

28 February 2009

Opening Ceremony of the 14th ASEAN Summit

On 28 February 2009 at 14.30-15.00 hrs. H. E. Abhisit Vejjajiva Prime Minister of Thailand opened the 14th ASEAN Summit to be held on 28 February-1 March 2009 at the Royal Dusit Grand Ballroom A-B, Dusit Thani Hua Hin Hotel, Cha-am, Phetchaburi.

The Opening Ceremony was attended by all ASEAN Heads of State/Government, Foreign Ministers, Economic Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN and their spouses, Ministers, Parliamentarians, and distinguished guests including Foreign Ambassadors to Thailand, Chiefs or Heads of International Organizations in Thailand, former ASEAN Secretaries-General, Permanent Representatives accredited to ASEAN, Ambassadors to ASEAN, Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Representatives, ASEAN youth representatives, ASEAN civil society representatives, members of the private sector, as well as foreign and Thai media. This 14th ASEAN Summit marks a new chapter of ASEAN as it is the first ASEAN Summit to be convened after ASEAN Charter has entered into force.

H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva delivered a Statement at the opening ceremony of the 14th ASEAN Summit under the theme “ASEAN Charter for ASEAN Peoples”. The Statement highlights the history and evolution of ASEAN, and the development of ASEAN from past to present where ASEAN has integrated to become a more efficient community. ASEAN will move forward with focus on people as its centre. The Statement also touched on building a regional environment of peace and prosperity by reinforcing the ASEAN Community, enhancing engagement with external partners and strengthening regional resilience. The Thai Prime Minister also announced that Thailand will convene the ASEAN Plus Three and East Asia Summits, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Post-Ministerial Conferences, and the 15th ASEAN Summit this year. The full text of the Statement appears in www.mfa.go.th

Thailand has assumed its role as Chair of ASEAN since July 2008 and the Chairmanship of Thailand will continue until December this year. This is an important period for ASEAN since the ASEAN Charter has come into force and the ASEAN Charter’s plans of actions for the development of all three pillars of the ASEAN Community, serving as a blueprint for ASEAN, will be implemented.

At the 14th ASEAN Summit, H.E. Abhisit Vejjajiva will attend the meeting with other 9 ASEAN Heads of State and Government, and sign the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015), and adopt many other documents that will take forward the community-building process on 1 March 2008.
