



ASEAN DAY 2013 CELEBRATION

"Contributing to the ASEAN Community Building through the Implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD)"

**ASEAN Hall, ASEAN Secretariat
23 August 2013**

**Remarks by H.E. Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Hj. Ahmad bin Hj. Jumat
Chair of the AICHR 2013**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Good Morning.

Your Excellency, Mr. Wardana, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

Your Excellency, Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of ASEAN,

Your Excellency, I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, Director-General for ASEAN Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

Your Excellency, Ambassador Emaleen Abdul Rahman Teo, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR),

Excellencies, Representatives from the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), whom I also call my colleagues,

Excellencies, Representatives from the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR),

Excellencies, Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed an honor for me as Chair of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to officiate this important occasion as we gather to celebrate the launch of the book on the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD in the national languages of ASEAN Member States and to introduce the AHRD to all of you during the 46th Anniversary of ASEAN. The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration is a landmark document and milestone journey for our region demonstrating the commitment and support of ASEAN to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Together with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the AICHR wishes to disseminate the AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD to the ASEAN Community. We are also privileged to have with us representatives from the diplomatic community, parliamentarians, academe, CSOs, business sectors and the youth. Thank you for being here and taking part in this important activity.

The AHRD not only embodies our own ASEAN ideals, realities and particularities, but also uphold international human rights standards as prescribed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Our work at AICHR does not stop with the adoption of the AHRD, in fact it is just the beginning. AICHR has started to discuss about drafting conventions or other instruments on human rights such as on the Right to Education and a Convention on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children.

The ASEAN through AICHR is now ready to implement and put into practice the ideals and objectives of the AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD. Although governments of ASEAN Member States are considered the principal duty bearers in the promotion and promotion of human rights, this is a huge and challenging task that governments cannot do by themselves. In our view, human

rights is a collective responsibility of all stakeholders of ASEAN to help implement the AHRD.

Finally, the role of Civil Society Organisations and stakeholders are critical in any development of human rights as they are the ones who work on the ground and can offer sound advice to governments as to the real needs of the people. The Civil Society Organisations' engagement to the dissemination and implementation of the AHRD is necessary. AICHR recognizes this and is currently studying its modalities to engage with the CSOs in a more constructive manner.

Lastly, the involvement of the peoples of ASEAN is essential in ensuring the implementation of the AHRD. We need to extend our reach to them and help them understand and own the AHRD as a way of improving their daily lives.

Indeed, human rights is a cross cutting issue that involves all stakeholders and impacts everyone. Our commitment and involvement in human rights is not just a shared vision but also a shared responsibility that benefits us all. Together, as one ASEAN Community, we can ensure that human rights does not just become a rhetoric but a reality that all ASEAN peoples should live by.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to all participants and organizers of the Joint Event of AICHR and CPR on the AHRD during the ASEAN Day Celebrations. I look forward to the presentation of the AHRD Book to our stakeholders as well as interactions and exchanges later during the panel discussion on the AHRD.

Thank you and my best wishes to the success of this joint event.
