

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
DOCUMENTS SERIES 1994-2006



FOREWORD

In this 40th anniversary year of ASEAN's establishment, we are pleased to publish the 2007 edition of the ASEAN Regional Forum Document Series. This is a complete record of publicly-available chairman's statements, summaries, reports and other documents for the period between 1994 and 2006. We hope it is useful for all interested in the subject.

Established since 1994, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is the only inter-governmental forum aimed at contributing to the promotion of peace and security through dialogue and cooperation in the Asia Pacific.

Over the years, the number of participants in the ARF has grown to 26. The scope of dialogue and cooperation in the ARF has broadened and deepened. As a reflection of its increased activities, the ARF has established several mechanisms in addition to the ARF ministerial and senior official meetings. These mechanisms include the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy, the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief, and ARF Expert/Eminent Persons.

An important development in the ARF process is the greater involvement of defense and security officials. Their participation comes in various forms, including through the ARF Security Police Conference, Defense Official's Dialogue, Meeting of the Heads of Defense Universities/Colleges/Institutions, and participation at technical and expert-level workshops, seminars and exercises.

While change and technology constantly redefine the ways we interact across borders, ASEAN remains committed to serving in the 'driver's seat' of the ARF. In doing so, ASEAN will continue to be innovative and make the ARF a solid foundation for peace and stability in the region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ong Keng Yong", is positioned above the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

ONG KENG YONG

Secretary-General of ASEAN

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