Proposal of the Global Youth Exchange Program 2003

31st January, 2003
Executive Summary

The 2003 Global Youth Exchange Program brought together 36 participants from 26 countries to brainstorm on ways to deepen regional cooperation. Three separate groups discussed the challenges and opportunities for such cooperation, specifically within the frameworks of economics, security and culture. These proposals are as follows:

**Economics - “EA-33” (An East Asian Common Market by 2033)**

The proposal for an EA-33 was made following discussions of relevant issues such as the need for deeper economic cooperation, the limitations of present economic arrangements, major obstacles towards integration, and factors contributing to successful cooperation.

An EA-33, consisting of ASEAN+3 countries, would first require the formation of an ASEAN+3 FTA within 15 years, and then proceed to a Common Market in another 15 years. The whole EA-33 process would be completed by 30 years from now. Key emphases towards achieving an EA-33 include, *inter alia*:
- the need for institution-building and the creation of legally-binding ASEAN+3 arrangements;
- the need to orientate current ASEAN+1 FTA initiatives towards larger ASEAN+3 integration
- the need to close development gaps;
- the need to foster political will and domestic support for deeper integration;
- the need for continued ASEAN integration, which would help increase ASEAN clout and ability to play a catalytic role toward EA-33.

**Security – “4Cs” Model: Communication → Confidence → Cooperation → Common Security**

The 4Cs Model was proposed as a vehicle allowing for the realisation of both short and long-term approaches considered for enhanced security in the region.

**Short-Term Approach, including *inter alia*:**
- Creation of “10+3” Police Network to solve non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, human/drug smuggling etc.;
- Reform of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF); e.g. the creation of an ARF Permanent Secretariat;
- Establish a “10+3” Communication Network for immediate response during times of crisis.

**Long-Term Approach:**
- Creation of the Asian Security Organisation, which would provide effective peacekeeping operations in response to potential civil wars and inter-state military conflicts.
Cultural and Social Interaction- Multi-level Socio-cultural Exchange:

After examining the centrifugal and centripetal definitions of both culture and society, it was inferred that culture is unique to each society; this uniqueness should be kept in mind at any level of interaction. International and regional examples for cultural and social interactions were analysed and highlighted in order to give impetus for possible cooperation at Asia-ASEAN level.

Urgent social problems, not only specific to Asia-ASEAN region, include gender problems, drug addiction, AIDS, social and economic inequalities, social discrimination, unemployment, human rights, demographic problems and minorities. Keeping in mind the multi-faceted picture of culture and society in Asia-ASEAN region, proposals put forward include:
- Dissemination of already existing database and information of possible socio-cultural interaction lanes to every segment of society.
- Promotion of exchange activities at various levels, be it governments or NGOs.

In conclusion, the participants hope that these proposals will be helpful in building a closer Asian community.
ASIA-ASEAN AND THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY: A NEW REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE 21st CENTURY
“ACTING TOGETHER – ADVANCING TOGETHER”

INTRODUCTION

1. The theme of the 2003 Global Youth Exchange Program was deliberately chosen to further Japan's goal of deepening cooperation in the Asian region.

2. The participants of the Global Youth Exchange Program, coming from different countries and cultural backgrounds, have therefore discussed the challenges and opportunities for deepening regional and international partnerships, specifically within the interconnected frameworks of economics, security and culture.

3. Three separate groups have worked to analyse how each framework can build a closer Asian community, and have put forward detailed proposals to this purpose. These analyses and proposals are presented in the following sections.

A) ECONOMIC COOPERATION – A Vision for an East Asian Common Market

THE NEED FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

4. There are compelling reasons to support the pursuit of closer economic cooperation, regional and otherwise. Established principles in economics advocate that comparative advantage of different countries can be usefully tapped through enhanced cooperation in trade and investment; this would lead to a corresponding increase in economic growth and welfare in all cooperating participants.

5. While we laud these economic benefits, the political and strategic relationships arising from institutionalised economic cooperative arrangements are no less important. When countries possess a stake in other countries’ economies, the possibility of armed conflict is necessarily lowered, as policymakers instead seek to stimulate and maintain the joint economic interests. This is no small feat in a world increasingly fragmented by terrorism and suspicion.
6. Nascent economic cooperation beginning with loose arrangements like joint declarations of intent are often important first steps in confidence building to enter further phases of economic integration.

7. The above reasons supporting closer economic cooperation are important in and of themselves. Policymakers should pro-actively pursue them. But the need for closer regional economic cooperation is further strengthened due to international economic developments which must be responded to. Such developments include the subdivision of the world economy into large economic blocs. Asia cannot stand back and be marginalised as NAFTA and EU countries grow into formidable economic blocs. Asian countries need to cooperate and jointly build the region’s economic competitiveness and clout.

8. Another development calling for regional reaction is the need to speed up WTO negotiations. It is much harder to find a common denominator amongst WTO Members, than amongst a smaller regional sub-group of countries. Asian countries therefore need to pursue closer economic bonding to achieve faster trade and economic liberalisation than the WTO can. Asia can then form an important ‘building block’ to the ultimate 1st-best goal of multilateral economic liberalisation.

9. A related point is that if Asian countries cooperate as a bloc and advocate similar interests, they can have increased bargaining power at the multilateral level (like the EU). This is particularly important for small developing countries, as they can have their interests elevated if other countries in the bloc share them. Countries (especially developing ones) would have more confidence to enter the jungle of globalisation with their bloc partners.

PRESENT ECONOMIC COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS IN ASIA: SUCCESSES AND LIMITATIONS

Limitations of ‘looser’ non-binding economic cooperation

10. Before the recent increased interest in FTAs, the sort of economic arrangements in Asia were mostly of a loose and non-binding nature. Examples include the Singapore-Johor-Riau Growth Triangle, the BIMP-EAGA\(^1\) arrangement, various joint declarations for increased cooperation between more and less developed economies, and between business associations in different countries.

\(^1\) Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area
11. These loose arrangements were undoubtedly well-intentioned – they sought to promote resource and information sharing, and often arose as by-products of diplomatic and security exchanges. They have not been altogether useless – for example less developed countries have benefited from the transfer of knowledge and expertise through economic cooperation. However, due to their non-binding nature – having never been ratified or subject to dispute settlement – these loose cooperation arrangements have not achieved particularly striking results. We rarely see partners in these cooperative arrangements speaking with one voice in international economic forums, or experiencing economic levelling-up in parallel.

12. The arrangements are also fragile, and since they are not legally binding under international law, may collapse in the event of leadership changes. This occurred with the BIMP-EAGA arrangement. Ambitious an initiative though it was, there was little political will to carry it through, and it has been weakened in the wake of leadership changes in certain participant countries.

13. It is only through the institutionalisation of legally-binding economic cooperation arrangements that participant countries can be assured of committed cooperation, which would stay resilient even through political strife or leadership changes.

A Movement towards FTAs

14. Recent years have shown increasing movement in Asia towards the formation of FTAs. The ASEAN FTA (AFTA) is one of the most established FTAs in the Asian region. This tariff-dismantling arrangement has been in effect since 1993.

15. Since 1999, Singapore and Thailand have been pursuing their own bilateral FTAs within and without Asia, for example with Japan, the US, EFTA and New Zealand, amongst a host of others.

16. One of the most important FTAs currently being negotiated in Asia is the ASEAN-China FTA, which will create the world’s largest market, with some 1.8 billion consumers. Other FTA initiatives like ASEAN-Japan, ASEAN-Korea or ASEAN+3 are not as advanced as the ASEAN-China FTA process.

17. Our group’s view is that these FTAs are important first steps to deeper economic integration in Asia. However, they are insufficient. We have seen other parts of the world, particularly Europe and North America, move ahead of Asia to become more economically vibrant and deeply integrated. Notwithstanding our belief that Asia has not achieved enough in
this respect, we nevertheless recognise that there are natural obstacles to deeper economic integration.

**OBSTACLES TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

18. One major obstacle to increased market access and economic cooperation is the different levels of economic development in different Asian countries. This is evident in income disparities, unbalanced trading infrastructures, differences in exchange rate regimes, stages of industrialisation, levels of readiness for liberalisation and digital divides. All these hamper further cooperation and communication, as well as create division amongst countries in the region.

19. Other obstacles are fears of competition, for example from identical sectors in different countries, which might lead to unemployment. Some countries also eschew cooperation because they bear the somewhat asymmetric perception that only one country will benefit at the expense of the other, and there might be demand-supply mismatches with one country’s goods flooding the other. Such reasons (which are often also related to political support reasons) lead to countries refusing to pursue further economic cooperation for the sake of ‘protecting’ their domestic industries and economies.

20. It is often difficult to distinguish economic from political obstacles to further cooperation. But some distinct non-economic obstacles include the lack of political will, changes in policy priorities (frequently arising from leadership changes and corresponding lack of political continuity), as well as socio-political objections. One good illustration of socio-political obstacles is the agriculture sectors in countries like Japan and Korea. These constituencies are often opposed to increased trade and economic liberalisation for fear that their agrarian histories would be eradicated by import competition.

21. Language can be a natural obstacle too. The use of different languages in the region makes it difficult to negotiate a common goal. It is hardly straightforward to surmount the transaction costs arising from the use of different languages.

22. These obstacles need to be addressed and overcome before successful regional economic cooperation can be achieved.
FACTORS DRIVING SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Geographical Proximity

23. Geographical proximity of countries can help boost regional cooperation. Cultural closeness arising from physical proximity, as well as that proximity in and of itself, can translate into a corresponding ease to building common trading infrastructure such as transport and distribution networks. These common systems help to form strong foundations for deeper economic integration.

Political Will and Domestic Support

24. Political leaders and policymakers need to possess the political will and determination to overcome obstacles towards regional integration, and work tirelessly towards building community consensus to this end. Leaders should recognise that without obtaining the support of the general populace and business community, they may not succeed in their policy goals of deeper integration, inherently valuable though the goal may be. The government, business community and general populace must therefore adopt mutually reinforcing stances to pursue successful regional economic integration.

Case Study:
The Example of Mercosul – Political Will to overcome Economic Difficulties and Pessimism

The example of Mercosul can be interesting for Asian countries. The elimination of tariffs inside the bloc caused trade to multiply 10-fold in 5 years.

In the last 3 years, domestic economic crises (Brazilian devaluation of its currency, Argentinian economic crisis) made trade fall about 30%. But recently all its members – moving against pessimistic views on the future of the association – decided not to stop the integration process, but, on the contrary, to speed up integration, even talking about a single currency.

Public Outreach and Information Dissemination on the Importance of Deeper Economic Integration

25. Governments have to actively increase their domestic constituencies’ understanding of the effects and benefits of market access and economic integration. This can be achieved through public outreach
efforts, for example through intensified information dissemination and simplified analyses.

**Common beliefs, interests and objectives**

26. Beyond educating domestic communities to better understand and appreciate the goals of economic integration, countries must also work towards the sharing and advocating of common beliefs, interests and objectives. This can be through information sharing efforts, or joint symposiums. A common set of regional beliefs can create regional cohesiveness from within, and build further regional economic cooperation on a strong foundation.

**Some countries to act as ‘pathfinders’**

27. The intention is not to promote divisive policies in the region, but for some countries to act as ‘pathfinders’ or ‘functional leaders’ in putting together specific initiatives in order to spur the region in a similar direction. For example, Japan may be a leader in the field of investment, and can promote certain investment-integration initiatives on a regional scale. Another country may take the lead in technical standards.

28. We must emphasise though that the point is not to create different sets of commitments, but to build a similar set of regional commitments.

**Institution Building**

29. Governments and policymakers also have to concertedly pursue legally binding arrangements, which would assist in the creation of permanent institutions enshrining effective and successful regional integration. Only through countries’ willingness to bind themselves to deeper economic integration under international law, can there be regional integration that is assured of continuity and permanence, which would not be dismantled through mere changes in leadership.

**Goal**

30. An **East Asian Common Market** which will entail:

   (i) the free flow of goods, services, investment and labour;
   
   (ii) a common external tariff; and

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2 East Asian refers to the Association of SE Asian Nations and +3 countries of Korea, China, Japan
(iii) harmonised economic policies.

**WHY A COMMON MARKET IS DESIRABLE**

31. FTAs, while important steps towards institution building, are insufficient for deeper economic integration. Besides the points in paragraph 4-9 that point to the need for regional economic integration, deeper integration through a common market would further allow a more effective use and distribution of resources, through diminishing their duplicative use.

32. Only through the harmonised economic policies in a common market can East Asia have a strong and cohesive voice in the international community. This would increase East Asia’s leverage and bargaining power.

33. The creation of a deeply integrated market would also make the region as a whole more attractive. Investors would be able to pursue a more holistic approach in the distribution of their investment in the region, rather than have to address separate strengths and policies of individual countries.

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3 This does not include macroeconomic fiscal and monetary policies. Tax systems, investment policies, subsidies and labour regulations would be harmonised. However, countries would separately maintain their fiscal and monetary regimes.
Case Reference:
The EU's Timeframe towards Achieving a Common Market

In the effort to design an appropriate timeframe for the East Asian Common Market, a review of the chronological evolution in the European Union was useful. We have selected the main events which took place within this organisation until the achievement of the Common Market in 1993:

1948: A custom convention between Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands enters into force. This was the first initiative which started the whole process towards the 1993 Common Market.

1950: Schuman Declaration including the proposal for the establishment of a European Coal and Steel Community.

1957: The Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) are signed by the Six (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands) in Rome as of today they will be referred to as the "Treaties of Rome".

1968: Customs union enters into force. Remaining customs duties in intra-Community trade are abolished 18 months ahead of what was scheduled in the Rome Treaty and the Common Customs Tariff is introduced to replace national customs duties in trade with the rest of the world. (11 years had been necessary since the signature of the EEC Treaty in 1957).

1993: Establishment of the Common Market. (Therefore it took still 25 years more to reach the common market. So the whole process took 36 years)

We can conclude that the time East Asia will need to establish its own Common Market as we describe in our proposal is quite reasonable, though we also have to keep in mind East Asian specific factors that may hamper the spirit of integration.
TIMEFRAME

34. We see an East Asian common market in 30 years, with an East Asian FTA in 15 years.

“East Asia Common Market in 2033”
**HOW TO ACHIEVE AN EA-33**

**Explanation of Pictoral Representation above:**

- The ASEAN+1 FTA (ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Japan etc.) initiatives occurring now must eventually lead to a larger East Asian FTA within 15 years. These ASEAN+1 initiatives are naturally more feasible at the current stage, but must eventually be overtaken by a wider East Asian FTA in 15 years.

- The trade liberalisation in the ASEAN+1 FTA initiatives would be an important foundation for the eventual East Asian-wide trade liberalisation in the East Asian FTA.

- On a parallel track, +3 countries must also pursue dialogues and increased interaction to attain the goal of liberalising trade amongst all East Asian countries. If +3 countries cannot lower tariffs between themselves, but only separately with ASEAN, then the goal of an East Asian FTA would not be achieved. +3 countries must determinedly pursue the liberalisation of trade amongst themselves in less than 15 years, before or at the formation of the East Asian FTA.

- After the East Asian FTA is completed, countries have 15 further years to form a common market together. However, starting even now, the ASEAN+3 forum should continuously monitor the ASEAN+3 integration process, and ensure that countries are moving towards the formation of an East Asian common market in 30 years.

**Policy Recommendations:**

*Deeper ASEAN Integration must continue to be pursued*

35. The momentum from the ASEAN FTA process and creation of a closer ASEAN economic region should carry on regardless. As ASEAN moves closer together in economic terms, this would be a ‘building block’ to a larger East Asian integration. ASEAN would also be able to carry its weight more effectively in negotiations with +3 countries if it is more deeply integrated. ASEAN would also develop increased clout and an increased ability to play a catalytic role in the region.
Closing development gaps

36. More developed countries should provide holistic support programmes to assist the levelling up of less developed East Asian countries. This would go beyond monetary aid, and consist of technology transfers and advice on the building of basic economic infrastructures. For example, assistance to less developed countries can be provided to build their capacity for faster integration into multilateral systems like the WTO. Such support would help less developed East Asian countries to develop more quickly, and become better equipped to face the challenges and reap the benefits of deeper economic integration.

37. Different levels of development imply the need for social safety nets to be provided (particularly to least developed countries) if deeper integration is to be pursued. These safety nets should not however be used as an excuse for countries to exclude certain sectors from economic liberalisation, and must be mutually agreed amongst all parties participating in the integration process.

All East Asian Communities should be well-informed of the Common Market goal

38. Educative and outreach processes discussed in paragraph 25 above should be actively pursued amongst East Asian communities. This would develop understanding and appreciation of the Common Market goal, and overcome fears of unemployment for example.

+3 countries need to intensify cooperation

39. The current FTA initiatives are on ASEAN+1 platforms. There are no common +3 platforms, which must be developed in conjunction with ASEAN+1 platforms to achieve the ultimate goal of a common East Asian market, without barriers between and within ASEAN+3 countries. ASEAN can perhaps play a facilitative role towards dialogue between +3 countries.

Enhance the use of the English Language as an effective communication tool

40. The English language should be promoted and developed by Asian policymakers as the common operative language for negotiations and transactions. This would help to overcome the obstacle described in paragraph 21.

Continued domestic reform
41. Effective regional integration must be supported by concerted domestic housekeeping. Countries must sort out their domestic issues (e.g. the privatisation process in China, the banking reforms in Japan etc.) to complement and enhance the process of regional integration. The Asian and Latin American crises illustrate all too well that poorly-considered internal policies can cause economic devastation.

**Administrative Structures to promote the Common Market goal**

42. After the completion of the East Asian FTA in 15 years, an independent structure should be formed to facilitate further processes towards the Common Market and adjudicate disputes between countries.

43. At this stage however, the ASEAN and ASEAN+3 forums should insert a permanent agenda for the Common Market goal, and possibly establish working groups to further its development. These forums can also help to facilitate and coordinate information dissemination amongst the East Asian community.

44. **Conclusion:** The East Asian community should work towards EA-33, with the framework above as a useful guide.

**B) SECURITY AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN ASIA**

45. There are many actual and potential threats in East Asia, which threaten the stability and security of the region as well as the whole world. We emphasise the importance of regional cooperation in dealing with these threats and challenges in Asia through using multilateral mechanisms and structures.

46. There are two approaches for enhancing new regional cooperation and security in Asia. The first approach consists of short-term feasible ideas. This part of the document has the purpose of focusing on actions that the GYE 2003 consider the ASEAN region should be concerned in the immediate term. The second approach has the purpose of long term, ambitious solutions that may be in some cases idealistic, but that give the ideal scenario at which Asia should aim.

**I. SHORT TERM APPROACH**

47. For the short term, we propose the following: ASEAN+3 should develop a “10+3 police network”. We emphasise the necessity to develop confidence and trust measures among members to
solve non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, human and drug trafficking, illegal arms smuggling, transnational organised crime, etc.

Within this framework, ASEAN+3 can

48. **Strengthen the existing mechanism of ASEAN:** The organisations that can be strengthened are the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crimes and ASEAN Senior Official Meeting on Transnational Crime so that they can play more pronounced roles to solve the issues.

49. **Reform on the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF):** In terms of dealing with security matters, prompt and effective administrative unit like an ARF Permanent Secretariat should be created. Moreover, the Confidence Building Measures should be moved to Preventive Diplomacy.

50. **Establish a 10+3 Communication Network:** Since conflicts require immediate response from decision-makers, the 10+3 Hotline or 10+3 Telecommunication Network shall be connected to provide mutual trust and confidence among conflicting parties.

51. **Foster an Asian Think Tank Collaboration:** There are numerous academic and research institutions within Asia. Some links have been created but need to consolidate and increase the exchanges. With this regard, joint research programmes on regional security and academic exchanges, for instance, should be greatly supported. The financial support could be drawn from the Japanese government.

**II. Long Term Approach**

52. For the long term, we propose the following: Asian Security Organization, which covers peacekeeping operations as a response to potential civil wars, interstate military conflict.

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<td>• To develop confidence and trust measures</td>
<td>• CBM</td>
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<td>• To solve non-traditional security threats</td>
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issues
- The creation of Rapid Reaction Force
- Conflict management which include consultation and mediation

53. Cooperation implies that there exists a subject on which different participants arrive at a consensus, to do that, there must prevail good will to reach cooperative status; that means, a point at which everyone agrees in taking a predetermined course of action. But in the field of international relations, this simplicity is not evident, and goes into a complex scene full of interests, contradictions, etc., that must be surpassed to obtain a balance point. A general concept accepted in the Asia-Pacific region is one, that the commitment of the countries that participate in international agreements are keen to assume commitments depending on the relative development of their economies and the level of interdependence.

54. Therefore, the facility to carry out multilateral agreements in such a heterogeneous region as the Asia-Pacific Region has always depended on a common interest. This essential factor has been the desire to obtain a better economic performance with the flag of free trade and international stability. Nevertheless, despite the diversity of the countries of the region, one of the most suitable forms to interrelate in a globalised and interdependent world constitutes the cooperation like key element to reunite efforts in the concrete goal seeking, which the region has obtained. An example is the Free Trade Agreement Mexico-Japan, which would fortify its bilateral relations, and although the negotiations began two years ago, the work group continues signalling in agreements more than discords.

55. The central element of the strategy destined to reinforce the security in the regional scope, would be to emphasise the cooperation like the alternative where all are winning. Then, the interdependence entails to a constant cause-effect that is reflected in different scopes of the national and international arena. In this sense, the results of the cooperation could not also be translated in negative consequences not only for the actor whom it does not cooperate, but also for the rest of the actors who share a region. For that reason, the regional cooperation has been chosen like the main strategy to protect the institutional relations of the region of the Asia-Pacific Region, which have been harmed before by the economic instability of the last years. Therefore, peace is an indispensable element to reach the development and regional balance; for that reason with the participation of all the actors of the Asia-Pacific Region the probabilities are increased for obtaining better results, than they take to a greater and better integration in economic and social political subjects in the near future.
56. As a consensus, we agree that the core of the regional cooperation on security is the 4Cs Model. This model is the vehicle to enable both approaches to be realised, the short term and long term solutions. It consists of “communication”, “confidence”, “cooperation”, and “common security”. This model consists on a process in which communication is the first step to achieve confidence. With confidence we can then achieve the cooperation needed to establish the common security that is desirable in the region.

C) CULTURAL AND SOCIAL INTERACTION: An Ideal Society

1. **General Definitions of Culture and Society:**

57. *Culture:* A general understanding whereby a society has built up through general habits, speech patterns, philosophies and behaviours.

58. Culture is a general way of life; however it is also unique to each society.

59. *Society:* Commonalities of all above features create a society which has also been bringing people, who have similar or the same history, geography and linkages, together. Thus, a society is a group of people that has been living on the same region. In other words, it is both centrifugal and centripetal co-habitation of people.

60. Hence, interaction of two or more societies creates a *region* where its component actors can have some commonalities and differences at the same time.

61. As we can see from above definitions, it is very difficult to clarify both the vague terms of culture and society and one has to be careful while defining these terms, especially at regional level.

2. **International and Specifically Regional Examples of Cultural and Social Interactions:**

62. Current position of ASEAN on cultural and social interaction has also been pursued since its establishment. There are wide ranging structures, institutions, organisations, sub-committees, governmental and NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) level examples and current trends in ASEAN. To give some examples:
2003 GLOBAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM
"Asia-ASEAN and the International Society: A New Regional Cooperation in the 21st Century"

- ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year 2003.
- The Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP) between Japan and ASEAN countries.
- Exchange of Literature between Philippines and Singapore.
- ASEAN-South Korea Cultural Exchange Program.
- ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI).
- ASEAN SEA Games and Asian Games.
- ASEAN cultural week in Cambodia.
- ASEAN Social Safety net, Social Funds.
- ASEAN-China Foundation

63. Mercosur, SAARC, as being regional organisations, have many sub-committees and governmental initiatives on cultural and social interaction.

64. EU has cultural networks in order to cover any aspect of social life, including both of its member and candidate countries.

Some examples of other interactions:
- Turkey-Central Asia Exchange Programs.
- India-Central Asia Cultural Exchange meetings.
- Chile-China, Chile-Malaysia, Chile-India, Chile-Vietnam Cultural Agreements.

3. CURRENT AND OBVIOUS LACKS OF THE REGIONAL INTERACTIONS, SPECIFICALLY IN ASEAN REGION:

65. a) The existing numbers of activities of NGOs are not enough for intended level of interaction among societies.

b) Lack of communication and exchange of information and promotion of interaction with Africa, Central Asia, South Asia, West Asia regions and South and Central America.

c) Lack of exchange of literature, arts, movies, theatre, exhibitions, music and language at regional and inter-regional levels.

d) Lack of research of historical legacies, linkages and commonalities to create more common grounds.

e) Lack of getting to know your own culture to understand other cultures better.

f) Lack of confidence due to historical, political and border problems.
4. SOCIAL PROBLEMS THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AT REGIONAL LEVEL:

66. We have identified common social problems not only peculiar to ASEAN region but also to all other regions in the world. Hence, these sensitive points should also be re-emphasised. These areas are mainly:
   - Sexual abuse, gender problems and women suppression.
   - Drug addiction, HIV/AIDS and health care.
   - Social and economic inequalities, social discrimination.
   - Racism, xenophobia.
   - Historical over-sensitiveness.
   - Unemployment, poverty, child labour and crime.
   - Language.
   - Religion, minorities and migration.
   - Lack of access to education and literacy.
   - Demographic problems and ageing population.
   - Human rights

5. POSSIBLE WAYS OF IDEAL INTERACTIONS:

67. To disseminate the already existing database and information of possible cultural and social interaction ways to every segment of society as not every part of society has an easy access to information in that region. For this aim, strengthening and re-forming already existing means of communication like COCI and establishment of specific agencies at societal and regional level in each society is important. For example, position of region wide cultural and social funds should be reformed and inter-regional funds like between ASEAN-Central Asia, South Asia, West Asia and South and Central America should be initiated.

68. Creation of individual-collective, national-regional awareness of richness of the culture in the region should be an end aim to be realised by any means of interaction. To reach this main target, different ways can be implemented as follows:

   - Protection of cultural significances and differences by learning each other’s culture while going through economic and political integration. Like exchange of culture and folklore and promotion of volunteer work for society wide interaction to reach every corner of the society.

   - Compilation of peculiarities of the English language or any other common language for creation of the common communication grounds while preserving each individual language.
- Since NGOs represent civil society through creation of transnational linkages, region wide and inter-regional wide youth, social and cultural NGOs should be promoted.

- Establishment of educational opportunities to reach individual uniqueness of each society via area studies programs and language learning centres in existing academic institutions, development of the idea of University of Asia and exchange of credits between region wide universities.

- Re-emphasising already existing transnational linkages via historical legacies, arts, sports, transportation, broadcasting and telecommunication.

- Promotion of exchange activities at various levels from governmental to non-governmental and transnational ones. For instance creation of common platforms for journalists, parliamentary meetings, intellectuals and civil society representatives should further be emphasised.

**CONCLUSION:**

69. The GYE 2003 participants realise that diverse economic, political, security and cultural factors need to be taken into consideration in order to build a strong foundation for further cooperation. We hope that the respective proposals of:

(i) EA-33;

(ii) 4Cs Model; and

(iii) Multi-level, socio-cultural exchange;

will contribute towards building a holistic, comprehensive, integrated, and progressive Asian community.