## Myanmar urges regional network

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内容：YANGON - Myanmar Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin has stressed the need for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ( ASEAN) and plus three countries (China, Japan and South Korea) to enhance networking between government authorities and agricultural and foodrelated research institutions to promote cooperation in rural financial institutions and agricultural and microfinancing arrangements, official media reported yesterday. Speaking at the 10th East Asia Forum ( EAF) hosted by Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday, U Wunna Maung Lwin noted that the East Asia Forum has contributed to strengthening the East Asia cooperation and moving forward the East Asia Community Building in the long term. He added that the forum enhances investment in the development of rural and urban communities across the region. Appraising the forum about the national develop ment strategy on rural development and poverty eradication, he urged the participants to find new practical ways and ideas for narrowing the development gap in rural and urban communities. The EAF was attended by representatives from ASEAN member countries, dialogue partners of China, Japan and South Korea, the Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN Political and Security Community and ASEAN Secretariat as well as business and academic circles. The year 2012 marks the 15th anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation and 10th anniversary of the East Asia Forum. - XINHUA