

Q2 → what is Brics & its key initiatives, also discuss the key points of its Recent Summit? Day: _____

Bricks

Brick is an intergovernmental organization comprising of:

Brazil

Russia

India

China

South Africa.

The acronym was initially coined in 2001 by an economist Jim O'Neill to describe emerging economies with significant growth potential.

It began as an informal grouping in 2006 with the first formal summit in 2009.

Brics represent 41% of the world population & 24% of global GDP.

Its aims to enhance cooperation among the member states, promote a multipolar world order & challenge western systems.

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Evolution:

Bric → Brics → Brics plus

first it was Bric that has 4 countries Brazil, Russia, India & China. Later, in 2010 South Africa joined it & it ~~was~~ became Brics. In 2023 6 new members add to this organization & it became Brics Plus. These members are → Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE & Argentina.

1 Key initiatives of Brics plus:

Following are key initiatives of Brics plus:

1.1 Establishing the New Development Bank (NDB)

The NDB that is founded in

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2014 in order to serve as a
multilateral development bank. It
provides funding for infrastructure
& sustainable development projects in
Brics & other developing countries.
It aims to rival western dominated
institutions like WB & IMF.

In 2025, the NDB has approved
a \$35 billion in loans for more
than 100 projects, focusing on
renewable energy, transportation, water
sanitation & digital infrastructure,
notable examples include funding for
India's metro system & South Africa's
renewable energy plants.

All in all the main aim of
NDB to give loans to member
countries in order to reduce
dependency on western institutions.

1.2 Creating the Contingent Reserve arrangement (CRA)

It is established in 2014 alongside

The NDB. its function as a reserves pooling arrangement where China contribute \$41 billion, Brazil, Russia & India each \$18 billion & South Africa \$5 billion.

This system is made by Brics in order to supply go over come from any disaster, or emergencies like, flood, hurricanes. In any case if they have saved money so they can be able to help their member countries & do not depend on western help.

1.3 Promoting De-dollarization & Local Currency trade:

Brics promote trade in local currencies to reduce reliance on the US dollar.

This is initiated to reduce vulnerability to US sanctions & currency fluctuations.

1.4 Brics Smart Cities network

The Brics Smart cities network promotes sustainable urbanization through AI & technology driven solutions, addressing challenges like urban mobility, waste management & climate resilience across member states diverse urban landscapes. For example in Moscow AI traffic management in India Pune AI based mobility solutions etc.

The main aim of this system/network is to enhance urban governance, reduce inequality & promote sustainability through South-South Cooperation, with the NDB potentially funding AI driven urban projects.

1.5 Empowering Female Entrepreneurs

This system is launched in 2020 under Russia's Brics chairship, the Brics women's Business alliance (WBA) is a platform to enhance

Women's economic participation,
foster women-led business cooperation
& promote inclusive economic growth
across Brics nation.

It strengthens women's business
networks & increase economic
participation.

1.6 Brics Think tank Council:

Its a platform for academic, strategic
& policy research cooperation
among the Brics countries.

It brings together major
research institution from each
member state to give or provide
policy advice & develop
strategic ideas for Brics leaders.

1.7 Advancing Space Cooperation:

Brics countries aim to enhance
space technology cooperation to
ensure "Space Sovereignty" meaning

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independent access to space & control
over space capabilities, reducing
dependence on western technologies.

1.8 Financial Risk Mitigation:

Brics provide financial guarantees
for trade & investment, reducing
risk in intra Brics economic
activities.

ii Secure cross boarder investment
& trade supporting de-dollarization &
economic resilience.

iii NDB could underwrite guarantees
for infrastructure projects ensuring
financial stability for high risk
development initiatives.

1.9 Strategic Membership growth:

Brics expansionism refers to the
block's strategic inclusion of new
members to enhance its global
influence, economic clout &

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representation of in global South, countering western led systems like US Sanctions, tariff pressures etc.

Brics expansionism strengthens it as a multipolar force, amplifies global south voices & challenges in western institutions.

Brics Summit

The 17 Brics Summit, held on July 6-7, 2025 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, focusing on "Strengthening global South cooperation for more inclusive & sustainable development Governance".

Following are the main points that are discussed in the meeting.

Expanding Brics membership for greater global influence

In the Summit, they welcomed Indonesia as a full member & introduced 10 partner countries that

are Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam. Its boosting

the Brics representation to nearly half the world's population & 40% of ~~world~~ global GDP, aiming to amplify Global South's voice.

Promoting Equitable Global Health access:

In leaders of meeting prioritized universal access to medicines & vaccines, launching a partnership to address socially determined diseases, emphasizing health equity & resilience in developing nations.

Advancing Trade in local currencies:

The Summit pushed for increased trade using member countries' currencies to reduce dependency on the US dollar, fostering economic independence & stability within BRICS nations.

Committing to Climate action & Sustainability:

In the meeting, BRICS leaders promised to fight climate change by raising \$300 billion yearly by 2025 for eco-friendly projects, especially for poorer countries.

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That launched initiatives like the tropical forest
forever fund to protect forests & a climate research
platform to share green ideas.

Developing Ethical & inclusive AI Governance:

In the meeting a declaration was
issued to promote fair & ethical
AI development, advocating for
a unified global AI regulations
to prevent technology driven
inequalities.

Enhancing Financial Cooperation Through New mechanism:

In the meeting a new Brics
multilateral guarantee mechanism
was introduced by the NDB
to fund infrastructure & sustainable
development projects, strengthening
economic projects.

Indian PM Modi shared one point
that there should be a supply
chain security so that

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Countries peacefully exchange goods.

Promoting peace & stability in conflict zones:

The Summit criticized military actions, including U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran & Israel's operations in Gaza, urging diplomatic solutions & global peace.

Strengthening Brics Institutional frameworks:

In the Summit, they outlined 126 commitment to enhance Brics cohesion, covering governance, finance, health, AI, climate & cultural cooperation, reinforcing its role in multilateralism.

UN reforms:

The Summit called for restructuring the UN system. As they want

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India & Brazil in permanent
member of UN, its pushing
in greater representation of
developing countries.

X ————— X

Q3 SAARC and its challenges also mention its solutions?

SAARC

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is a group of eight countries in South Asia, which came together in 1985 to work as a team on common goals. These countries are:

Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Bhutan

India

Maldives

Nepal

Pakistan

Sri Lanka

SAARC's main aim is to boost the well being of people in the region by speeding up economic growth, social progress & cultural ties. It also helps members to

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respect each other, build trust, & tackle shared problems like poverty, health issues, & natural disasters through talks & joint projects.

Major challenges SAARC has faced over time:

Saarc has facing many problem since its emergence in 1985.

These problems make Saarc less effective than Brics & Sco.

following are the main problems which Saarc is facing so far.

1- India-Pakistan rivalry Blocking progress:

The rivalry b/w Pak & India is one of the biggest hurdle for Saarc, as it stems from historical

conflicts like Kashmir & terrorism.

This rivalry often leads to the

cancellation or boycott of

Saarc Summit, preventing the

organization from making decisions.

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on key matters.

disagreement $\rightarrow$ ^{diplomatic} Standoffs $\rightarrow$ refusing of participation

in 2016, after the Uri terror attack in India, which India blamed on Pakistan based militants, India boycotted the Saarc summit scheduled in Islamabad leading to its cancellation & halting progress for years.

2 Low trust among member countries

There is lack of trust among the Saarc countries due to border disputes, past wars & unfair dealing. These all ~~leads~~ ^{lead} to making open collaboration difficult. Countries often suspect each others motives, especially in sensitive areas like trade & security. This distrust leads to hesitation in sharing information or resources. By the time only 5% trade is happening ~~now~~ among Saarc countries.

This is all because of lack of trust. Without trust, even simple agreements take forever to negotiate. Foreexample: Nepal has accused India for interfering in its internal affairs like during the 2015 blockade at the India-Nepal border, which Nepal saw as an economic pressure deepening mistrust within Sarc.

3- Poor Intra-regional trade level:

Intra regional trade in Sarc is only about 5% of total trade, far below other regions due to high tariffs & non-tariffs barriers. Countries prefer trading with outsiders

b/c of complicated customs & lack of free trade pacts. Political tensions & poor infrastructure, high costs restrict cross border or intra regional trade.

~~In 2006, despite having SAFTA~~

Despite SAFTA's launch in 2006 trade b/w India & Pak remains

low, with Pak imposing restrictions on Indian goods, limiting potential economic ties.

4 Economic inequalities & Poverty:

Saarc countries have vast economic gaps, with India being a giant economy, while others like Bhutan struggle with poverty and under-development. High unemployment and population growth in poorer nations strain resources, making equal participation hard. Wealth disparities lead to unequal benefits from joint projects, causing resentment. Poverty hinders investment in education & health, key for regional progress.

Bangladesh, despite growth, faces extreme poverty affecting over 20% of its population as of 2023, making it hard to match India's economic pace in Saarc initiatives.

5 Lack of Infrastructure & Connectivity.

South Asia's poor roads, railways & ports limit physical connectivity, essential for trade & people movement in Saarc. Many borders lack efficient crossings, causing delays & corruption. Energy and digital infrastructure are also underdeveloped hindering shared projects.

6 External influences and Geopolitics:

Outside powers like China and the US influence Saarc members pulling them in different directions and complicating unity. Geopolitical rivalries, such as India-China tensions, spill into the region.

Countries play big roles for aid and global events, trade, but external influences fragmenting Saarc. Geopolitics often overshadows regional goals.

7 Lack of Strong enforcement rules:

Saarc lacks binding rules or

or penalties for non compliance, making agreements voluntary and often ignored. When countries make sign deals, like for trade or cooperation, there is no strong system to enforce them, so many promises are ignored. Every decision needs all members to agree, and any one country can block progress causing delays. Unlike other organization Saarc don't have strong institutions. In 2014, Saarc countries agreed on a Motor vehicles agreements to allow easy transport of goods across borders. Pakistan refused to sign it fully, and since Saarc has no power to enforce it, the agreement has been stuck for years, slowing down regional trade.

8 India's Dominance creating imbalance:

India's large size population & economy make it dominant in Saarc, causing smaller neighbours

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to feel overshadowed & marginalized
they worry about Indian influence
dictating terms in decisions. This
perceived asymmetry leads to resistance
against India-led initiatives.

Bhutan & Maldives have expressed
concerns over India's influence in
their foreign policies, like during
in 2018 Maldives election where
India was accused of meddling.
So, Dominance hinders equitable
cooperation.

9 Overlapping organization

Saarc faces challenges from overlapping
organizations like BIMSTEC & SAARC,
which include some Saarc members
but exclude others, dividing focus
& resources. These groups often pursue
similar goals like trade & security
causing confusion & competition.

For example, India prioritizes BIMSTEC,
which excludes Pakistan over
Saarc, weakening Saarc unity.

and Progress. This overlap reduces Saarc's progress and engagement.

In 2016, when Saarc's summit was canceled, due to India-Pak tensions, India Pushed BIMSTEC hosting a summit in 2017, which diverted attention and efforts from Saarc's agenda.

10 Terrorism and Security Threats:

Terrorism in South Asia, often crossing borders, creates fear & accusations among Saarc's members, disrupting peace efforts.

It creates mistrust among members especially when groups from one nation attack another, leading to blame & broken ties. This stops Saarc from working together on shared goals like peace & trade. Countries accuse each other instead of uniting against terrorism.

In April 2025, Phalgam ^{terrorist} attack in Indian administered Kashmir, killed 26 terrorists. India blamed Pak

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based groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba,
escalating tensions with airstrikes,
which halted Saarc cooperation
as both countries focused on
conflict.

Solution to Saarc Problems:

1. Resolve Bilateral Disputes Through open Dialogue.

Member Countries like India & Pakistan should hold regular talks to sort out this border dispute.

This can happen outside Saarc meeting. So it does not stop the whole group from working. Once trust grows Saarc can move forward with big plans without old problems getting in the way.

2. Strengthen Trust with People to people connection:

Saarc can setup more programs for student, artists & citizens to meet & share cultures across borders.

This builds friendships & reduces fear b/w nations in easy ways, like sports events or school exchanges. Over time, it makes

leaders more willing to work together without suspicion.

3 Improve agreement implementation with clear rules:

Saarc needs stronger teams to check if countries follow deals like free trade pacts, with deadlines & help for those who lag. Use online tools to track progress and fix delays quickly. This makes sure ~~promises~~ promises turn into real actions, like easier border crossing for trucks.

4 Limit external influences by prioritizing Regional unity:

Saarc members should agree not to let outside powers like China divide them, by making Saarc decisions together without favoring one side. Members should focus on home grown projects for things like Energy or water sharing. This keeps the group strong & independent from global politics.

5 Reform Saarc's Structure for better decision making:

Saarc should have to make this institute of officers more better & powerful, so that they are able to enforce rules & run meetings, like other groups such as Brics & Asean do. This is only possible when Saarc hold summits every year, even if small, to keep talks going. This fixes the problem faster.

6 Enhance Joint efforts against Security Threats:

Saarc member should have to fight against terrorism & crime across border together, also give training to police. Avoid blaming each other & focus on common dangers like attacks or smuggling.

This builds safety for all, making the region more peaceful & secure & cooperative.

Unity is strength, when there is teamwork & collaboration

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wonderful things can be
achieved"

(Mattie Stepanek)



Q4 why is asean consider a successful organization, & what challenges it faces in maintaining its unity & achieving its goals?

ASEAN

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much"
(Helen Keller)

The Association of Southeast Asian nations is a regional intergovernmental organization, founded on August 8, 1967, comprising of ten member states;

Cambodia

Brunei

Indonesia

Laos

Malaysia

Myanmar

Philippines

Singapore

Thailand

Vietnam.

Its primary goals include

accelerating economic growth,
promoting social progress,
fostering cultural developments
& ensuring peace & stability in
Southeast Asia through mutual
respect & cooperation.

why it is successful

Asean is considered successful organization because it has transformed a historically conflict-prone region into one of durable peace, economic prosperity, and geopolitical influence, often described as an unexpected success story, despite its diverse political systems, cultures and economies.

Asean has created various institutions, communities, frameworks & mechanisms ~~for~~ to promote integration, dialogue & collective actions among its diverse member states. These structures address key areas like, trade, security, economy & social development enabling

ASEAN to navigate challenges & faster prosperity.

~~Below~~ Following are key institutions which contribute uniquely to the organization's achievements.

1 ASEAN Charter as a legal foundation for regional integration

The ASEAN Charter is a rulebook that officially establishes by ASEAN, setting goals for peace, growth & fair decision making. It ensures member respect each other & solve dispute through talks, strengthening unity & stability. This legal backbone helps ASEAN adapt to challenges while staying cohesive.

2 ASEAN Summit as Apex decision making forum:

The ASEAN Summit brings leaders together twice yearly to decide on major issues like economy or security, ensuring equal input through rotating hosts. It drives big changes & global partnerships.

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Strengthening ASEAN's influence. This high level forum keeps the region united & forward moving. The Kuala Lumpur Summit pushed for ASEAN as a top economy by 2045, focusing on digital growth.

3 ASEAN Political-Security Community for regional stability

The APSC promotes peace by fostering dialogue on threats like conflicts or terrorism and setting anti aggression rules. It prevents wars & builds trust, ensuring regional stability. This keeps ASEAN as a peaceful hub despite tensions.

4 ASEAN Economic Community for Integrated Market and Growth:

The AEC create a single market by easing trade, investment and worker movement, cutting barriers like tariffs. It

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boosts business, jobs and growth, making
ASEAN a global economic power
house. This integration drives
prosperity and Competitiveness.
Recently ASEAN Launched its
AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2036,
emphasizing green economy for
sustainable growth.

5 ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community for human development and identity:

The ASCC improves lives through
education health and cultural
programs, building a shared
Asean identity. It supports
equality & disaster aid, fostering
resilience and unity. This strengthens
social bonds across diverse nations.

6 ASEAN Regional Forum for Security dialogue with partners:

The ARF is a platform for
Asean & 17 partners to discuss
security issues like terrorism

or maritime disputes, building trust. It prevents conflicts through open talks, enhancing ASEAN's role in regional stability. This broad dialogue reduces tensions. Recently it addressed South-China Sea tensions and global scams, promoting peace in surveys.

7 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation for peaceful relations:

The TAC is a promise for respect, non-interference and peaceful solutions signed by over 50 countries.

It builds global trust & prevents conflicts, boosting ASEAN's diplomatic power. This pact ensures a stable region.

TAC welcomed Algeria as a 58th member, expanding Asean's peace network.

8 ASEAN intergovernmental Commission on human rights for human rights promotion & Protection:

AICHR is Asean's human right body, created to promote & protect human right like freedom, equality & safety through dialogue & cooperation. This supports Asean's goal of inclusive people-centered growth.

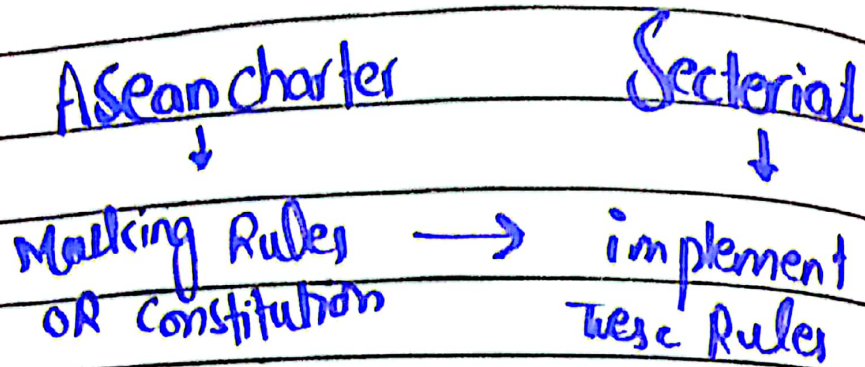
As it ~~first~~ 41st meeting in May 2025, AICHR advanced a declaration on a safe & clean & healthy, sustainable environment promoting rights based environmental policies.

9 ASEAN Secretarial Supports unity & progress

Asean Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia is like to control centre of Asean, helping its ten member countries to stay organized & work together. It plans important events like to Asean Summit, where leaders discuss major issues.

In 2024, It helped to roll out a regional plan to boost digital trade. It also links Asean with countries

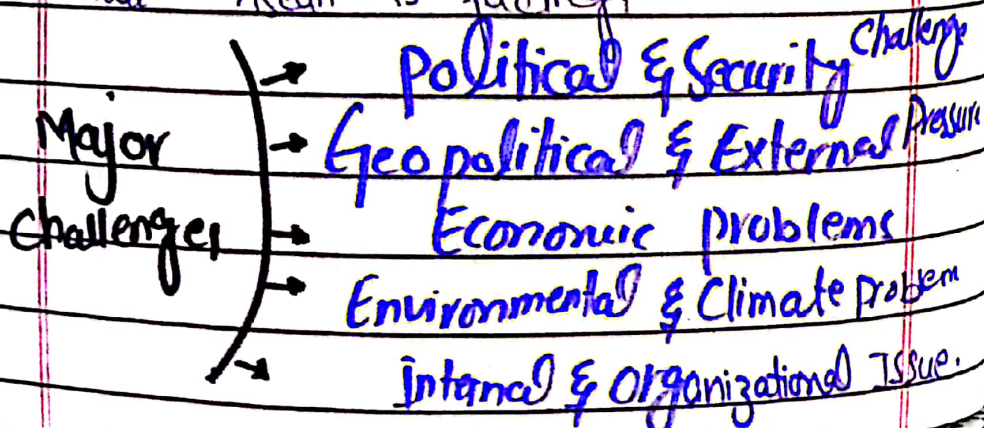
like Japan for partnership 'in short'.
it keeps Asean's teamwork
running smoothly by putting the Asean
charter rules into action



ASEAN Challenges

Although ASEAN is a successful organization but somehow it is grappling with several challenges that test its unity & effectiveness.

Following are the main challenges that Asean is facing.



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political & Security Challenge

South-China
Sea dispute

Myanmar's
civil unrest.

The South-China Sea remains a flashpoint for Asean, where China & Asean members like the Philippines & Vietnam create tensions & risks conflicts. These countries argue with China over who owns the part of South China Sea, & this causes fights & ship clashes which dividing Asean's unity & weakening its influence. Some countries avoid confronting China due to trade ties, while others push for action. Stalling agreements like the Code of Conduct.

In 2002, ship clashes near Second Thomas Shoal exposed Asean's inability to agree on a response, making it look weak & unable to ensure regional peace.

Myanmar conflict or Myanmar

Civil war since 2021 Coup Challenges
 also by undermining its goal of
 regional stability. Also in military
 Junta refuses to implement ASEAN's
 five point consensus that leads
 to humanitarian disasters & refugee
 flows into neighboring countries, like
 Thailand.

Geopolitical & External Pressures

US-China
 Rivalry

Impacts of
 US tariffs.

US-China rivalry is one of the
 big challenge for ASEAN to tackle
 it, as ASEAN is increasingly squeezed
 by the intensifying competition b/w
 US & China, which forces countries
 to navigate neutrality amid trade
 wars & security alliances. ^{some} Countries
 like Cambodia favor China while
 Philippines align with US.
 In 2025, a survey showing that

over 50% prefer china made it hard for Asean to stay balanced, risking its role as an independent regional leader

US imposed Tariffs on Asean's exports like vietnam's electronics, challenges Asean by threatening economic growth & jobs. These taxes make it harder for Asean to maintain its strong trade reputation, forcing it to find new markets.

Economic Problems

Uneven growth
& trade issues

Rising prices
& supply problems

Trade disruptions & uneven development.
Like Singapore's advance economy versus Cambodia's weaker one, Challenge Asean. Singapore is a rich country, its currency has value it has advance economy, on the other side Cambodia, a poor country

to create a gap between Asean's member and making it difficult for Asean to keep its goal of unified market in 2025. US tariffs increased, fear of job losses, especially in weaker economies, making it harder for Asean to push plans like in digital economy framework. These gaps & trade disruptions slow Asean's progress towards shared prosperity & economic integration.

Inflation & Supply Chain issues

Challenge Asean's growth trajectory, with food & energy prices spiking in vulnerable economies.

In 2023, Red Sea shipping delays raising food & fuel costs in Indonesia challenges Asean by hurting people's livelihood & economic stability. High prices & unemployment make it harder for Asean to keep members' economies stronger.

Environmental & Climate Problems

Climate change & disasters

Frequent disasters like 2015 floods in Vietnam & Thailand Challenge Asean by damaging economies & displacing people, straining resources. Rising sea level threaten coastal cities, but Asean struggles to fund & coordinate climate plans across diverse members. This weakens its ability to protect the region & meet global climate goals together.

Institutional & Internal Challenges

internal divisions & consensus Issues:

Asean's consensus based decision making & non interference policy often result in inaction on critical issues, weakening its responsiveness

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In 2025, when Asean member talks about Myanmar issue, some countries like Malaysia wanted action but some countries not like Thailand didnot want to take action. These splits make it tough for Asean to act fast or stay united.