



CULTURES & CIVILISATIONS DIALOGUE
**“Asian & European
Lecture Tour”**



**Lessons and Reflections on Regionalisation:
*Asian & European Perspectives***

Rodolfo C. Severino

Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore
Former Secretary-General : Association of Southeast
Asian Nations

Bernhard Zepter

Former Ambassador and Head of the European
Commission Delegation to Japan
Former Deputy Secretary General of the European
Commission

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**The Asia-Europe Foundation
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The Asia-Europe Foundation 'Cultures & Civilisations Dialogue' programme was established in 2003 to address contentious and sensitive cultural and inter-civilisational issues and promote understanding between Asia and Europe. Through three streams of activities, this programme facilitates leaders of civil society and government meeting, interacting and engaging with one another and with audiences in the opposite regions.

The Asia-Europe Foundation Lecture Tours Series was established to provide a platform for "leaders of opinion" of Asia and Europe to address an informed audience on issues pertaining to bridging differences between Asia and Europe. Over the last three years, 18 lecturers have participated in this programme, visited over 75 institutions and have delivered their lectures to over 2500 people.

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Lessons and Reflections on Regionalisation in Asia and Europe: *A European Perspective*

Bernhard Zepter

Former Ambassador and Head of the European Commission Delegation to Japan
& Former Deputy Secretary General of the European Commission

In the history of nation states European Integration is certainly a unique experiment. In the last 50 years tremendous progress has been achieved in Europe on the way to regional integration and many countries all over the world follow very closely this process.

There continues to be a need however, to take stock of our achievements, with a focus on emphasising our challenges ahead and looking at the specificities of EU-relations with Asia.

In doing so, this lecture will explain some features of European integration with particular relevance for Asian countries or regional organisations. More specifically, this lecture will **examine the political dimension of European integration and other features which demonstrate that the European model of regionalisation goes far beyond economic integration and has thus started to shape new patterns of international law which are of utmost relevance to better manage the social implications of globalisation.**

This lecture will also take stock of the most important achievements of European unity: political and social stability; economic prosperity as well as enhanced competitiveness through the introduction of a fully integrated single market, a truly integrated trade policy and the introduction of the Euro; other important common policies like culture, infrastructure, development, energy, labour or fiscal policies as well as the notion of environmental sustainability and gender mainstreaming in European policy shaping. This stocktaking will also include a reference to the EU as an active international player.

This analysis will also include looking at the most important challenges ahead, in particular the future of the European Constitution and further developments concerning enlargement of the EU, including the emergence of a European identity.

Finally, this lecture will examine the relations between the EU and Asia, with specific focus on our relations with Asian regional organisations or on the emergence of enhanced Economic Partnership Agreements as an addition or, in case of continued stalemate of the Doha Round as an alternative to the classical GATT/WTO negotiations on market access and trade liberalisation.

Is European Integration therefore a blueprint for neighbourhood policy throughout the world? Is the EU the most appropriate and effective answer to the process of globalisation? Can in particular regions like East- and Southeast Asia, where the issue of regionalisation has become an intensively discussed topic, learn from or even copy the European model?

Lessons and Reflections on Regionalisation in Asia and Europe: *An Asian Perspective*

Rodolfo C. Severino

Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore
Former Secretary-General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations

In both Asia and Europe, the European Union is, explicitly or implicitly, often held up as the paradigm of regionalism. Less often, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is invoked as a model for Asia. In Asia, impatience with the slow pace of economic integration in ASEAN and in the larger region of East Asia and concern over the tensions in the relations between regional states have prompted people to look to the European experience and achievement, whether the EU, the OSCE or both, as an inspiration and an aspiration.

In doing so, there has been a recognition that the differences between Asia and Europe – in history, in culture, in the relationships between the nations within each region, and in the temperament of their peoples – need to be acknowledged, and naturally impact the respective regionalisation models.

This lecture will examine the relevance of the European experience for Asia. Within this framework, this lecture will first look into the evolution and current state of Asian regionalism, in ASEAN and then the larger region of East Asia.

Two central observations are to be made about East Asia. The first is that the East Asian economy is integrating but that, unlike in the EU, market forces, rather than government policy and inter-governmental agreements, are driving the integration. The second is that, as demonstrated in Europe, formal measures, official agreements and some form of regional institutions, as well as concrete, pragmatic steps, may be necessary to facilitate and accelerate the integration process; and here Asia can learn much from the European Union. However, deep political differences continue to prevent these steps from being effectively taken in Asia.

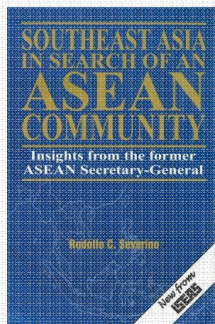
What mechanism would be put in place that would help mitigate and manage the differences and tensions between states? Could the East Asia Summit be such a mechanism? How can the process of accelerating or facilitating the economic integration of East Asia be encouraged?

book launch

SOUTHEAST ASIA IN SEARCH OF AN ASEAN COMMUNITY

Insights from the former ASEAN Secretary-General

Rodolfo C. Severino



Not just another book on ASEAN, this volume reappraises the organisation from the inside, through controversial or perplexing issues such as the ASEAN Way, the accession of the new members, including Myanmar, the principle of non-interference, regional security, regional economic integration, the haze and SARS, and ASEANs future.

Written by a key player, the former ASEAN Secretary-General, this book will illuminate the inner workings of the key Southeast Asian regional institution. It is a must-read for journalists, policy-makers, political scientists and others who need an insiders view on how ASEAN has evolved, how it operates and whether it will remain relevant in the evolving Asia Pacific and global order.

Rodolfo C. Severino (Philippines)
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore
Former Secretary-General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations



Rodolfo C. Severino is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore and a frequent speaker at international conferences in Asia and Europe. Having been Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations from 1998 to 2002, he has completed a book, entitled *Southeast Asia in Search of an ASEAN Community* and published by ISEAS, on issues facing ASEAN, including the economic, security and other challenges confronting the region. His views on ASEAN and Southeast Asia have been published in *ASEAN Today and Tomorrow*, a compilation of his speeches and other statements. He writes articles for journals and for the press. As a member of the faculty at the Asian Institute of Management in the Philippines in the school year 2003-2004, he lectured on regional economic cooperation, the elements of competitiveness, and leadership in the management of change. Before assuming the position of ASEAN Secretary-General, Severino was Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines. In the Philippine Foreign Service, Severino was Ambassador to Malaysia from 1989 to 1992, chargé d'affaires at the Philippine Embassy in Beijing from 1975 to 1978, Consul General in Houston, Texas, and an officer at the Philippines Embassy in Washington, D. C. Between overseas postings, he worked as special assistant to the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs and Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs. He twice served as ASEAN Senior Official for the Philippines. Before joining the Philippine Government, Severino worked at the United Nations and with Operation Brotherhood-Laos. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in the humanities from the Ateneo de Manila and a Master of Arts degree in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Bernhard Zepter (Germany)
Former Ambassador and Head of the European Commission Delegation to Japan
& Former Deputy Secretary General of the European Commission

Born in 1944 in Germany (Bavaria) Bernhard Zepter went to school and studied law and economics in Cologne and Freiburg and entered in 1973 the German Ministry for Foreign affairs to become a career diplomat. His initial assignment was the Cabinet of the State Minister for European Affairs, where he had his first encounter with European issues before he was sent, in 1976, to Dakar, Senegal, where he was in charge of development and public affairs issues.



From 1979 to 1982 he worked in the German Delegation to NATO and was involved in key issues of security and arms control. As he was later in the Ministry in charge of the same issues and of the then emerging challenge to develop the defence dimension within the European Political Cooperation, Zepter gained in depth knowledge of security and defence issues including their European dimension. As so-called "Troika" official he became one of the first German diplomats to work in operational units of Foreign Ministries of other EU Member States (Denmark and Greece) to assist them during the time of their European Presidencies. As a result of this work he developed ideas on how to improve the functioning of the European Political Cooperation. Some of his proposals were taken up in the Dooge Report. From 1984 to 1986, Zepter worked as special advisor in the German Parliament, the Bundestag, before he moved, on his own request, to Geneva as Deputy Head of the German Delegation to the GATT negotiations (Uruguay Round). In the latter context he learned more about international economic and trade issues. In 1990, he became diplomatic advisor to the President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors. He remained with Delors until 1995 and then returned as Deputy Director General into the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of European Community issues and EC enlargement. In September 1997 President Jacques Santer asked Bernhard Zepter to become Deputy Secretary General of the European Commission. Zepter became in charge of the Commission's relations with the Council and the European Parliament as well as, within the European Commission, of the coordination of policies. For more than four years, he represented the Commission in Coreper, the key coordinating body of the European Union. In this capacity, he followed and sometimes shaped important institutional and policy related decisions and helped them to be accepted by the other European Institutions. Finally, in 2002, he was assigned, by the Commission, to become Ambassador and Head of the European Commission Delegation to Japan, where he remained four years. Bernhard Zepter has now asked for retirement and intends to work as senior research fellow on European issues.