

Box 2: Concrete Recommendations by the East Asia Study Group

17 Short-term Measures

- Form an East Asia Business Council;
- Establish generalized system of preferences (GSP) status and preferential treatment for the least developed countries;
- Foster an attractive investment environment for increased foreign direct investment;
- Establish an East Asian Investment Information Network;
- Develop resources and infrastructure jointly for growth areas and expand financial resources for development with the active participation of the private sector;
- Provide assistance and cooperation in four priority areas: infrastructure, information technology, human resources development, and ASEAN regional economic integration;
- Cooperate through technology transfers and joint technology development;
- Develop information technology jointly to build telecommunications infrastructure and to provide greater access to the Internet;
- Build a network of East Asian think tanks;
- Establish an East Asia Forum;
- Implement a comprehensive human resources development program for East Asia;
- Establish poverty alleviation programs;
- Take concerted steps to provide access to primary health care for the people;
- Strengthen mechanisms for cooperation on non-traditional security issues;
- Work together with cultural and educational institutions to promote a strong sense of identity and an East Asian consciousness;
- Promote networking and exchanges of experts in the conservation of the arts, artifacts, and cultural heritage of East Asian countries; and
- Promote East Asian studies in the region.

9 Medium-term and Long-term Measures, and Those that Require Further Study

- Form an East Asian Free Trade Area
- Promote investment by small- and medium-sized enterprises;
- Establish an East Asia Investment Area by expanding the ASEAN Investment Area;
- Establish a regional financing facility;
- Pursue a more closely coordinated regional exchange rate mechanism;
- Pursue the evolution of the ASEAN+3 Summit into an East Asian Summit;
- Promote closer regional marine environmental cooperation for the entire region;
- Build a framework for energy policies, strategies, and action plans; and
- Work closely with NGOs in policy consultation and coordination to encourage civic participation and state-civil society partnerships in tackling social problems.

Source: East Asia Study Group (2002).