

REVISION 1.1

What is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and what is its purpose? The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a multilateral organization which was (1) _____ to give Southeast Asian states a forum to communicate (2) _____ each other. Since the region had a long colonial past and a history of endemic warfare, there has never been much peaceful and constructive (3) _____ between kings, presidents and other officials. A neutral forum was, (4) _____, a very useful development for all of those countries.

ASEAN was formed as a result of the Bangkok (5) _____ of 1967 and initially had five members: Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, (6) _____ Philippines and Singapore. Brunei (7) _____ joined in 198 after it had won independence from Britain. Vietnam became the seventh member of the group, officially joining in 1995. (8) _____ several years of negotiation, Myanmar and Laos joined in 1997 and the final member of the ten, Cambodia, joined in 1999. The only (9) _____ state in Southeast Asia which is not a member of ASEAN is now East Timor. It is still (10) _____ vulnerable and fragile to be able to participate for the foreseeable future.