



Joint Press Release
ASEAN and the Republic of Korea Celebrate 20 Years of Friendship with Cultural Performances and Cuisine
Jakarta, 5 June 2009

The ASEAN Secretariat and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea tonight hosted "20 Years of Friendship: ASEAN-Korea Cultural Night", an event to commemorate the 20 years of dialogue relations between ASEAN and Korea.

The event was held at Balai Kartini, Jakarta, and featured varieties of traditional and contemporary cultural performances from ASEAN Member States and Korea. Around 1,000 guests also had a chance to sample an array of culinary delights from both ASEAN and Korea.

The Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, said, "ASEAN and Korea have enjoyed mutually beneficial relations for the past two decades, throughout which, people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges remain key components. ASEAN and Korea should therefore continue to preserve, promote and employ culture as a tool for development in all areas of cooperation as ASEAN and Korea take their relations to a higher level. As such, I strongly support cultural events such as this one, as it will certainly enhance the good relationship and cross-cultural understanding between both sides."

Ambassador of Korea to ASEAN and to the Republic of Indonesia, Mr Kim Ho-young, said, "I am sure through this event Korea and ASEAN will strengthen their ties in the cultural aspect as well as the economic field."

"20 Years of Friendship: ASEAN-Korea Cultural Night" is one of the many celebratory events taking place in commemoration of the 20 years of ASEAN-Korea dialogue relations. On 1-2 June 2009 in Jeju Island, Korea hosted the ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit, in addition to sideline events such as the ASEAN-Korea CEO Summit and the Green Growth, Green Asia Exhibition.

The event is supported by Offices of Permanent Representative to ASEAN and the Ministries of Culture of ASEAN Member States.