



Dmitry Medvedev
The President
of the Russian
Federation

ADDRESS TO THE READERS OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS JOURNAL

Dear Readers,

This issue of the journal at your attention is specially devoted to the cooperation of Russia with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Established in 1967, ASEAN has become an authoritative and influential regional organization. Its evolution testifies to the fact that countries with different levels of socio-economic development, different political systems and historical destinies can constructively work together implementing in practice the concept of “unity in diversity”. The efficiently functioning system of ASEAN dialogue partnerships with individual



countries and international organizations by practical means promotes expanding of cooperation and maintaining security in the Asia-Pacific region.

Russia views its relationship with ASEAN as an important direction of its foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific region. Our partnership, which will mark the 15th anniversary next year, complements successfully developing bilateral ties with member countries of ASEAN.

The Joint Declaration on Progressive and Comprehensive Partnership, the Comprehensive Programme of Action to Promote Cooperation for 2005-2015 approved at the first Russia-ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 13 December 2005, as well as the Agreement on Economic and Development Cooperation have formed the foundation for fruitful political dialogue and strengthening economic and humanitarian ties.

Russia is determined to continue active participation in regional integration processes. We seek to promote our goods, technologies and investment in ASEAN markets. At the same time we are interested in engaging the modernization capability of the Association's members countries, in particular to advance the economy of Siberia and the Far East. Therefore we consider trade, economic and investment cooperation to be among the top areas of our interaction with the Association.

On 30 October this year Hanoi will host the 2nd Russia-ASEAN Summit meeting. I am confident that it will be a landmark event. Its results are to give impetus to cooperation in various fields, from politics and trade, transport and energy, science and technology, culture and tourism to combating terrorism and transnational crime, and disaster management.

At the Summit we will discuss joint steps to establish an open, transparent and well balanced security and cooperation architecture in the Asia-Pacific region. It should be based on collective, non-bloc principles, norms of international law, mutual respect and equality for all countries. Fostering the atmosphere of friendship and trust in the region is in our common interest.

Furthering interaction between Russia and ASEAN serves the interests of our countries and peoples. It is the spirit that guides us through preparation for the coming Summit. I am aware that our counterparts share this approach. And that means that there is every chance for our partnership to be upgraded to a new, higher level.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dmitry Medvedev', written in a cursive style.