



NTS ALERT

ASEAN & NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY

Non-traditional security (NTS) issues play a significant role in shaping the dynamics of regional politics in Southeast Asia. Military aggression against other neighbouring states is no longer a primary concern. Rather, issues such as transnational crime, irregular migration, pandemics, economic development and transboundary haze top the security agenda at ASEAN meetings. NTS issues have become even more apparent at the recent ASEAN Summit in November 2007, in which “Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development” was a key theme during the event. Not only does it show ASEAN’s commitment to addressing the global issue of climate change, but also raises other non-traditional security challenges that continue to plague the region. This edition of NTS Alert highlights initiatives at the recent ASEAN Summit and how they fit with global efforts in addressing climate change as well as ASEAN’s existing policies on the environment and economic development

Energy Security in ASEAN

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Given the transboundary nature of non-traditional threats, regional multilateral approaches are critical given the limited resources of individual states. ASEAN efforts in strengthening regional frameworks are reflected in various sectors, including the energy sector. The issue of energy security is not new, but has gained more currency. Much of the security forecasting in the region has identified energy security as the key security risk of Asia.

Under the current *ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC)* for the years 2004 – 2009, ASEAN aims to establish trans-ASEAN energy networks so as to promote efficient energy use amongst ASEAN states as well as strengthen the level of economic integration within the region. The Plan of Action focuses on the following programmes:



1) Establishing an Trans-ASEAN Power Grid and Gas Pipeline

ASEAN countries agreed to adopt a policy on regional power and electricity interconnection and trade. Two interconnection projects are operational. These are the Peninsular Malaysia-Singapore interconnection and stages 1 and 2 of the Thailand- Peninsular Malaysia interconnections. Two other connections (Vietnam-Cambodia and Thailand-Cambodia) are scheduled to be commissioned by the end of 2007 while the remaining projects will be progressively commissioned after 2007.

There are, nonetheless, barriers to establishing the grid. Initial results of the interconnection study indicate that it would not be economical to fully integrate the power systems of all the 10 ASEAN countries, given the geographical terrain (separation by the South China Sea). Hence it would be better to divide the power system into two systems – East System and West System. By doing so, ASEAN aims to implement 11 potential interconnection projects by the year 2020. Further studies are being conducted to provide appropriate recommendations to overcome barriers to interconnections. The studies shall be conducted in coordination with the eight Working Groups on the following areas:-

- Generation
- Transmission
- Distribution
- Renewable Energy and Environment
- Electric Supply Industry (ESI) Services
- Resource Development
- Power Reliability and Quality
- Human Resources

The *Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline project* is also a vital initiative in providing the region with a secure supply of energy with greater economic value. Seven gas interconnection projects have been identified for implementation. Among these projects, firm commitments have been secured for the gas pipeline interconnection projects between Sumatera, Indonesia and Singapore and W. Natuna (Indonesia – Duyong (Malaysia)).

2) Programme on Coal

The main objective of this programme is “to cooperate and promote sustainable development and utilization of coal while addressing environmental issues and facilitating intra-ASEAN coal-related issues.” This would be done in several ways; firstly, by strengthening institutional and policy framework. Secondly, promoting Clean Coal Technology (CCT) via an information education campaign (IEC) plan through tri-media (print, radio and television) showing the new technologies being employed for emission mitigation of existing coal power stations. Thirdly, promoting private sector investment via Coal Business Forums. Fourthly,

What is ASEAN?

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok by the five original Member Countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam joined on 8 January 1984, Vietnam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999. The ASEAN region has a population of about 500 million, a total area of 4.5 million square kilometers, a combined gross domestic product of almost US\$ 700 billion, and a total trade of about US\$ 850 billion.

Objectives of ASEAN

- To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region
- To promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries in the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

The ASEAN Vision 2020, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders on the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN, agreed on a shared vision of ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies.

In 2003, the ASEAN Leaders resolved that an ASEAN Community shall be established comprising three pillars, namely, ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

Source

Overview of ASEAN, Available from:
<http://www.aseansec.org/64.htm>

promoting intra-ASEAN Coal Trade. With the assistance of the ASEAN Centre for Energy, an online directory of coal specifications, producers and consumers in the ASEAN will be established. A network of coal laboratories in ASEAN will also be coordinated to improve standards of coal analysis. And finally, ASEAN will promote Environmental Assessment of Coal Projects for the benefit of small scale coal project entrepreneurs that require external assistance on environmental impact assessment.

3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation

Under this programme, ASEAN aims to strengthen cooperation in energy efficiency and conservation through institutional capacity building and increasing private sector involvement including enhancing public awareness as well as expanding markets for energy efficient products. It comprises of 6 strategies namely (1) information sharing and networking; (2) ASEAN energy labeling; (3) expansion of private sector involvement; (4) capacity building; (5) enhancing business environment of energy services or promotion of ESCO business; and (6) promoting of energy efficiency in the transport sector.

4) Renewable Energy

Apart from strengthening institutional frameworks and information sharing for the development of renewable energy the Plan of Action also highlights the aim of increasing ASEAN's share of renewable energy to at least 10 percent of power generation. Initiatives include further utilization of biofuels and biomass-based cogeneration technology. The latter would be encouraged mainly for in-house consumption use, in particular for the production of electricity. In this respect, ASEAN encourages the supply of excess energy generated by the biomass-based generating system to local communities and the ASEAN grid.

Civil use of nuclear energy has also gained popularity amongst various developing states, as nuclear energy is carbon free and relatively cheaper than other alternative energy sources. ASEAN states such as Indonesia, Vietnam,

What is the ASEAN Security Community?

Through political dialogue and confidence building, no tension has escalated into armed confrontation among ASEAN member countries since its establishment more than three decades ago. To build on what has been constructed over the years in the field of political and security cooperation, the ASEAN Leaders have agreed, in 2003, to establish the ASEAN Security Community (ASC). The ASC shall aim to ensure that countries in the region live at peace with one another and with the world in a just, democratic and harmonious environment.

The members of the Community pledge to rely exclusively on peaceful processes in the settlement of intra-regional differences and regard their security as fundamentally linked to one another and bound by geographic location, common vision and objectives.

It has the following components:

- political development
- shaping and sharing of norms
- conflict prevention
- conflict resolution
- post-conflict peace building
- implementing mechanisms.

In recognition of security interdependence in the Asia-Pacific region, ASEAN established the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in 1994. The ARF's agenda aims to evolve in three broad stages, namely the promotion of confidence building, development of preventive diplomacy and elaboration of approaches to conflicts.

The present participants in the ARF include: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Democratic Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea (ROK), Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, and Viet Nam.

The ARF discusses major regional security issues in the region, including the relationship amongst the major powers, non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, transnational crime, South China Sea and the Korean Peninsula, among others.

Source

Declaration of ASEAN Concord II, Bali, 7 October 2003, ASEAN Secretariat





Thailand and Myanmar have shown interest and have developed plans for building nuclear power plants. Yet, there still remain much concern over the sustainability of such sources of energy, especially with regard to nuclear safety standards, which may be undermined by volatile geographic terrain and culture of corruption in many Southeast Asian states. With this in mind, it was agreed that ASEAN would establish a Nuclear Energy Safety Sub-Sector Network to further explore nuclear safety issues.

Environment and Sustainable Development

The bringing together of ‘Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development’ as one broad yet inter-related theme in this year’s ASEAN and EAS Summits is a positive development, which reflects the multi-sectoral impact of these issues. Environmental issues are, however, not new to ASEAN, given the region’s experiences with the transboundary haze pollution, which had disastrous impacts on the regional economic security and health security. Yet, this only makes up a fraction of sustainable development issues that ASEAN member states have had to deal with. Resource scarcity, especially water and food sources, have also posed a significant challenge as pressures of economic development threaten the availability of these resources.

ASEAN has nonetheless moved forward in implementing its medium term roadmap known as the *Vientiane Action Programme (VAP)* for (2004- 2010). Initiatives include the establishment of working groups to deal with the various aspects of the environment as a means of minimizing the effects of climate change and promoting sustainable development. These working groups cover 5 areas (1) multilateral environmental agreements, (2) nature conservation and biodiversity, (3) coastal and marine environment, (4) environmentally sustainable cities, and (5) water resources management. These working groups have been fruitful in sharing best practices amongst ASEAN states as well as tapping onto resources and ideas

of international organisations in providing sustainable growth in Southeast Asia.

The ASEAN working group on water resources management, for instance, published the *ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action for Water Resources Management* in 2005, which provides details of guiding principles for integrated water resources management, a set of response strategies to mitigate the extreme effects of climate change – in particular conducting diagnostic studies on floods and droughts studying the effects of climate change of food security, public health and infrastructure and developing flood plain management and zoning tools.

The ASEAN working group for environmentally sustainable cities has also been active in creating a *Framework on Environmentally Sustainable Cities for ASEAN*, which has included participation from various international organisations. This framework includes a list of best practices that have been adopted by various ASEAN countries to address issues associated with air, land and water in cities. By sharing these best practices, ASEAN states are better able to respond to crises. While these initiatives are important in facilitating greater awareness amongst Southeast Asians regarding sustainable growth and development measures, the more important task would still lie in stopping the source of carbon emissions in Southeast Asia.

A significant mechanism used to address the transboundary haze pollution, is the *ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (2006- 2020)*, which acknowledges the need to employ measures that ensure sustainable development and multi-stakeholder and multi-agency involvement. The meeting also acknowledged its past errors, such as channelling resources to fire suppression and emergency purposes rather than preventive measures. The problem lies in, however, enforcing the policies which would only show results overtime. Moreover, building up awareness amongst the locals, as well as providing compensation where necessary, is critical so as to ensure that locals would not have to resort to slash and burn tactics for their survival. It is also important to channel more funds into this project.

Ministers also followed up on enhancing environmental awareness by adopting the *ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2008-2012* with the theme “Environmental Education for Sustainable Development”. Similar to the first AEEAP (2000-2005), it aims to realise the ASEAN Vision of a clean and green ASEAN via environmental education and public participation. Target areas for this plan include formal education, non-formal education by integrating cultural, traditional and contemporary knowledge to target environmental issues, manpower capacity building and enhancing levels of networking, coordination and communication within the region. Various states’ environment education activities will also continue to be gathered and shared on the *ASEAN Environmental Education Inventory Database* (<http://aeeid.aseansec.org>).

The *ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)* is another initiative that has potential for further expansion. The ACB strives to serve as a regional centre of excellence that will provide scientific/thematic networking and coordination on biodiversity issues within ASEAN, and between the region and the international scientific community. Formerly known as the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC), the ACB began as a joint cooperation project of the ASEAN and European Union (EU) and is hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines. Such inter-regional collaboration has thus been significant in gaining recognition in the regional and global arena for biodiversity.

Launched at the 9th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on 27 September 2005, the agreement on the establishment of the ACB was signed by the Environment Ministers of the ASEAN member countries (AMCs) on behalf of their respective governments. The Agreement also establishes the ASEAN Biodiversity Fund with voluntary

contributions of the AMCs, other governments and organizations. These activities, including others, thus form the backbone of ASEAN’s continuing efforts to address sustainable development in the region.

Climate Change and Security *

Climate change is indeed a serious security concern that requires no less than a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach to security. The global awareness has reached an all time high, with the immense amount of scientific studies regarding the security implications of climate change on state and human security. Climate change has even been acknowledged as a security threat by the United Nations Security Council. Yet, despite such awareness on the issue the world still struggles to come to a consensus in dealing with it. This section therefore provides some recommendations in addressing climate change.

First, despite the existence of several frameworks that address climate change, perhaps one unified framework be more useful—given that while the international community had the roadmaps to progress, they lacked the compass. However, while a single framework would be ideal, this was in reality difficult to do given the variety of opinions at the global level thus impeding efforts of coming to a consensus. Oftentimes, international frameworks have had to work on the lowest common denominator. In this regard, the involvement of civil society organization is critical to provide the extra push to get the governments to act.

** Opinions expressed in this section are documented in the report on the Conference of Climate Change and Security (11-12 Oct 2007), RSIS, NTU. [Click here](#) to view report.*





Addressing climate change is also about international governance. But this is only possible if there is consensus. In working at this, it is critical that industries are responsive to the work of scientists and other important actors in the international arena that provide important inputs to policies. Moreover, greater thought must be given to the issue of ‘common but differentiated responsibility’ and the existing dichotomy between developed and developing countries. The latter may be problematic given the existence of wealthy countries such as Qatar and the United Arab Emirates that remain labeled as developing countries. There is therefore the need to advance the debate and address questions such as – who should pay? Which countries can still be considered developed or developing? These are important issues which, if not sufficiently addressed, could continue to pose a fundamental problem of the Kyoto Protocol in getting more proactive global action via ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’.

In light of this, a post-Kyoto agenda would therefore have to contain better mechanisms to incorporate developing countries and their limited, yet constructive abilities. In the current UNFCCC meeting in Bali, Indonesia will push for the inclusion of the “Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries” (REDD) into a post-Kyoto agenda. REDD suggests that developed countries should pay developing countries to keep their forests that play a vital role in absorbing carbon emissions. This would provide developing countries the incentive to keep their forests rather than use clear it for other economic development initiatives.

The main mechanism in existing Kyoto Protocol arrangements is the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which allows developed countries to “buy” carbon credits from developing countries so as to emit more carbon emissions yet keeping to its given quota. In turn, developing countries would benefit from advanced technological methods that are environmentally friendly and sustainable. However, according to UNFCCC statistics, the bulk of CDM registered projects are in China and India. This leaves out Indonesia, which is

currently the 3rd largest carbon emitter in the

What is the East Asia Summit (EAS)?

The East Asia Summit (EAS) is an important component of the emerging regional architecture, which complements other existing regional mechanisms, including the ASEAN dialogue process, the ASEAN + 3 process, the ARF, and APEC in community building efforts. Participating countries of the EAS are the ten members ASEAN and China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand. The first East Asia Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005, followed by the 2nd East Asian Summit in Cebu in January 2007 and most recently, the 3rd EAS in Singapore in November 2007. Since its establishment, the EAS has developed several initiatives:-

Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security, 15 January 2007

Signed at the 2nd East Asian Summit in Cebu, Philippines on 15 January 2007, it aims to:-

- Improve the efficiency and environmental performance of fossil fuel use;
- Reduce dependence on conventional fuels through intensified energy efficiency and conservation programs, hydropower, expansion of renewable energy systems and bio-fuel production/utilization, and for interested parties, civilian nuclear power;
- Encourage the development of open and competitive regional and international markets geared towards providing affordable energy at all economic levels;
- Mitigate greenhouse gas emission through effective policies and measures, thus contributing to global climate change abatement; and
- Pursue and encourage investment in energy resource and infrastructure development through greater private sector involvement

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world, largely due to deforestation. Hence, REDD must be considered so that Indonesia and other forested developing countries are able to play a substantial role in addressing climate change.

ASEAN can also play a potentially significant

role in this area. Amongst the initiatives noted in the Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment, members of the EAS will work towards achieving an EAS-wide aspirational goal of increasing cumulative forest cover in the region by at least 15 million hectares of all types of forests by 2020. In doing so,

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East Asia Summit Energy Cooperation Task Force (EAS ECTF)

Created on 1 March 2007, the work of the EAS ECTF is based on existing ASEAN energy sectoral mechanisms where possible. Work undertaken by the EAS ECTF would be to successfully identify three energy cooperation work streams :-

- energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C)
- energy market integration
- bio-fuels for transport and other purposes

This would serve as a starting point to focus their efforts and to work towards the goal of affordable, secured and sustainable energy at all economic levels. In a bid to work towards energy efficiency goals and action plans, which will be set by 2009, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) are developing the "EAS Energy Outlook", which offers data on medium to long-term energy market projections and analysis amongst EAS member states.

Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment in the 3rd East Asian Summit

The Declaration highlighted implementing the measures recommended by the EAS Energy Ministers, including

- The formulation of voluntary energy efficiency goals by 2009
- supporting cooperation in developing reference benchmarks for environmentally and socially-sustainable biofuels and energy market integration
- and utilising, where appropriate, regional research bodies, where appropriate, such as the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA);

There was also the need to enhance regional cooperation to develop cost effective carbon mitigation technologies, cleaner fossil fuel technologies including clean use of coal, and to produce environmentally-friendly and sustainable bio-fuels; and cooperate for the development and use of civilian nuclear power.

First EAS Energy Ministers Meeting

During this meeting in Singapore on 22 August 2007, EAS energy ministers welcomed various initiatives from its member states:-

- launch of the Asia Energy Conservation Collaboration Centre in Japan
- establishment of Asia Biomass Research Core and Asia Biomass Energy Cooperation Promotion Office in Japan.
- Japan's environmental cooperation initiative "Towards a Sustainable East Asia", through which it would contribute more than USD2 billion over the next 5 years to anti-pollution measures, and undertake a number of key proposals.
- Singapore's proposal to convene an EAS Conference on Liveable Cities in June 2008 to address the inter-related issues of urbanisation, climate change, energy, and the environment.
- Proposals from Thailand and China to organise an EAS workshop on biofuels and a seminar on climate change adaptation capacity building respectively.
- Affirming support for important forestry initiatives such as the Heart of Borneo conservation plan.





ASEAN can build on existing efforts such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. Under ASEAN's current Vientiane Action Programme (2004- 2010), the ACB aims to promote a further listing and coordinated management of ASEAN Heritage Parks as a platform for ecosystem-based protected areas management. Indonesia's vast unprotected forest areas should therefore be included under the listing of ASEAN Heritage Parks as a means of effectively protecting forests from degradation, as well as ensuring the international community of REDD's viability in Indonesia.

Finally, there is no substitute to informed environmental intelligence. In order to maximize the knowledge on how to address climate change, there should also be more discussions between economists, scientists, analysts, and policy makers. The need for inter-disciplinary and inter-agency collaboration is one of the best ways forward in addressing such a complex security challenge like climate change. This is indeed a challenge to the international community, given the lack of past institutional knowledge and current massive scale of the global climate issue. Nonetheless, baby steps have been made in various regions and sectors, such as ASEAN's Environmental Education Action Plan. What is now needed it is building on these existing

mechanisms coupled with greater participation from the grassroots level.

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