



Cambodia 2012

ASEAN: *One Community, One Destiny.*

Press Release

ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat (AMM Retreat)

Siem Reap, 11 January 2012

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat (AMM Retreat), which was convened in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, on 10–11 January 2012, was attended by all the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States and Secretary-General of ASEAN, and chaired by His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia.

The AMM Retreat marks the first series of ASEAN meetings under the chairmanship of Cambodia for 2012.

At the AMM Retreat, His Excellency HOR Namhong shared his views on Cambodia's theme "**ASEAN: One Community, One Destiny**", as follows:

1. To continue enhancing ASEAN integration and the three pillars of the Community building, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, by implementing the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009–2015);
2. To work to promote regional integration through effective implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II, which is crucial to the realization of the ASEAN Community by 2015;
3. To ensure speedy implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity focusing on physical, institutional and people-to-people linkages.
4. To further closer cooperation and better relations with all ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other external partners, including regional and international organizations, while ensuring ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture.

The Retreat discussed a number of regional and international issues of common concern to ASEAN, such as the Korean Peninsula and the implementation of the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and the progress of democratization in Myanmar.

On the Korean Peninsula, the Meeting deliberated on the leadership change in the DPRK, taking into account of the uncertainty and the delicate situation on the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting looked forward to the participation of the DPRK Foreign Minister at the upcoming ARF Ministerial Meeting in Phnom Penh, in July 2012, and the early resumption of the Six Party Talks.

On South China Sea, the Meeting stressed the need to intensify efforts to ensure the effective and full implementation of the DOC, especially after the adoption of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC in order to continue to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the South China Sea. The Retreat welcomed the progress of the Second Meeting of the ASEAN SOM Working Group on Code of Conduct (CoC), on 9 January 2012, in the drafting of the key elements on the Code of Conduct. The Retreat also welcomed the upcoming Meeting of the ASEAN-China SOM on DOC and ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on DOC, which will take place in Beijing, on 13-15 January 2012.

On Myanmar, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers agreed to reiterate their call for the lifting of the economic sanctions on Myanmar which would significantly contribute to the socio-economic development of Myanmar. The Meeting also agreed to call for the end of the role of good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) on the situation of human rights in Myanmar taking into account Myanmar's pledge to continue to work closely with the UN. Given the good progress of the democratization process in Myanmar, the Ministers also shared the view that there is no longer necessary to convene any international conference on Myanmar outside this country while encouraging Myanmar to continue the process of democratization.

To accelerate the building of ASEAN Community, the Retreat agreed to speed up the implementation of the three blueprints of the ASEAN Community. The Meeting also endorsed Cambodia's proposals to convene the IAI Development Cooperation Forum (IDCF) in Jakarta, in the first half of 2012, to mobilize funds for the implementation of the IAI Work Plan II, and to organize the ASEAN Connectivity Symposium in Phnom Penh, in September 2012, under the theme "Realizing ASEAN Connectivity: Towards Shared Prosperity" to promote the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity with the participation of key stakeholders.

The Meeting adopted the five-year Work Plan, Priority Programs and the budget of the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and underlined their commitment to promote and protect human rights in ASEAN. The Meeting also agreed that AICHR should continue to work towards the conclusion of the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights as soon as possible in 2012.

The Meeting agreed to propose to designate 2012 as the Year "Visit ASEAN Plus Three" and to drive towards nominating a Cultural City of East Asia from 2012 onward. Cambodia has offered to nominate Siem Reap –Angkor City as the Cultural City of East Asia for the Year 2012 in order to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation.

Since our region is prone to natural disasters, and with positive indications of the support of ASEAN Dialogue Partners, the Meeting tasked the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the ASEAN Secretariat to study the structure, modality and funding mobilization for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) so that the Center can be operationalized as soon as possible.

The Retreat highly commended Indonesia for taking the lead and making progress in the negotiations with the Nuclear Weapon States (NWSs) on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ) Protocol toward the early signing of the SEANWFZ Protocol at the 45th AMM/ PMC/ARF in July 2012, which will mark an important milestone in the building of a nuclear-free regime in Southeast Asia and the world over.

On maritime cooperation, the Meeting recalled the ASEAN Leaders' interest at their 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali to convene an expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) as a Track 1.5, back-to-back with the future meetings of the AMF, which may include countries in the wider East Asia region. While expanding the existing AMF to include the non-ASEAN Member States from EAS, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers are mindful of the role of ASEAN to remain the driving force in this mechanism.

In the evolving regional architecture, the Meeting stressed the importance for ASEAN to keep its centrality, particularly in the frameworks of ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) and East Asia Summit (EAS).

The Meeting took note with appreciation Cambodia's interest to organize the ASEAN's Global Dialogue in Phnom Penh, in November 2012 immediately after the East Asia Summit in November 2012, with the participation of the heads of the main international organizations, such as the World Bank, IMF, ADB, WTO, UN, UNCTAD, among others, to raise the profile of ASEAN in the wider global community.

The Retreat also welcomed Malaysia's proposal to organize a Borneo Road Trip (Indonesia-Malaysia-Brunei Darussalam-Philippines) to promote ASEAN's physical and people-to-people connectivity.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Kingdom of Cambodia
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