



Third ASEAN State of the Environment Report 2006



**Towards an Environmentally Sustainable
ASEAN Community**





Third ASEAN State of the Environment Report 2006

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For inquiries, contact:

Public Affairs Office

The ASEAN Secretariat

70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja

Jakarta 12110, Indonesia

Phone : (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991

Fax : (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504

E-mail : public@aseansec.org

General information on ASEAN appears on-line at the ASEAN
Secretariat Website: www.aseansec.org



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The fern, a common plant in ASEAN, transforming into flying birds against a blue background denotes the richness and vitality of biodiversity and a clean and green ASEAN.

FOREWORD



I am pleased to present the ASEAN State of the Environment Report 2006, the third in the series. The first report was published in 1997 and the second report in 2000.

The ASEAN region faces several challenges in protecting the environment and ensuring the sustainability of its natural resources. The ASEAN State of the Environment Reports highlight key characteristics and developments concerning the condition of the environment. These include what ASEAN is doing to address the challenges at the national and regional level.

An ASEAN Community is envisioned by the year 2020. Therefore, this report has paid special attention to our community building efforts toward an environmentally sustainable ASEAN Community. The Vientiane Action Programme 2004–2010, the current roadmap, demonstrates our commitment through concrete measures and milestones to achieve this goal. The environmental programmes and measures in the VAP are situated within the context of sustainable development to ensure full integration and mutually supportive development of the various inter-related sectors.

Measures of environmental sustainability from reputable independent studies have placed the region at a level above the world average. However, the challenges foreseen call for even greater effort to ensure further improvement in environmental sustainability of the ASEAN region.

National, regional and global environmental issues cannot be set apart from one another. It is our hope that through the publication of the ASEAN State of the Environment Report, the global community will better appreciate the issues and concerns faced by the ASEAN region, and join hands to address them collectively.

I would like to congratulate all those who have been involved in producing this useful report. My sincere appreciation goes to the United Nations Environment Programme and the Hanns Seidel Foundation for the financial and technical support provided during the preparation of this report.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ong Keng Yong". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "O" and a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Ong Keng Yong
Secretary-General of ASEAN

CONTENTS

Foreword	iii
Contents	v
List of Tables	vi
List of Figures	viii
List of Boxes	ix
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
Chapter 2: Geographical Setting, People and Demography	7
Chapter 3: Social Development	16
Chapter 4: Economic Development	27
Chapter 5: Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems	37
Chapter 6: Terrestrial Ecosystems	55
Chapter 7: Atmosphere	77
Chapter 8: Global Environmental Issues	91
Chapter 9: ASEAN Environmental Management Framework	104
Chapter 10: Towards An Environmentally Sustainable ASEAN Community	123
Appendix I Acronyms and Abbreviations	134
Appendix II Sources and References	140
Appendix III Scheduled ASEAN Meetings on the Environment: 2001 – 2005	145
Appendix IV Preparation of the Third ASEAN State of the Environment Report	158

LIST OF TABLES

		Page
Table 1.1	PSR Model <i>vis-à-vis</i> the SOER3 Framework	5
Table 2.1	Population (mid-2005)	12
Table 2.2	Population Density, 2005	14
Table 3.1	Rank in Human Development Reports, 2001 – 2005	18
Table 3.2	Poverty Incidence (based on respective national poverty line)	18
Table 3.3	Immunisation against Measles and DPT among One-Year Old Children (%)	22
Table 3.4	HIV Prevalence among 15 – 24 Year Old People, Both Sexes (%)	23
Table 4.1	Production of Five Major Food Crops in ASEAN, 2003 – 2004 ('000 metric tons)	31
Table 4.2	Growth of ASEAN's Five Major Food Commodities	31
Table 4.3	ASEAN Exports and Imports of Fishery Products (Million US\$)	31
Table 4.4	ASEAN Primary Energy Production (1999 – 2001)	32
Table 5.1	List of Wetlands of International Importance in ASEAN Countries (as of 12 October 2005)	47
Table 5.2	Marine Protected Areas in Member Countries	53
Table 5.3	Number of Priority MPAs of Global/Regional (A) and National (B) Significance	53
Table 6.1	Land Areas	57
Table 6.2	Wood Volume and Wood Biomass in Forests	58
Table 6.3	World Rank in Total Diversity	63
Table 6.4	Richness of ASEAN by Taxa	64
Table 6.5	Inventory of Endemic Species	65
Table 6.6	Inventory of Endangered Species	66
Table 6.7	IUCN-Classified Protected Areas	68
Table 6.8	Protected Areas (based on national classification)	69
Table 6.9	Disposal Methods for Municipal Solid Waste in Selected Member Countries	74
Table 7.1	Air Quality Regulations in Selected Member Countries	83
Table 7.2	Phase Out of Leaded Gasoline in Member Countries (as of 2005)	86
Table 8.1	Lead Countries for the MEAs (end of 2005)	93
Table 8.2	Participation in the Vienna Convention, Montreal Protocol, and Its Four Amendments (as of 22 July 2005)	94
Table 8.3	Participation in UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol (as of 2005)	95
Table 8.4	Number of CITES-Listed Species in Member Countries (as of 2006)	99
Table 8.5	Number of World Heritage Sites in Member Countries	101
Table 8.6	Participation in Conservation and Biodiversity related MEAs	102
Table 8.7	Participation in Chemical and Hazardous Waste related Conventions	103
Table 9.1	Lead Countries for the Ten Priority Areas for Cooperation	110
Table 9.2	Guidelines to Control Land and Forest Fires under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution	112
Table 9.3	Completed and On-Going Programmes and Activities to Control Transboundary Haze Pollution	114
Table 9.4	Marine Water Quality Criteria for the ASEAN Region	115
Table 9.5	Regional Project Proposals on Water Resources Management and its Lead Country/ies	116
Table 9.6	Participating Cities in the AIESC	116
Table 9.7	Goals and Objectives of Clean Air, Clean Land, and Clean Water of AIESC	117
Table 9.8	State of the Environment Reports of Member Countries	120
Table 9.9	Major Cooperative Activities with ASEAN Dialogue Partners	121
Table 10.1	Environmental Sustainable Index of selected ASEAN Member Countries, 2005	126
Table 10.2	Ecological Footprints of Selected Member Countries, World and Regional Income Groups, 2002	127
Table 10.3	<i>Potential</i> Sources of Environmental Insecurity in the ASEAN Region	129

LIST OF FIGURES

		Page
Figure 1.1	Pressure-State-Response Model	5
Figure 2.1	Land Area of Member Countries	9
Figure 2.2	ASEAN's Population Compared to Other Regions, (Mid-2004)	12
Figure 2.3	Projected Population, 2000 – 2020	13
Figure 2.4	Rate of Natural Increase in Population (%), 2004	13
Figure 2.5	Crude Birth and Death Rates (%), 2005	13
Figure 2.6	Scatter Plot for Fertility and Income, 2003	13
Figure 2.7	Projected Fertility Rates 2000 – 2020	14
Figure 2.8	Projected Share of Rural Population to Total Population, 2000 – 2020	15
Figure 2.9	Urbanisation Projections, 2000 – 2020	15
Figure 3.1	Gini Indices of selected ASEAN Member Countries	20
Figure 3.2	Percentage Share of Income/Consumption in selected Member Countries, Various Survey Years (1997 – 2002)	20
Figure 3.3	Labour Force Participation Rate in Member Countries, 2003	20
Figure 3.4	Unemployment Rate of People 15 Years and Above, 2001 and 2004	21
Figure 3.5	Prevalence of Underweight Children in Member Countries, 1993 – 2003	21
Figure 3.6	Reduction in Proportion of Children Under-5 Moderately or Severely Underweight (%) (MDG Goal 1, Target 2) Baseline Data (1990 – 1995) vs. Latest Data (1996 – 2004)	22
Figure 3.7	Reduction in Under-nourishment as Percentage of Total Population (MDG Goal 1, Target 2) Baseline Data (1990 – 1995) vs. Latest Data (1996 – 2004)	22
Figure 3.8	Reduction in Child Mortality (MDG Goal 4, Target 5) Baseline Data (1990 – 1995) vs. Latest Data (1996 – 2004)	22
Figure 3.9	Population with Access to Water (%), 2002	23
Figure 3.10	Population with Access to Sanitation (%), 2002	23
Figure 3.11	Adult Literacy Rate among Males	24
Figure 3.12	Adult Literacy Rate among Females	24
Figure 3.13	Gross Enrolment in Schools, 2000 – 2003	24
Figure 4.1	Rate of Economic Growth in ASEAN	29
Figure 4.2	Rate of Economic Growth	29
Figure 4.3	GDP per capita in ASEAN at Current Market Prices (US\$)	29
Figure 4.4	GDP per capita in Selected Member Countries at Current Market Prices (US\$)	30
Figure 4.5	GDP Share of Major Groups, 2004	30
Figure 4.6	GDP Contribution by Sector, 2003	32
Figure 4.7	Growth Rate of the Industrial Sectors in terms of GDP Contribution, 1998 – 2000 and 2001 – 2003	32
Figure 4.8	GDP per Unit of Energy Use in Selected Member Countries, 2001 – 2002	33
Figure 4.9	Intra-ASEAN Visitor Arrivals (Millions)	34
Figure 4.10	Growth Rate of Tourist Arrivals in the ASEAN Region, 2001 – 2004	34
Figure 4.11	Tourist Arrivals in Member Countries, 2001 – 2004	35
Figure 5.1	Total Internal Renewable Freshwater Resources of Selected Regions, 1997 – 2001	39
Figure 5.2	Per Capita Internal Renewable Freshwater Resources of Selected Regions	39
Figure 5.3	ASEAN's Total Available Internal Water Resources ('000 cu. km.), 2004	40
Figure 5.4	Per Capita Supply of Annual Internal Renewable Freshwater Resources, 1996 – 2004	40
Figure 5.5	Sources of Freshwater in Member Countries	41
Figure 5.6	Number of Marine Species in the ASEAN Region	50
Figure 5.7	Coral Reef Areas (in sq. km.) of Member Countries	51
Figure 5.8	Reefs at Risk Summary by Country	51
Figure 5.9	Fishery and Aquaculture Productions in the ASEAN Region, 1995 – 2002	52

Figure 5.10	World and ASEAN's Annual Per Capita Food Supply, 1995 – 2002	52
Figure 6.1	Total Forest Area	57
Figure 6.2	Ratio of Forest to Land Area (%), 2005	57
Figure 6.3	Consumption of Forest Wood Products, 1998 – 2002	59
Figure 6.4	Waste Generation in Selected Countries (kg/cap/day), 2001	71
Figure 6.5	Estimated Annual Generation of Hazardous Waste in Selected Member Countries ('000 tonnes)	72
Figure 7.1	Air Pollution Emissions	79
Figure 7.2	Air Pollution in selected Capital Cities of Member Countries	79
Figure 7.3	Hotspot Counts	88
Figure 7.4	Monthly Hotspot Counts in the ASEAN Region	88
Figure 7.5	Hotspot Counts in Borneo	89
Figure 7.6	Hotspot Counts in Sumatra and Peninsular Malaysia	89
Figure 7.7	Hotspot Counts in the Mekong Region and the Philippines (2005)	90
Figure 8.1a	Consumption of Ozone-Depleting CFCs, (1995 – 2001) in ODP metric tonnes	93
Figure 8.1b	Consumption of Ozone-Depleting CFCs, (2001 – 2005) in ODP metric tonnes	94
Figure 8.2	CO ₂ Emissions of Regional Organisations/Groups, 1995 – 2002	95
Figure 8.3	CO ₂ Emissions of ASEAN and other Regions, 2001	95
Figure 9.1	ASEAN Institutional Framework for Environmental Cooperation	110
Figure 9.2	ASEAN Haze Action Online Website (www.haze-online.or.id)	111

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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