

PRESS RELEASE

The First Meeting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council
Four Seasons Hotel, 24 August 2009

Thailand hosted the First Meeting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council during 22-24 August 2009 at Four Seasons Hotel, Bangkok. This was the first meeting of the socio-cultural community pillar following the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter since 15 December 2008. During 22-23 August was the preparatory meeting of the ASCC Council with the Ministerial Meeting on 24 August 2009.

The First Meeting of the ASCC Council was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and Thai National Representative to the ASCC Council. Representatives of ASEAN Member States include Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna of Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Sun Chanthol of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. Kusmayanto Kadiman of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Mr. Mounkeo Oraboun of Lao PDR, Her Excellency Heng Seai Kie of Malaysia, His Excellency Brig-General Aung Myo Min of the Union of Myanmar, Her Excellency Esperanza I. Cabral, M.D. of the Philippines, His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan of the Republic of Singapore, Her Excellency Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and His Excellency Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

The Meeting shared views on how to promote a better understanding among the peoples of ASEAN based on the common roots and shared historical heritage. This would be the basis in linking the peoples of ASEAN as well as the foundation for building the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). The Meeting also had extensive discussion on various issues particularly on the priority areas and deliverables for the 15th ASEAN Summit. The Meeting supported in principle Thailand's proposal to have education as one of the outcome document for the 15th ASEAN Summit as well as agreeable to expedite the process of the drafting of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children. The Meeting adopted the Rules of Procedure as well as took note on the development of the ASCC Communications Plan. Under the development of the ASCC Communications Plan, the Meeting shared many ideas on bringing ASEAN to the people. The Meeting also agreed that the Second Meeting of the ASCC Council would take place back to back with the 15th ASEAN Summit in October 2009.
