

MEDIA RELEASE

Breakfast Meeting with Thailand's Foreign Minister at the ASEAN Secretariat ASEAN Secretariat , 11 February 2009

The Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, hosted a breakfast meeting this morning at the ASEAN Secretariat for Thailand's Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya and the Directors-General of ASEAN.

They discussed the important role that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN will play to support the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015. Dr Surin hopes that the Committee will be established soon. He revealed that the Permanent Representatives of Lao PDR and Viet Nam are expected to present their credentials soon.

The Chair of the ASEAN Coordinating Council and the Secretary-General of ASEAN also discussed with the ASEAN Directors-General ways and means to bridge the gaps among ASEAN Member States and resource mobilisation for such efforts.

Minister Kasit spoke of the importance of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in raising ASEAN awareness and building an ASEAN identity. He discussed with the Secretary-General and the ASEAN Directors-General on how to make the peoples of the region "think and feel" ASEAN.

Noting that this is the first year of the implementation of the ASEAN Charter, Dr Surin said Thailand has a significant role ahead as Chair of ASEAN to carry out her tasks to deliver the aims of the Charter and lay the foundation for future development of the ASEAN Community.