



15th ASEAN SUMMIT
CHA-AM HUA HIN
THAILAND 2009

PRESS RELEASE

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THE Second Meeting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council 22 October 2009

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council held their second meeting on 22 October 2009. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Meeting was represented by Socio-Cultural Ministers from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam with high level representative from Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN also attended the Meeting.

The Meeting welcomed the three outcome documents under the purview of the ASCC that were cleared by the Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC (SOCA), which held their meeting on 21 October. The documents included:

- The *Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation on Education to Achieve an ASEAN Caring and Sharing Community* which stressed on strengthening ASEAN's education cooperation in all three pillars as the basis for building an ASEAN Community 2015.

- The *ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 15th Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 5th Session of the Conference of Parties serving at the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol* which was to reaffirm ASEAN's commitment to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol as the basic frameworks to combat global climate change)

- The completion and the adoption of the *Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women (ACWC)* to coincide with the inauguration of AICHR. Both of these mechanisms will be the basic frameworks for the promotion and protection of the rights of people which reflect the success for the people of ASEAN that a people-oriented agenda is now at the forefront of ASEAN Community Building.

The Second ASCC Council Meeting agreed that culture would be the main feature of cooperation for the incoming year. Thailand took the opportunity to inform the meeting of the upcoming ASEAN culture and song festival which will be held in December. Thailand will also produce a book on common cultural aspects of ASEAN and requested ASEAN Member States to send a list of historical and cultural experts for a workshop to discuss initial ideas. Indonesia is also organizing an ASEAN Song and Culture Festival and invites participation from ASEAN Member States.

Viet Nam, as the incoming Chair of ASEAN, expressed appreciation on the progress of the ASCC achieved under the Thai Chairmanship. Viet Nam took the opportunity to

inform the meeting of the third ASCC Council which would take place in the third week of March in Ho Chi Minh.

October 2009