identify common challenges in the Asia-Pacific region with regard to HIV/AIDS and to produce a set of concrete recommendations ahead of the UN High Level Meeting on AIDS to be held in June 2008, where progress with regard to universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment and education and the achievement of commitments made under UN General Assembly resolutions was to be discussed. Experts from academia, health ministries, regional and national health organizations, and UN agencies took part in the meeting.

88. **2nd APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Meeting of 2008**  
**Date:** May 12–14, 2008  
**Location:** Moscow, Russia  
**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council (ABAC)

Established in 1995 by APEC, ABAC meets four times a year and advises APEC officials on business priorities and concerns. It is a private sector body representing a diverse range of fields and includes small and large enterprises. The second ABAC covered a broad range of current economic issues, such as the global credit market contraction, impacts of shortages in the supply of basic food

products and subsequent marked increases in prices, and the situation in the Doha Development Agenda round of multilateral trade negotiations. Participants worked on a report on these issues to be submitted to the leaders of the 21 APEC economies. ABAC also reviewed proposals to further reduce the transaction costs of trade, improve the climate for investment, address the need for a comprehensive regional energy strategy, protect intellectual property and fight illicit trade, support small and medium enterprises, and address key health and labor mobility issues.

89. **Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts and Related Natural Disasters in East Asia**

**Date:** May 13–14, 2008

**Location:** Makati, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** World Bank; International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR); CityNet

Over 50 participants from 15 cities across the region attended the workshop, examining issues such as the links between disaster risk reduction and climate change, sharing of experiences from cities in Asia, and climate change adaptation from an urban perspective. They also provided comments that were incorporated into the final version of the World Bank's upcoming publication, *A Primer on Climate Change Impacts and Disaster Risk Management in Urban Areas of East Asia*. Break-out groups provided feedback on five themes—the overall value added of the primer, its usability, the applicability of the case studies, the usefulness of the so-called “hot spot” analysis, and the links between climate change and disaster risk management emphasized in the primer.

90. **Regional Seminar on Enhancing Social Services Policies to Strengthen Family Well-being in Asia and the Pacific**

**Date:** May 12–13, 2008

**Location:** Macao, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

Under the theme of strengthening families in the Asia Pacific region through effective social services measures, the regional seminar reviewed the changing situation of families in the region in the context of globalization, urbanization, and other socio-economic transformations. It assessed the provision of social services in the region and put forward practical recommendations to improve social protection and the effective delivery of social services, in particular to families that are traditionally excluded, marginalized, or in emergency situations. The major outcome of the seminar was a regional policy framework that was designed to provide governments and non-state actors in the region with a practical tool for reviewing existing programs and devise innovative policy approaches to enhance the well-being of families. The seminar brought together approximately 100 government, NGO, and academic participants from 20 countries in the region.

91. **5th Meeting of the Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty Reduction on Hunger (RTWGPH)**

**Date:** May 12–13, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The fifth meeting of the working group included a briefing on the Hunger Campaign, a collaborative initiative by the UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In addition, the launch of a year-long campaign on hunger was announced, which was scheduled to commence with the launch of the RTWGPH electronic bulletin “Combating Hunger: A Seven Point Agenda.” Other agenda items included an inter-agency session on brainstorming for the 2008 Commemoration of the International Day on the Eradication of Poverty and a discussion on soaring food prices. It was also proposed that the working group meet

more frequently than once every six months. Participants included representatives from UN agencies, the FAO, UNESCAP, the UN Millennium Campaign, and the EU.

92. **Workshop on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights: “Supporting the Establishment of Regional Human Rights Mechanism in ASEAN”**

**Date:** May 15–17, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN and Government of Indonesia

Participants at the workshop discussed suggestions for the possible directions ASEAN can take in establishing an ASEAN human rights body. The national human rights institutions of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand presented a draft Terms of Reference for the ASEAN human rights body, which was presented to representatives of government agencies and civil society organizations for feedback.

93. **Women’s Forum Asia**

**Date:** May 15–17, 2008

**Location:** Shanghai, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Women’s Forum for the Economy and Society

Building on the success of three previous forums held in France, the Women’s Forum for the Economy and Society held the inaugural Women’s Forum Asia in Shanghai. Over 700 guests and participants attended, with approximately 90 high level speakers from all around the world. The forum focused on economic development and on devising innovative strategies based on the theme of “Growth and Sustainability: How Women are Making a Difference.” Session topics included the significance of China and India’s emergence; women and the economic development process; new challenges in education, climate change, and sustainable development; and women and micro-financing.

94. **2nd Greater Mekong Subregion Development Dialogue on Climate Change (Public-Private Partnerships)**

**Date:** May 21, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The GMS, which comprises Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, held its second development dialogue on climate change in Bangkok. Hosted by the ADB, the theme of this dialogue was “Climate Makers or Climate Takers?: Understanding and Responding to the Challenges of Climate Change,” with three sub-themes of (1) climate change, global warming, and the GMS; (2) physical consequences of climate change: safeguarding communities, commodities, and assets in the GMS; (3) impact on food security, energy security, and tourism in the GMS. In keeping with the spirit of the GMS founding in 1992, when the six countries entered into a program of subregional economic cooperation with assistance by the ADB, the dialogue was characterized by cross-sectional discussion and debate, with the composition of country participants including representatives from GMS governments, academia, the private sector, civil society organizations, and the media.

95. **Seminar on Southeast Asian Trade Security and Sea Routes**

**Date:** May 21, 2008

**Location:** Shanghai, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS); Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University

Under the initiative to strengthen cooperation in nontraditional security between China and Southeast Asia initiated by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao at the November 2007 China-ASEAN Summit, this small-scale seminar on the prospects for regional maritime cooperative security was launched to intensify studies between the two regions and to promote mutual understanding and trust through academic dialogue. It focused on the maritime security of East Asia and Southeast Asia in a changing landscape, new developments in security and cooperation in the South China Sea, and the security of regional sea lanes.

96. **Financial Market and Ageing in APEC**

**Date:** May 22–23, 2008

**Location:** Samsung, South Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP)

The Korean Ministry of Finance and Economy and KIEP hosted this seminar with experts and economists from APEC economies to discuss aging issues. It is expected, in South Korea and in other advanced countries in the region, that an aging population will decrease the national labor workforce and deepen societal aging issues with long-term economic effects. This high-level seminar was intended to finalize discussions on the effect of aging populations on financial markets and submit a final report the APEC finance ministers' meeting in November 2008. Representatives from the International Monetary Fund and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as well as various APEC economies' core group participants and experts joined the seminar.

97. **The Future of Asia 2008-14th Nikkei International Conference**

**Date:** May 22–23, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Nihon Keizai Shimbun

"The Future of Asia" is an annual forum where government leaders and top business executives from throughout the Asia Pacific region present their latest ideas for generating positive and lasting change in the region. The theme of the 2008 conference was "Asia's Role: In Pursuit of Global Coexistence." The participants declared collective responsibility not just for East Asia but also for Asia throughout the world, as East Asian nations are becoming more economically interdependent, and movement toward integration is accelerating. Panels focused on the subprime loan crisis and its effects in Asia, new partnerships in an era of surging oil prices, coping with environmental problems at the regional and global levels, and the political situation in East Asia.

98. **7th Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Asia Pacific**

**Date:** May 25–26, 2008

**Location:** Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

**Organizers/Supporters:** Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)

The meeting focused on recent developments in the UN and global nonproliferation regimes, with specific attention placed on safeguards and regional implementation of these regimes. It examined regional strategies for combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in support of efforts to further develop the Handbook and Action Plan to Counter Proliferation in the Asia Pacific. Forty participants from 17 member committees attended, as well as several observers and 17 members of the Pacific Forum Center for Strategic and International Studies Young Leaders program.

99. **Workshop on Changing Interactions between China and Southeast Asia at the Turn of the 21st Century**

**Date:** May 25–27, 2008

**Location:** Xiamen, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)

The workshop brought together 25 experts from China and Southeast Asia to discuss political dynamics inside Southeast Asia, including Myanmar, at a time of growing Chinese engagement with the region.

100. **ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST+3): New Energy Forum for Sustainable Environment**

**Date:** May 25–27, 2008

**Location:** Kyoto, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and Kyoto University

More than 30 representatives from ASEAN+3 member countries and the ASEAN Secretariat, along with more than 50 researchers, gathered to explore possibilities for joint research and development projects based on the ASEAN COST+3 scheme. The forum included a pre-symposium focusing on new energy technologies as well as a closed meeting on human capacity building and collaboration among ASEAN member countries toward new energy initiatives. On the final day, an open symposium was convened with the theme, "Toward a Sustainable Low Carbon Society."

101. **2nd PECC Seminar on Water Management in Islands, Coastal, and Isolated Areas**

**Date:** May 26–29, 2008

**Location:** Nouméa, New Caledonia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)

Initiated by French Pacific Territories' branch of PECC, and in cooperation with the World Water Forum, the meeting was organized to pursue the work initiated in Bora Bora to prepare for the November 2008 Honolulu seminar, when guidelines for a better water governance would be drawn up for endorsement by the World Water Forum. The objectives of these meetings were to share information about the best management of clean water; to highlight and share information on strategies to cope with water shortages; to develop a new governance in the use of water by developing a body of common practices to guarantee the availability of the resource and its quality both for individual and industry use; and to help avoid potential conflict that could arise within local populations or between economies. Several international and regional organizations have cooperated on this international project.

102. **Asia NGO Consultative Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction**

**Date:** March 27–28, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

A total of 33 participants attended this two-day consultative meeting, where climate change clearly emerged as the group's major concern among a number of issues that included urbanization and local governance. The group decided against forming an additional disaster risk reduction network at this stage, but instead agreed that the steering committee would be expanded to include representatives from Duryog Nivaran—a South Asia regional network. The expanded steering committee will lead in taking the recommendations of the meeting forward. In particular, the new and expanded steering committee will work toward establishing a regional advisory committee to collaborate with the networks and organizations participating in this two-day consultative meeting.



In addition, the steering committee will write the terms of reference for the emerging regional coordination mechanism and conduct a regional mapping of NGOs.

103. **18th Asian Corporate Conference**

**Date:** May 28–30, 2008

**Location:** Tianjin, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Society; co-sponsored by Tianjin Municipal People's Government and Wall Street Journal Asia

Under the theme, "A New Era for Global Business: Sustainable Growth for China and the World," the conference brought together top business figures and government leaders from around the world to explore Asia's future in the context of China's growing global influence. Sessions included discussion on the environment, capital markets, the internationalization of corporations, and the future of culture in the age of commerce. Other highlights included a discussion on the sustainability of cities and a speech by film actor Jet Li on his charity organization and its relief efforts related to the China earthquake.

104. **7th IISS Asia Security Conference (Shangri-La Dialogue)**

**Date:** May 30–June 1, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)

The Shangri-La Dialogue is an annual event on defense and security diplomacy for the region. Since its inaugural meeting in 2002, the dialogue has become a recognized part of the architecture of Asian defense diplomacy. The 2008 meeting had the participation from 27 countries—the largest yet—and an expanded agenda. Issues addressed at the plenary sessions included challenges to stability in the Asia-Pacific; formulating defense policy in uncertain times; securing energy in the Asia-Pacific; restoring peace in complex emergencies; and modes of security cooperation, including confidence-building, partnerships, and alliances. Breakout groups explored various themes important to the Asia-Pacific, including climate change, counter-terrorism, strategies for resolving proliferation challenges, maritime disputes, and the possibility of an arms race in the region.

**June**

105. **29th CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting**

**Date:** June 1–2, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur

**Organizers/Supporters:** Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)

CSCAP is administratively guided by a steering committee made up of representatives from each member country. Two elected representatives, one from an ASEAN country, the other from a non-ASEAN member, chair the steering committee, which meets twice annually.

106. **Asia's Strategic Challenges: In Search of a Common Agenda**

**Date:** June 2–4, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS); Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)

A unique group of 60 experts and opinion leaders, many with senior-level government experience and equally divided between Japanese and non-Japanese participants from 12 countries in total,

held a discussion on “Asian Strategic Challenges: In Search of a Common Agenda.” Discussions included nontraditional security challenges, especially climate change and energy security, which have emerged as key strategic concerns in recent years. Other topics also covered traditional security challenges, such as protecting sea lines of communication, nuclear proliferation, regional arms races, regional security architecture, and the potential for armed conflict in Asia in an era of shifting power balances. An overarching theme throughout the conference was that of regional cooperation, and how these challenges, particularly the more transnational issues of climate change and energy security, require greater cooperation among Asian states. Participants also made a series of recommendations to the leaders of the 2008 G8 Summit.

107. **22nd Asia Pacific Roundtable (APR)**

**Date:** June 2–5, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Supporters:** International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS); Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)

The APR series was launched in 1987 to promote trust and confidence in the Asia Pacific region. As a Track 2 forum, the APR brings together think tanks, academics, media representatives, and senior government officials acting in their personal capacity to engage in candid dialogue on the major security challenges confronting the region. 2008 plenary sessions focused on changes in US policy after the elections, implications of the 17th national congress of the Communist Party of China, the relationship between ASEAN and Myanmar, the strategic impact of a rising India, Japan’s relevance in the region, issues related to a re-emerging Russia, and the ASEAN Regional Forum. Participants also discussed militant and terrorist threats in the Asia Pacific and security and stability in the South Pacific, as well as economic issues such as the potential for a global recession and its impact on regional economic security.

108. **Asia Clean Energy Forum 2008: Investing in Solutions that Address Climate Change and Energy Security**

**Date:** June 2–6, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB); United States Agency for International Development (USAID); co-sponsored by the Governments of Australia, Japan, Norway and Spain; the Asia Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate; the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); GTZ through the Cities Development Initiative for Asia

More than 500 policymakers, private sector firms, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) across Asia gathered to promote increased use of clean energy in the Asia Pacific region through donor cooperation and the promotion of successful clean energy policies and finance solutions that respond to the region’s climate challenge. The forum discussed best practices on enabling policies, market incentives, and proven financing models that foster increased investment in energy efficiency, cleaner fossil energy, and renewable energy projects. Participants explored ways to catalyze public-private partnerships between energy producers, equipment suppliers, consumers, and government agencies that will lead to increased deployment of clean energy technologies and systems. They also discussed opportunities for improved cooperation among donors and other stakeholders involved in financing clean energy programs in the region, identified financing challenges for project developers, and initiated steps to provide follow-on assistance.

109. **8th NEAT Country Coordinators Meeting**

**Date:** June 7, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** Network of East Asian Think-Tanks (NEAT)

Over the course of a one-day meeting in Bangkok, the country coordinators of the NEAT, who comprise the network's highest decision-making body, put together policy recommendations to be submitted by NEAT to the next ASEAN+3 heads of state summit. A Track 2 organization of think tanks that was established in 2003 by an ASEAN+3 ministerial meeting to integrate research resources in East Asia, NEAT promotes academic exchanges and provides intellectual support for East Asian cooperation.

110. **Japan-East Asia Dialogue: Cooperation in Environment and Energy**

**Date:** June 9–10, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Global Forum of Japan; Council on East Asian Community; East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore; in cooperation with the International Academic Society for Asian Community; supported by the Tokyo Club

Over 125 experts, including participants from academic, research, and international institutions, gathered to discuss cooperation in environment and energy issues among Japan and its regional neighbors. The first session focused on the current situation and challenges of East Asia's environmental and energy problems. It was followed by a second session on the future prospects for East Asian environmental and energy cooperation.

111. **13th Poverty and Environment Partnership (PEP) Meeting**

**Date:** June 9–11, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The 13th meeting aimed to highlight, among other topics, experience from the Asia Pacific region with various types of interventions meant to simultaneously reduce poverty and improve environmental management. Participants heard from practitioners on innovative programs that link environmental management to poverty reduction, ranging from coastal resources management to urban air quality. Special attention was given to climate change issues, including new financing mechanisms and how they relate to PEP. The meeting provided the participants with lessons from innovative interventions to reduce poverty and improve the environment and the latest developments regarding climate change interventions and environmental financing. Approximately 80 participants attended the meeting, including representatives from PEP members, government officials and policymakers, and other stakeholders such as civil society, researchers, and development professionals.

112. **Managing SE Asia Porous Borders II in the Maritime Domain Conference**

**Date:** June 9–11, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Pacific Center on Security Studies; Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency

With widespread participation from several Southeast Asian countries, participants produced a consensus briefing outlining the primary maritime security threats in the region and recommended courses of action for enhanced multinational and regional security cooperation. The conference sought to explore Southeast Asia countries' perspectives on maritime border-control challenges and identify means of leveraging effective border control in the maritime domain to deter various forms of trafficking and other crimes detrimental to governance and human security within the region.

113. **Korea and Southeast Asia: Expanding Relations and New Challenges**

**Date:** June 12, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, South Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Foundation; supported by Pacific Century Institute, Korea Foundation, Friends of the Asia Foundation in Korea

This international conference focused on Korea-Southeast Asia relations, including Southeast Asian studies in Korea, and interactions between Korean and regional scholars. The conference, supported by grants from the Pacific Century Institute, the Korea Foundation, and the Friends of The Asia Foundation in Korea, covered issues such as security, commercial ties, development cooperation, migrant workers, international marriage, tourism, and a fresh look at the hallyu (“Korean Wave”) phenomenon. Participants concluded that Korea has a major leadership role to play in promoting peace and prosperity in the region; however, this can only be achieved by building relationships based on mutual understanding and respect. The papers were to be published later in the year in an edited volume.

114. **7th Workshop on Human Rights Mechanism for ASEAN**

**Date:** June 12–13, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)

Convening just prior to the ASEAN ministers’ meeting, the workshop was an opportunity for civil society and government to discuss and contribute to the process of developing a ASEAN human rights body. The workshop analyzed and reviewed regional efforts in ASEAN to establish such a mechanism and to assess the issue of human rights in relation to women and children and migrant workers. The workshop considered the future prospects of human rights in ASEAN and how civil society and the region’s governments can work toward an ASEAN human rights mechanism. Government representatives, leading civil society representatives from around the region, and many leading experts from ASEAN think tanks and academic institutions participated in this two-day workshop.

115. **ASEM Conference - Asia, Europe and the Future of Regional Economic Integration**

**Date:** June 15, 2008

**Location:** Jeju Island, Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEM

Preceding the eighth ASEM finance ministers’ meeting, the conference discussed financial aspects pertinent to biregional cooperation, as well as the future of regional economic integration. Five sessions were organized on topics such as using ASEM as a bridge for cooperation and integration and the relevance of the European experience in deepening Asian integration. Participants discussed regional financial integration, policy implications of growing EU-Asia interdependence, and the challenges and opportunities of a EU-Asia strategic partnership. Participants included government senior officials as well as private sector leaders.

116. **World Economic Forum on East Asia 2008: Responding to New Uncertainties**

**Date:** June 15–16, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Supporters:** World Economic Forum

Climate change and water shortage emerged as the top issues with the greatest impact on Asia, according to a survey of business leaders by the World Economic Forum. The survey showed that an overwhelming 81 percent of the 55 business leaders voted for addressing growing global concern over environmental challenges such as climate change and water as the top choice of

issues with potential impact on Asia. Other major concerns included preventing political and economic instability linked to rising food and energy prices, and managing the social, environmental, and infrastructural implications of rapid urbanization. The survey, released at the close of the 17th World Economic Forum on East Asia, wrapped up a two-day meeting dominated by discussions on food, fuel, and finance.

**117. Regional Meeting on the Development of Intermodal Interfaces**

**Date:** June 16–17, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

Experts and country representatives from throughout Southeast Asia in the transportation and tourism sectors gathered to discuss the development of intermodal interfaces in Southeast Asia. Participants discussed the importance of developing transportation systems along the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks and heard from experts in Europe, the United States, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and Northeast Asia on their experiences with intermodal interfaces. They also discussed the economic benefits of freight intermodal facilities and policy initiatives to promote the development of such facilities.

**118. Pacific Health Summit 2008: The Global Nutrition Challenge-Getting a Healthy Start**

**Date:** June 16–18, 2008

**Location:** Seattle, Washington, USA

**Organizers/Supporters:** National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR); Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Wellcome Trust

The mission of the annual summit is to connect science and policy for a healthier world through effective utilization of scientific advances combined with appropriate policy for the prevention, early detection, and early treatment of disease. The 2008 summit theme was “The Global Nutrition Challenge: Getting a Healthy Start.” Participants tackled the complex challenge of too little of the right nutrition for vulnerable populations, and the rapidly emerging health threat of too much of the wrong kind of nutrition in both developed and developing societies. Top decision makers from the science, policy, industry, medicine, and public health fields met to discuss how emerging science and technology can be connected to global health policy in order to realize the dream of a healthier future.

**119. International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Workshop on Enhancing Capacity Building for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Focusing Mainly on the Experiences in Southeast Asia**

**Date:** June 17–18, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japan Institute of International Affairs

Launched in 2007, the international process included a series of workshops examining the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Strategy. The purpose of the workshops was to provide an opportunity for off-the-record discussion among a broad array of countries, representatives from the UN and other intergovernmental bodies, and civil society. The discussions focused on assessing the overall UN contributions to the fight against terrorism over the past seven years and identifying ways to make its institutions more relevant to national and regional counter-terrorism efforts. At this final workshop, participants put forward a wide range of concrete proposals aimed at furthering the implementation of UN strategy to be built upon during the September 2008 General Assembly.

120. **New Power Dynamics in Southeast Asia: Issues for US Policy**

**Date:** June 18, 2009

**Location:** Honolulu, Hawaii

**Organizers/Supporters:** Pacific Forum CSIS

This project examined the impact of changing power relations in the Asia Pacific region on Southeast Asian politics, security, and economics, and the implication of these trends for US policy. It culminated with recommendations for the new US administration following the 2008 elections. The June 2008 Honolulu meeting would serve as the wrap-up session for the project and included participants from throughout East Asia.

121. **Regional Policy Dialogue on “Financing for Development”**

**Date:** June 18–19, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

Experts from the Asia Pacific region gathered for presentations on topics related to development finance. The participants discussed international trade as a driver of growth and development, international financial and technical cooperation for development, and a regional action plan for financing for development. On this final topic, the UNESCAP Secretariat presented some possible actions at the regional and national level, including the development of a regional bond market and a mechanism for financing for development, as well as a regional financing for development tax, “aid for trade” measures, steps to monitor private borrowings, and a surveillance mechanism.

122. **Sino-US-Japan-ROK Seminar on East Asian Security: Challenge, Trend and Prospect**

**Date:** June 19, 2008

**Location:** Shanghai, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Shanghai Municipal Foreign Culture Exchange Association; Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS)

About 20 specialists and scholars from institutions such as Vanderbilt University, Japan’s Defense Research Institute, the North-South Korea Institute of Korea University, the China Institute of International Studies, China Academy of Social Sciences, Fudan University, and Tongji University attended the meeting, which focused on regional security and stability in East Asia. Issues discussed included the current status and future trends of the denuclearization process on the Korean peninsula, relations across the Taiwan Strait and US-Taiwan cooperation, the US-Japan security relationship after the inauguration of a new president in the United States in 2009, and the China-US-Japan comprehensive dialogue mechanism and East Asian multilateral security cooperation.

123. **International Workshop on Buddhism and the Crises of Nation-States in Asia**

**Date:** June 19–20, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Research Institute and Religion Research Cluster; Faculty of Arts and Social Science; National University of Singapore

The workshop brought together top scholars working on Buddhism in Asia to examine the “crises of nation-states” in Asia’s Buddhist countries. It explored complex situations and issues pertinent to the changing status and role of Buddhism in the far-from-complete processes of nation-state building and modernization in major Buddhist countries in the region. It also compared the paths, patterns, and processes that Buddhism has undertaken in its role as a traditional source of moral and political authority in various states. A total of 16 papers and invited speakers addressed issues

concerning themes such as Buddhism and the politics of nation building, Buddhist fundamentalism and nationalism, militant and socially-engaged monks and nuns, and the politics of Buddhist piety and fragmentation.

124. **APEC Study Centers Consortium Meeting**

**Date:** June 19–21, 2008

**Location:** Piura, Peru

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

The June 2008 APEC Studies Centers Consortium Meeting analyzed the risks facing APEC and identified drivers critical to maintaining growth and development in Asia-Pacific economies. In addition to discussions about trade liberalization, facilitation, and structural reform, participants of the annual meeting also looked at corporate social responsibility, regional institutional architecture, and education and innovation in APEC economies. The meeting, which was hosted by the Peruvian Network for Asia-Pacific Studies, was exhorted by the network's head to consider the further cooperation between Peru and the Asia-Pacific region.

125. **ARTNeT Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Capacity Building Workshop on Regional Integration and Competitiveness: The European Experience**

**Date:** June 24–26, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

This workshop sought to provide GMS researchers with a more detailed understanding of how the European Union, as the most advanced example of regional integration, has tackled the economic and social discrepancies among its members to ensure a more harmonized and coherent development of the region. Participants invited to the workshop included researchers from the institutions involved in the ARTNeT GMS studies as well as government officials in charge of trade and planning.

126. **International Workshop on Autonomy and Armed Separatism in South and Southeast Asia**

**Date:** June 26–27, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Research Institute; Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore; supported by the Asia Foundation and the Centre on Asia and Globalisation

The international workshop promoted a multidisciplinary approach toward understanding national identity problems in seven South and Southeast Asian countries—Indonesia, Burma, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand, India, and East Timor. It explored the political, economic, legal, security, and other compromises that have been offered by national governments to negotiate shared-rule outcomes with their separatist movements through the devolution of central state authority and resources. By examining specific case studies in South and Southeast Asia, the workshop sought to identify the conditions under which autonomy has, or could, potentially serve as an effective mechanism for conflict resolution, and what conditions have impeded its implementation or resulted in its failure.

127. **Asia-Pacific Water Forum Regional Consultation Meetings on Climate Change Adaptation and Water-Related Disaster Management**

**Date:** June 26–27, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF)

In line with an overall theme on disaster management, regional consultation meetings for the Asia-Pacific Water Forum were held on “Climate Change Adaptation and Water-related Disaster Management” at the inaugural Singapore International Water Week. These meetings supported the work of the newly established water knowledge hubs, which are centers for knowledge exchange and information dissemination established jointly by the Asian Development Bank, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, and the Singapore Public Utilities Board as part of an ongoing partnership. The National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia was designated as the Knowledge Hub for Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Southeast Asia, while the International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management will serve as the Knowledge Hub for Disaster Risk Reduction and Flood Management. Member organizations of the APWF, donor agencies, and the media attended the event.

**128. Energy Future in East Asia**

**Date:** June 29, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, South Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** Korea Energy Economics Institute; Korean Ministry of Knowledge Economy

Energy policy specialists from East Asia Summit member countries shared their perspectives on effective cooperation measures to strengthen regional energy security and address climate change in the region at the international seminar on “Energy Future: Tuning Challenge into Opportunity in East Asia.” Participants discussed the global and regional energy outlook with a focus on potential areas for energy-saving, high oil prices and prospects for the world oil market from the standpoint of consumers and producers, and climate change cooperation between the developed and developing countries.

**129. Workshop on Managing China-Japan-US Relations and Strengthening Trilateral Cooperation**

**Date:** June 29–30, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)

The June 29-30, 2008, workshop, which took place in Beijing, brought together a multi-country team of leading experts from the three countries to undertake a systematic, in-depth analysis of the dynamics of the trilateral relationship. One senior participant and three emerging intellectual leaders were selected from each country and the team members analyzed a wide range of topics—including the emergence of regional community, financial cooperation, and tensions in the Taiwan Straits—in the context of the trilateral relationship. In 2007, JCIE had launched this annual study and dialogue project, aimed at developing a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics of the China-Japan-US trilateral relationship, identifying the issues central to managing stable and cooperative relations, and examining ways of promoting more meaningful cooperation on key challenges. The workshop was designed to encourage policymakers in all three countries to improve their knowledge of this key relationship and to pursue a greater commitment to trilateral cooperation.

**July**

**130. 14th Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Working Group on the Environment**

**Date:** July 1–2, 2008

**Location:** Luang Prabang, Laos

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)



The GMS Working Group on the Environment seeks to respond to the urgent challenges of the current food crisis and climate change in the region by integrating climate change in the development planning process. Discussions at the 14th meeting focused on the issue of food security for the subregion and the need for ensuring national coordination between the relevant sectors and strengthening subregional coordination among countries to maximize resource use efficiencies and environmental gains. Participants included senior government representatives from the six GMS countries, representatives from NGOs, academic institutions, and researchers.

131. **Energy Resources Cooperation and Corporate Strategy in Northeast and Central Asia**

**Date:** July 3, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, South Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** Korean Ministry of Knowledge Economy (MKE), Center for Energy Research, International Studies, Korea Energy Economics Institute; Institute for Business Research and Education, Korea University

This jointly held symposium focused on energy issues, including energy resources and economic cooperation in the Northeast and Central Asian regions, case studies and lessons from energy cooperation projects initiated by Korean companies, and strategies for promoting strategic partnership between the two regions. Participants included academics, scientists, and energy ministry officials from Russia, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, and South Korea.

132. **2nd Meeting of the Commission on AIDS in the Pacific**

**Date:** July 7–8, 2008

**Location:** Apia, Samoa

**Organizers/Supporters:** United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS; Commission on AIDS in the Pacific

The agenda of the second meeting of the Commission on AIDS in the Pacific included community consultations, analysis of all data, including reviews and background documents prepared, and the content and dissemination plan for a report. The commission had been set up by UNAIDS in 2007 with the aim of obtaining appropriate policy recommendations directed toward the governments in the areas of prevention, care, and impact mitigation. Its mandate is to focus on analyzing the progress of the epidemic in the region, and its impact at various levels, particularly at the individual and family level. It seeks to develop a road map based on best practices in information gathering and dissemination; governance and HIV; funding arrangements and transparency; civil society and government involvement in scaling up the response to prevention, treatment, care, and support; and impact mitigation.

133. **2008 Senior Policy Forum**

**Date:** July 7–8, 2008

**Location:** Honolulu, Hawaii

**Organizers/Supporters:** East-West Center

A keystone event for the East-West Center, the forum brought together senior foreign policy officials, private sector leaders, and analysts from countries around the region for non-official, frank, and non-attribution discussions of security issues in the Asia Pacific region. The seminar offered front-line experts a chance to exchange views and formulate policy on core issues facing the Asia Pacific region today. At the top of the agenda of this year's gathering was the current turmoil in the US and international economies, its impact on the region, and how these issues will impact the next US administration. Experts also discussed both traditional and non-traditional security concerns as well as trade issues.

134. **4th Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Asia Pacific Cooperation for Energy Security**

**Date:** July 8–9, 2008

**Location:** Brunei

**Organizers/Supporters:** Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)

The CSCAP study group on Asia-Pacific Cooperation for Energy Security held its fourth and final meeting over two days in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, and discussed the prospects for cooperation in ensuring the security, stability, and sustainability of energy supplies. The study group considered how increasing demand for oil in South Asia and East Asia is changing the regional economics of energy supply and demand, how it is renewing the search for alternative sources and more efficient uses of energy, and how Asia Pacific political alignments and regional security strategies are shifting as a result. The two year study group had been established during the 26th CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting in December 2006 and was co-chaired by CSCAP Singapore and CSCAP India.

135. **2nd APEC Public-Private Sector Forum on Bond Market Development**

**Date:** July 9, 2008

**Location:** Cusco, Peru

**Organizers/Supporters:** Advisory Group on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Financial System Capacity Building; APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC); Ministry of Economy and Finance of Peru; Procapitales

Participants from APEC economies, including members of the senior finance officials' meeting and the advisory group; experts from multilateral development and international financial institutions; and representatives from investment banks, institutional investors, fund managers, rating agencies, and other relevant private sector organizations, gathered to discuss the bond markets of Chile, Mexico, and Peru. Beyond sessions focusing on the three main countries' bond markets, the meeting included discussions on the public and private sector perspectives on the development of bond markets in the Asia Pacific region.

136. **North Pacific International Symposium: The Future for East Asia and the Role of China**

**Date:** July 12, 2008

**Location:** Sapporo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** North Pacific Region Advanced Research Center; Keio Institute of East Asia Studies

The symposium focused on the prospects for a regional order in East Asia based on keynote reports by scholars representing China, and through the discussion among scholars from Japan, South Korea, and the United States. Participants discussed how the rapid expansion of trade and investment in East Asia has strengthened mutual economic interdependence and has led to an acceleration of efforts to create the proposed East Asian Community.

137. **Democracy, Crisis Management and New Regionalism in Southeast Asia**

**Date:** July 15, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

The forum brought together regional experts to address various pressing concerns in Southeast Asia. Participants discussed issues affecting political stability in the region and the nontraditional security impacts of natural disasters. They also examined regional integration processes from the bottom-up perspective involving civil society, and discussed the ratification process of the ASEAN Charter as a

way to create a more rules-based and integrated ASEAN and to more effectively address the issues of human and nontraditional security in Southeast Asia.

138. **Asian Power Forum 2008: What Is Asia's Power Energy Industries Next Step?**

**Date:** July 15–16, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute

The forum brought together power and energy sector leaders and policy makers from the region to discuss the issues facing the Asian power industry as well as the decisions made at the UN Climate Change Conference 2007 on the actions necessary to create a secure climate future. Participants discussed the evolution of this rapidly changing sector and offered forward-looking insights into the key energy issues for 2008 and beyond.

139. **Expert Roundtable Discussion on the Road to Ratification and Implementation of the ASEAN Charter: Its Strengths and Weaknesses**

**Date:** July 17, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEAN Studies Centre; Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore; Habibie Center, Indonesia

The discussion was organized to provide a platform for ASEAN representatives, scholars, the media, members of the Indonesian Parliament, Indonesian officials, the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Foundation, and other opinion makers to voice their views on the strengths and weaknesses of the ASEAN charter. In particular, some felt that the charter had been watered down almost to the point of irrelevance, and that while the charter resolves to create an ASEAN human rights body, it has no provisions for enforcing compliance with human rights standards. Recommendations were gathered for the charter's future implementation.

140. **Asian Noodle Bowl Conference**

**Date:** July 17–18, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB) Institute

Experts and policymakers gathered to present latest the country and firm-level information on East Asian free trade areas (FTAs), to discuss an appropriate design for an East Asian FTA, to identify ideas for future work on East Asian FTAs, and to use the results as inputs to a capacity building and training program. The first round of surveys were conducted in four East Asian countries—Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines. The conference consisted of two parts: part one was a half-day conference on the impact of FTAs on business activity and assessment of current FTAs in East Asia, and part two was a one-and-a-half day technical workshop to discuss in greater detail country-level FTA strategies, issues related to the formation of an East Asian FTA, and firm-level evidence on FTA impacts on business activity.

141. **14th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting**

**Date:** July 21–22, 2008

**Location:** Nadi, Fiji

**Organizers/Supporters:** The Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)

Regional disaster managers and representatives from ministries of finance and planning, ministries for disaster management, and various regional and international donors and organizations gathered to address the needs and challenges in relation to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and disaster management within national and local planning and

budgetary systems in support of sustainable national development. The meeting was designed to allow for consultation between the heads of the national disaster management offices on disaster risk management-related issues in the Pacific.

142. **Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) Research Team Meeting on RTAs and Production Networks Linkages**

**Date:** July 21–22, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

ARTNet is an open regional network composed of leading trade research institutions from developing countries across the UNESCAP region. The ARTNeT research team met to discuss and report on the progress of their study, focusing on regional trade agreements and production network linkages in the region. The participants discussed the study's outline, structure, and methodology, and concluded with experiences from related research and recommendations for the future.

143. **Nuclear Stability in Asia**

**Date:** July 21–24, 2008

**Location:** West Sussex, UK

**Organizers/Supporters:** Wilton Park Conferences

With six of the world's acknowledged nuclear-armed states (China, India, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, and the United States) involved in the Asian region, government representatives and experts from around the world met to address the following questions-what are the long-term implications for deterrence and nuclear stability? What would be the effects of missile defenses? Is further nuclear proliferation likely and if so how can it be prevented? What are the prospects for denuclearization, and under what conditions? The conference was broken up into two sessions that focused on strategy and stability issues in the region, including the established deterrence relationships between the United States, Russia, and China; the evolving strategic relationships between Russia and China as well as Pakistan and India, nuclear weapons and the Korean peninsula, and European perspectives on nuclear stability in Asia. Participants also discussed alternative strategic deterrence within the global context.

144. **3rd Annual Meeting of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network**

**Date:** July 22–23, 2008

**Location:** Nadi, Fiji

**Organizers/Supporters:** Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission

Under the theme of "A Call for Action: Strengthening the Partnership Network," participants focused on a set of three objectives-to review the status of current and planned partnership activities in the Pacific, to endorse the partnership as the "Pacific Platform" for disaster risk reduction, and to examine opportunities for improved strategic alliances and engagement at regional and national level within Pacific countries. The meeting comprised of a series of presentations by partners on their current and pipeline activities in the Pacific and the issues they face in addressing these. These were followed by selected presentations by Pacific countries in relation to their disaster risk management experiences and issues in dealing with regional and international organizations. The meeting also examined approaches to strengthen collaboration within the partnership.

145. **Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on Promoting Sustainable Social Protection Strategies to improve Access to Health Care**

**Date:** July 23–25, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The three day meeting brought together policy makers and representatives from regional and international organizations to discuss regional experiences with social protection strategies and plans to improve access to health care. Topics included how to increase domestic spending on health, the role of external funds, and how to increase the coverage and equity of risk-pooling schemes.

146. **Inaugural Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Management Meeting for Pacific CEOs of Finance/Planning and Disaster Management**

**Date:** July 24–25, 2008

**Location:** Nadi, Fiji

**Organizers/Supporters:** Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission; Government of Fiji

Under the theme of “Disaster Risk Management to Protect our Future: an Investment for Sustainable Development in Pacific Island Countries,” its purpose was to enhance the involvement and participation of key chief executives in Pacific governments in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation as a cornerstone requirement and imperative for supporting sustainable national development. The specific objectives of the meeting were to create an understanding of the disaster risk management (DRM) support structure in the Pacific, develop greater understanding for the global commitments toward DRM, and highlight the linkages between disasters and development to demonstrate the importance of mainstreaming DRM into planning and budgeting. Participants also discussed the immediate, urgent implementation of the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

147. **ASEAN Roundtable 2008: ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint**

**Date:** July 28, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEAN Studies Centre; the Regional Economic Studies Programme of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies; Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

The 2008 ASEAN roundtable on the “ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint” examined the strengths and weaknesses of the association on its road to an ASEAN Economic Community. Roundtable attendees included members of ASEAN governments, the private sector, and academia. Some obstacles discussed included non-tariff barriers to intra-ASEAN trade, involvement of ASEAN business in regional economic integration, national investment regimes, competition policy, infrastructure development, and international production networks. On the other hand, the roundtable did recognize that the association had practically eliminated tariffs on intra-ASEAN trade and laid the foundations for economic integration through measures pertaining to investments, customs, harmonized tariff nomenclatures, product standards, services, and infrastructure. Participants stressed the benefits of regional economic integration with respect to economic growth, lower costs, reduced prices, international standing, and regional cohesion, as well as competitiveness with rising economies such as China and India.

148. **International Workshop: Natural Resources and the Development-Environment Dilemma in the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia**

**Date:** July 28–29, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS); Henry L. Stimson Center

In collaboration with CSIS-Jakarta, an Indonesian think tank, the Henry L. Stimson Center organized an international workshop to discuss issues pertaining to natural resources and the development versus environmental sustainability dilemma from cross-sectoral, cross-regional, and multidisciplinary perspectives. The meeting brought together diverse experts from the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. The participants at the meeting agreed that government policies for development should take on a more integrative approach because neither market-driven nor security-oriented approaches to natural resource management are viable in the long term, and because natural resources policies have to be mainstreamed within national government's socioeconomic development plans.

149. **13th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions**

**Date:** July 28–31, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

The meeting brought together almost 170 representatives from national human rights institutions (NHRIs), regional governments, NGOs, and the UN to discuss a number of key human rights concerns facing the region. The forum included a one-day seminar for representatives of NHRIs and NGOs to discuss effective approaches to engage with the universal periodic review process established by the UN Human Rights Council, as well as discussions by the Advisory Council of Jurists examining a reference on human rights and corporate accountability. It also contained a one-day professional training workshop for senior executive officers of Asia Pacific Forum (APF) member institutions, as well as the annual general meeting of the APF's decision-making body, the forum council. The two-day conference featured country reports from APF member institutions, examples of regional cooperation, and a panel discussion on the meaning and effect of Article 29(2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

150. **ARTNet Research Team Meeting: Impact of IT-based Trade Facilitation Measures on Inclusive Development**

**Date:** July 29–30, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

ARTNet is an open regional network composed of leading trade research institutions across the UNESCAP region and is comprised of over 20 member research institutions from developing countries of the region. The ARTNet research team met to discuss and report on the progress of their ongoing study, focusing specifically during the meeting on issues related to the impact of IT-based trade facilitation measures. The participants discussed the background of the study and reviewed individual contribution outlines and their timelines.

151. **Conference on Return Migration in Asia: Experiences, Ideologies and Politics**

**Date:** July 31–September 1, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Research Institute and National University of Singapore

Despite the burgeoning literature on a wide range of transnational migratory flows in Asia, research on return migration remains scarce. With this background, conference themes that were addressed included the process and experiences of return migrations that complicate the concept of “return,” and the social, economic, and political implications of return migrations. Participants included experts from leading academic institutions and international organizations from both sides of the Asia Pacific.

### **August**

#### **152. Japan-China-ROK Joint International Research Conference**

**Date:** August 1, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** National Institute for Research Advancement; Korea Institute for International Economic Policy

Policymakers, academics, and representatives of NGOs from China, Japan, and Korea convened to draw up a joint report and set of policy recommendations on the prospects of a free trade agreement (FTA) between the three countries. Revolving around the necessity of increased economic cooperation and the argument that the FTA would be the best way of pooling the three countries' resources, the conference included an examination of each country's policy measures concerning the proposed FTA. The participants expressed optimistic expectations about the FTA's eventual creation, with many taking the stand that concrete steps towards its establishment should be accelerated. However, it was also recognized that there were still many issues to be resolved before it could become a reality, and that it was imperative that the present framework of nongovernmental Japan-China-Korea research on the proposed FTA continue so that momentum would not be lost.

#### **153. 9th Asia Pacific Forum, Awaji Conference**

**Date:** August 1–2, 2008

**Location:** Awaji, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Pacific Forum, Awaji Conference Japan

Attended by 250 participants from seven countries, the ninth conference featured presentations and discussions that highlighted the need for future measures combining three different areas—technological, market, and societal solutions—to address water resource issues, which have become increasingly more serious worldwide. The theme for the meeting was “Water Resources in Asia: What lies in the Future?” Participants discussed how the growing population in Asia and accompanying rise in production has affected water consumption patterns and placed stress on the balance of water supply and demand. Additionally, presentations were given by experts from Singapore, China, and the Mekong River basin on specific case studies of water resource conservation efforts.

#### **154. 3rd APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Meeting of 2008**

**Date:** August 2–6, 2008

**Location:** Hanzhou, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council (ABAC)

Created by APEC in 1995 to provide the business perspective on specific areas of cooperation, ABAC comprises up to three representatives from the private sector of each member country. For the third meeting, recognizing that significant economic gains achieved within the region during the past several years have not been equally shared by both developed and developing

economies, ABAC adopted the theme of “Mind the Gap: Making Globalization an Opportunity for All.” The purpose of the meeting was to develop recommendations that would transform growth in the region into lasting development by spreading the benefits of globalization more widely and evenly within and between countries. ABAC focused on three sub-themes to focus their recommendations-achieving trade and investment liberalization, facilitating business, and capacity building for sustainable growth and development.

155. **10th Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers 2008**

**Date:** August 4–10, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS); Nanyang Technological University

The conference gathered nearly 100 senior military officers and addressed new dimensions in international security, the media involvement in international conflict, and the rise of private military companies. Participants also discussed the role of cultural knowledge in military operations. Other topics addressed included maritime security, Asia Pacific security, and violence in Southeast Asia.

156. **ASEAN Energy Business Forum 2008**

**Date:** August 5–8, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEAN

In conjunction with the 26th AMEM, the meeting aimed to build consensus on energy policy between governments and the private sector in order to enhance energy security and cooperation in the region.

157. **Asia-Pacific Security Forum**

**Date:** August 10–11, 2008

**Location:** Honolulu, Hawaii

**Organizers/Supporters:** Pacific Forum CSIS; Strategic and Development Studies (Philippines); the Asia Centre (France); Institute for National Policy Research (Taipei)

Attended by experts from academia, regional and international institutions, and observing government representatives, the forum examined “Asian Elections 2007-2008: Regional Security Implications.” Four sessions led by key experts in the field sparked discussions on the security implications of the elections in South Korea, Japan, and Russia; Taiwan’s elections and the implications for cross-strait relations; the elections in Thailand, Malaysia, and Australia, and the security implications of the 2008 US elections.

158. **Workshop on East Asia Facing a Rising China**

**Date:** August 11–12, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** East Asia Institute, Konrad Adenauer Foundation

The workshop provided an up-to-date analysis of East Asian countries and their multifaceted relations-diplomatic, security, economics, and cultural-with China. A key aspect of this workshop was the participation by Chinese experts who examined the relations of specific East Asian countries with China.



159. **Conference on Negotiating Strategies for Creating a Liberalized Air Transport Bloc in Northeast Asia**

**Date:** August 14–15, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, South Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** East-West Center; Korea Transport Institute

The conference objectives were to evaluate the implications of recent developments in the world's air transport industry on Northeast Asia (NEA) and to investigate ways to create a liberalized air transport bloc in Northeast Asia similar to the EU and NAFTA. The participants also investigated the feasibility of NEA-EU, NEA-North America (North Pacific Common Aviation Area), and NEA-ASEAN intercontinental open-skies markets.

160. **East Asia and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Congress III Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents**

**Date:** August 18–19, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

Several hundred experts, government officials, and young activists from around the region attended the preparatory meeting, with the goal of producing a set of recommendations addressing the problem of sexual exploitation of children. The attendees examined practical examples of combating the problem from different areas of the region and also discussed how to effectively open channels to secure greater regional and international cooperation to guarantee children's and adolescents' right to be protected from sexual exploitation. The participants discussed time-bound goals for combating the commercial sexual exploitation of children, focusing on the issues of child prostitution and its relation to gender dynamics, child trafficking for sexual purposes and linkages with migration, sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, and sexual exploitation of children through internet technologies.

161. **3rd ACD High-Level Study Group (HLSG) Meeting**

**Date:** August 18–19, 2008

**Location:** Kazakhstan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

In the final HLSG meeting, attended by representatives from the ministries of foreign affairs from ASEAN member countries, participants agreed on a set of recommendations to take to the seventh ACD Ministerial Meeting in October 2008. These included refining the end goals ACD cooperation, creating a virtual secretariat as a first step toward creating an ACD secretariat, the value of Track II participation in the ACD process, and the working principles of ACD membership, including openness and inclusiveness.

162. **ARTNeT Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Initiative Research Team Meeting—Political Economy of Regional Integration in the GMS: A Stakeholder Analysis**

**Date:** August 18–19, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The ARTNeT GMS initiative research team met to report on the progress of the study, focusing their discussions on the issue of the political economy of regional integration in the GMS region. The ARTNeT GMS initiative aims to provide enhanced complementary support to research institutions from the subregion to conduct joint trade-related research on issues of interest to policymakers. The initiative includes a capacity-building component involving research institutions in the three GMS countries as well as a research component.

163. **Roundtable on Information Technology Infrastructure**

**Date:** August 22–23, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEAN; US Agency for International Development (USAID)

The roundtable brought together representatives from the national telecommunications ministries and key national and multinational private sector providers to discuss the issue of ASEAN's information infrastructure and to develop recommendations to be presented to the meeting of the ASEAN telecommunication ministers. ASEAN telecommunication ministers worked together to create the necessary policy environment to help meet the ASEAN Community Blueprint's 2010 deadline to facilitate high-speed connections among all national information infrastructures.

164. **6th Annual NEAT Conference; 9th NEAT Country Coordinators Meeting of NEAT**

**Date:** August 24–25, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT); hosted by the Center of East Asian Corporation Studies of Indonesia University

Approximately 50 representatives and experts from the 11 ASEAN+3 nations participated in the annual conference. Participants heard reports on the results of the activities from six working groups focusing on East Asian environmental cooperation, East Asian financial cooperation, East Asian investment cooperation, enhancement of East Asian cultural exchange, East Asian cooperative framework for migrant labor, and the future direction of NEAT. It was also established that the fifth memorandum of the NEAT policy recommendation on "Strengthening Cooperation and Consolidation toward Closer Integration," which was adopted in Bali, would be submitted to the ASEAN+3 Summit held in December 2008.

165. **4th Meeting of the CSCAP Export Controls Experts Group**

**Date:** August 25–26, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) and US Member Committee (USCSCAP)

This experts group analyzes current efforts and practices of national-level export controls of nuclear energy, and explores additional ways to promote and enhance nuclear energy transparency. At the fourth meeting, approximately 36 participants from the 10 CSCAP committees and other institutions met to discuss how to improve capacity in CSCAP member countries in strategic trade management under the theme of "Regional and National Solutions for Strategic Trade Management." A specific objective of the meeting was to draft a Memorandum on Strategic Trade Controls to be presented to the CSCAP Steering Committee for adoption as a CSCAP memorandum.

166. **Energy, Climate, and Food Security Conference: Responding to Global Challenges through Regional Cooperation and Public-Private Partnership**

**Date:** August 27, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Institute of Management Policy Center

Approximately 300 participants from the business sector, civil society, government, humanitarian organizations, diplomatic corps, international organizations, academia, and the media attended the conference, which sought to raise greater public awareness on pressing global challenges related to food, energy, and climate security issues. The conference sought to

engage the business sector and to identify ways to enable the business community, civil society, and other stakeholders to respond to these three interlocking global challenges.

167. **20th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues**

**Date:** August 27–29, 2008

**Location:** Saitama, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** UN Office for Disarmament Affairs Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific; Government of Japan; Saitama City Government

This year's conference, under the overall theme of "Nuclear Disarmament, Nonproliferation, and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy: Trends and Challenges," addressed several critical issues in the fields of disarmament and nonproliferation, such as challenges to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty regime and initiatives to overcome them, nuclear renaissance and nuclear nonproliferation, security in East Asia and arms control, and cooperation with civil society. Approximately 90 representatives of government, international organizations, academic and research institutions, and civil society participated in the conference.

168. **Regional Workshop on Energy and Nontraditional Security**

**Date:** August 28–29, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University

Based on the premise that political thinking on energy security has focused primarily on ensuring supply without sufficient attention to the socioeconomic and environmental impact as well as the role of non-state actors, the regional workshop used a multidisciplinary approach as a means of observing the current issues concerning energy security and its impact on East Asian, state, and human security. Twenty-six scholars from diverse fields attended the two-day workshop, which included presentations on contemporary regional views on energy security; country studies from the Northeast and Southeast Asian regions, the United States, India, and Australia; the non-traditional dimensions of energy security; environmental and socioeconomic impact; and the role of the market, technology, and civil society.

169. **Workshop on Consensus Building in Asia: Developing Energy and Natural Resources, Building Sustainable Society**

**Date:** August 29, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Consensus Building in Asia; hosted by the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science Project, University of Tokyo; co-funded by the Center on Asia and Globalization

Leading scholars and policy makers from around the world met to discuss sustainability science and the promotion of good governance through trials and evaluations of consensus building approaches to public policy disputes. Panel sessions covered the consensus building process; food and bio-fuel; land, water, and institutional issues; and energy.

170. **J-Global Forum**

**Date:** August 31–September 1, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, South Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** JoongAng Ilbo; Yumin Cultural Foundation

Approximately 30 scholars and journalists from around the world gathered at the forum to discuss the theme “New Asia: America’s Role.” The forum explored the expansion of the role of Asian nations such as South Korea, China, and Japan in the international community and the subsequent changes in US policies.

### **September**

**171. 6th Meeting of the Working Group on Energy Planning and Policy**

**Date:** September 2–3, 2008

**Location:** Irkutsk

**Organizers/Supporters:** Korea Energy Economics Institute; UNESCAP

The working group, which was established by UNESCAP officials in 2005 to identify possible energy cooperation activities in the region, met to review its report on regional energy development potential, prepare for the second Northeast Asia Government-Business Dialogue, discuss a five-year strategy for energy cooperation in Northeast Asia, and finalize funding plans. The meeting was attended by representatives and experts from Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation. It was also attended by participants from Northeast Asia, who shared their experiences and views on issues relevant to the implementation of an intergovernmental collaborative mechanism for energy cooperation in the region.

**172. 6th Meeting of the Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty Reduction on Hunger (RTWGPH)**

**Date:** September 5, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The sixth meeting reviewed issues pending from previous meetings, including an update on the creation of an online portal for dissemination of information about hunger issues as well as preparations for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The participants also discussed the gender-related aspects of poverty and hunger as well as preparations for the UN-ASEAN Summit to take place in December 2008. In the last session of the meeting, the working group reviewed briefings by UN agencies working on related issues, including rising food prices and food security. Participants included representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNESCAP, UN Millennium Campaign, UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo, and other UN organizations.

**173. ADB Urban Day 2008**

**Date:** September 8, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank

The first annual forum organized by ADB’s Urban Community of Practice gathered participants from national and local governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia to discuss pressing urban issues under the theme, “Environment and Livable Cities.” The participants tackled issues on solid waste management, climate change, and city cluster development, and their impacts on promoting livable cities. The forum, which facilitates knowledge exchange among urban specialists, sought to discuss and develop urban projects and initiatives in line with Strategy 2020, the ADB’s long-term plan to create an Asia Pacific region free of poverty by supporting three complementary development agendas: inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

174. **5th Baikal Economic Forum**

**Date:** September 8–11, 2008

**Location:** Irkutsk, Russia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Federations Board of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation; Administration of Irkutskaya Oblast; the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation; the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation

Under the title, “Europe-Russia-Asia-Pacific: Integration and Cooperation,” the international conference involved approximately 1,500 officials, parliamentarians, and financial sector participants. The agenda covered issues of cooperation on topics focusing on Siberia and the Far East. In particular, participants discussed energy, transport infrastructure, development of the timber industry, and creation of special economic zones. On September 11, 2008, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) also held a SCO Day and hosted a meeting of the SCO Business Council Governing Board. Among the topics discussed during the SCO business council meeting were its potential involvement in the process of founding an SCO “energy club,” work in the fields of health care and social protection in the SCO member states, interstate initiatives concerning development of insurance funds, and the creation of an SCO university.

175. **ADB Transport Forum: Asia on the Move—Energy Efficient and Inclusive Transport**

**Date:** September 9–12, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The forum served as a platform for exchanging information on holistic solutions for sustainable transport development with particular focus on urban mobility, rural transport, transport and climate change, road safety, and public-private partnerships on transportation projects. In addition to addressing the important environmental concerns associated with transportation systems, it also tackled the financial, administrative, and social issues involving transport projects. The four-day forum was attended by over 250 delegates from over 30 countries, including national and local government officials, officials from bilateral and multilateral donors, and representatives from academia, NGOs, civil society, and the private sector.

176. **Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking**

**Date:** September 9, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP and International Organization on Migration

Established in 2005, the working group consists of 16 UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations that focus on issues related to international migration. The group met four times in 2008 to share information on recent activities undertaken to address international migration issues such as human trafficking. Its activities culminated in October 2008 with the publication of the Situation Report on International Migration in East and South-East Asia, which identified recent levels and patterns of international migration at national and subregional levels in the region. The report provided an overview of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and explored specific migration issues such as gender, health, and regional cooperation.

177. **Emerging Asian Regionalism: Trends and Challenges**

**Date:** September 10, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia; Asian Development Bank; Centre for Strategic and International Studies

Experts from government, academia, and international institutions from both sides of the Pacific gathered for two sessions analyzing Asian economic regionalism as well as its implications. In particular, they discussed and disseminated the findings of the Asian Development Bank's new publication, *Emerging Asian Regionalism: A Partnership for Shared Prosperity*. The book had five key findings: (1) Asian economic integration is an idea whose time has come; (2) Asian integration has generally been market-led and private-sector driven; however, this market-led process would benefit from a helping hand from the government going forward; (3) while Asia can learn some useful lessons from Europe, it has distinct characteristics and must calibrate its own model of integration; (4) Asia is following an outward-looking model of integration which should be further built on; (5) Asian integration is a positive trend for the countries involved, the region as a whole, and the world at large.

**178. Joint International Symposium on Disaster Risk Management**

**Date:** September 11, 2008

**Location:** Sendai, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO); Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE); JSCE's National Assembly Congress.

This second symposium in a series on international meetings brought together 13 papers on seismic and water related disasters and their measures. Participants discussed the 2008 Sichuan Great Earthquake and the 2007 Super Cyclone Sidr, the technological restoration and recovery support activities of the Interdisciplinary Liaison Council led by JSCE, and suggestions for future surge storm measures in Bangladesh. Beyond the presentations in the symposium, some research and practical experiments on measures for floods and tsunamis from Bangladesh, Canada, and Japan were also introduced. These meetings aim to serve as a catalyst for larger scale joint symposiums between WFEO and other organizations around the world on disaster risk management. More than 50 participants from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam attended.

**179. Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO Asia) 2008**

**Date:** September 13–14, 2008

**Location:** Nagoya, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Ministry of Environment, Japan

Environment ministers and senior officials of Asia Pacific countries, and representatives from international organizations, local governments, research institutes, and NGOs gathered for ECO Asia 2008. The meeting began with a series of three presentations on biodiversity-road to 2010 and beyond-in session one, followed by a second session focusing on specific actions for biodiversity. Key issues discussed included the status, targets, and approaches to sustaining biodiversity; elevating biodiversity at the policy level, especially in regard to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; multi-stakeholder involvement; and encouraging international and regional cooperation.

**180. Pacific Island Nation Security Issues Workshop**

**Date:** September 16–19, 2008

**Location:** Tonga

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS)

This workshop brought together senior security practitioners from the Pacific Island nations to discuss priority security concerns within the region and paths toward more effective multilateral collaboration to address these issues. The objectives of this event were to review existing and anticipated security issues among Pacific Island nations, and discuss the basic requirements for sustaining existing collaborative structures and forums in order to better address such concerns.

Participants characterized the security environment as deteriorating, but had a positive view on current regional collaborative efforts. They also considered that the level of inter-agency coordination within their nations is adequate, but in need of improvement. Finally, they identified principal constraints and capacity needs in pursuing security objectives.

**181. 3rd Berlin Conference on Asian Security: China in Asia's Future-Perspectives from Asia, the United States, and Europe**

**Date:** September 17–19, 2008

**Location:** Berlin, Germany

**Organizers/Supporters:** Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

The 3rd meeting of the “Berlin Group” met to discuss a variety of Asian security issues, primarily focusing on its theme of “China in Asia's Future.” The first three sessions focused on China's policies on Asia, and the policies of other Asian countries toward China. The fourth and fifth sessions respectively examined future options for the United States in Asia and the current role of Europe. The conference concluded with a panel discussion on “China in Asia's Future: Implications for Policy-Making.” Founded in 1998, the group aims to facilitate an exchange of information and views among European, American, and Asian scholars and officials on Asia Pacific security issues.

**182. Restructuring Beyond the Subprime**

**Date:** September 18–19, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The conference, held for the first time in the Asia Pacific region, brought together banking and securities regulators and supervisors, executives from global credit rating agencies and investment banks, academics, and representatives from the International Monetary Fund, Bank for International Settlements, and Asian Development Bank to discuss and exchange ideas on measures to strengthen global, regional, and national financial markets in the wake of the US subprime mortgage crisis. The first day of the conference focused on the challenges and opportunities facing the regulatory environment, while the second day focused on Asian asset markets and the impact of financial restructuring. It addressed regulators' perspectives, the role of asset management companies, and other policy responses. It also provided an opportunity to discuss how best to cooperate in developing stable and robust financial systems.

**183. 6th Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVFORUM) Roundtable**

**Date:** September 18–19, 2008

**Location:** Dublin, Ireland

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia-Europe Foundation; Hanns Seidel Foundation; Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia; Institute for Global Environmental Strategies; Korea Environment Institute; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The roundtable, which included 40 participants from the countries of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), focused on a range of issues relevant to sustainable energy. These issues included the implications of increasing energy consumption and economic growth for Asia and Europe and ways to promote closer cooperation between the regions to promote clean and affordable energy. The participants discussed specific avenues for cooperation to take place, including enabling governmental policies and possibilities for harnessing cleaner fuels.

184. **3rd Policy Forum of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth: Addressing Climate Change through the Green Growth**  
**Date:** September 18–20, 2008  
**Location:** Cebu, Philippines  
**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; United Nations Environment Programme; Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth

More than 65 participants from 19 UNESCAP member countries, as well as other UN agencies, international organizations, and research institutions attended the three day event exploring the “green growth” concept of sustainable consumption and production and how it can be used to support further climate action in the region. The first day focused on sustainable consumption and examined how both UNESCAP and the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth (SINGG) can facilitate a regional process for the formulation of the Asian and Pacific region. The second day focused on innovative financing and market mechanisms for low carbon societies and Green Growth policy tool applications. The third day focused on the results of a regional study for the promotion of publicly funded environmentally sound technology transfer, while examining the national policy and institutional systems of innovation of a number of countries across the Asian and Pacific region. The meeting was concluded with the adoption of the revised SINGG document.

185. **Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in Asia and the Pacific**  
**Date:** September 20–21, 2008  
**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand  
**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The expert group meeting brought together governments, international organizations, and civil society to discuss international migration trends in the Asia Pacific region, including regional migration policies, labor migration, and the relationship between international migration and development. The discussions of the expert group meeting served as preparation for the Asia-Pacific High-level Meeting on International Migration and Development to be held in September 2008.

186. **5th Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion Working Group on Agriculture (GMS WGA)**  
**Date:** September 22–24, 2008  
**Location:** Vientiane, Lao PDR  
**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

This annual meeting is designed to update the GMS WGA on the progress of the Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP) and to discuss important issues relevant to food and energy security. This year, the meeting’s objectives included identifying priority strategic interventions in subregional agricultural cooperation to address critical food and energy security and climate change concerns, reviewing and refocusing the WGA’s work program toward speedy implementation of priority initiatives under CASP as an integral component of the Vientiane Plan of Action, and catalyzing support from development partners to implement CASP initiatives. It was attended by participants from the six GMS countries and representatives from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Rice Research Institute, and the Asian Development Bank Institute.

187. **Integrated Workshop on Coping with Climate Change in the Typhoon Committee Area**  
**Date:** September 22–26, 2008  
**Location:** Beijing, China  
**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP



The workshop was attended by 72 participants, including Typhoon Committee members and representatives from UNESCAP and the World Meteorological Organization. The participants agreed to hold a small meeting of the chairs of the working groups of the Typhoon Committee in order to discuss the formulation of new integrated projects on urban flood management and on coping with climate change.

**188. Policy Dialogue on Bio-fuels in Asia: Benefits and Challenges**

**Date:** September 22–26, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The objective of the dialogue was to better understand policy issues related to the utilization of biofuel energy resources in a sustainable manner and to discuss country-level and regional strategies. The dialogue focused on six main areas: biofuel and food security, socio-economic impact on rural development, environmental impact, technology transfer, regional cooperation, and sustainability standards. The participants concluded that sustainable development should be the guiding principle for biofuel expansion and called for the creation of standards that promote the use of next generation biofuel technologies according to the specific conditions of individual countries. They also concluded that trade within Asian countries should be given priority. Expert representatives from China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand attended as well as representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Asia Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, the UN Development Programme, and the Energy Resources Institute of India.

**189. 7th Japan-ASEAN Dialogue: Prospect of Japan-ASEAN Partnership after the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation**

**Date:** September 25, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Global Forum of Japan; ASEAN Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS); supported by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund

The three day event included both a public dialogue and an exclusive policy recommendations drafting meeting. The public dialogue portion consisted of three sessions and had a total of 107 participants. The theme of the first session was “An East Asian Community and Japan-ASEAN Relations.” The second session focused on “Japan-ASEAN Cooperation for Sustainable Development.” In the third session, the participants discussed “Japan-ASEAN Cooperation for Political and Security Partnership.” The policy recommendations drafting meeting, which was closed to the public, was held for the first time. Participants worked on policy recommendations based on the achievements of the dialogue. Global Forum of Japan and each of the ASEAN-ISIS member institutes submitted policy recommendations to the respective governments of Japan and ASEAN.

**190. Workshop on Migration and Diversity in Asian Contexts**

**Date:** September 25–26, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Research Institute and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Migration Cluster, National University of Singapore

The aim of this workshop was to explore the changing landscape of migration and diversity in various Asian contexts. Participants examined the current dominant approaches in scholarship, policy, and practice on migration and diversity; the management of diversity in Asian contexts; and the key areas for further in-depth research. They discussed migration issues pertinent to the Asian region, including cross-nationality marriages, undocumented

migration, the phenomenon of return migration, and labor migration systems bifurcated between low-skilled and highly skilled workers.

191. **The United States and Southeast Asia: Toward a Strategy for Enhanced Engagement**

**Date:** September 25–26, 2008

**Location:** Washington DC, USA

**Organizers/Supporters:** CSIS

The conference featured 15 prominent Southeast Asians and US policy makers as panelists and keynote speakers. It focused attention on the critical developments in Southeast Asian affairs and US-Southeast Asian relations. Topics included America's place in the region, trends in ASEAN affairs, and shifting external power dynamics. The participants also discussed US strategic partnerships in Southeast Asia, including cooperation with Thailand, the Philippines, and Singapore, and US emerging partnerships in Southeast Asia, including cooperation with Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

192. **Trilateral Relations among China, Russia, and the USA: Structure, Reception, and Politics**

**Date:** September 26, 2008

**Location:** Shanghai, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Shanghai Institute for International Studies

Discussions revolved around the evolution of the international strategy structure, changes in Eurasian geopolitics, and transitions in Russian domestic politics and the resulting impacts on the China-Russia-US trilateral relationship and its future developmental direction.

193. **Emerging Asian Regionalism: ASEAN-India FTA and Beyond**

**Date:** September 28, 2008

**Location:** New Delhi, India

**Organizers/Supporters:** Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS); ADB

Representatives from the ASEAN and Indian governments, the private sector, and academia gathered to discuss issues related to India's role in ASEAN, especially in relation to free-trade agreements (FTAs). Participants took part in two working sessions on the topics of India's role in a broader Asian regionalism and the implications of an India-ASEAN FTA for emerging Asian regionalism.

194. **APEC Energy Trade and Investment Roundtable**

**Date:** September 30–October 2, 2008

**Location:** Cairns, Australia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

The roundtable addressed priority barriers to energy, trade, and investment identified in a PricewaterhouseCoopers study, as well as other aspects of the study such as ranking "at-border" and "behind-the-border" barriers impacting the trade and the investment potential of regional energy markets. The report highlighted the importance that well-functioning energy markets play in supporting economic growth, and addressed the challenges of energy security and sustainable development throughout the APEC region. The meeting brought together energy, trade, and investment experts from both government and industry sectors, and guest speakers from a range of international organizations.

## October

195. **Meeting to Review Study Results on Urban Safety for the Poor in Asia and the Pacific**

**Date:** October 1–2, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

196. **Bilateralism Versus Multilateralism in Southeast Asia**

**Date:** October 3–5, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Hiroshima Peace Institute

This was the first gathering of researchers working on a research project to examine a number of high profile cases of bilateral tensions between ASEAN member states to determine the causes of persistent bilateral tensions. As for the countries involved in bilateral disputes, nine sets of important relationships were chosen-Vietnam-Cambodia, Vietnam-Laos, Myanmar-Thailand, Malaysia-Thailand, Indonesia-Malaysia, Indonesia-Philippines, Malaysia-Philippines, Malaysia-Singapore, and Indonesia-Singapore. After a listing of the reasons, the next stage of the research will examine how the tensions were eventually resolved. In order to frame the research within the international and regional context, there will also be one paper each examining the general nature of international relations and Southeast Asian international relations in particular. This project aims at publishing an edited volume as an end product.

197. **Advancing ASEAN-EU Relations in the 21st Century**

**Date:** October 6, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; Centre for European Studies

This seminar aimed to address various issues regarding relations between ASEAN and the European Union, including the ASEAN Charter and the European Constitution, cooperation in the field of security, and the impacts of globalization on both ASEAN and the European Union.

198. **Workshop on Developing, Planning and Administering Humanitarian Disaster Relief**

**Date:** October 6–10, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies; Korean Institute of Defense Analysis

This workshop looked at various government approaches and processes used in managing disaster relief efforts.

199. **23rd Pacific Economic Community Seminar: Climate Change and Green Opportunities-Business, Society, and Cooperation**

**Date:** October 7, 2008

**Location:** Taipei

**Organizers/Supporters:** Pacific Economic Cooperation Council; Chinese Taipei Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee

This international conference, convened in Taipei, served as a regional forum for an exchange of views on the subject of climate change and green opportunities. Business opportunities were first explored by looking at ways to gain from the increasing emphasis on clean production and green consumption. The strategy and engagement of society in the battle against climate change were also discussed. Finally, regional cooperation mechanisms were examined in the goal that climate

change can be effectively addressed through collective means. Seventeen participants from the government, educational, and private sectors throughout the Asia-Pacific region, China, and Canada gathered for an exchange of views on the subject of climate change and green opportunities.

200. **Policy Forum on Towards a Copenhagen Consensus: Opportunities and Challenges**

**Date:** October 9–10, 2008

**Location:** Kyoto, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES); in collaboration with the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) and UNESCAP

IGES has held the forum since 2005 to deepen the debate in Asia on the international post-Kyoto climate change regime. Approximately 80 participants attended this forum, including regional policymakers, business leaders, and academics, as well as representatives from international organizations such as the OECD. The discussion focused on eight controversial themes in the Bali Action Plan, including sectoral approaches, co-benefits, adaptation, and the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. The results of this consultation were to be presented at a side event at the 14th Conference of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change scheduled for December 2008.

201. **European Integration and the Northeast Asian Community: Lessons Learned and Prospects**

**Date:** October 10, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, South Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) and Korean Association of International Studies (KAIS)

Conference participants met to discuss the experience of the European Union model and the establishment of a similar community in Northeast Asia. Numerous international experts participated, not only as presenters, but also as discussants during the conference.

202. **10th East Asia-Europe Think Tank Dialogue: Institutional Development in Regional Organizations-Charter Making in the EU and ASEAN**

**Date:** October 12–15, 2008

**Location:** Cebu, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)

The annual event promotes intellectual exchange and research collaboration between Track 2 representatives from East and Southeast Asian as well as EU countries. It aims to address common issues facing the respective regions, to exchange best practices and lessons learned in meeting similar challenges, and to provide inputs to inter-regional cooperation.

203. **APEC 2009 Symposium**

**Date:** October 14–16, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** APEC

About 200 senior government officials, business executives, and academics gathered to brainstorm ideas to advance Asia-Pacific economic integration. The two-day symposium covered three key issues for APEC: to reduce barriers to trade and investment flows, improve the region's business environment, and boost connectivity through improved transport and logistics networks.

204. **6th East Asia Forum (EAF)**

**Date:** October 15–16, 2008

**Location:** Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

**Organizers/Supporters:** East Asia Forum

The EAF is an international organization established following a proposal from the reports of the East Asia Vision Group and the East Asia Study Group, which were established at the request of the ASEAN+3 Summit. While the Network of East Asian Think-Tanks aims to promote the networking of think tanks and act as a source of research information to assist in building an East Asian community, the EAF assembles business, academia, and government representatives from ASEAN+3 countries and provides a knowledge base for regional integration in East Asia. Sixty-seven participants joined the forum from ASEAN+3 countries, held under the main theme of “Toward East Asia Community: Turning Challenges through Greater Cooperation and Collaboration into Opportunities.” Two sessions on the second day focused on greater cooperation and collaboration to address energy, food security, and the narrowing development gap, specifically accelerating regional integration and bringing strategic benefits to the region.

205. **5th ROK-US-Japan Joint Workshop**

**Date:** October 16–17, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Korea Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA), Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA); National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS)

This workshop was formulated by adding Japan to an already existing ROK-US security workshop. This workshop contributes to the security cooperation among the three countries through the promotion of dialogue on security-related current issues and political-military games.

206. **3rd Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe**

**Date:** October 17–18, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

The two-day conference was a culmination of ASEF’s new initiative that aimed to generate focused policy discussions on key socio-economic issues facing the two regions. The conference was a side event of the seventh Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) VII Summit in Beijing, which allowed dialogue among 45 international leaders on how to address the global financial and economic crisis, energy security, sustainable development, and climate change. The objective of the conference was to prepare a report on economic and social issues for ASEM, produced from expert analysis and multi-stakeholder consultation. The main issues of discussion included food and environmental security, energy and oil, and financial market turbulence. The conference brought together 50 international participants from the government, NGOs, academia, media, and research sectors.

207. **China-ASEAN Think Tank Strategic Dialogue: Managing Challenges, Expanding Cooperation**

**Date:** October 20–21, 2008

**Location:** Nanning, Guangxi

**Organizers/Supporters:** Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; ASEAN Think Tank Network; Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Convening thinktank experts from the ASEAN region countries and China, participants discussed a range of topics divided into six sessions and one special session. Topics included strategic trends in the Chinese perspective on East Asia; political developments in China and Southeast Asia China after the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party; China, ASEAN, and relations with Europe

and North America; and prospects for East Asia community building. Participants also discussed the role of Nanning in sub-regional economic cooperation and integration.

208. **Sub-regional Workshop on Addressing Multi-sectoral Determinants of Maternal Morality in the ESCAP Region**

**Date:** October 20–22, 2008

**Location:** Hefei, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The workshop brought together representatives from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Vietnam to discuss the findings of national level studies to share experiences of reducing maternal mortality and develop country-level action plans to address the issue. The participants discussed policy recommendations to address medical and non-medical factors in maternal mortality and highlighted regional examples of good practices in reducing maternal mortality.

209. **Asia-Pacific Development Cooperation Forum: Regional Workshop on Trends and Progress in Triangular and South-South Cooperation**

**Date:** October 21–22, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

Under the theme that South-South and triangular cooperation is of growing importance in Asia-Pacific regional development cooperation, participants in the regional workshop discussed a range of issues related to helping developing countries achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and transparent and accountable governance in order to become less dependent on external aid in the future.

210. **Expert Group Meeting on Sustainability of Economic Growth, Resource Efficiency and Resilience**

**Date:** October 22–24, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The expert group meeting convened international and regional experts involved in research on socio-economic and environmental interactions, resource efficiency, and economic, social and environmental resilience. Participants discussed developing an analytical framework for assessing the sustainability of economic growth and investigating resilience and resource-efficiency as key determinants of sustainability.

211. **WIPO/ESCAP High-Level Regional Round Table Dialogue on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights and Development**

**Date:** October 22–24, 2008

**Location:** Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP Trade and Investment Division; World Intellectual Property Organization; and Government of Mongolia

The high-level roundtable gathered representatives of Southeast Asian countries, China, and Mongolia, as well as leaders from the UN, Asia Foundation, and the private sector to raise awareness and promote regional cooperation in the area of trade and investment-related intellectual property rights. The participants discussed issues such as the importance of protecting intellectual property rights (IPR); IPR and the bilateral, regional, and multilateral trading system; intellectual property and public health; and capacity building for strengthening IPR in the Asia Pacific region.

212. **5th Meeting of Disaster and Environment Working Group of Asia (DEWGA)**

**Date:** October 24, 2008

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Recognizing that disaster risk reduction and environmental management are closely linked and that it is essential to systematically integrate environmental management into disaster risk reduction frameworks and vice-versa, the aim of DEWGA is to create a multi-disciplinary community of practitioners in the Asia Pacific region that seek to increase the synergy between the two sectors. Since 2007, the DEWGA has worked to improve the effectiveness of both disaster risk reduction and environmental sustainability through specific interventions on the ground and through long-term strategies.

213. **2nd Informal Consultation with South East Asian Countries on Perspective for a Post 2012 Climate Change Framework**

**Date:** October 26, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

At the second consultation, participants discussed the progress made since the first consultation meeting in April 2008. The participants also discussed the development of a climate actions framework to and beyond 2012 to promote the active participation of Southeast Asian countries and ensure that their perspectives are reflected during the negotiation process. The meeting reviewed the progress of mitigation and adaptation actions at the national and regional levels. The participants also requested that UNESCAP and other international organizations provide technical assistance as necessary to Southeast Asian countries, including capacity building for Designated National Authorities, exploring South-South cooperation on climate friendly technologies, and policy studies.

214. **11th PIIC Beijing Seminar on International Security: Building a Harmonious World of Stability and Win-Win**

**Date:** October 26–30, 2008

**Location:** Qingdao, Shandong Province, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Program for Science and National Security Studies; cosponsored by the Institute of Applied Physics and Computational Mathematics, China; the International School on Disarmament and Research on Conflicts, Italy; Chinese Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, China; Qingdao University, China

The main topics of the 11th seminar included the possibility of a nuclear weapons-free world, the risks of nuclear proliferation and benefits of nuclear power and technologies for civilian purposes, and other factors of concern on nuclear disarmament. The goal of the seminar was to continue to provide a forum for experts to discuss and exchange their views on issues of international security in light of the latest development in the global security environment. 10 previous seminars have been convened successfully every two years since 1988. They were actively attended by natural and social scientists, coming from both China and abroad, with a special focus on relations between science and important issues of international security.

215. **Transnational Security Challenges and Cross-Regional Cooperation**

**Date:** October 26–31, 2008

**Location:** Honolulu, Hawaii

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Pacific Center on Security Studies (APCSS) and George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies

Senior practitioners met to discuss broadened security perspectives beyond the boundaries of their respective regions and discuss areas for coordinated multilateral action at regional and cross-regional levels. The participants agreed that institutional links between Asia Pacific and Europe should be strengthened through free trade agreements, cross-regional safety mechanisms to ensure nuclear power safety, and consultations on reforming the international financial and monetary system, including crisis management mechanisms. The participants also discussed the development of a energy security code of conduct and the importance of promoting NGO and private sector participation in formulating and implementing cross-regional cooperation. As follow-up step, workshop participants endorsed a plan to conduct regular joint senior alumni seminars between the two organizations in the future.

**216. 17th Northeast Asia Economic Forum (NEAEF)**

**Date:** October 27–28, 2008

**Location:** Tianjin, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Northeast Asia Economic Forum (NEAEF); Tianjin Municipal Government

At the 17th annual forum, participants focused on energy cooperation between Northeast Asian countries, energy conservation and environment, financial cooperation and the establishment of a Northeast Asia Bank for Cooperation and Development (NEABCD), and transportation and logistics. It concluded with the adoption of the Tianjin Declaration, with all parties agreeing that Northeast Asian countries should work to strengthen multilateral cooperation and regional integration. There was also consensus on promptly establishing a Northeast Asian development bank. The forum witnessed the inauguration of the Northeast Asian Financial Cooperation Research Centre, which is expected to play a lead role in promoting financial cooperation and establishing the NEABCD. The forum gathered present and former officials and private sector representatives from China, South Korea, Russia, Japan, Mongolia, and the United States.

**217. International Conference on Sustainable Urban Environmental Practices**

**Date:** October 28–31, 2008

**Location:** Chiang Mai, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** Canadian International Development Agency and Asian Institute of Technology Partnership Southeast Asia Urban Environmental Applications Project; Asian Institute of Technology; Mae Fah Luang University; Chiang Mai Municipality

The conference was organized to promote an understanding of sustainable urban environmental theory and practices with various stakeholders, managers, and practitioners of sustainable urban development in this globalizing era. The specific objectives were to exchange views and ideas on institutional collaboration, community participation and synergistic public private partnership among the urban stakeholders in the region, to derive information on good practices for dissemination to all local and national policy makers and policy influencers toward the development of suitable urban environment management (UEM) policies, and to analyze and improve current policies and practices in urban development and understand their gender responsiveness in implementation. The conference was organized into panels on sustainable urban environmental practices based on five themes-UEM toward sustainability, urbanization, and land-use planning; livable cities and the institutionalization of UEM good practices; sustainable mitigation of urban pollution; and city energy, climate change, and globalization.

**218. Asia-Pacific Forum: “EAFTA, CEPEA, FTAAP and Beyond”**

**Date:** October 30–31, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Japan Economic Foundation and Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia



Focusing on East Asia and Asia-Pacific economic integration, the forum was divided into three sessions examining existing bilateral and regional free trade agreements (FTAs) in the Asia-Pacific region and the progress on the creation of the proposed East Asia Free Trade Area, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia, and the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific. The participants also discussed issues beyond FTAs in East Asia, including the possibility of a Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) FTA and various global warming-related issues

### **November**

#### **219. 2nd Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institute Meeting (NADI)**

**Date:** November 2–5, 2008

**Location:** Chonburi Province, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** Strategic Research Institute; National Defence Studies Institute  
Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters

This informal meeting for the ASEAN defense and security institutes to discuss issues and proposals relevant to the ASEAN defense ministers' meeting (ADMM) provided opportunities to share experiences and views on regional security challenges and political outlooks, and prospects and recommendations for ASEAN defense and security cooperation. The meeting produced a statement of principles submitted to the third ADMM meeting in advance of its meeting in late November 2008.

#### **220. Natural Catastrophe Risk Insurance Mechanisms for the Asia and Pacific Region**

**Date:** November 4–5, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The conference and workshops aimed to alert member countries to the potential for new catastrophe risk pooling opportunities and to hear the views of member countries on how such risk transfer vehicles could be most helpful to them in the context of their own risk management institutions. Its main objective was the development of consensus on forward action by governmental, private sector, and development partners to implement conference and workshop conclusions concerning the pooling of disaster management center risk in catastrophe insurance schemes, which could lead to the development of an ADB action plan for catastrophe insurance. Invited participants included ADB client countries, regional insurers and reinsurers, insurance brokers, financial institutes, development partners, multilateral development banks, and specialist research institutes.

#### **221. Regional Workshop on Institutional Changes Required to Achieve the MDG on Sanitation in Asia and the Pacific**

**Date:** November 4–6, 2008

**Location:** Macao, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

At the World Toilet Summit and Expo, a regional workshop was held for 25 experts from throughout Asia, including representatives from national governments and regional and international organizations. The workshop included a discussion on the institutional changes required for promoting sanitation as well presentations from country representatives on success stories of instituting new sanitation policies.

222. **2nd Annual Convention of the Consortium of Nontraditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia)**

**Date:** November 10–11, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Institute of Asia Pacific Studies; Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

NTS-Asia was established in 2007, with its secretariat based at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. With a network of 14 regional institutes and think tanks, NTS-Asia provides a platform for networking among scholars and analysts working on NTS issues in the region and seeks to build long-term and sustainable regional capacity for NTS research. At the second meeting, in addition to discussing the consortium's activities for the year, the participants addressed a range of current NTS issues such as food security, energy security, disaster diplomacy, and transnational crime.

223. **1st Regional Workshop on the Development of Eco-Efficient Water Infrastructure for Socio-economic Development in Asia and the Pacific Region**

**Date:** November 10–12, 2008

**Location:** Seoul, Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The first major activity of the project on “Development of Eco-efficient Water Infrastructure for Sustainable Development of Asia and the Pacific,” the workshop aimed to reach a common understanding on the concept of eco-efficient water infrastructure development as well as the benefits and challenges of water infrastructure. The participants also discussed a potential regional partnership on eco-efficient water infrastructure development through networking of organizations and experts in the region.

224. **Informal Consultation with the Asian-Pacific Developing Countries on Perspectives for a Post 2012 Climate Change Framework**

**Date:** November 11, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

One of a series of consultations between UNESCAP and developing Asian-Pacific countries on the post-2012 climate regime, the objectives of the meeting were to share views on potential follow-up actions after the Bali summit and to discuss ways to promote the active participation of the developing countries to ensure that their perspectives are reflected in the negotiation process. Approximately 30 negotiators and policy makers on climate change from regional developing countries and relevant organizations attended the meeting.

225. **Better Air Quality 2008**

**Date:** November 12–14, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** Bangkok Metropolitan Administration; the Pollution Control Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand; the Clear Air Initiative Asia Center; in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The fifth meeting held since 2001, the theme for the 2008 Better Air Quality workshop was “Air Quality and Climate Change: Scaling Up Win-Win Solutions for Asia.” The workshop aimed to show how Asian cities can improve air quality and mitigate climate change by

adopting a co-benefits approach that integrates urban air quality management, energy management, and climate change mitigation. Over 900 participants, including representatives from governments, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, academia, and intergovernmental agencies, gathered to listen to plenary and working group sessions organized within the thematic groups, including air quality management and climate change; transport and climate change; and stationary sources and indoor air pollution.

226. **Jeju Peace Institute-Konrad Adenauer Foundation Joint Conference: Peace and Security in Northeast Asia: Ways for Institutionalization**

**Date:** November 13, 2008

**Location:** Jeju, South Korea

**Organizers/Supporters:** Jeju Peace Institute, Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF)

Scholars from various fields from the United States, Germany, Austria, and Korea convened to ascertain the prospect for future cooperation and regional integration in Northeast Asia. Under the theme, "Peace and Security in Northeast Asia: Ways for Institutionalization," the following topics were discussed: new alliance dynamics in Northeast Asia and confidence building measures on the Korean Peninsula; peace and security in Europe and confidence building measures in pre-unified Germany; political economy of the peace regime on the Korean Peninsula and local governments' role for peace; and cooperation and economic development for human security regime in Northeast Asia as well as environmental cooperation in East Asia.

227. **The 2008 EWCA International Conference**

**Date:** November 13–15, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Supporters:** East-West Center Association (EWCA) and East-West Center (EWC)

Over 530 people from 45 different countries attended EWCA's 2008 international conference in Bali, Indonesia. The three-day event discussed a range of issues centered on the EWCA Strategic Plan: how to best support the EWC, how to energize their chapters, and how to use 21st century technology to communicate more effectively within the EWC/EWCA community. In addition, there was a broader series of programs that included a wide range of interests from music and education to globalization and human rights.

228. **3rd ARF Experts and Eminent Persons Meeting**

**Date:** November 13–15, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** ARF

Experts and eminent persons from 12 ARF countries attended, in addition to official representatives from most ARF member countries. Participants discussed ARF at 15 years-its experience and revelations-agreeing that ARF has been an important formal governmental security dialogue in the region. Participants also discussed present and future of ARF's confidence-building measures, the realities and practices of preventive diplomacy in the Asia Pacific, and key areas of non-traditional security cooperation.

229. **Building an Asia Pacific Community**

**Date:** November 13–15, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Supporters:** East-West Center

The conference brought together leaders from the government, education, and business sectors to discuss the creation of an Asia Pacific community. Under the theme of "Unity in Diversity,"

participants explored the major issues facing the region and consider ways to assist in their resolution. Themes included international relations, security, democracy and Islam, global warming, volunteerism, gender issues, innovation, health issues, future regional leaders, business, and culture.

230. **Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking**

**Date:** November 14, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP and International Organization on Migration (IOM)

Established in 2005, the working group consists of 16 UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations that focus on issues related to international migration. The group met four times in 2008 to share information on recent activities undertaken to address international migration issues such as human trafficking. Its activities culminated in October 2008 with the publication of the Situation Report on International Migration in East and South-East Asia, which identified recent levels and patterns of international migration at national and subregional levels in the region. The report provided an overview of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and explored specific migration issues such as gender, health, and regional cooperation.

231. **9th Trilateral Commission Pacific Asia Regional Meeting**

**Date:** November 14–16, 2008

**Location:** Shanghai, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Trilateral Commission; Japan Center for International Affairs (JCIE)

At the ninth annual regional meeting of the Trilateral Commission's Pacific Asia Group, members discussed (1) the rise of China and its potential as a partner in East Asia community building, (2) the financial crisis and its impact on East Asia regional economic integration, and (3) the growing impact of a dynamic East Asia on global governance. The Trilateral Commission was formed in 1973 by private citizens of Japan, Europe (European Union countries), and North America (United States and Canada) to foster closer cooperation among these core democratic industrialized areas of the world with shared leadership responsibilities in the wider international system. Over time, with the belief that its framework needed to be widened to reflect broader changes in the world, the Japan Group has become the Pacific Asian Group, and the North American and European groups have also expanded their membership. In addition to convening an annual plenary, each regional group carries out some activities of their own.

232. **3rd Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit**

**Date:** November 14–16, 2008

**Location:** Tokyo, Japan

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Society

Under the theme, "Challenges Beyond Borders, Solutions Beyond Cultures," the annual summit brought together some 200 "next-generation" leaders from the Asia-Pacific region and the United States to explore imaginative ways to address the most critical issues facing the Asia Pacific community today, develop common approaches to addressing these shared challenges, and cultivate the long-term relationships necessary for developing responses. Leading figures from across the fields of business, politics, civil society, media, arts and culture, and academia attended the event.

233. **Financial and Macroeconomic Issues in Asian Economic Integration**

**Date:** November 17, 2008

**Location:** New Delhi, India

**Organizers/Supporters:** East Asian Bureau of Economic Research (EABER); Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research

The second conference in a five year project on “Advancing Economic Integration in South and East Asia,” the project brings together EABER institutes from East Asia and a network of South Asian research institutes. Participants met to discuss financial sector reforms in India and South Asia, capital flow management in India and South Asia, and inflation and macroeconomic management in South Asia. They were also treated to a keynote session on inflation and macroeconomic management in India.

234. **19th Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue**

**Date:** November 17–18, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation

The NEACD meeting offered an opportunity for all the countries involved in the Six-Party Talks to come together at the same time to exchange views informally and consider the next steps going forward on issues concerning the Six-Party Talks and the long-term future of the security architecture in Northeast Asia. Participants discussed nuclear verification, long-range security issues, Japan’s level of support for multilateralism, and likely US policy under the Obama administration. Foreign and defense ministry policy-level officials, military officers, and academics from China, Russia, North and South Korea, Japan, and the United States took part in the meeting.

235. **3rd Korea-ASEAN Cooperation Forum**

**Date:** November 17–19, 2008

**Location:** Siem Reap, Cambodia

**Organizers/Supporters:** The Korea Foundation

A group of 30 leading representatives from various sectors in Korea and ASEAN countries gathered to discuss matters of mutual concern and to promote more active exchange. The Korea-ASEAN Cooperation Forum has been held annually since 2006.

**For information, see:**

236. **Asia Pacific Regional Water Conference 2008: “A Shared Future In Water”**

**Date:** November 17–19, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Institute of Strategic International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia and Water Association of Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya (SWAN)

Water and wastewater professionals from around the region gathered to share and exchange ideas on the latest developments, technology advances, case studies, and insights in sustainable water and wastewater management. They discussed long-term solutions to increase the global supply of clean and safe drinking water globally and in the Asia Pacific region specifically, in light of growing evidence that the region will be increasingly affected by water security issues in the future.

237. **4th APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Meeting of 2008**

**Date:** November 17–20, 2008

**Location:** Lima, Peru

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

ABAC, at its fourth and final meeting in 2008, has called on APEC Leaders and Ministers to seize the opportunity in responding to the global economic crisis to chart a course that will set all APEC economies on a path of recovery and renewed growth and development. The ABAC participants called on APEC leaders to throw their weight behind steps to resolve the outstanding issues in the Doha Round of trade negotiations. They also supported the undertaking by G-20 leaders to refrain from raising new barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services, imposing new export restrictions, or implementing World Trade Organization (WTO) inconsistent measures to stimulate exports. In addition, the participants declared the need to enhance small and medium enterprise development in order for individual APEC economies to be globally competitive. Other issues considered at the ABAC meeting included trade and investment facilitation measures, labor mobility, food security, corporate social responsibility, energy security, ICT-enabled growth, and intellectual property rights protection.

**238. UNESCAP/International Labor Organization (ILO) Sub-Regional Workshop on Sharing Experiences between Asian and Pacific Countries to Improve Income and Employment Opportunities for Vulnerable Groups—Paving the Way for National Action Plan**

**Date:** November 17–21, 2008

**Location:** Nadi, Fiji

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP and International Labour Organization (ILO)

The objective of the workshop was to capitalize on regional lessons learned as well as ILO expertise to take effective action to address youth employment problems in the region. The participants discussed the specific issues associated with youth employment problems and studied the ILO's guidelines on national action plans. The participants sought to identify steps to pave the way for the design of individual national action plans for youth employment in each country. The workshop also introduced the "Guide to Preparing the National Action Plans on Youth Employment," an operational document on meeting the goal of productive employment and decent work for young people.

**239. Expert Group Meeting on World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+5 and Emerging Issues in Asia and the Pacific**

**Date:** November 18–19, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (UNESCAP-IDD)

Organized as a pre-session activity of the First Committee Session on Information Communication Technologies by UNESCAP-IDD, the expert group's was organized under the overall theme of WSIS+5 regional review and discussed emerging trends in information and communication technologies (ICT) in the Asia Pacific region. It highlighted key issues related to ICT development in the region, focusing on the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action. Participants also discussed newly emerging issues such as the relationship between ICT and disaster risk reduction as well as ICT and food security.

**240. 16th International Conference of the East and Southeast Network for Better Local Governments**

**Date:** November 19–21, 2008

**Location:** Olongapo City, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)

An international conference organized by the Manila-based NGO Local Government Development Foundation, KAS Singapore, and the city government of Olongapo, the conference

was focused around the theme, “Cities in Search of Ideal Communities.” Delegates from eight Asian countries convened to exchange information and raise public awareness on innovations in local government management. Urban development experts presented papers on topics such as creating livable communities in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Cambodia, good practices in urban governance, and the role of collaborative initiative.

**241. 3rd PECC Seminar on Water Management in Islands, Coastal, and Isolated Areas**

**Date:** November 20–21, 2008

**Location:** Honolulu, Hawaii

**Organizers/Supporters:** Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and East-West Center

The meeting was convened to address a series of issues in preparation for the Istanbul meeting of the World Water Forum, including the cost analysis of technologies in the field of water sanitation and water treatment; analysis of the level of embodied energy in each technology to reduce the overall operational and usage costs for users; identification of best practices in protecting the water resources, taking into account the necessity for preventive sanitation and the development of the use of recycled water to compensate water scarcity in regions under a severe water stress, and the conditions that allow for better water service management.

**242. APEC CEO Summit**

**Date:** November 20–23, 2008

**Location:** Lima, Peru

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

The theme of the APEC CEO summit was “Growth, Equity and Sustainable Development: Challenges for APEC.” First conceived in 1996 as an opportunity for corporate CEOs to participate in the APEC leaders’ meetings, the annual summit gathers prominent members from both the public and private sectors of its member economies to facilitate cooperation between the two sectors. This year, 12 economic leaders, including Chinese president Hu Jintao, US president George W. Bush, and Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd; over 1200 political delegates; and nearly 600 CEOs attended the two-day event, which took place in Peru. Responding to the current economic climate, the summit concluded by appealing for public-private joint action to address the global financial crisis and to facilitate trade liberalization, emphasizing the need to restore confidence and prevent protectionism.

**243. The Future of Economic Integration in Asia: “Challenges amid Global Financial Turmoil”**

**Date:** November 21–22, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC); Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University

More than 300 participants from government, business, and academia attended the two-day conference, which examined the future of economic integration in Asia. The sessions included topics on financial integration in Asia, including foreign direct investment, business opportunities, and the challenges of sustainability in terms of economic growth, resources, and the environment. A common view held by the participants was that progress in Asia’s economic integration can maximize the potential of Asia as a whole and act as a mechanism to channel Asia’s savings into productive investment opportunities within the region. The participants concluded that tripartite dialogues among business, academia, and policy makers should be further promoted and activated.

244. **7th Asian Public Intellectuals (API) Workshop**

**Date:** November 22–26, 2008

**Location:** Yogyakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Nippon Foundation

The theme of the seventh API workshop was “Asian Alternatives for a Sustainable World: Transborder Engagements in Knowledge Formation.” The API program, which is funded by The Nippon Foundation, has a mandate to promote mutual learning among Asian academics, media professionals, public servants, writers, and NGO workers, and is designed to stimulate the creation of a pool of such intellectuals in the region. The fellows are hosted in Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand, and work on year-long projects such as research papers, films, series of journalistic articles, data gathering, building networks, and works of art. At the annual workshop, the participants share the results and outcomes of their projects.

245. **South China Sea Conference 2008**

**Date:** November 25–29, 2008

**Location:** Kuantan, Malaysia

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

In conjunction with the International Year of Planet Earth, the conference provided an opportunity to gather current information on the state of research in the South China Sea in order to formulate research priorities for this region. Topics of discussion included coastal biodiversity and bioproductivity, and eco-engineering technologies for coastal protection. Scientists, environmentalists, lawyers, and policy-makers were invited to the event, which included a field trip to the Kuantan-Kemaman coastal area.

246. **Conference on Energy and Climate Change: “Challenges and Opportunities”**

**Date:** November 26–27, 2008

**Location:** Bahrain

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Cooperation Dialogue

Experts from throughout Asia met to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to energy and climate change. Topics included climate change and its implication for ACD member states; possible programs and mechanisms for technology transfer, especially the technology of clean fuel production and the efficient utilization of energy resources; coordination and cooperation between ACD member countries in exchanging expertise and CDM project attraction; and means that might help ACD countries to benefit from financial tools and mechanisms related to the mitigation and compliance programs of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

247. **Expert Group Meeting on Economic and Social Performance and Issues in the ESCAP Region**

**Date:** November 26–27, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

UNESCAP experts gathered to discuss chapters from the publication “Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2009.” The secretariat reviewed four chapters, which focused on the impact of the financial crisis; underlying factors and policy responses to the food and fuel crisis; resilience and policy responses to the impact of climate change; and policy responses to the convergence of crises and the compounding threat to development.



248. **Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific**

**Date:** November 26–28, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** ADB and OECD

While corruption is often discussed from the demand side (e.g. bribe solicitation), the conference provided an opportunity to address the corruption from the supply side (e.g. bribe giving). Regional experts and representatives from the private sector and civil society met to assess their shared responsibility to fight bribery and corruption. The participants agreed that corruption occurs where the private and public sectors intersect and that reducing corruption is not the responsibility of governments alone. Based on the workshop discussions, the final plenary proposed action to advance the fight against bribe giving in the Asia-Pacific region.

249. **Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument: Workshop on Cybercrime Legislation in ASEAN Member States**

**Date:** November 27–28, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEAN

Participants from ASEAN member countries reviewed the Convention on Cybercrime and how it can be implemented, discussed how to initiate analysis of their national legislation concerning the provisions of the convention; identified the steps to be taken to further strengthen their national legislation concerning protection against cybercrime. Representatives from the ASEAN member countries, a European Commission delegation, and experts from both regions took part in the workshop.

250. **Global Energy Fulcrum: Asian Development and International Response**

**Date:** November 30–December 5, 2008

**Location:** Salzburg, Austria

**Organizers/Supporters:** Salzburg Global Seminar

This session examined the implications of Asian development on the global energy equation and looked specifically at the tensions between production and consumption-based economies.

**December**

251. **30th CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting**

**Date:** December 1–2, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)

The CSCAP Steering Committee, which is always co-chaired by an ASEAN member country representative and a non-ASEAN member country representative, met for its biannual meeting in order to review the progress of the CSCAP working groups and determine the CSCAP work plan for the coming year. CSCAP provides an informal mechanism for experts, academics, and officials in their private capacities to discuss political and security issues and challenges facing the region and to provide policy recommendations to various inter-governmental bodies.

252. **36th Meeting of the APEC Energy Working Group**

**Date:** December 1–5, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** APEC

APEC country representatives heard reports from the APEC secretariat and chair of the Energy Business Network, as well as a progress report on the SOM steering committee on ECOTECH independent assessment of the energy working group. Participants also heard presentations from the Energy Charter Secretariat as well as the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership. In addition, representatives discussed the implementation of the APEC Energy Security Initiative, including both its short term and long term measures.

253. **3rd ASEAN GO-NGO Forum**

**Date:** December 2, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEAN

Representatives from ASEAN government organizations (GOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) gathered in Hanoi for the third ASEAN GO-NGO Forum to share experiences in social welfare and make recommendations to their government leaders. Leading up to and during this forum there was strong collaboration between the country governments, national councils, and other participating NGOs. At the forum, a series of presentations and discussions were held in the areas of social protection, trafficking in persons, and adaptation to climate change. The forum adopted a set of recommendations, including prescriptions for the organization of the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development, acknowledgement of the strategic role of the GO-NGO forum in building a people-centered ASEAN, and recommendations to allow future forums to provide expanded opportunities for dialogue between GOs and NGOs on key regional social welfare and development issues. Members agreed that participation of the NGOs in the forum should be expanded and not limited only to the ICSW's national councils.

254. **6th East Asia Congress**

**Date:** December 3–6, 2008

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Organizers/Supporters:** The Network of East Asian Think-tanks; Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia

The sixth congress focused on the theme of "Increasing Regional Resilience Amidst Rising Risks." Session topics included "Are Regional Cooperation Mechanisms Sufficient to Handle Economic Crises?" and "The US Presidential Elections: What Happened? Why and What Implications for East Asia?" Additionally, the participants discussed the ability of regional cooperation mechanisms to address economic crises, the political stability of East Asian countries amidst rising risks, the role of the internet and new media in empowering regional communities, and strengthening East Asia's regional and extra-regional relations.

255. **Governance of a Globalising World: Whither Asia and the West?**

**Date:** December 3–6, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** National University of Singapore, Centre on Asia and Globalisation

The center's S.T. Lee Project on Global Governance launched its inaugural conference on the topic "The Governance of a Globalising World: Whither Asia and the West?" This conference is part of the three-year project's goal of developing new approaches to governance in a world that includes a rising Asia. At the conference, participants, who ranged from prominent professors, heads of think tanks, and high-ranking policymakers, debated on issues such as the changing nature of sovereignty and world order. They shared perspectives on global governance, and examined the effectiveness and legitimacy of the multitude of actors and mechanisms involved in managing the world's most pressing global issues.

256. **6th CSCAP Biannual General Conference**

**Date:** December 7–8, 2008

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Organizers/Supporters:** Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)

With “Great Power Relations and Regional Community Building in East Asia” as the theme, the conference lasted two days, with the first day devoted to broadening understanding of the strategic and macroeconomic relationship between China, Japan, and the United States, gauging their respective views regarding of one another’s roles and intentions in the region, and then exploring how to build a sustainable regional order. Against the backdrop of this broader power architecture, day two of the conference was intended to address specific issues and threats regarding peace and security in the region, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, peacekeeping and peace building, maritime security in the Malacca Straits, terrorism, and the security implications of climate change. Over 300 participants attended, including scholars, journalists, activists, and government officials. In addition, a large number of the participants included university students and young scholars.

257. **ASEM Workshop on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development**

**Date:** December 8–9, 2008

**Location:** Vientiane, Lao PDR

**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEAN

The workshop built on the conclusions and recommendations of the ASEM ICT Ministerial Meeting held in Hanoi in November 2006, which, among other things, acknowledged “the different levels of ICT development among ASEM members, particularly the digital divide between developed and developing countries.” The workshop offered a platform for senior government officials from ASEM countries as well as representatives from international organizations to share best practices and knowledge from national and regional ICT development programs with the goal of offering practical solutions to bridge the digital divide. It also explored Euro-Asia cooperation opportunities in that field, drawing on successful models such as the Trans-Eurasia Information Network. In addition, the commencement of a new phase, TEIN3, was announced at this occasion. The workshop participants also exchanged views on ways to improve ICT policy and regulatory environment.

258. **4th Asia Economic Summit**

**Date:** December 8–9, 2008

**Location:** Hong Kong

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute

Bringing together leading strategic thinkers, government officials, and business leaders from the region, the summit examined the strategic economic challenges faced by Asia and the prospects going forward. Panel sessions included topics on the role of government in enhancing competitiveness and the business environment, the Asia economic outlook and coping with the global financial crisis, private equity in Asia and how resources can be better utilized, climate change and the environment, how businesses can go green, and the sustainability of Asia’s property market.

259. **2nd Asia-Europe Economic Forum (AEEF) Conference-The Global Financial Crisis: Policy Choices in Asia and Europe**

**Date:** December 8–10, 2008

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia Europe Economic Forum

More than 20 high-ranking scholars and experts, senior policymakers, and business executives from East Asia and Europe gathered to exchange views about the causes of the financial crisis, its current and future consequences in the different national economies, and necessary actions at the global, regional, and national levels. Like the previous AEEF in 2006, it provided Asian and European policy experts and practitioners with an opportunity for in-depth, research-based exchanges on global issues of mutual interest.

260. **ARTNeT-PEP Policy Forum on Trade, Investment and Domestic Policy Coherence for Inclusive Growth**

**Date:** December 9, 2008

**Location:** Manila, Philippines

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

Trade and economic experts from Southeast Asia, Brazil, Canada, the United States, and other countries gathered at the meeting to discuss domestic policies in relation to trade, investment, and growth. The meeting focused on topics such as mechanisms for more inclusive policy making, inclusive growth and poverty dynamics, and reducing regional disparities through regional integration.

261. **High-Level Regional Policy Dialogue on “The Food-Fuel Crisis and Climate Change: Reshaping the Development Agenda”**

**Date:** December 9–10, 2008

**Location:** Bali, Indonesia

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

The high-level policy dialogue was held to address the food and fuel crises and the issue of climate change in a comprehensive and integrated manner. The main objective of the dialogue was to find strategies to address the impact of these crises and to prevent them from becoming a development emergency. The dialogue was attended by more than 100 policymakers, economists, climate change specialists, food and energy security experts, agricultural innovators, private sector entrepreneurs, and civil society representatives from the Asia-Pacific region to discuss the core issues—impact of the convergence of the crises, the financial crisis and regional impacts, food security and sustainable agriculture, and energy security—and come up with an outcome document with actionable recommendations.

262. **Global Development Learning Network Seminar on Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in East Asia and the Pacific—Session 1: Lessons Learned and Knowledge Sharing Seminar on Post-disaster Recovery Planning**

**Date:** December 11, 2008

**Location:** Online

**Organizers/Supporters:** World Bank

As part of the World Bank’s EAP Sector Management Unit Initiatives, a program promoting outreach and knowledge-sharing, an online seminar series was organized for officials in regional governments and World Bank staff working in country offices. The first of three online seminars, conducted via video conference, focused on post-disaster recovery planning and lessons learned. Participants included central government officials; representatives from ministries of finance,

planning, disaster recovery management, and public works; provincial and municipal governments who are in charge or and involved in the post-disaster recovery planning and implementation; and representatives from civil society and academia.

263. **13th Talks on the Hill: Ethnicity, Race, and Politics**

**Date:** December 11–12, 2008

**Location:** Singapore

**Organizers/Supporters:** Asia-Europe Foundation

These talks examined the challenges of ethnic relations and the impact of ethnic relations on national political and socio-economic situations, looking at relevant cases in Asia and Europe. Participants focused on cases where ethnic tensions are latent in society, in the sense that the tipping point for violent conflict has not been reached, and where governments have the timeliest and broadest cause for effective action.

264. **Meeting of Chairs of the Typhoon Committee Working Groups**

**Date:** December 11–12, 2008

**Location:** Macao, China

**Organizers/Supporters:** UNESCAP

At a previous UNESCAP event, “Integrated Workshop on Coping with Climate Change,” held in September 2008, the participants agreed to hold a small meeting of the chairs of working groups of the Typhoon Committee in order to discuss the formulation of new integrated projects on urban flood management and on coping with climate change, as well as other priority activities of the Typhoon Committee. Discussions were held with a view to formulate integrated projects involving the three working groups of the Typhoon Committee—Meteorology, Hydrology and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness.

265. **Renewable Energy Asia 2008 and an International Conference & 4th SEE Forum Meeting**

**Date:** December 11–13, 2008

**Location:** New Delhi, India

**Organizers/Sponsors:** ASEAN

The international conference gathered experts from around the world with the objectives of reviewing state of the art renewable energy technologies in the Asian region and discussing the mitigation of green house gas emission and global climatic change. Participants discussed recent advances in solar, biomass, biogas, wind, and other renewable energy technologies, the social and economical aspects of renewable energy, and the possibilities for mutual cooperation among Asian countries in the area of renewable energy. Parallel technical sessions included topics on the economic, social, and environmental aspects of renewal energy economics; biodiesel, bioethano, and solar thermal energy sources; renewable energy policy and education; advances in biomethanation technology; clean development mechanism and solar buildings; biomass gasification and other utilization; and solar photovoltaic, small hydro, and wind energy technologies.

266. **2008 ASEAN Business & Investment Summit: People to People-Commitment towards ASEAN Prosperity**

**Date:** December 13–15, 2008

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers/Supporters:** ASEAN Business Advisory Council

Organized annually to coincide with the ASEAN Summit, this summit functions as a networking platform for regional businesses, bringing together private and public sector organizations,

government representatives, and members of the business community from within and outside ASEAN for intensive discussions. Over 1,000 delegates attended the three-day summit, which featured dialogues on sharing best practices to advance business in the ASEAN economic community. Sessions were organized on such topics as doing business the ASEAN way, ASEAN and the Asian economic century, EU-ASEAN relations in the new era, and the global financial crisis and ASEAN responses.

267. **International Conference on Energy Security in the North Pacific**

**Date:** December 14–17, 2008

**Location:** Honolulu, Hawaii

**Organizers/Supporters:** Korea Energy Economics Institute; East-West Center

Energy experts from governments, private companies, institutes, and universities across Northeast Asia, Russia, the United States, and Canada convened to define the key global and regional issues that affect energy security in the North Pacific region.

268. **Promoting the Universality of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Annexed Protocols in South Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands**

**Date:** December 17–18, 2008

**Location:** Kathmandu, Nepal

**Organizers/Supporters:** United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

The regional seminar aimed to support the universality of the convention and its protocols by promoting accession to it by countries in the region that are not yet party to it. The seminar served as a forum for participants to exchange views on the benefits of adherence to the convention as well as the challenges of implementing its provisions. The seminar drew participants from throughout Southeast Asia and was the last of six regional seminars organized by UNODA and financed by the European Union as part of the implementation of the convention's Plan of Action to Promote the Universality of the CCW.

269. **International Conference on Trans-boundary Air Pollution in North-East Asia**

**Date:** December 17–19, 2008

**Location:** Moscow, Russia

**Organizers/Supporters:** North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC); Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center (ADORC)

The international conference was organized by NEASPEC and ADORC as part of the project on "Mitigation of Trans-boundary Pollution from Coal-fired Power Plants in Northeast Asia." The participants took part in sessions on the state of transboundary air pollution in Northeast Asia, specifically focusing on the impact from coal-fired power plants. The participants also discussed possible regional and bilateral actions to combat transboundary air pollution, including the East Asia acid deposition monitoring network, joint research projects on long-range transboundary air pollutants, and the potential of integrated assessment models.

## Publications

This section offers an illustrative list of works published in 2008 that are relevant to East Asian regionalism and security broadly defined. We have tried to include primarily books and reports of a significant length as these shed light on the types of collaborative and individual research projects that were being conducted in the years leading up to 2008, and which were feeding into the broader discourse from 2008 onward. Papers, briefs, and reports under 50 pages in length were generally omitted unless thought to be of particular relevance, as were publications that focused on a single country. For links to full descriptions of these publications, please visit our website at <http://www.jcie.or.jp/drm/2008/publications.html>. Please note that the inclusion of publications here does not constitute a review or endorsement of the publication by JCIE.

1. ***2008 Senior Officials' (SOM) Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation***  
SOM Committee on ECOTECH ❖ APEC
2. ***A Future Within Reach 2008: Regional Partnerships for the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific***  
UNESCAP, UNDP, and ADB
3. ***A Rising China and Security in East Asia: Identity Construction and Security Discourse***  
Rex Li ❖ Routledge
4. ***Administrative Law and Governance in Asia***  
Tom Ginsburg and Albert H. Y. Chen, eds. ❖ Routledge
5. ***America's Role in Asia: Asian and American Perspectives***  
Asia Foundation
6. ***APEC Energy Overview 2007***  
APEC Energy Working Group ❖ APEC
7. ***ASEAN (Seasia Background Ser. no. 10)***  
Rodolfo C. Severino ❖ Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
8. ***ASEAN at 40: Realizing the People's Expectations***  
ASEAN-ISIS, ISDS Philippines, and KAS Singapore ❖ Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
9. ***ASEAN Community: Unblocking the Roadblocks***  
Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
10. ***Asia Pacific Security Survey 2008***  
Richard W. Baker and Galen W. Fox ❖ East-West Center
11. ***Asia Rising: Who's Leading?***  
Amitav Acharya ❖ World Scientific
12. ***Asia-Pacific Human Development Report 2008: Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives-Accelerating Human Development in Asia and the Pacific***  
UNDP and Palgrave Macmillan

13. ***Asia's New Institutional Architecture: Evolving Structures for Managing Trade, Financial, and Security Relations***  
Vinod K. Aggarwal and Min Gyo Ko, eds. ❖ Springer Berlin Heidelberg
14. ***Asia's New Regionalism and Global Role: Agenda for the East Asia Summit***  
Nagesh Kumar, K. Kesavapany, and Yao Chaocheng, eds. ❖ Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
15. ***Asian Development Outlook 2008***  
Asian Development Bank
16. ***Asian Economic Integration***  
Anil Kumar Thakur and Adesh Sharma, eds. ❖ Deep & Deep Publications
17. ***Asian Strategic Review 2008***  
S.D. Muni, ed. ❖ Academic Foundation
18. ***Asian-European Relations: Building Blocks for Global Governance?***  
Jurgen Ruland, Gunter Schubert, Gunter Schucher, Cornelia Storz, eds. ❖ Routledge
19. ***Attitudes and Awareness Towards ASEAN: Findings of a Ten-Nation Survey***  
Eric C. Thompson and Chulanee Thianthai ❖ Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
20. ***Banking Reform in Southeast Asia—The Region's Decisive Decade***  
Malcolm Cook ❖ Routledge
21. ***Bridging Strategic Asia***  
Derek J. Mitchell ❖ Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
22. ***Building Resilience: Human Security Approaches to AIDS in Africa and Asia***  
Susan Hubbard and Tomoko Suzuki ❖ Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)
23. ***Capital Flows, Macroeconomic Management and Regional Cooperation in Asia***  
Kyung Tae Lee and Ramkishan Rajan, eds. ❖ Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP)
24. ***Changing Governance and Public Policy in East Asia***  
Ka H. Mok and Ray Forrest, eds. ❖ Routledge
25. ***Changing Security Dynamics in Southeast Asia***  
N. S. Sisodia and Sreeradha Datta, eds. ❖ Magnum Books
26. ***China and Asia: Economic and Financial Interactions***  
Yin-Wong Cheung and Kar-Yiu Wong, eds. ❖ Routledge
27. ***China and Southeast Asia***  
Geoff Wade ❖ Routledge
28. ***China, East Asia and the Global Economy: Regional and Historical Perspectives***  
Takeshi Hamashita ❖ Routledge



29. ***Climate Change in Asia: Perspectives on the Future Climate Regime***  
Yasuko Kameyama, Agus P. Sari, Moekti H. Soejachmoen, and Norichika Kanie, eds. ❖ United Nations University Press
30. ***Climate Change Negotiations: Can Asia Change The Game?***  
Christine Loh and Andrew Stevenson, eds. ❖ Inkstone Books
31. ***Climate Change Policies in the Asia-Pacific: Re-uniting Climate Change and Sustainable Development***  
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
32. ***The Climate Regime Beyond 2012: Reconciling Asian Developmental Priorities and Global Climate Interests***  
Srinivasan Ancha, ed. ❖ Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
33. ***Confidence and Confusion: National Identity and Security Alliances in Northeast Asia (Issues & Insights, vol. 8, no. 16)***  
Brad Glosserman and Scott Snyder ❖ Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
34. ***Constructing a Security Community in Southeast Asia: ASEAN and the Problem of Regional Order (2nd ed.)***  
Amitav Acharya ❖ Routledge
35. ***CSCAP Regional Security Outlook 2008***  
Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)
36. ***Delivering As One: Asia-Pacific Regional MDG Road Map 2008–2015***  
Brian Job, ed. ❖ UNESCAP
37. ***Do Institutions Matter? Regional Institutions and Regionalism in East Asia***  
See Seng Tan, ed. ❖ Research and Information System for Developing Countries
38. ***East Asia at a Crossroads***  
Jusuf Wanandi and Tadashi Yamamoto, eds. ❖ Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)
39. ***East Asian Regionalism***  
Christopher M. Dent ❖ Routledge
40. ***East Asian Strategic Review 2008***  
Shinichi Ogawa, ed. ❖ National Institute for Defense Studies (Japan)
41. ***Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008: Sustaining Growth and Sharing Prosperity***  
UNESCAP
42. ***Economic Integration in Asia and India***  
Masahisa Fujita, ed. ❖ Palgrave MacMillan

43. ***The Emerging Architecture for Security and Cooperation in Northeast Asia (Issues & Insights vol. 8, no. 3)***  
James E. Goodby ❖ Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
44. ***Emerging Asian Regionalism: A Partnership for Shared Prosperity***  
Asian Development Bank
45. ***Energy Security: Visions From Asia and Europe***  
Antonio Marquina, ed. ❖ Palgrave MacMillan
46. ***Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific***  
UNESCAP
47. ***ESCAP Series on Inclusive and Sustainable Development 2: The Current Global Financial Turmoil and Asian Developing Countries***  
UNESCAP
48. ***Fighting Bribery in Public Procurement in Asia and the Pacific***  
Asian Development Bank
49. ***Framing Security Agendas: US Counterterrorist Policies and Southeast Asian Responses***  
Rosemary Foot ❖ Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
50. ***From the Ground Up: Case Studies in Community Empowerment***  
Asian Development Bank
51. ***Globalisation and Defence in the Asia-Pacific: Arms Across Asia***  
Geoffrey Till, Emrys Chew, and Joshua Ho, eds. ❖ Routledge
52. ***Globalization and its Counter-forces in Southeast Asia***  
Terence Chong, ed. ❖ Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
53. ***Globalization and the Poor in Asia: Can Shared Growth Be Sustained?***  
Machiko Nissanke and Erik Thorbecke, eds. ❖ Palgrave Macmillan
54. ***Governance and Regionalism in Asia***  
Nicholas Thomas, ed. ❖ Routledge
55. ***Governments, NGOs and Anti-Corruption: The New Integrity Warriors***  
Luís de Sousa, Barry Hindess, and Peter Larmour, eds. ❖ Routledge
56. ***Grand Design for an Asian Inter-Regional Professional Securities Market***  
Shigehito Inukai, ed. ❖ National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA)
57. ***Human Security in East Asia: Challenges for Collaborative Action***  
Sorpong Peou, ed. ❖ Routledge
58. ***ICT Infrastructure in Emerging Asia: Policy and Regulatory Roadblocks***  
Rohan Samarajiva and Ayesha Zainudeen ❖ Sage Publications

59. ***Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction: Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Experiences in the Asia-Pacific Region 2008***  
Rajib Shaw, Noralene Uy, and Jennifer Baumwoll, eds. ❖ UNISDR Asia and Pacific
60. ***Indonesia and the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement: Nationalists and Regional Integration Strategy***  
Alexander C. Chandra ❖ Rowman and Littlefield
61. ***Institutional Balancing in the Asia Pacific***  
Kai He ❖ Routledge
62. ***The Institutional Foundations of Structural Reform in the Asia-Pacific Region***  
Philippa Dee, ed. ❖ Australian National University
63. ***Institutionalizing Northeast Asia—Making the Impossible Possible?***  
Tsuchiyama Jitsu, Ramesh Thakur, and Martina Timmermann ❖ United Nations University
64. ***Institutions of the Asia-Pacific: ASEAN, APEC and Beyond***  
Mark Beeson ❖ Routledge
65. ***International Relations in Southeast Asia: The Struggle for Autonomy, 2nd edition***  
Donald E. Weatherbee ❖ Rowman and Littlefield
66. ***International Relations of Asia***  
David Shambaugh and Michael Yahuda, eds. ❖ Rowman and Littlefield
67. ***Japan and China in East Asian Integration***  
Lim Hua Sing ❖ Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
68. ***Joint US-Korea Academic Studies vol. 18: Towards Sustainable Economic and Security Relations in East Asia-US and ROK Policy Options***  
Korea Economic Institute
69. ***Key Economic Developments and Prospects in the Asia-Pacific Region 2008***  
UNESCAP
70. ***Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2008***  
Asian Development Bank
71. ***Labour Mobility in the Asia-Pacific Region: Dynamics, Issues and a New APEC Agenda***  
Hugo, Graeme and Young, Soogil, eds. ❖ Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
72. ***Lessons from the Asian Financial Crisis***  
Richard Carney, ed. ❖ Routledge
73. ***Liberation from Liberalization: Gender and Globalization in South East Asia***  
Roksana Bahramitash ❖ Zed Books Ltd
74. ***The Long Shadow: Nuclear Weapons and Security in 21st Century Asia***  
Muthiah Alagappa, ed. ❖ Stanford University Press

75. ***Managing Asian Cities***  
Asian Development Bank
76. ***Managing the China Challenge Global Perspectives***  
Quansheng Zhao and Guoli Liu, eds. ❖ Routledge
77. ***Maritime Counter-Terrorism: A Pan-Asian Perspective***  
Swati Parashar, ed. ❖ Observer Research Foundation
78. ***Mega-Urban Regions in Pacific Asia: Urban Dynamics in a Global Era***  
Gavin Jones and Mike Douglass ❖ National University of Singapore Press
79. ***Melancholy Order: Asian Migration and the Globalization of Borders***  
Adam McKeown ❖ Columbia University Press
80. ***The New Asian Hemisphere: The Irresistible Shift of Global Power to the East***  
Kishore Mahbubani ❖ Select Books
81. ***Northeast Asia Energy Outlook***  
Korea Economic Institute
82. ***Nuclear Matters in North Korea: Building a Multilateral Response for Future Stability in Northeast Asia***  
James L. Schoff, Charles M. Perry, and Jacquelyn K. Davis ❖ Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis
83. ***Pacific Food System Outlook 2007–2008: Linkages to Growing Urban Markets Spur Rural Development***  
Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
84. ***Party Politics in East Asia: Citizens, Elections, and Democratic Development***  
Russell J. Dalton, Doh Chull Shin, and Yun-han Chu, eds. ❖ Lynne Rienner
85. ***Peace and Security in Northeast Asia: Ways for Institutionalization***  
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
86. ***People's ASEAN and Governments' ASEAN (RSIS Monograph no. 11)***  
Hiro Katsumata and Tan See Seng, eds. ❖ S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
87. ***The Political Economy of East Asia: Regional and National Dimensions***  
Kevin G. Cai ❖ Palgrave Macmillan
88. ***The Political Economy of Educational Reforms and Capacity Development in Southeast Asia***  
Yasushi Hirosato and Yuto Kitamura, eds. ❖ Springer
89. ***The Political Economy of Regionalism in East Asia: Integrative Explanation for Dynamics and Challenges***  
Hidetaka Yoshimitsu ❖ Palgrave Macmillan

90. ***Poverty Reduction Through Sustainable Fisheries: Emerging Policy and Governance Issues in Southeast Asia***  
Roehlano M. Briones and Arnulfo G. Garcia ❖ Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
91. ***Production Networks and Industrial Clusters: Integrating Economies in Southeast Asia***  
Ikuo Kuroiwa and Toh Mun Heng, eds. ❖ Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
92. ***Radicalization of Muslim Communities in Southeast Asia: Conference Proceedings***  
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
93. ***Redefining AIDS in Asia: Crafting an Effective Response***  
Oxford University Press
94. ***Regional Outlook Forum 2008: Summary Report***  
Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
95. ***Regional Outlook: Southeast Asia 2008–2009***  
Deepak Nair and Lee Poh Onn, eds. ❖ Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
96. ***Responses to Regionalism in East Asia***  
Andrew Staples ❖ Palgrave Macmillan
97. ***Rethinking Historical Injustice and Reconciliation in Northeast Asia: The Korean Experience***  
Gi-Wook Shin, Soon-Won Park, and Daqing Yang, eds. ❖ Routledge
98. ***Security and International Politics in the South China Sea: Towards a Cooperative Management Regime***  
Sam Bateman and Ralf Emmer, eds. ❖ Routledge
99. ***Security and Migration in Asia: The Dynamics of Securitisation***  
Melissa Curley and Siu-lun Wong, eds. ❖ Routledge
100. ***Security Issues in the Asia-Pacific Region (NIDS Joint Research Series no. 2)***  
National Institute for Defense Studies, Japan and Center for Military and Strategic Studies, General Staff of the Armed Forces, the Russian Federation
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Peter Walker and Daniel G. Maxwell ❖ Routledge
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Sree Kumar and Sharon Siddique ❖ Select Books
103. ***Southeast Asian Affairs 2008***  
Daljit Singh and Tin Maung Maung Than, eds. ❖ Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)
104. ***Southeast Asian Development***  
Andrew McGregor ❖ Routledge

105. ***Strategic Asia 2008–09: Challenges and Choices***  
Ashley J. Tellis, Mercy Kuo, and Andrew Marble, eds. ❖ National Bureau of Asian Research
106. ***Sustaining a Resilient Asia Pacific Community***  
Wilmar Salim and Kiran Sagoo, eds. ❖ Cambridge Scholars Publishing
107. ***Taking Southeast Asia to Market: Commodities, Nature, and People in the Neoliberal Age***  
Joseph Nevins and Nancy Lee Peluso, eds. ❖ Cornell University Press
108. ***Theorizing Southeast Asian Relations***  
Amitav Acharya and Richard Stubbs, eds. ❖ Routledge
109. ***Towards a Joint Regional Agenda for the Alleviation of Poverty through Agriculture and Secondary Crop Development***  
J.W. Taco Bottema, Geoff Thompson, I. Wayan Rusastra, and Robert Baldwin, eds. ❖ UNCPSA
110. ***Tracking Development and Governance in the Pacific***  
AusAID
111. ***Trade and Capital Flow among Asian Economies: Issues and Developments in Business and Management***  
Chris Rowley ❖ Routledge
112. ***Transforming Asian Governance: Rethinking Assumptions, Challenging Practices***  
M. Ramesh and Scott Fritzen, eds. ❖ Routledge
113. ***Transnational Trends: Middle Eastern and Asian Views***  
Amit Pandya and Ellen Laipson, eds. ❖ Stimson Center
114. ***US, Japan, and China Conference on Trilateral Security Cooperation (Issues & Insights vol. 8, no. 6)***  
Carl W. Baker ❖ Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
115. ***Ultra-low Fertility in Pacific Asia: Trends, Causes and Policy Issues***  
Gavin Jones, Paulin Tay-Straughan, and Angelique Chan ❖ Routledge
116. ***The United States in Asia***  
Robert G. Sutter ❖ Rowman and Littlefield
117. ***The United States and Northeast Asia***  
G. John Ikenberry and Chung-In Moon, eds. ❖ Rowman and Littlefield
118. ***US-Asia Economic Relations: A Political Economy of Crisis and the Rise of New Business Actors***  
Justin Robertson ❖ Routledge
119. ***Women's Political Participation and Representation in Asia: Obstacles and Challenges***  
Kazuki Iwanaga, ed. ❖ Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) Press

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