



Keynote Lecturer



Harmonization of knowledge towards the betterment of society

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan

Biography:

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, 66, is a native of Nakorn Sri Thammarat, Southern Thailand. He was appointed Member of the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) before assuming his post as the Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) from 1 January 2008 until 31 December 2012. During that period he was tasked to implement the ASEAN Charter and prepare the region to enter into the ASEAN Community in 2015.

Two of his most recognized accomplishments were spearheading the Asian countries to help restore law and order in East Timor during the violent uprising in the aftermath of the Referendum in August 1999, and leading the ASEAN Member States and the United Nations and other international institutions such as the World Bank, ADB and various other International NGOs to enter Myanmar to rescue that country from the catastrophe of Cyclone Nargis in May 2008 and remained there until the mission was accomplished in December 2010.

Dr. Surin has been conferred 13 honorary doctorate degrees, including one from University of Bristol (UK), Claremont McKenna College, the National University of Malaya (UKM) University Putra Malaysia (UPM) and University of Malaya (UM).

After his term as Secretary General of ASEAN, Dr. Surin has been appointed Professor Emeritus at Thammasat University and also an Honorary Advisor and Distinguished Visiting Fellow at King Prajadhipok Institute, an academic affiliation of the Thai Parliament. Moreover, he has been also served as the Chairman of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), a Board of Advisors of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, the Advisory council of the International Humanitarian City (IHC) under the leadership of Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid al-Maktoum.

He is concurrently a Visiting Professor, an Adjunct Professor and a Visiting Fellow at the Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo, University of Nara, Japan and University of Malaya, university of Brunei, and also a Chairman of the Future Innovative Thailand Institute. He has the title "Tan Sri" from the Royal Palace of Malaysia, in the occasion of the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong's birthday. Moreover, Dr. Surin has been nominated to be a Special Envoy for Thailand Candidature for UNSC 2017-2018.

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan is now engaged in the promotion of regional integration in East Asia, educational and political reform efforts in Thailand and a frequent speaker at various international conferences.