



## **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 Ambassador Emaleen Abd Rahman Teo  
Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN  
(CPR)**

Your Excellency Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of ASEAN,  
Your Excellency Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Hj. Ahmad bin Hj. Jumat,  
Chairman of AICHR,  
Distinguished Representatives from the ASEAN Intergovernmental  
Commission on Human Rights,  
My CPR colleagues,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, I would like to warmly welcome you. The CPR is pleased to be partnering with AICHR in convening this joint event and to support AICHR in the dissemination of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.

In just three short years, AICHR was able to fulfill the task of developing the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration. Given the diversities of the ASEAN Member States, this was not an easy task. The Declaration may not be to the satisfaction of everyone but I believe it is a step forward. So I wish to commend AICHR for all its efforts in coming up with a comprehensive regional human rights declaration.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

ASEAN is currently making every effort to build a community, which will see its people living in peace, stability and prosperity and where the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the people are enhanced. To achieve this goal, it is vital for ASEAN to ensure that the rights of its people are promoted and protected.

In this regard, AICHR as the overarching body on human rights has an important role to play in ASEAN's community building process and more specifically, in the promotion and protection of human rights in the region. Therefore, the development of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration by AICHR is a right step forward.

Similar to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the ASEAN Declaration contains rights under the economic, socio-cultural and political-security pillars. As I mentioned earlier, the Declaration may not satisfy everyone but it is a good start and I commend AICHR for commencing work on implementing the Declaration.

One important aspect of this work is to raise the people's awareness and understanding of the Declaration as well as the ASEAN human rights instruments and mechanisms. Our joint event today is one way of bringing about this awareness. Equally important, I believe, are the regular exchanges of ideas among stakeholders and partners as well as the dissemination of the Declaration and other human rights instruments to the wider ASEAN audience. Also, mainstreaming human rights in the implementation of the respective ASEAN blueprints will help to ensure a sharing and caring society that seeks peace and harmony.

I am pleased that this joint event between AICHR and the CPR will provide the opportunity for such an exchange and interaction to better understand the AHRD and its role in community building.

In conclusion, I hope that through the implementation of the Declaration, the people of ASEAN will play a core role in the development agenda of ASEAN, ensuring that the ASEAN Community is indeed a truly people centred community.

With that, I wish you all a productive and successful event.

Thank you.