

# AICHR

ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

## What You Need to Know



One Vision  
One Identity  
One Community





# **AICHR**

**ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights**

## **What You Need to Know**

**The ASEAN Secretariat  
Jakarta**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

For inquiries contact:

Public Outreach and Civil Society Division  
The ASEAN Secretariat  
70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja  
Jakarta 12110  
Indonesia  
Phone : (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991  
Fax : (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504  
E-mail : [public.div@asean.org](mailto:public.div@asean.org)

General information on ASEAN appears online at the ASEAN website:  
[www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org).

Catalogue-in Publication Data

AICHR What You Need to Know  
Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, October 2012

323.59

1. Human rights – Civil rights
2. Intergovernmental commission – ASEAN

ISBN 978-602-7643-18-5

The text of this publication may be freely quoted or reprinted with proper acknowledgement.

Copyright Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) 2012  
All rights reserved

Photo Credit:  
- ASEAN Secretariat  
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Thailand



## INTRODUCTION

In over four decades since its establishment, ASEAN as an intergovernmental organisation has always worked towards improving the lives of its citizens in its Member States, in the economic, political-security and socio-cultural aspect. To further ensure the wellbeing of the ASEAN people, ASEAN decided to have its own regional human rights body, which reflects ASEAN's strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Human rights is part of ASEAN Community 2015 and referred to in both the ASEAN Charter (Article 1.7, 2.2.i, and 14), and the Political-Security Blueprint (section A.1.5). The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) were established in 2009 and 2010 respectively. The establishment of the AICHR presents to the region and the global community, ASEAN's strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The AICHR will set the tone for cooperation in human rights promotion and protection in ASEAN. AICHR is the overarching body with a cross-cutting mandate that handles matters related to human rights cooperation with other ASEAN bodies, external partners and stakeholders.

Yet how many people within the region itself know of AICHR's existence? And how many are aware of how AICHR came about and what mandate it holds? This booklet is intended to provide quick facts regarding AICHR and the development of human rights in the ASEAN region.

## ASEAN

ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967, through the signing of the Bangkok Declaration (ASEAN Declaration) by the founding members of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. ASEAN currently has ten (10) members, with the addition of Brunei Darussalam (1984), Viet Nam (1995), Lao PDR and Myanmar (1997), and Cambodia (1999).

The aims and purposes of ASEAN includes among others:

- To maintain and enhance peace, security and stability and further strengthen peace-oriented values in the region;
- To enhance regional resilience by promoting greater political, security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation;
- To ensure that the peoples and Member States of ASEAN live in peace with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment;
- To alleviate poverty and narrow the development gap within ASEAN through mutual assistance and cooperation;
- To strengthen democracy, enhance good governance and the rule of law, and to promote and protect human rights

- and fundamental freedoms, with due regards to the rights and responsibilities of the Member States of ASEAN;
- To develop human resources through closer cooperation in education and life-long learning, and in science and technology, for the empowerment of the peoples of ASEAN and for the strengthening of the ASEAN Community;
  - To enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice;
  - To promote a people-oriented ASEAN in which all sectors of society are encouraged to participate in, and benefit from, the process of ASEAN integration and community building;
  - To promote an ASEAN identity through the fostering of greater awareness of the diverse culture and heritage of the region;

The ASEAN Charter's entry into force since 2008, provides the legal status and the institutional framework for ASEAN. The Charter codifies ASEAN norms, rules and values, presents accountability and compliance and sets clear targets for ASEAN.

ASEAN has committed itself to establish an ASEAN Community by 2015, and has adopted a Roadmap towards the ASEAN Community 2015. This Community will be supported by the three Community Pillars of ASEAN, along with its respective Blueprints: the ASEAN Political-Security

Community (APSC) Blueprint, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint. Each Community has its own Community Council which coordinates the work of the different sectors under the Community Pillars.



The ASEAN Leaders, which is composed of the ASEAN Heads of State/Government, is the highest policy-making body in ASEAN. They meet twice every year at the ASEAN Summit. The ASEAN Leaders are supported by their respective Foreign Ministers who meet as the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) and in the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM). Further into the structure of ASEAN, the ASEAN Member States appoint Ambassadors to ASEAN, who sit as members of the



Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) who are tasked to coordinate with the ASEAN National Secretariats, the ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies, and facilitate ASEAN's cooperation with external partners.

Supporting all the work and efforts undertaken by ASEAN is the ASEAN Secretariat. The ASEAN Secretariat is headed by the Secretary-General of ASEAN (who is accorded the same level as a Minister) and is assisted by four Deputy Secretary-General, one for all the ASEAN Communities and one for the Community and Corporate Affairs of ASEAN.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE ASEAN AGENDA**

In 1993, the United Nations convened the *World Conference on Human Rights* in Vienna, Austria. The Member Countries of ASEAN, back then only consisting of six members, all participated at the World Conference. The Conference resulted in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA).

Subsequently, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in their Joint Communiqué of the 26<sup>th</sup> AMM (July 1993) stated the following:

- 16. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the international consensus achieved during the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, 14-25 June 1993, and reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as set out in the Vienna Declaration of 25 June 1993. They stressed that human rights are interrelated and indivisible comprising civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. These rights are of equal importance. They should be addressed in a*

*balanced and integrated manner and protected and promoted with due regard for specific cultural, social, economic and political circumstances. They emphasised that the promotion and protection of human rights should not be politicised.*

17. *The Foreign Ministers agreed that ASEAN should coordinate a common approach on human rights and actively participate and contribute to the application, promotion and protection of human rights. They noted that the UN Charter had placed the question of universal observance and promotion of human rights within the context of international cooperation. They stressed that development is an inalienable right and that the use of human rights as a conditionality for economic cooperation and development assistance is detrimental to international cooperation and could undermine an international consensus on human rights. They emphasised that the protection and promotion of human rights in the international community should take cognizance of the principles of respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of states. They were convinced that freedom, progress and national stability are promoted by a balance between the rights of the individual and those of the community, through which many individual rights are realized, as provided for in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.*
  
18. *The Foreign Ministers reviewed with satisfaction the considerable and continuing progress of ASEAN in freeing its peoples from fear and want, enabling them to live in*

*dignity. They stressed that the violations of basic human rights must be redressed and should not be tolerated under any pretext. They further stressed the importance of strengthening international cooperation on all aspects of human rights and that all governments should uphold humane standards and respect human dignity. In this regard and in support of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 25 June 1993, they agreed that ASEAN should also consider the establishment of an appropriate regional mechanism on human rights. For the first time, ASEAN set itself towards the development of regional human rights regime.*

The Second ASEAN Informal Summit, held in Kuala Lumpur on 15 December 1997, adopted the ASEAN Vision 2020 which sets out a broad vision for ASEAN in the year 2020: an ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian Nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies. In order to implement the long-term vision, the Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA) 1997 was drawn up.

Under Section IV, paragraph 4.8, HPA, ASEAN committed itself to “*enhance exchange of information in the field of human rights among ASEAN Countries in order to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all peoples in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*”.

To support the realisation of an ASEAN Vision 2020, the ASEAN Member States drew up the 2004 Vientiane Action

Programme. In the Action Programme, under the sub section ‘Political Developments’, the Member States agreed to “promote human rights and obligations”.

Five years later, ASEAN Member States decided to accelerate the establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015. The Member States adopted the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2015 and the three ASEAN Community Blueprints.

Human rights components which were included in the 2004 Vientiane Action Programme were reiterated in the Action Programme under the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint, section A.1.5. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with the following action lines:

## **ACTIONS:**

- i. Establish an **ASEAN human rights body** through the completion of its Terms of Reference (ToR) by 2009 and encourage cooperation between it and existing human rights mechanisms, as well as with other relevant international organisations;
- ii. Complete a stock-take of existing human rights mechanisms and equivalent bodies, including Sectoral Bodies promoting the rights of women and children by 2009;
- iii. Cooperate closely with efforts of the Sectoral Bodies in the development of an ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers;
- iv. Strengthen interaction between the network of existing human rights mechanisms as well as other civil society

- organisations, with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies;
- v. Enhance/conduct exchange of information in the field of human rights among ASEAN countries in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples in accordance with the ASEAN Charter and the Charter of the United Nations, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;
  - vi. Promote education and public awareness on human rights; and
  - vii. Cooperate closely with efforts of the Sectoral Bodies in the establishment of an **ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)**.

## AICHR

Taking the commitment it already made since 1993, the establishment of a regional mechanism on human rights was just a matter of time. Article 14 of the ASEAN Charter states that *“In conformity with the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter relating to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, ASEAN shall establish an ASEAN human rights body”*.

The High Level Panel on an ASEAN Human Rights Body drafted the Terms of Reference of AICHR which was adopted by the ASEAN Foreign Minister Meeting in July 2009. On 23 October 2009 the ten AICHR Representatives, one from each Member State, were appointed and AICHR was inaugurated at the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand.



In the *Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Inauguration of AICHR*, the ASEAN Leaders stated that AICHR is part of the intergovernmental cooperation among ten ASEAN Member States to develop regional cooperation on human rights. The establishment of AICHR is ASEAN's commitment to pursue forward-looking strategies to strengthen regional cooperation on human rights. It is designed to be an integral part of ASEAN's organisational structure and an overarching institution with overall responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN.

The guiding principles of AICHR's work are through consultation and consensus in its decision-making process. AICHR engages in dialogue and consultation with entities associated with ASEAN, and can also consult other national, regional and international institutions, and entities concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights.



AICHR has two regular meetings in a year and additional meetings if and when necessary. They have produced several foundation documents as a framework and basis for their operationalisation.

AICHR documents include their Five-Year Work Plan 2010 – 2015, and the annual high priority programmes and activities. They have also adopted the Rules of Procedure of the AICHR Fund and the Terms of Reference for the thematic studies that AICHR is conducting. AICHR is now conducting a number of thematic studies and preparing capacity building activities.

Since its establishment, AICHR has been putting efforts to institutionalise cooperation with external partners at national, regional and international levels. The dialogues with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Fundamental Rights Agency, the European Human Rights Court as well as



other agencies/actors including civil society groups have paved the way for AICHR to further cooperate with different stakeholders at all levels. AICHR is planning to establish accreditation system of civil society groups in the future.

AICHR has conducted a study visit to the United States in November 2010 at the invitation of the President of the United States, H.E. Barack Obama. The visit provided the AICHR with a timely opportunity to inform the United States government, relevant United Nations agencies, international organisations and international civil society organisations about the work of AICHR since its inauguration as well as its proposed programs and activities for the years to come. It allowed for the exchange of views on human rights issues of mutual concern and explores possibilities of future cooperation with the US State Department, the relevant United Nations agencies and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and civil society organisations.



AICHR also conducted a study visit to Europe in May 2011 by invitation of the External Relations Directorate General of the European Commission. AICHR visited three European cities, Brussels, Strasbourg and Vienna, and met with various European institutions dealing in human rights. They met with European External Action Service (EEAS) of the European Union, the European Commission, the relevant divisions of the Council of Europe, the Fundamental Rights Agency and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), especially those dealing with Freedom of Media, and the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Rights. They also met with civil society organisations and exchanged information about activities.

As of 2012, AICHR has jointly organised several events with various partners. Working with UN Women, AICHR co-hosted a regional workshop on *Towards Achieving Substantive Gender Equality* in Jakarta on 5–6 September 2011. With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Department



of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, AICHR Representatives participated in the *ASEAN Conference/Workshop on Promoting Maternal Health: Responding to the UN Millennium Development Goal 5*. AICHR also co-chaired the *Regional Workshop on Statelessness and the Rights of Women and Children*, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This workshop was convened with the support of the Government of the Philippines.

AICHR also has had an interface meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navanethem Pillay, at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AICHR in November 2011, in Bali, Indonesia.

## **MANDATES AND FUNCTIONS OF AICHR**

The Terms of Reference (TOR) of AICHR lists out the fourteen (14) mandates of AICHR. Their mandates include:

- i. To develop strategies for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms to complement the building of the ASEAN Community;
- ii. To develop an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration with a view to establishing a framework for human rights cooperation through various ASEAN Conventions and other instruments dealing with human rights;
- iii. To enhance public awareness of human rights among the peoples of ASEAN through education, research and dissemination of information;
- iv. To promote capacity building for the effective

- implementation of international human rights treaty obligations undertaken by ASEAN Member States;
- v. To encourage ASEAN Member States to consider acceding to and ratifying international human rights instruments;
  - vi. To promote the full implementation of ASEAN instruments related to human rights;
  - vii. To provide advisory services and technical assistance on human rights matters to ASEAN Sectoral Bodies upon request;
  - viii. To engage in dialogue and consultation with other ASEAN Bodies and Entities Associated with ASEAN, including civil society organisations and other stakeholders, as provided for in Chapter V of the ASEAN Charter;
  - ix. To consult, as may be appropriate, with other national, regional and international institutions and entities concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights;
  - x. To obtain information from ASEAN Member States on the promotion and protection of human rights;
  - xi. To develop common approaches and positions on human rights matters of interest to ASEAN;
  - xii. To prepare studies on thematic issues of human rights in ASEAN;
  - xiii. To submit an annual report on its activities, or other reports if deemed necessary, to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting; and
  - xiv. To perform any other task as maybe assigned to it by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting.

Each Representative of AICHR is appointed by his/her respective government for the term of three years, renewable once. AICHR Representatives, in the discharge of his or her duties, shall act impartially in accordance with the ASEAN Charter and the TOR of AICHR.

The TOR also sets out the line of reporting of AICHR, the conduct of meeting(s), the role of the Chair of AICHR, decision-making process, the release of public information and AICHR's relationship with other human rights bodies within ASEAN.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) of AICHR can be accessed on the ASEANWEB (Link: <http://www.asean.org/23539.htm>). You can also browse AICHR's Regional Website at [aichr.org](http://aichr.org)

## **THE PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF AICHR**

AICHR's priority areas on human rights are found in the Five-Year Work Plan 2010–2015. The Work Plan is developed based on the 14 mandates of AICHR contained in the TOR. Each year, AICHR will specify what are their high priority programmes and activities for the year based on the Work Plan and also responding to emerging exigencies on human rights in the region.

The activities of AICHR in the short and medium term include:

- Undertake needs assessment for capacity building;
- Complete a stocktaking of existing human rights instruments acceded and ratified by ASEAN Member States;

- Conduct workshops on various themes related to human rights;
- Conduct trainings on human rights for specific target groups, such as government officials, law enforcement officers, teachers, etc.;
- Strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat's support for AICHR;
- Disseminate information relating to the work of AICHR including publications in both English and national languages;
- Share best practices of effective implementation of international human rights treaty obligations among ASEAN Member States;
- Coordinate with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to ensure the effective implementation of ASEAN instruments related to human rights;
- Identify the current and potential human rights matters of interest to ASEAN; and
- Prepare studies on thematic issues of human rights in ASEAN;

Starting from 2011, AICHR has focused on the drafting of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD). The Declaration will be a landmark political document in terms of human rights in the region, reflecting the aspirations of the people of ASEAN. It will set the landscape for human rights cooperation in the South East Asia region. The AHRD will engender a framework for human rights cooperation through various ASEAN conventions and other instruments dealing with human rights.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

### 1. *What does intergovernmental mean?*

A. Intergovernmental means that the organisation is established by the agreement among the nation-states. Members of the organisation are composed of sovereign states (referred to as Member States).

### 2. *Why are the AICHR members referred to as Representatives and not Commissioners?*

A. In AICHR, the members of AICHR are Representatives of the Member States of ASEAN, accountable to their respective Governments, appointed with full mandate, with due respect to the principles of the ASEAN Charter, their Terms of Reference, international human rights standards and bear the responsibility to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of the peoples of ASEAN.

### 3. *What are the duties of AICHR?*

A. The Terms of Reference (TOR) of AICHR stipulates the 14 mandates of AICHR. AICHR is a principal organ of ASEAN and the overarching institution on human rights with overall responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN.

AICHR as the overarching institution in ASEAN on human rights shall work with other ASEAN bodies dealing with human rights to align with AICHR as well as other ASEAN bodies on common areas of interest. Through its cooperation with other ASEAN bodies and with external partners, AICHR will develop a regional cooperation on human rights.

*4. AICHR often uses the term “overarching” when describing their mandate. What does it mean?*

A. Although there are other ASEAN bodies dealing with human rights, such as those specialising on the issue of the rights of women and children or of migrant workers, AICHR has the overall responsibility in ASEAN to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. AICHR also deals with all categories of human rights such as political, civil, economic, social, and cultural rights including rights of different groups.

*5. How will AICHR work with other entities, such as the civil society organisations, non-government organisations, the national human rights institutions, other human rights organisations, and UN, regional Sectoral Bodies as well as private sector?*

A. As a consultative body, AICHR shall consult and cooperate with other entities as deemed appropriate. AICHR needs to subscribe a method for engagement with the different types of organisation or entity.

*6. If my rights are violated, can I submit my grievances to AICHR or to the AICHR Representative of my country? How does the public communicate with AICHR?*

A. As an intergovernmental body, AICHR focuses its work on the regional cooperation of the promotion and protection of human rights. In its current TOR, endorsed in July 2009 by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, AICHR does not have the mandate to handle individual cases.

Organisations or individuals may send letters for the attention of AICHR through the AICHR Chair, and copying all the other AICHR Representatives and the ASEAN Secretariat.

*7. To what extent does the work of AICHR contribute or create an impact on human rights in the region and the human rights of the people in the Southeast Asian region?*

A. The impact on human rights can be derived by creating awareness in the peoples of ASEAN on their rights. In addition, the systematic approach of thematic studies with deliverable results to the public will surely create an impact on human rights. The annual report of AICHR, presented to the Foreign Minister, opinions given by AICHR, public information on the work of AICHR could certainly create an impact on human rights.

*8. AICHR seems to focus more on the promotion side rather than the protection of human rights, is it true?*

A. AICHR works under the spirit of consultation and consensus. However, it is not an obstacle to the promotion and protection of human rights, especially on educating and raising awareness on human rights to the people of ASEAN. The promotion of human rights should be done in parallel with other developments, to ensure that strong protection mechanisms are created.

*9. What is the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC)?*

A. The Secretary-General of ASEAN may bring relevant issues to the attention of AICHR with regards to carrying out his/her duties and responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of the ASEAN Charter. The Secretary-General can also raise attention to issues related to the implementation of ASEAN agreements and decisions.



The ASEAN Secretariat currently serves as the regional secretariat of AICHR. ASEC maintain effective lines of communication between AICHR with other ASEAN bodies, external parties and other relevant stakeholders, as well as disseminates information on the latest developments of ASEAN and AICHR to those concerned. ASEC is the custodian of the AICHR Fund and the institutional memory of ASEAN and of AICHR. ASEC supports the implementation of AICHR's priority programmes and activities, as well as propose, assess, and assist in project formulation and implementation of AICHR's Work Plan.

#### *10. Where can I find more information about AICHR?*

A. General information and the latest news updates about ASEAN, including the press releases of AICHR, can be accessed through the ASEANWEB ([www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org)). AICHR also have their own regional website ([aichr.org](http://aichr.org)).

## THE REPRESENTATIVES OF AICHR (2009 – 2012)

The Representatives of AICHR are selected and appointed by their respective Governments with due consideration to gender equality, integrity and competence in the field of human rights. AICHR Representatives have a term of office of three years, and may be re-appointed for one more term.



### Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Hj. Ahmad bin Hj. Jumat  
(since November 2011)



#### Education:

- BA (University of Malaya, Malaysia).
- M. Ed (University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada).
- D. Ed (University of South California).

#### Career:

- 1965-1969: Brunei Administrative Officer, Menteri Besar Office.
- 1969-1971: Educational Administrator and Senior Administrator with the Department of Education.

- 1973-1975: Head of Planning Unit with the Department of Education.
- 1975-1977: Deputy Director of Education.
- 1977-1982: Director of Education.
- 1982-1983: Director of Establishment, Head of State Civil Service.
- 1983-1984: Director of Diplomatic Services.
- 1984-1986: Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 1986-2001: Deputy Minister of Education.
- 2001: Acting Minister of Development.
- 2002: Minister of Development.
- 2005: Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.
- 2008-2010: Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.
- Dec 2011: Brunei Darussalam's Representative to AICHR.



## Cambodia

H.E. Dr. Om Yentieng



### Education:

- Master and PhD of Law.

### Career:

- 1975: A Third Year student of Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Law and Economic Science.
- 1975-7 Jan 1979: Farmer in Khmer Rouge Regime.
- 1979-1981: Chief of the Working Group for the establishment of Local Administration Authority and Factory Rebuilding.
- 1981-1993: Journalist.
- 1983-1985: Director of Culture and Information Department of Phnom Penh Municipality.
- 1993-Present: Advisor to Prime Minister in charge of:
  - General Information
  - Human Rights
  - Justice Affairs
  - Domestic Affairs
- 1997-2000: Member of the Cambodian Human Rights Commission.

- 2000-Present: President of the Cambodian Human Rights Committee.
- 2004-Present: Member of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee, and Deputy Director of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee Secretariat.
- 2006-2009: Vice president of the Land Dispute Authority.
- 2006-2010: President of Anti Corruption Unit, The Office of the Council of Ministers.
- 2006-Present: Vice president of the Land Reform Council.
- 2008-Present: Senior Minister.
- 2009-Present: Vice president of the Council for Legal and Judicial Reforms.
- 2010-Present: President of the Anti-Corruption Unit of Kingdom of Cambodia.



## Indonesia

H.E. Mr. Rafendi Djamin



### Education:

- BA in Sociology (The University of Indonesia, Jakarta-Indonesia).
- MA in Development Studies (Institute of Social Studies The Hague, Hague-Netherlands).

### Career:

- 1992-1993: INFOHD the Netherlands, as Chairperson and Consultant on Human Rights in Indonesia.
- 1992-2001: Amsterdam Municipality, as Social Security Consultant.
- 2001-2003: Amsterdam Municipality, as Senior Social Security Consultant.
- 2001-2003: Project coordinator for Campaign against Impunity in Indonesia.
- 2003-Present: Coordinator of the Coalition of Indonesian NGO for International Human Rights Advocacy.
- 2006: Independent evaluator of Indonesian National Commission on Violence Against Women (KOMNAS PEREMPUAN), Jakarta.
- 2007-Present: Acting as Convener of SAPA Task-Force on ASEAN and Human Rights.



## Lao PDR

H.E. Mr. Bounkeut Sangsomsak



### Education:

- 1973: Royal Institute of Law and Administration, University of Sisavangvong, Vientiane-Laos.
- 1975: International Institute of Public administration, Paris-France.
- 1977: Faculty of Law, University of Sorbonne, Paris-France.
- 2002: Ho Chi Minh Political Academy, Hanoi- Viet Nam.

### Career:

- 1977: Deputy Director of the Division for Legal and Political Affairs, Department of International Organisation, MFA.
- 1977-1978: Director of Division for Legal Affairs, Department of Consular Affairs MFA.
- 1978-1982: Second Secretary to the Lao Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York, USA.
- 1982-1987: Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the Lao DPR to USA, Washington DC.
- 1987-1989: Deputy Director General of the Department of Political Affairs, MFA.

- 1989-1990: Director General of the Department of Political Affairs, MFA.
- 1990-1998: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao DPR to the Kingdom of Thailand.
- 1998-2001: Permanent Secretary, MFA.
- 2001: Vice MFA.
- 2000-2007: Laos' ASEAN SOM Leader.
- 2000: Member of 5th Legislation of the National Assembly.
- 2002-2006: Vice Chairman of the Commissions on Foreign Relations of the National Assembly.





## Malaysia

H.E. Dato' Sri Dr. Muhammad Shafee Abdullah



### Education:

- 1972: Royal Military College.
- 1977: LLB (Hons), University of Malaya.
- 1984: LLM, London School of Economics (LSE).
- 2010: LLD, University of East London (UEL).

### Career:

- 1977-1981: Part-time Law Lecturer, University Malaya and University Sains Malaysia.
- 1977-1983: Deputy Public Prosecutor, Federal Counsel, Attorney-General's Chambers , Malaysia.
- 1979-1983: Federal Counsel, Ministry of Home Affairs (ad hoc basis).
- 1985-1987: Representative Correspondent for Malaysia & Singapore for the Intellectual Property Review, IPR (Oxford)
- 1985-Present: Advocate & Solicitor, Malaya (Messrs Shafee & Co).

- 1986-1989: Editorial Board of the Current Law Journal (CLJ).
- 1988-Present: Ad hoc Advisor to the Malaysian Government and to the Ruling Party.
- 2004-2010: Appointed by His Majesty the Yang Di Pertuan Agong as a Commission Member to SUHAKAM (Malaysian Human Rights Commission).
- 2006-Present: Director, Asian Finance Bank.
- 2006-2009: Council Member to the Malaysian Bar, Member of Human Rights Committee, Bar Council, Malaysia.
- 2009-Present: Board Member of the University of Malaya.



## Myanmar

H.E. Amb. Kyaw Tint Swe



### Education:

- B.Com (Hons), University of Yangon.
- Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations and Development, Institute of Social Studies, the Netherlands.

### Career:

- 1968-1997: Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1968 and served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Myanmar Embassies in Tel Aviv, Kuala Lumpur, Germany and Bangkok.
- 1994-1997: Minister, Myanmar Embassy, Tokyo.
- 1997-1998: Acting Director General/Dy Director General, ASEAN Department.
- 1998-2001: Director General, International Organisations and Economic Department.
- 2004, 2006, 2008: Vice President of UN General Assembly.
- 2001-2009: Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar, New York.
- 2011 to date: Vice Chair, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.



## Philippines

H.E. Amb. Rosario Gonzales Manalo



### Education:

- Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service, University of the Philippines.
- Bachelor of Science and Jurisprudence, University of the Philippines.
- Bachelor of Laws, University of the Philippines.
- Master of Arts in Public Administration, University of the Philippines.
- Master of Arts in International Studies and Diplomacy, Long Island Univ., NY, USA.

### Career:

- 2002: Special Envoy to Latin America of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.
- 2006: Adviser to President Fidel V. Ramos, Philippine Eminent Person for the ASEAN Charter.
- 2007: Chairperson of the High-Level Task Force on the Drafting of the ASEAN Charter.

- 2007: Special Envoy of the President for the Drafting of the ASEAN Charter.
- 2007-Present: Philippine representative to the Board of Governors, ASEF.
- 2008-2009: Special Envoy of the President for AHRB.
- 2009-2010: Philippine Commissioner to the Shanghai Expo.
- 2009-Present: Philippine Representative to AICHR.



## Singapore

H.E. Mr. Richard Magnus



### Education:

- LLB (Hons), National University of Singapore.
- LLM, National University of Singapore.
- Alumnus of Harvard Business School and John F. Kennedy School of Government.

### Career:

- Retired Senior District Judge in the Singapore Legal Service.
- Chairman of the Casino Regulatory Authority.
- Chairman of the Political Films Committee.
- Chairman of the Public Guardian Board.
- Chairman of Temasek Cares PLC.
- Chairman of the Bioethics Advisory Committee.
- Board Member of the Land Transport Authority.
- Board Member of the CapitaMall Trust Management Ltd.
- Board Member of the Changi Airport Group (S) Pte Ltd.
- Board Director of UCB Media Singapore Limited.
- Member of the Public Service Commission.
- Member of the Public Transport Council.
- Member of the National Transplant Ethics Panel of Lay Persons.
- Member of The Network of Global Agenda Councils, World Economic Forum.



## Thailand

H.E. Dr. Sriprapha Petcharamesree



### Education:

- BA in Political Science, Thammasat University, Thailand.
- Diploma in Human Rights, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, University of Lund, Sweden.
- MA in Comparative Politics, University of Paris-X Nanterre, France.
- Ph.D in International Politics, University of Paris-X Nanterre, France.

### Career:

- 1979-1981: Social worker at the UNICEF's Emergency Operations for Cambodian Refugees.
- 1982-1996: Senior Program Officer, the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation.
- 1996-Present: Full time faculty member at the Human Rights Study Programs, Mahidol University, Thailand.
- 1998-2008: Director of the Office of Human Rights Studies and Social Development, Mahidol University.



## Viet Nam

H.E. Amb. Nguyen Duy Hung  
(since November 2010)



### Education:

- Universidad de La Habana, Cuba.

### Career:

- 1972-1975: Translation bureau, MOFA.
- 1975-1978: Embassy of Viet Nam in the UK.
- 1979-1982: Attaché, Embassy of Viet Nam in the Kingdom of Norway.
- 1983-1987: Expert, Department of Southeast Asia, South Asia, South Pacific, MOFA.
- 1988-1989: Deputy Director General, Department of Southeast Asia, South Asia, South Pacific, MOFA.
- 1989-1992: Counselor, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Viet Nam in the Republic of Indonesia, MOFA.
- 1992-1994: Deputy Director General, Department of Southeast Asia-South Pacific, MOFA.
- 1994-1998: Director General, Department of Southeast Asia-South Pacific, MOFA.



- 1998-2004: Ambassador of Viet Nam to the Kingdom of Cambodia.
- 2005-2006: Director General, ASEAN Department, MOFA.
- 2006-2010: Ambassador of Viet Nam to the Kingdom of Thailand.
- 2010-Present: Director General, the Institute for Foreign Policies and Strategic Studies, Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam.



The First Regional Consultation of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) on the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) with ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, 10 May 2012, Bangkok

For further information on AICHR, visit:  
[www.aichr.org](http://www.aichr.org)

