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**Topic of the Research-** Dynamics of cooperation between India- ASEAN since 2000

### **Findings of the Research**

Today ASEAN is widely recognized in the international community as an exemplar of enlightened regionalism. But what makes up the nature and measure of its achievements? At the time of its birth, many political observers had presaged that, like previous attempts at regional organization, it would soon wither in the blast of the complex and hostile regional situation. Opposite to this It is remarkable that ASEAN has not only survived but also progressed globally and achieved a lot in its more than four and half decades history especially finally having its own charter which accords a legal identity to the regional grouping for international negotiations and transactions. Indeed, in a new post cold war environment, greater engagement with India has the potential to enhance influence of ASEAN with the rest of the world. ASEAN looks at India not only in terms of its growing economic power but also as a balancing and stabilising factor in the region. The partnership holds ample potential for a successful future. That's why ASEAN responded positively to India's efforts by first making her a sectoral dialogue partner, and as relations mature and advance, both sides elevated their relationship to the summit level engagement in 2002 and currently continue to signing various pacts and joining sub-regional groups. This trend has been expected to continue as both sides enhance their capacity and willingness to engage with each other establish institutions and mechanisms for wider and deeper linkages. ASEAN has express desirability to work together to fight against terrorism and transnational crime, Combating corruption and promoting good governance and to protection of human rights as well as cooperation in Forums such as ARF and MGC. The ongoing phase in the India's engagement with ASEAN has indeed been very vibrant phase in the ties between the two. These trends seem to assert the view that India has been able to retain close ties with the ASEAN region in the changing dynamics of international affairs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and will attempt to articulate it's political, economic and security perceptions towards the region. The significance of their mutual engagement would be use for bringing peace, security, equitable economic development and social justice in a region that is undergoing rapid change and transitions. The Asia-Pacific region as a whole would also benefit from a well-knit ASEAN India relationship. More economic and political integration and greater cooperation on key regional concerns like terrorism, piracy, sea-lane protection and climate change by these two key players will create a more open, stable and peaceful Asia which is in the interest of all global powers of the world. Hence, Southeast Asia's progress in the last decade to integrate as one market for trade, investment and security can serve as a lesson for the world amid free

trade talks. This was justified by the common stand India and ASEAN adopted on various regional and international issues including terrorism, integration with global economy and functional cooperation in diverse fields including science and technology, human resources development, trade and investment and transport and communication. India and ASEAN are now truly partners in progress. India is privileged to be part of a process that is contributing to ever widening circles of prosperity. Our relationship with the ASEAN countries is the pillar of “Look East Policy”. It has correctly focused on economic engagement with the ASEAN countries and in the larger East Asian region. The best aspect of India-ASEAN renewed engagements is that both of them recognise now that they have something to offer one another. However when India became associated with ASEAN, confidence building were given due importance and both began to create a new opportunities for deeper engagements. Hence the main findings of above research are:

- ✚ **Strengthen the Global identity** of India-ASEAN Relationship in Changing Scenario
- ✚ Examine and find out that how ASEAN systems to be helpful to the **Pan Asian process**.
- ✚ Identify **key sectors** of Political, social, Cultural, educational, economic spheres and to assess their prospective for mutual exchange and joint ventures
- ✚ Encourage People-to-People contacts and **bring about communication of the eminent person of ASEAN region**.
- ✚ Evaluation of **presentations and outcomes** from the meetings like **Delhi Dialogue series** of India and ASEAN.
- ✚ Deals with the new challenges and opportunities of 21<sup>st</sup> century along With **Non Traditional security threats**.
- ✚ **Utilize** already existing ties between India and the ASEAN Nations to **create opportunities** and **avenues** for trade, commerce and economic linkages.
- ✚ Receive **feedback** and **inputs** from the staff of the ISEAS, NTU, NUS, RSIS regarding past and future project activities.

In the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are once again standing at a turning point in history. There are questions about who is going to provide the resources to make it a more attractive partner in the future. There is a perceptible shift in the centre of global balance. Attention should now be drawn to the current state of India and ASEAN cooperation. Therefore, analysis of where ASEAN stands now, and where it needs to position itself in the future, comes at a critical juncture. It has realized that the integration at the bilateral level will hinder the exploitation of the potential of regional economic integration. There is therefore a growing recognition of the importance of integration at the pan Asian level. While there are definite challenges to be addressed before achieving a consolidated Southeast Asian community, it is evident that conscious efforts are being made on both the sides in developing synergies for the shared prosperity and mutual benefit of India, ASEAN and Asian region at large. In fact, upon historical ties, India has built new and modern ties. Still there are some important areas between India’s interactions with ASEAN i.e. energy security and other non-traditional security threats. These are all demands for further strength. By building close security and political ties with the countries of ASEAN, India can link not only herself but also some of her willing Southeast Asian neighbours, to the dynamic region of Asia.