

**Co-Chairmen's Statement of the 6th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada, 18-19 June 2009**

1. The Sixth ASEAN-Canada Dialogue was held in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada on 18-19 June 2009. The Meeting was attended by representatives of ASEAN Member States, Canada and the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Ken Sunquist, Assistant Deputy Minister (Asia & Africa), Chief Trade Commissioner and Canada's SOM and SEOM Leader, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, and Mr. Pham Quang Vinh, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Viet Nam's ASEAN SOM Leader, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.
3. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ken Sunquist highlighted the importance of the ASEAN-Canada relationship and noted the substantial growth in trade, investment and people-to-people linkages. He remarked that the growing breadth and depth of cooperation in recent years has expanded to include the areas of regional security, human rights, education, food and energy security, counterterrorism and international health security. He recognized the importance of ASEAN, which is playing a central role in Asia-Pacific architecture and whose countries represent over 575 million people with a collective GDP of \$1.4 trillion. Mr. Sunquist recalled some of the recent successes of the ASEAN-Canada relationship and the great potential for further cooperation. He expressed deep appreciation to Viet Nam for playing the role of Canada's ASEAN Coordinating Country during the past three years and expressed confidence that Canada and its relations with ASEAN will be well served by Thailand as Canada's next ASEAN Coordinating Country.
4. In his response, Mr. Pham Quang Vinh thanked Canada for its warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for this meeting. He briefed the Meeting on the main tasks of the Sixth ASEAN-Canada Dialogue and stressed the importance of the issues to be discussed on this occasion, including the finalisation of the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership and the possible accession of Canada to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. He highlighted the progress of the implementation of the Second ASEAN-Canada Work Plan 2007-2010, expressed ASEAN's appreciation for Canada's assistance in this regard, and proposed that ASEAN and Canada start drafting the new ASEAN-Canada Work Plan or Plan of Action to succeed the current Work Plan, which will expire in 2010. This should be done in light of the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership, which is to be adopted by the Foreign Minister in July 2009. He thanked ASEAN Member States and Canada for supporting Viet Nam in fulfilling its duty as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Canada relations during the past three years and promised to continue efforts to further strengthen the ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership.
5. ASEAN briefed Canada on the recent developments in ASEAN, including the outcomes of the 14th ASEAN Summit, the implementation of the ASEAN Charter, the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015), including the three Blueprints and the IAI Work Plan II 2009-2015, the establishment of an ASEAN human rights body, as well as ASEAN's external relations and establishment of ASEAN+1 Free Trade Agreements with other Dialogue Partners.
6. Canada noted the progress of recent developments in ASEAN and expressed its support for ASEAN's efforts in implementing the ASEAN Charter, strengthening regional integration, and building an ASEAN Community by 2015. In addition, Canada raised its human rights concerns in the region, such as the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi, noting the importance and priority Canada attaches to the issue of human rights. To this end, Canada welcomed the progress being made on an ASEAN human rights body.
7. Canada briefed ASEAN on Canadian foreign policy priorities, which are pursuing economic opportunity for Canada, with a focus on growing/emerging markets; the United States and the Americas; and, Afghanistan. Canada also discussed preparation for its presidency of the G-8 in 2010, noting that the "Muskoka Summit" will be held 25-27 June 2010, at the Deerhurst Resort.
8. The Meeting reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Second ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2010). ASEAN expressed its appreciation to Canada for sourcing Canadian experts for the ASEAN-Canada Cooperation on Technical Initiatives for the VAP

(ACTIV) programme. Both ASEAN and Canada reiterated their commitment to work closely together to continue the implementation of the Work Plan with concrete cooperation activities and projects. ASEAN requested that Canada consider a separated funding mechanism to support the implementation of the Work Plan.

9. Taking into account the adoption of the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015) at the 14th ASEAN Summit and following up the decisions of the Third ASEAN-Canada Informal Coordinating Mechanism Meeting, ASEAN requested Canada's early approval of the revised Terms of Reference on ASEAN-Canada Technical Initiatives for the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community 2009-15 based on the former ACTIV.
10. Canada briefed ASEAN on the Canadian International Development Agency's Southeast Asia Regional Program, and in particular, its recent alignments and definition of regional program frameworks. In this regard, ASEAN and Canada agreed to explore opportunities for further cooperative activities of the two sides that could fit into the Work Plan.
11. The Meeting had an extensive exchange of views and discussion on various global and regional issues of common interest, including the Global Economic and Financial Crisis, Asia Pacific Regional Architecture, Afghanistan/Pakistan Border, Situation in the Middle East, Sea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea, and Food and Energy Security.
12. The Meeting noted the need to continue the enhanced cooperation to deal with transnational issues, including Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Assistance, Climate Change, Transnational Crime and Counterterrorism, and Transnational Health Security. ASEAN and Canada agreed to continue their joint efforts to counter terrorism through the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism and welcomed the significant initiatives undertaken by ASEAN and Canada in this area.
13. The Meeting had an in-depth exchange of views and discussion with a view to finalizing the draft Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership. ASEAN and Canada agreed to submit the draft Joint Declaration to the Foreign Ministers for adoption at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Session with Canada in July in Thailand.
14. In response to ASEAN's invitation to Canada to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia (TAC), Canada informed the Meeting that the matter was being considered and that the Government of Canada recognizes the importance that ASEAN attaches to the TAC.
15. ASEAN briefed Canada on the preparations for the ASEAN PMC Session with Canada in July in Thailand.
16. It was agreed that the 7th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue would be held in Thailand in 2010.
17. ASEAN and Canada expressed their high appreciation to Viet Nam for its efforts in successfully coordinating ASEAN-Canada relations during the last three years and expectation to continued to develop the ASEAN-Canada enhanced partnership under the coordination of Thailand.
18. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government of Canada for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements extended throughout the Meeting. The Meeting was conducted in a spirit of cooperation and cordiality under the co-chairmanship of Viet Nam and Canada.