

Press Release

Uzbekistan Foreign Minister visits ASEAN Secretariat ASEAN Secretariat, 12 February 2009



The Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, His Excellency Vladimir Norov, visited the ASEAN Secretariat today, the first high-level dignitary from Central Asia to do so.

Minister Norov met Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN, and was briefed on ASEAN's community building efforts and ASEAN's strengthened role following the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter on 15 December 2008.

Expressing his appreciation of the visit, Dr Surin said, "We welcome closer cooperation with Uzbekistan, which has expressed interest in becoming a more active partner with ASEAN in the international arena."

The two sides exchanged views on security cooperation and combating terrorism. "In ASEAN, we have three regional training centres in counter-terrorism and transnational crime and with Uzbekistan being home to the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, there could be synergies for both sides to explore," Dr Surin said.

The two sides also discussed having more people-to-people exchanges, including sending Muslim scholars in ASEAN to visit and learn from the Islamic centres in Uzbekistan.

Following the meeting, Mr V. Norov, accompanied by Dr Surin, viewed the ASEAN Gallery and presented a memento to the Secretary-General to mark his visit to the ASEAN Secretariat.