

EDITORIAL

The Seventh Member of the ASEAN

Five foreign ministers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand have signed the Bangkok Declaration to inaugurate The Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) on August 8, 1967. Brunei was welcomed as the sixth member on January 7, 1984 and Vietnam became the seventh member on July 29, 1995

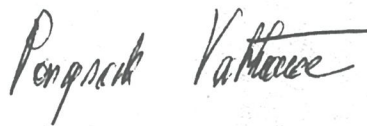
The ASEAN Secretariat is located in Jakarta, Indonesia. In January 7, 1993, Dato' Ajit Singh from Malaysia was appointed to hold the office of secretary general. This position is reelected every five years.

The ASEAN Summit Meeting is an assembly of the ASEAN heads of government. The purposes of this high level forum are to determine the policy and the role of the ASEAN. There have been four ASEAN Summit Meetings. The first meeting was in Bali, Indonesia during February 23-25, 1976. The second meeting was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during August 4-5, 1977. The third meeting was in Manila, Philippines during December, 14-15 1987 and latest one was in Singapore during January 27-28, 1992. In the last meeting, the members agreed that the ASEAN Summit Meeting should be held every three years and the 1995 meeting will be in Thailand.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) is an annually assembly of foreign ministers from the ASEAN countries. In addition to the regular meeting, the member can request a special meeting if it is necessary. The nation of host country is in an alphabetical order.

The 28th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting was in Bandar Seri Begawan from July 29-30, 1995. The foreign Ministers welcomed Vietnam as the seventh member of the ASEAN. They also welcomed the accession of Cambodia to the Treaty of Amity and cooperation in southeast Asia. Cambodia was also granted observer status. They believed that these events marked a historic step towards building a southeast Asian community and looked forward to the future when all southeast Asian nations become members of the ASEAN. The ministers called for increased cooperation with Cambodia and Laos to assist them in preparing for their eventual membership in ASEAN. The foreign ministers welcomed the decision by Myanmar to accede to the Treaty of Amity and cooperation in southeast Asia.

The ASEAN Orthopaedic Association is looking forward to have Vietnam Orthopaedic Association as a new member in the near future. The cooperation among the Orthopaedic surgeon from seven nations will not only create a better understanding of our regional Orthopaedic Medical knowledge but it will also promote friendships among our neighboring southeast Asian Countries.



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