

The Yangon Declaration
on
ASEAN Engineers shaping international trade agreements relating to intra ASEAN
and extra ASEAN trade affecting Engineering Professional Services

CAFEO 22 (18-19 December 2004) Yangon, Myanmar

We, the **engineers** representing the ten (10) national engineering organisations in ASEAN, viz. Persatuan Ukur Jurutera dan Arkitek (PUJA), Brunei, Engineering Institution of Cambodia (EIC), Cambodia, Persatuan Insinyur Indonesia (PII), Indonesia, Laos Union of Science and Engineering Association (LUSEA), Laos, Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM), Malaysia, Myanmar Engineering Society (MES), Myanmar, Philippine Technological Council (PTC), Philippines, Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES), Singapore, Engineering Institute of Thailand (EIT), Thailand, and Vietnam Union of Science & Technology Association (VUSTA), Vietnam - gathered in Yangon, Myanmar for the 22nd Conference of the **ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations**, (CAFEO 22) under the theme : "Engineering Capacity Building for ASEAN Integration and Global Competitiveness". Having discussed during the Convention; which, among others, included: Human Resource Development, with particular emphasis on the development of young and female engineers and that professional ASEAN Engineers shall endeavour to be in conformity to international engineering professional practice benchmark; ASEAN Integration; Energy & Infrastructure Development; Attaining Sustainable Economic Growth; Poverty Alleviation; Engineering, the engine of growth for the Region's Economy; etc.

MINDFUL that the **ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)** shall be the end-goal of ASEAN Economic Integration (AEI) as outlined in the ASEAN Vision 2020 and that the **AEC will result in ASEAN becoming a single market and production base**, turning the diversity that characterises the region into opportunities for business complementation making the ASEAN a more dynamic and stronger segment of the global supply chain and the world economy; and further

NOTING that a new round of multilateral negotiation has been initiated by the WTO in 2002, known as the **Doha Development Agenda (i.e. DDA)** which, among others, **deals with further liberalization of Agricultural products and Services** with the modality of a single undertaking; and in perspective

APPRECIATING that AFTA is, after all, WTO Rules Plus, and with DDA dealing with further liberalization of Services with a single undertaking modality, coupled with the fact that **ASEAN has began regional integration initiatives on FTA/ CEP** with ASEAN having signed trade related agreements with China, India and Japan **which will include the establishment of FTA's by 2010 (for ACFTA), 2011 (for AIFTA) and 2012 (for AJCEP) respectively**, not forgetting the EU initiated Trans-Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative

(i.e. **TREATI**) in 2003 to revitalize its engagement with ASEAN through the expansion of trade and investment flows, and the recently concluded 10th ASEAN Summit authorised the start of negotiation of other FTA's, with Korea and maybe with CER - **all these FTA's/ CEP's have provisions dealing with Trade in Services**, it is therefore urgent that the **CCS'** ongoing negotiations of the **MRA dealing with Engineering Professional Services**, under the ambit of the AFAS, **be reflective of ASEAN Engineers' Hope, Aspiration and Position**; then

RECALLING that the AFEO Governing Board at their meeting in Manila on 23rd November 1998 laid down the framework for the establishment of an ASEAN wide register of qualified and experienced engineers in ASEAN countries known as **the ASEAN Engineers Register (AER)** with the founding objectives as follows:-

- To secure the recognition of ASEAN engineering titles and to protect those titles, in order to facilitate the freedom of engineers to move and practice within and outside ASEAN;
- To safeguard and promote the professional interests of engineers;
- To foster high standards of formation and professional practice and regularly review them;
- To promote cultural and professional links among members of the engineering profession within ASEAN;
- To enhance the wealth of ASEAN countries.

REAFFIRMING ourselves of the global challenge, in a special AER Commission meeting in Malacca, Malaysia on 18th July, 2001, to harmonize among the ten (10) ASEAN national engineering organisations, an **ASEAN Engineering Professional Code of Practice** which would permit:-

- i. Facilitating the mobility of engineers within the ASEAN region;
- ii. Achieving a consistent and excellent level of engineering practice;
- iii. Enhancing business activities between member countries;
- iv. Reducing the outflow of funds from the region;
- v. Promoting greater public welfare, safety, health and sustainable development;
- vi. Developing engineering capabilities in ASEAN;
- vii. Providing more competitive engineering services and products;
- viii. Advancing collective views on enhancing two way mobility in engineering practices beyond the ASEAN region.

DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

- 1.0 **AFEO** is truly an ASEAN wide grass-root organization, since the AER is the Register of qualified and experienced engineers in all ASEAN countries who are corporate members of their respective engineering organizations, it should be recognized by the ASEAN Summit and the ASEAN Economic Ministers, i.e. the AEM as **a competent party to the CCS' on-going negotiations of the MRA dealing with Engineering Professional Services**.
- 2.0 **AFEO** acting for and on our behalf, shall be able **to assist the AEM and the ASEAN Summit in shaping international trade agreements (for both intra ASEAN and extra ASEAN trade) affecting Engineering Professional Services** such as defining global engineering ethics, setting appropriate benchmarks for qualifications and experience, developing best practice procedures for the international licensing of engineers and the engineering team, and developing and enforcing conformance to international standards and/or Codes of Practice.

3.0 The AFEO's Executive Secretary is urged to duly notify the AEM c/o the ASEAN Secretariat of our Hope, Aspiration and Position.

Done in Yangon, Union of Myanmar, on the 19th day of December in the Year Two Thousand and Four.

For and on behalf of ASEAN Engineers.

SIGNED

The President of AFEO

SIGNED

PUJA (Brunei Darussalam)

SIGNED

PII (Indonesia)

SIGNED

IEM (Malaysia)

SIGNED

PTC (Philippines)

SIGNED

EIT (Thailand)

SIGNED

The Secretary General of AFEO

SIGNED

EIC (Cambodia)

SIGNED

LUSEA (Lao PDR)

SIGNED

MES (Myanmar)

SIGNED

IES (Singapore)

SIGNED

VUSTA (Vietnam)

SIGNED

AER - Head Commissioner

The Way Forward with the Yangon Declaration passed at CAFEO22, 18-19 Dec 2004

AFEO's 10 year Outline Prospective Roadmap, ie. OPR:-

- ❖ There shall be the first AFEO 10 year Outline Prospective Roadmap, ie. AFEO-OPR1 (for period: 2005 to 2014).
- ❖ This AFEO-OPR1 is for the period when the following would have taken place;
 - AFTA by way of the CEPT mechanism would have been completed;
 - AEI for selected sectors would be completed by 2007 for 2010, and the progression to AEC would be further accelerated;
 - The AFTA's MRA on Services, under the ambit of AFAS would also be completed;
 - ACFTA, AIFTA, AJCEP would be realised and may even be operationalised;
 - Other FTA's such as AEUFTA, AUSFTA and possibly ACERFTA would be in the Works; and
 - Not to forget the newly announced EAC that will be initiated in 2005.
- ❖ In the name of AFEO, successive CAFEO's shall come up with up-dated suggestions and relevant plans to influence the AEM and the ASEAN Summit in shaping international trade agreements for both intra ASEAN and extra ASEAN trade which have a bearing on Engineering Professional Services.

AER 2 year Action Plans, ie. AP's:-

- ❖ To realise the goals of AFEO's 10 year OPR, there shall be five (5) 2 year Action Plans (AP's) to be administered and managed by the AER Executive Committee under the overview of the Secretary General of AFEO.
- ❖ The 5-2 year AP's for the AFEO-OPR1 are:
 - AP I (2005-2006)
 - AP II (2007-2008)
 - AP III (2009-2010)
 - AP IV (2011-2012)
 - AP V (2013-2014)
- ❖ The AER Executive Committee shall come up with short & medium term strategies which will result in the advancement of AFEO's agenda-especially in matters relating to intra ASEAN and extra ASEAN trade in engineering professional services.
- ❖ With the approval of the AER Commission and the endorsement of the Governing Board of AFEO, the AER Executive Committee shall implement the policies as laid down by AFEO when interpreting CAFEO's Declaration(s).
- ❖ The task of AER Executive Committee during the current AP will be to position the AER (and therefore AFEO) as the competent party that AEM will turn to for expert advice during the framing of international trade agreements affecting trade in services.
- ❖ The aim is for AER to obtain the mandate and the authorisation of the AEM and the ASEAN Summit, to generate the necessary ASEAN Directives that set out the accord and framework for pan-ASEAN practice of the engineering profession and the cross-border business of engineering professional services.
- ❖ The AER Executive Committee shall draw up the necessary budget to fund and support the various activities and programmes that will advance and promote the interests of ASEAN Engineers with the AEM and ASEAN Summit via-a vis intra ASEAN and extra ASEAN Trade in Engineering Professional Services.

Index of Acronyms

ACERFTA	-	ASEAN Common Economic Region (ie. Australia & New Zealand combined) Free Trade Agreement
ACFTA	-	ASEAN China Free Trade Agreement
AEC	-	ASEAN Economic Community
AEUFTA	-	ASEAN European Union Trade Agreement
AEI	-	ASEAN Economic Integration
AEM	-	ASEAN Economic Ministers (Meeting)
AFAS	-	ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services
AFTA	-	ASEAN Free Trade Agreement
AIFTA	-	ASEAN India Free Trade Agreement
AJCEP	-	ASEAN Japan Closer Economic Partnership
AUSFTA	-	ASEAN United States Free Trade Agreement
CCS	-	Coordinating Committee on Services
CEP	-	Closer Economic Partnership
CEPT	-	Common Effective Preferential Tariff
DDA	-	Doha Development Agenda
EAC	-	East Asia Community
FTA	-	Free Trade Agreement
MRA	-	Mutual Recognition Agreement
WTO	-	World Trade Organisation