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ASEAN and KOREA

Trends in Economic and Labour Relations

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Trends in Economic and Labour Relations

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Foreword

Economic and political links between South Korea and Southeast Asia have been growing rapidly. The expanding ties prompted the Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies (KASEAS) and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore to hold two conferences to enable South Korean and Southeast Asian scholars to examine the issues arising from the closer interactions. This volume comprises the revised and edited versions of papers presented at the second conference held in Seoul in October 1995 on "ASEAN and Korea: Economic and Labour Relations". Funding for the project came from the ASEAN–Republic of Korea Special Co-operation Fund.

ASEAN and Korea: Trends in Economic and Labour Relations is thus a sequel to *ASEAN and Korea: Emerging Issues in Trade and Investment Relations* which was published by ISEAS in late 1995 and based on papers of the first conference. While the first volume dealt mainly with bilateral trade and investment relations between ASEAN countries and South Korea, the present volume deals with labour relations and special topics of interest such as the implications for Southeast Asia of South Korean trade and financial liberalization and of the rapidly developing South Korea–China economic relations; South Korean tourists in Thailand; the South Korean construction industry in Southeast Asia; Filipino workers in South Korea; and the historic links between South Korea and Southeast Asia.

Thus there is little overlap between the two volumes. Though economic issues predominate, certain socio-cultural aspects of relations have been included. In the present volume we have also incorporated, wherever possible, the comments of discussants as they add to the understanding of the subjects dealt with.

I thank the authors and discussants who have made this book possible. They are responsible for the facts and opinions expressed in their articles and comments. Their interpretations do not reflect the views of ISEAS or KASEAS.

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