

INTERVENTION

**BY H.E. MR NGUYEN TAN DUNG
PRIME MINISTER OF THE SR VIET NAM**

ON REGIONAL ISSUES

*Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

As it has been noted, the economic and political landscape of the globe and of our two continents has seen rapid and profound developments, which create both opportunities and challenges. We are witnessing the restructuring of international institutions, major changes in the standing of major powers and power centres towards greater multi-polarity with the strong rise of many countries and cooperation mechanisms. The global economic and financial crisis has necessitated increased cooperation and connectivity of various levels. In that context, peace, cooperation and development continue to be a prevailing trend.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Against that backdrop, Europe has made significant progress in its unification process, while Asia has maintained its dynamic development and deepened its connectivity at regional as well as sub-regional levels. Developing and emerging economies in Asia, particularly China and India, have rebounded strongly with high growth, leading the global economic recovery.

In the Southeast Asia, ASEAN has moved to a new level of development towards an ASEAN Community of self-reliance, dynamism and sustainability by 2015, operating on the legal basis of the ASEAN Charter with a central role in the emerging regional architecture.

First, ASEAN continues to be the leading factor in ensuring the environment of peace, security and cooperation in the region. The ASEAN Regional Forum

with its recent practical outcomes, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia and the Declaration on the Conducts of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) have all helped enhance mutual understanding, trust and conflict prevention among countries in the region. The Meeting of Chiefs of ASEAN's Security Agencies (MACOSA) held recently and the first ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus Eight to be held in mid-October are the significant steps forward.

Second, the Association has been truly in the driver's seat in promoting economic and trade cooperation and connectivity in the region, through enhanced cooperation in the mechanisms of ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3 and East Asia Summit. The year of 2010 witnessed the formation of a network of FTAs of ASEAN+1. A multiple of economic and trade cooperation programs with major partners such as the US, Canada, the EU, and Russia have been expanded and deepened. The formation of an East Asian Free Trade Area under the framework of ASEAN+3 and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership for East Asia is now being considered.

Third, with its strategic geopolitical position, an outward looking policy and vast contributions, ASEAN has become an essential partner of major powers and centres of the world. The Second ASEAN-U.S. Summit in New York recently marked a positive step forward in cooperation between the two sides. Viet Nam is working closely with other ASEAN members to prepare for the 17th ASEAN Summit to be held in Ha Noi later this month. At the same time, ASEAN is working with its partners to prepare for the annual summits with China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and India. Similar preparations are also underway for the second ASEAN-Russia Summit, the ASEAN-Australia Summit, the ASEAN-New Zealand Summit and the third ASEAN-UN Summit.

In these cooperation frameworks, all partners attach importance to and promote their relations with ASEAN bilaterally and multilaterally, supporting the Association's Community building efforts and its centrality in the region. ASEAN is always considered a trusted venue and a catalyst for the harmonization of intertwined interests towards the common goal of maintaining peace, stability and

shared prosperity. We look forward to your continued support to a more active role of ASEAN in the region and the world.

Thank you for your attention.