

RECOGNISING the catalytic role that regional trade arrangements can contribute towards accelerating regional and global liberalisation and as building blocks in the framework of the multilateral trading system;
HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1 Objectives

The objectives of this Agreement are to:

- (a) strengthen and enhance economic, trade and investment co-operation between the Parties;
- (b) progressively liberalise and promote trade in goods and services as well as create a transparent, liberal and facilitative investment regime;
- (c) explore new areas and develop appropriate measures for closer economic co-operation between the Parties; and
- (d) facilitate the more effective economic integration of the newer ASEAN Member States and bridge the development gap among the Parties.

ARTICLE 2 Measures For Comprehensive Economic Co-operation

The Parties agree to negotiate expeditiously in order to establish an ASEAN-China FTA within 10 years, and to strengthen and enhance economic co-operation through the following:

- (a) progressive elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers in substantially all trade in goods;
- (b) progressive liberalisation of trade in services with substantial sectoral coverage;
- (c) establishment of an open and competitive investment regime that facilitates and promotes investment within the ASEAN-China FTA;
- (d) provision of special and differential treatment and flexibility to the newer ASEAN Member States;
- (e) provision of flexibility to the Parties in the ASEAN-China FTA negotiations to address their sensitive areas in the goods, services and investment sectors with such flexibility to be negotiated and mutually agreed based on the principle of reciprocity and mutual benefits;
- (f) establishment of effective trade and investment facilitation measures, including, but not limited to, simplification of customs procedures and development of mutual recognition arrangements;
- (g) expansion of economic co-operation in areas as may be mutually agreed between the Parties that will complement the deepening of trade and investment links between the Parties and formulation of