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ASEAN and KOREA Emerging Issues in Trade and Investment Relations

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Foreword

The last decade has seen an enormous increase in trade and investment links between South Korea and the ASEAN region. The Republic of Korea also became a dialogue partner of ASEAN and, like the ASEAN countries, is a member of other important regional institutions like the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum and the ASEAN Regional Forum.

It was against this background that the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore and the Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies (KASEAS) decided that there should be more exchanges and discussions between scholars from ASEAN countries and South Korea to examine the issues arising from the more intensive and extensive interactions between South Korea and the ASEAN countries in the areas of trade, investments, and tourism. One consequence of this decision was a conference on “Emerging Issues in Trade and Investment Relations between Korea and ASEAN” held in Singapore in October 1994. Funding for the project comes from the ASEAN–Republic of Korea Special Co-operation Fund.

This volume comprises the revised and edited versions of papers delivered at the conference. The primary focus is clearly economic. However the political dimensions have not been entirely ignored. Nine of the chapters in this volume deal with South Korea–ASEAN relations. The last chapter is on South Korea–Vietnam relations. At the time of the conference Vietnam was only a prospective member of ASEAN. Today it is a member.

I take this opportunity to thank the authors who have done so much to make this publication possible. They are responsible for the facts and opinions expressed in their articles. Their interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of ISEAS or KASEAS. I also thank the editors for the work they put in.

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