

**Press Release**  
**Lao's Permanent Representative to ASEAN Presents Letter of Credence**  
**ASEAN Secretariat, 20 February 2009**

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Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, today received the letter of credence from H.E. Prasith Sayasith, the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to ASEAN.

Dr Surin said, "Ambassador Sayasith brings with him many years of experience in ASEAN affairs and this will be an asset to the Committee of Permanent Representatives which has an instrumental role to play in enhancing regional cooperation and integration."

"I look forward to welcoming the other Permanent Representatives soon. I understand that Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand have already appointed their Permanent Representatives to ASEAN," Dr Surin added.

According to the ASEAN Charter, each ASEAN Member State shall appoint a Permanent Representative to ASEAN with the rank of Ambassador based in Jakarta. The Permanent Representatives will collectively constitute the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Among the tasks include supporting the work of the ASEAN Community Councils, coordinating with ASEAN National Secretariats and other ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies and liaising with the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Ambassador Sayasith is concurrently serving as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Republic of Indonesia. He became the third Permanent Representative to present his credentials to the Secretary-General, after Singapore's Ambassador Lim Thuan Kuan and Viet Nam's Ambassador Vu Dang Dung.