

Activity 5

SCRIPT:

The success of ASEAN rests on its open, inclusive and outward-looking nature. In this vein, ASEAN has established Dialogue Partnerships with ten parties:

Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States. Each ASEAN Member State is appointed to coordinate relations with a Dialogue Partner; Singapore is the country coordinator for ASEAN-Canada relations from July 2012 to July 2015. In addition to the Dialogue Partnerships, ASEAN-led platforms including the ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus, have helped to develop predictability in interactions amongst its members, thus enhancing confidence-building and contributing towards regional stability.

To respond to the growing challenges facing ASEAN in a timely and effective manner, and safeguard ASEAN centrality in an evolving geopolitical environment, a High-Level Task Force (HLTF) has been set up to look into ways to improve ASEAN's institutions and processes, as well as to review ASEAN's 6) external relations. The HLTF is expected to submit its recommendations to the 15th meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council in 2014. Two ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Groups have also been established to: (a) develop a Post-2015 Vision to succeed the ASEAN Community Blueprints by the 27th ASEAN Summit in 2015; and (b) study all relevant aspects related to Timor-Leste's ASEAN membership application and their possible implications on ASEAN, which will lay the foundation for developing a set of criteria to evaluate applications for ASEAN membership.