

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Director-General

Rome 08.11.2000

LEG-DG/00/133

Dear Sir,

I should like to refer to your letter of 7 May 1999 addressed to the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific concerning the enhancement of relations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

I believe that the strengthening of cooperation between ASEAN and FAO would be to the benefit of the member countries of both organizations and agree to the establishment of formal relations through an exchange of letters, giving effect to the following general forms of cooperation:

- (i) Exchange of information and documents on matters of common interest concerning food security, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and sustainable development;
- (ii) Participation in an observer capacity and by invitation in conferences and meetings convened by either organization on matters of common interest;
- (iii) Consultation on the planning and execution of programmes of interest to both organizations so as to avoid duplication of effort and to increase efficiency; and
- (iv) Conduct of joint studies and programmes on matters of common interest.

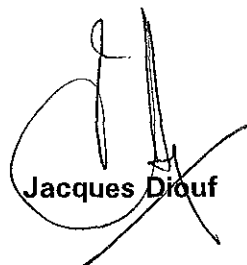
Dr Rodolfo C. Severino Jr.  
Secretary-General  
Association of Southeast Asian Nations  
The ASEAN Secretariat  
Jakarta

THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT		
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COMMENT:		

As a consequence of the establishment of formal relations with FAO, ASEAN would be entitled, in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Texts of FAO, inter alia, to be an observer at Sessions of the FAO Council and Conference on invitation by the Director-General and subject to confirmation by the Conference. I confirm also that ASEAN would be eligible to participate in technical conferences and seminars on subjects, which fall within its fields of interest.

If the objectives and methods of cooperation outlined above meet with your agreement, I should be pleased to have your written confirmation accordingly. This letter and your affirmative reply would then constitute an understanding regarding the establishment of formal relations between the two organizations, which I am confident will lay the basis for further strengthening of the close and fruitful cooperation which already exists.

Yours faithfully,



Jacques Diouf