



SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNCIL
FOR FOOD SECURITY
AND FAIR TRADE

SEACON and its member partners from eight countries in the South East Asian (SEA) region carried out a research and advocacy project entitled “**The Impact of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Agreement on Small Scale Producers in SEA**”.

SEACON, a region wide civil society network that monitors the activities of multilateral and regional institutions embarked in this research and advocacy project because we are critical of trade liberalization that undermines efforts for sustainable agriculture, land reform, food security and food sovereignty.

In comparison to the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs/ World Trade Organization (GATT-WTO), ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) agreement is less understood in the SEA region. Pro-AFTA groups cite five major reasons favoring AFTA, namely bigger market, cheaper inputs, more investments, greater efficiency and increased benefits to the consumer. Anti-AFTA groups believe AFTA will lead to closure of companies, reduce employment opportunities, increased level of debts, decreased quality of goods and food security threats.

Uncontrolled trade liberalization is threatening food security in many parts of the world. Traditionality, small scale producers consume what they yield or catch, with extras sold to the market but at present times, trade agreements have forced them to sell what they yield and buy what they eat. Small producers in this region are no longer able to practice subsistence farming.

SEACON believes that SEA's small scale farmers and fisher folks practising subsistence farming/fishing feed the people in this region and those around the world with their production and catch. Hence, it is timely policies and strategies formulated by the SEA governments favor and protect them from being marginalized, displaced and thrown into deeper poverty.

It is in this regards that this conference aims to provide a platform for the rural people, activists, policy makers, academicians and other stakeholders to deliberate and discuss issues pertaining to AFTA and other trade agreements, food security and livelihood of small scale producers in the SEA region. We are expecting that the participants of this conference will join effort with us to push our notion of food sovereignty and fair trade principles to the rest of the world. Specifically we aim to share and disseminate our AFTA research findings and to obtain inputs from stakeholders in order to enrich our findings.

AFTA in a Regional & Global Economy: Impacts & Prospects

Officiated by:

**YB Dato' Hj Ahmad Husni
bin Mohd Hanadzlah**

Deputy Minister
Ministry of International Trade
& Industry (MITI)
Malaysia

Organised by:



Supported by:

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MISEREOR
MISEREOR
DAS HILFSWERK



APHD

3 - 5 October 2005

Istana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

programme

AFTA in a Changing Regional & Global Economy: Impacts and Prospects

October 2 (Sunday) :
Arrival and Registration of Participants

MONDAY • 3 OCTOBER 2005

8:00am • Registration of late arrivals

**OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY
(9.30 am - 10.30 am)**

9:30am • Acknowledgment of Participants

9:45am • **Welcome Remarks**
by **Marimuthu Nadason**
Chair, SEACON

10:00am • **Officiating Remarks**
by **YB Dato' Hj Ahmad Husni bin Mohd Hanadzlah**
Deputy Minister International Trade & Industry (MITI), Malaysia

10:15am • **Inspirational Talk**
by **Kustiwa Adiwinata**
Indonesian Farmer

10:30am • Tea/Coffee Break

11:00am • **Prospects of AFTA in a Changing Regional & Global Trade & Environment**
by **Raul L. Cordenillo**
Senior Officer
Bureau for Economic Integration, ASEAN Secretariat

11:45am • Open Forum

12:30pm • Lunch Break

2:00pm • **AFTA & WTO: Coherence & Complementation**
by **Noel Padre**
OIC Director
Policy Research Service
Department of Agriculture, Philippines

2:45pm • **The Rise of FTAs in Southeast Asia: Good or Bad for the Region?**

• **Bonnie Setiawan**
Institute of Global Justice
Indonesia

• **Supanee Taneewut** - Thailand
FTA Watch, Thailand

3:45pm • Open Forum-on AFTA, WTO & FTAs

4:45pm • Tea/Coffee Break

5:15pm • Free Discussions/Forums

7:30pm • Dinner and Cultural Night

TUESDAY • 4 OCTOBER 2005

8:30am • Recap of Day 1 and Announcements

Presentation of Research Results:

9:00am • **Panel 1: ASEAN - Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia & Indonesia**

Dr. Bui Quang Toan - Vietnam
Supanee Taneewut - Thailand
Belinda Formanes - Philippines

10:00am • Tea/Coffee Break

10:20am • **Continuation of Presentations of Panel 1**

Chubashini Suntharalingam - Malaysia
Riza V.Tjahjadi & David Ardhian - Indonesia

11:00am • Open Forum/Discussions

12:30pm • Lunch Break

2:00pm • **Panel 2 : New ASEAN Countries - Cambodia & Laos**

Prak Sereyvath - Cambodia
Thongdam Phongphichith - Laos

2:40pm • Open Forum/Discussions

3:30pm • Tea/Coffee Break

4:00pm • **Regional Trends and Implications**
by **Aurora Regalado**
Project Consultant, SEACON

4:30pm • Open Forum/Discussions

5:15pm • Introduction of Workshops I & II

Parallel Workshops: Prospects & Future Actions

• Workshop 1 : Proposed ASEAN Food Charter

• Workshop 2 : Campaigns and Strategies

• Short-term - Leading to World Food Day in October and 6th WTO Ministerial Conference in December

• Medium : 3 years

7:30pm • Dinner

WEDNESDAY • 5 OCTOBER 2005

8:30am • Recap of Day 2

9:00am • Presentation of workshop 1 & 2 results (highlights)

10:00am • Tea/Coffee Break

10:30am • Approval of ASEAN Food Charter & Joint Actions / Campaigns to be signed by all participants.

12:00pm • Closing Ceremonies and Lunch