



# Documentos

## ASEAN Secretary-General Visits Russia

on Monday, 07 July 2014. Posted in 2014, ASEAN Secretariat News

SAINT PETERSBURG, 7 July 2014 - Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Le Luong Minh paid an official visit to the Russian Federation from 1 - 4 July at the invitation of H.E. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

During the visit, SG Minh held meetings with Minister Lavrov and H.E. Igor Margulov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; H.E. Alexey Ulyukaev, Minister for Economic Development; H.E. Vladimir Puchkov, Minister for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of the Consequences of Natural Disasters; H.E. Vladimir Medinskiy, Minister for Culture; and H.E. Veniamin Kaganov, Deputy Minister for Education and Science. He also met with H.E. Nikolay Levichev, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma.

SG Minh and the high-ranking officials of Russia discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to ASEAN-Russia cooperation, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interests and concern. The Russian officials expressed their strong commitment to further deepening and broadening cooperation with ASEAN. Both sides noted that the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of ASEAN and the Russian Federation on Progressive and Comprehensive Partnership, signed at the first ASEAN-Russia Summit in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, has served as the strong foundation for promoting and strengthening ASEAN-Russia Dialogue partnership in a wide range of areas including political and security, economic and development cooperation. They acknowledged that there remain vast potentials on both sides to be tapped to further enhance and strengthen the partnership and cooperation.

Russia expressed its continued support for ASEAN's central role in regional mechanisms and pledged to effectively implement the Comprehensive Programme of Actions (CPA) to

Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation 2005-2015. ASEAN and Russia will begin deliberation on the new phase of a comprehensive plan of action to replace the current CPA, which will expire by the end of 2015. The new plan of action will aim to further broaden and deepen ASEAN-Russia Dialogue partnership.

Russia expressed its strong interest and commitment to support the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity, particularly programmes and projects to strengthen physical linkages. In addition, Russia will work with ASEAN to further improving the volume of trade and investment between the two sides, particularly through trade and investment facilitation measures.

The high-ranking officials of Russia reassured ASEAN that Russia will continue to play a constructive role to contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. SG Minh expressed ASEAN's strong desire to find new and sustained ways and means to build upon past achievements to further strengthen and deepen its relations with Russia in order to add necessary substance to the Comprehensive Partnership. As ASEAN and Russia will mark the 20th anniversary of their partnership in 2016, SG Minh and the Russian officials shared the need for ASEAN and Russia to work closely to make the third decade of the Comprehensive Partnership a new phase that will bring greater benefits to the peoples of ASEAN and Russia. The officials also touched on the possibility of convening a third ASEAN-Russia Summit and emphasised that both sides need to ensure substantive deliverables for such a Summit to be meaningful.

SG Minh and the high-ranking officials of Russia exchanged views and discussed cooperation, among others, in the fields of trade and investment, connectivity, education, science and technology cooperation, disaster management, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

As part of his visit to Russia, SG Minh visited the ASEAN Centre in Moscow located at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). He met with the Director of the Centre, Dr. Victor Sumsky and had interactive discussions with scholars of MGIMO.

Further, SG Minh visited the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) in Moscow and had discussion with H.E. Viktor Khristenko, Chairman of the Board of the EEC. He also met with the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, H.E. Dmitry Mezentsev.

While in Russia, SG Minh spoke at the opening of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) High-Level Conference on Intercultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue which was held on 3 July in Saint Petersburg, where he met with the Governor of Saint Petersburg, H.E. Georgy Poltavchenko. The Governor expressed Saint Petersburg's strong interest to engage cities of ASEAN in economic and cultural cooperation in areas of their respective advantages.

### ASEAN and US Commit to Deepen Bilateral Cooperation

on Wednesday, 11 June 2014. Posted in 2014, ASEAN Secretariat News

YANGON, 11 June 2014 - ASEAN and U.S. discussed their cooperation in the Political-Security, Economic, and Socio-Cultural fields at the 27th ASEAN-US Dialogue in Yangon, Myanmar on 9-10 June. The Meeting explored ways and means to enhance cooperation in the areas of maritime security, combating transnational crimes including terrorism and trafficking in person, combating wildlife trafficking, renewable and clean energy, infrastructure, connectivity, disaster management, education, youth and people-to-people exchanges, and environment.

Both sides are engaged in various frameworks aimed at improving quality of life for ASEAN peoples. As ASEAN approaches the planned regional integration in 2015, the cooperation reaffirmed commitment to work together in capacity building programmes to help ASEAN meet its community building targets in 2015. ASEAN greatly appreciates the U.S.' extensive support for ASEAN and look forward to enhance cooperation further in all Community pillars.

The U.S. is one of ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and it participates in ASEAN-led regional institutions such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus, and ASEAN Maritime Forum in order to maintain peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Both sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues.

The Meeting was attended by Senior Officials from all ten ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the United States. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Aung Lynn, Senior Officials Meeting Leader of Myanmar, and H.E. Daniel R. Russel, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, the U.S. Department of State.

### ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the Developments in Thailand

on Sunday, 11 May 2014. Posted in 2014, Statement & Communiqués

ASEAN Member States continue to follow closely the recent developments in the Kingdom of Thailand and emphasize their full support for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing challenge in the country through dialogue and in full respect of democratic principles and rule of law.

ASEAN Member States reaffirm the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the developments in the Kingdom of Thailand issued in Tokyo on 14 December 2013 and further underline the importance of democratic process in restoring law and order, promoting national reconciliation

and the return of normalcy in Thailand, in accordance with the will and interests of the people of Thailand.

ASEAN Member States expressed confidence in the resilience of the Thai nation to overcome the present difficulties and stand ready to extend all appropriate support based on the principles provided in its Charter.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the Current Developments in the South China Sea

on Saturday, 10 May 2014. Posted in 2014, Statement & Communiqués

ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed their serious concerns over the on-going developments in the South China Sea, which have increased tensions in the area.

They urged all parties concerned, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to exercise self-restraint and avoid actions which could undermine peace and stability in the area; and to resolve disputes by peaceful means without resorting to threat or use of force.

They reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability, maritime security, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea as well as the ASEAN's Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea and the Joint Statement of the 15th ASEAN-China Summit on the 10th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

They also called on all parties to the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) to undertake full and effective implementation of the DOC in order to create an environment of mutual trust and confidence. They emphasised the need for expeditiously working towards an early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

Statement on Current Developments in The Kingdom of Thailand

on Saturday, 14 December 2013. Posted in 2013, Statement & Communiqués

Myanmar Hosts ASEAN Summit for the First Time

on Friday, 09 May 2014. Posted in 2014, ASEAN Secretariat News

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May 2014 – Tomorrow will mark another milestone in Myanmar's history as it hosts the 24th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, the country's administrative and political capital. This will be the first time Myanmar hosts an ASEAN Summit since joining the Association in 1997. President Thein Sein will be welcoming his counterparts, Heads of State/Government from the other nine Member States for their annual Summit on May 11 to be held at the newly-built Myanmar International Convention Center.

ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh expressed optimism about Myanmar's ability to provide leadership to the Association at this critical stage of ASEAN's Community building. Minh said "Myanmar's chairmanship comes amidst the country's on-going democratization and reform process which has been enjoying strong support from ASEAN Member States and the international community at large." He added "ASEAN is committed to extending all necessary assistance and cooperation to ensure the accomplishment of Myanmar's chairmanship. Myanmar's success is ASEAN's success."

As Chair of ASEAN for 2014, President Thein Sein will preside over the meetings of ASEAN Leaders and theirs with sectoral groups such as the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and youth leaders from the region. Mindful of the regional bloc's objective of establishing a three-pillared politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible Community next year - one that is people-oriented and people centered, Myanmar's theme for its Chairmanship of ASEAN is "Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community."

Ensuring that the implementation of action lines for establishing the ASEAN Community 2015 are on track will be a top priority on the Summit's Agenda. The ASEAN Heads of State/Government will also exchange views on current regional and international issues. This Summit will be preceded by Ministerial and Senior Officials preparatory meetings which will take place as well in Nay Pyi Taw.

It is expected that the 24th Summit will pick up from the legacy of the last Summit in Brunei where the Leaders enunciated the need to draw up ASEAN's post-2015 vision. ASEAN Secretary-General Minh said "Geography has put ASEAN in a unique bridging position between the great Asian powers and it will continue to assert its centrality in the evolving regional architecture." He emphasised that "the ASEAN Community will leverage this position to maintain peace and stability in the region which are requisite ingredients for narrowing the development gaps within and between ASEAN Member States."

ASEAN is nearing the homestretch of its implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community which brings together the ten Member States as a single market by the end of 2015. Despite the publicized challenges, ASEAN has made it clear that the ASEAN Economic Community will push through as planned and that it has addressed 80% of required action lines altogether. As the region gears up for ASEAN Community 2015, various socio-cultural cooperation initiatives are being implemented by Member States in the areas of education, health, cross-border pollution control and disaster management, among others.

ASEAN was established in 1967 by the five founding members, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Later, Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia joined making up what is now the ten-Member- State Association. The Summit is the association's highest policy-making body and the Chairmanship is rotated in alphabetical order among the Member States every year.

ASEAN and China to Continue Building Mutual Trust and Cooperation  
on Wednesday, 23 April 2014. Posted in 2014, ASEAN Secretariat News

PATTAYA, 23 April 2014 - The 7th ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (SOM on DOC) and the 20th ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultation (ACSOC) were held on 21 and 22 April in Pattaya City, Thailand, respectively.

The 7th ASEAN-China SOM on DOC agreed to continue building mutual trust and practical cooperation between ASEAN and China in order to maintain and promote peace, stability and maritime security in the South China Sea. The Meeting stressed the need to pursue the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety, which includes not only project-based confidence building activities but also full observance of the principles and norms of conduct as laid down in the DOC. With regard to the Code of Conduct (COC), while acknowledging the importance of building consensus and expanding commonalities in this respect, ASEAN reiterated the importance of expediting the on-going COC consultation to further substantive discussions towards its early conclusion.

The 20th ACSOC reviewed and discussed ways and means to further strengthen ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership, particularly follow-up to the initiatives and outcomes of the 16th ASEAN-China Summit on 9 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan. The Senior Officials discussed, among others, the major initiatives made by China on exploring the possibility of signing an ASEAN-China treaty on good neighbourliness and friendly cooperation, launching the negotiations on an upgraded ASEAN-China Free Trade Area, enhancing ASEAN-China cooperation in connectivity including the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, enhancing maritime cooperation, and implementation of activities under the ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year 2014.

The Senior Officials exchanged views on East Asian cooperation. China reaffirmed its support for ASEAN's central role in regional frameworks such as the ASEAN Plus Three (ASEAN+3), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers'

Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), and in promoting East Asian cooperation toward the establishment of an East Asian community. ASEAN reaffirmed its adherence to one-China policy.

The Meeting exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interests and concerns, including, among others, global financial and economic situations and relations with major powers. The Senior Officials also reviewed ASEAN-China cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues, including food and energy security, climate change, disaster management, counter-terrorism, transnational crimes, cybercrimes, maritime security, and epidemic with a view to enhance cooperation in these areas.

The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and H.E. Liu Zhenmin, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. Thailand is the current ASEAN Country Coordinator for ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations.

#### Argentina to Foster Further Cooperation with ASEAN

on Friday, 14 March 2014. Posted in 2014, ASEAN Secretariat News

JAKARTA, 14 March 2014 - "The Argentine Republic looks at ASEAN as an important and successful regional organisation and is highly interested in working with ASEAN in every relevant areas of cooperation," said H.E. Ricardo Luis Bocalandro, Ambassador of Argentine Republic to ASEAN during the presentation of his Letter of Credence to H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN this morning in the latter's office.

SG Minh congratulated Ambassador Bocalandro for assuming his duty as the Ambassador of Argentine Republic to ASEAN and stressed that Argentina could play a bigger role in promoting cooperation between both Argentine Republic and ASEAN and between Argentine Republic and individual ASEAN Member States in areas such as economic, trade and investment, food and energy security, connectivity including people to people connectivity, and tourism. SG Minh also encouraged Ambassador Bocalandro to work with ASEAN in promoting region to region cooperation between ASEAN and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), ASEAN and MERCOSUR and Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC). SG Minh and Ambassador Bocalandro exchanged views on international and regional concerns including security issues.

Ambassador Bocalandro expressed his gratitude to SG Minh for accepting his Credentials and promised to work closely with ASEAN and the Secretariat officials to forge closer cooperation between ASEAN and Argentina in areas of mutual interests and potentials. He said he will do whatever is possible within his capacity as Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to ASEAN to promote cooperation between Argentina and ASEAN as well as between Latin American and ASEAN regions.

Ambassador Bocalandro is the second Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to ASEAN since the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter in December 2008.

#### U.S. Secretary of State Meets Secretary-General of ASEAN

on Sunday, 16 February 2014. Posted in 2014, ASEAN Secretariat News

JAKARTA, 16 February 2014 – Underlining the importance of U.S. engagement with ASEAN, U.S. Secretary of State Honourable John Kerry today paid a courtesy call on Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Le Luong Minh.

Secretary Kerry visited ASEAN Headquarters in Jakarta where he engaged Secretary-General Minh and other senior ASEAN Secretariat officials in discussions on U.S.-ASEAN relations and other regional issues of mutual interests and concern.

Secretary-General Minh welcomed Secretary Kerry and expressed appreciation to the U.S. for its continued support for ASEAN Community building efforts as well as ASEAN's centrality and unity. Citing the U.S. as one of the most important major partners of ASEAN, Secretary-General Minh stressed that the support and assistance by the U.S. has effectively complemented ASEAN's efforts to achieve the target of establishing an ASEAN Community by 2015.

Placing ASEAN at the core of U.S. rebalancing strategy in the region, Secretary Kerry reiterated U.S. current policy toward Southeast Asia and its commitment to enhance cooperation with ASEAN in the fields of trade and investment, education, narrowing the development gaps, climate change and disaster management, connectivity, and support for Myanmar's chairmanship of ASEAN. Secretary Kerry also informed Secretary-General Minh that President Obama is looking forward to attending the Second ASEAN-U.S. Summit later this year in Myanmar.

Secretary-General Minh and Secretary Kerry exchanged views on issues of regional and international concern, including the issue of the South China Sea, where, in the context of complicated developments taking place, while emphasizing the need for respect for international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), they reaffirmed the importance of ASEAN's Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea, the urgency of early conclusion of a Code of Conduct (COC) and the importance of exercising self-restraint.

The U.S. Secretary of State was in Jakarta as part of his Asian tour to meet with senior government officials and address a range of bilateral, regional, and global issues relevant to U.S. enhanced engagement in the Asia-Pacific region. Last year, he attended the First ASEAN-US Summit in Brunei Darussalam representing President Barack Obama.

The United States has been a Dialogue Partner of ASEAN since 1977. Both sides have maintained active cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, regional security, disaster management, education, and governance.



ASEAN and EU Strengthen their Partnership and Cooperation  
on Friday, 24 January 2014. Posted in 2014, ASEAN Secretariat News

The 21st meeting of the ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) was held on 24 January 2014 in Jakarta.

The Meeting confirmed the positive momentum of EU-ASEAN Dialogue Relations and looked forward to further strengthening the partnership and cooperation for mutual benefit. Since the adoption in April 2012 of the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to strengthen the ASEAN-EU enhanced partnership 2013-2017 and the EU's accession to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in July 2012, the relationship has broadened and deepened substantially.

ASEAN and the EU exchanged views on developments in their respective region. The EU welcomed the progress achieved in ASEAN integration and Community-building and reaffirmed its support to the centrality of ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture.

ASEAN and the EU exchanged views on their increasingly close trade and investment relations. They underlined the value of the Consultations between the ASEAN and EU Economic Ministers to further strengthen trade and investments ties.

ASEAN and the EU welcomed the progress achieved in ASEAN-EU cooperation. They were satisfied with the progress made to strengthen cooperation in the area of science, technology and research and welcomed the EU-ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Days, which took place in Bangkok from 21 to 23 January 2014. Both sides were satisfied with the cooperation on civil aviation and looked forward to the EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit to take place on 11-12 February 2014 in Singapore. Significant progress has been made in the area of Information and communications technology (ICT) and several workshops planned next year. Cooperation on human rights was intensifying. Members of the ASEAN Commission on the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) visited Brussels on 19-22 February 2013 and the EU looked forward to welcoming the second visit of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to Brussels later in 2014. ASEAN and the EU discussed their increasing cooperation in the context of the ASEAN Regional Forum and looked forward to the next session of the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Brussels on 7-9 April 2014.

The Meeting discussed ASEAN-EU cooperation on the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and the possibility of establishing effective mechanisms to enhance cooperation on Connectivity. ASEAN and the EU looked forward to the first ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Connectivity in Brussels on 24 – 28 February 2014. The Dialogue will be a good opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices as well as explore public and private

financing for connectivity. An outcome document will be presented to the next ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM).

ASEAN and the EU welcomed the successful ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Maritime Cooperation, held on 18-19 November 2013 in Jakarta. The Dialogue allowed for an in-depth exchange on different aspects of maritime security and the identification of different follow-up actions. An outcome document will be presented to the next ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM).

ASEAN and the EU discussed and welcomed the progress in the implementation of the ongoing ASEAN-EU cooperation programmes in support of ASEAN. They also looked into proposals to simplify the procedures as urged by the 19th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in 2012.

Both parties discussed the programming of the 2014-2020 cycle of financial support for ASEAN under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) and the EU expressed its intention to substantially increase its financing for projects and programmes with ASEAN. Cooperation under this Instrument would focus on (i) connectivity: sustainable and inclusive economic integration and trade; (ii) climate change and disaster management; and (iii) a comprehensive dialogue facility. This agreement would be reflected in a document, which will be presented to the next ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM). ASEAN and EU also discussed other financing possibilities for regional integration, such as the Asia Investment Facility, Erasmus Mundus and the Instrument for Stability.

In their closing remarks, ASEAN and the EU underlined the importance of the partnership between both regional organisations. The ASEAN-EU partnership has lived up to the promise of the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action as political relations intensify, impressive progress is registered in many fields, and new areas of cooperation are being developed.

The 21st Meeting of the ASEAN-EU JCC was co-chaired by His Excellency Mr. Vu Dang Dzung, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to ASEAN, Country Coordinator for the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations, and by Mr. Ranieri Sabatucci, Head of the South-East Asia Division of the European External Action Service, together with Mr. Jean-Claude Boidin, Head of Unit of the European Commission Directorate General for Development Cooperation. The Meeting was opened by His Excellency Mr. Vu Dang Dzung, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to ASEAN and His Excellency Mr. Olof Skoog, Ambassador of the EU to ASEAN and attended by members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, officials from the ASEAN Secretariat and EU, as well as representatives of EU Member States.

ASEAN launches SME guidebook

on Wednesday, 27 November 2013. Posted in 2013, ASEAN Secretariat News

YANGON, 27 November 2013 -- An ASEAN publication entitled "SME Guidebook Towards the AEC 2015" was officially launched on 25 November at the sidelines of the 33rd ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Agencies Working Group (SMEWG) Meeting. The publication aims to support SMEs as the region prepares for the implementation of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015.

In his remarks, H.E. U Maung Myint, Union Minister, Ministry of Industry of Myanmar, commended the SMEWG for its efforts to launch the SME publication and directory aimed at enhancing greater awareness of small and medium enterprises to a wide range of financial facilities, financial and non-financial institutions available for SMEs in all ten ASEAN member states as well as the market opportunities in ASEAN and beyond.

Besides, the SME Guidebook provides an avenue for SME Agencies - the policy makers responsible for SME development in the region, for exchanges of good practices and lessons learned in implementing policy and initiatives to enhance SMEs' access to finance, market and internationalization of SME. For SMEs, chambers of commerce, industry and business community at large, this SME Guidebook provides them with key messages, implications and benefits of the measures, standards, regulations or agreements being implemented by various sectoral bodies under the purview of the ASEAN Economic Community pillar.

The SME Guidebook Towards the AEC 2015 is available for download on ASEAN website ([www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org)).

Secretary-General of ASEAN Visits Japan

on Sunday, 10 November 2013. Posted in 2013, ASEAN Secretariat News

In conjunction with the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Le Luong Minh, paid an official visit to Japan from 5 to 8 November 2013.

During his visit, Secretary-General Minh had meetings with H.E. Shinzu Abe, Prime Minister of Japan; H.E. Fumio Kishida, Foreign Minister of Japan; H.E. Yoshitaka Shindo, Minister of Internal Affairs and Communication; and Minister of Economic, Trade and Industry, H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi.

Secretary-General Minh conveyed ASEAN's appreciation to Japan for its constant and strong support for ASEAN Community building efforts, including to narrowing the development gap and enhancing ASEAN Connectivity in the region.

He also encouraged Japan to continue its support to ASEAN in realizing an ASEAN Community by 2015, and further stressed the importance of Japan aligning its future cooperation with ASEAN to be in line with ASEAN Community's Post 2015 Vision.

"Japan places great emphasis on Japan-ASEAN relationship", said Prime Minister Minister Abe, who visited eight ASEAN Member States since early this year after assuming his post, and stated that he will visit Cambodia and Lao PDR to complete his visits to all ten ASEAN Member States by the end of this year.

Prime Minister Abe highlighted that at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit to be held next month, the Leaders will adopt a medium- to long- term vision to chart the future direction of ASEAN-Japan relations. He also said that he would exchange views with the Leaders of ASEAN on regional and international issues of common interest and concern.

During his visit, Secretary-General Minh also met with H.E. Ryotaro Sugi, Special Ambassador to Promote the 40th Anniversary of the Cooperative Ties between ASEAN and Japan; H.E. Hirofumi Nakasone, Chairman of Japan-ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Exchange Group; Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Senior Vice-President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the ASEAN Tokyo Committee.

In addition, Secretary-General Minh exchanged views with Japanese business leaders and encouraged them to invest more in ASEAN by taking advantage of various initiatives and measures that have been put in place under the ASEAN Economic Community.

Secretary-General of ASEAN Visits China

on Tuesday, 22 October 2013. Posted in 2013, ASEAN Secretariat News

Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Le Luong Minh, visited China at the invitation of H.E. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China. The visit, from 16 to 19 October 2013, took place in the context of the 10th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership.

During the visit Secretary-General Minh had meetings with H.E. Yang Jiechi, State Councilor, and Foreign Minister, H.E. Wang Yi and Commerce Minister, H.E. Gao Hucheng. Secretary-General Minh discussed with the high-ranking officials a wide range of issues pertaining to ASEAN-China cooperation.

The high ranking officials of China expressed their strong commitment to further deepen and broaden cooperation with ASEAN. They expressed full support for ASEAN's central role in regional mechanisms and pledged to fully and effectively implement the ASEAN-China Plan of Action (2011-2015).

China reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening ASEAN-China connectivity covering the three elements of physical, institutional and people-to-people linkages. In addition, China will work with ASEAN to further improving the volume of trade between the two sides, particularly by upgrading the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA). China also expressed its strong commitment to increase the flow of its investment to ASEAN. All these efforts look set to further expand ASEAN-China economic relations.

The high ranking officials reassured ASEAN that China will play a constructive role to contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. They called on ASEAN and China to work closely to make the second decade of the Strategic Partnership a "diamond decade" of partnership for the benefit of the peoples of ASEAN and China.

Secretary-General Minh expressed ASEAN's strong desire to find new and sustained ways and means to build upon past achievements to further strengthen and deepen its relations with China in order to add necessary substance to the Strategic Partnership. He stated that ASEAN and China need to redouble their efforts to implement the various targets set by the Leaders at the 16th ASEAN-China Summit on 9 October 2013 in Brunei Darussalam.

Secretary-General Minh also exchanged views and discussed cooperation, among others, in the fields of trade and investment, connectivity, maritime cooperation, disaster management, public health, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

As part of his trip to China, Secretary-General Minh visited the ASEAN-China Centre and met with the Secretary-General of the Centre, Mr. Ma Mingqiang. He also had meetings with President of the China-ASEAN Friendship Association, Madame Gu Xiulian and Secretary-General of the China-ASEAN Business Council, Mr. Xu Ningning. He delivered a speech at the China Foreign Affairs University.

Secretary-General Minh also visited Shanghai and met with the Executive Vice Mayor of Shanghai Municipal People's Government, Mr. Tu Guangshao. He also visited a number of socio-economic development projects in Shanghai.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly

on Monday, 30 September 2013. Posted in 2013, ASEAN Secretariat News

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, or the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting (AUMM), was held on 26 September 2013 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Meeting was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam. H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; H.E. John Ashe, President of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly; other ASEAN Foreign Ministers and their representatives, as well as the Secretary-General of ASEAN were also in attendance.

This was the second AUMM since the adoption of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN at the 4th ASEAN-UN Summit in Bali in November 2011. The Meeting reviewed the progress in the implementation of the Joint Declaration, based on the Joint Report submitted by the Secretariats of ASEAN and the UN and recommendations of the ASEAN-UN Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting, which was held on 23 September 2013. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the continued dialogue and consultation between the Secretariats of the two Organisations and encouraged them to further enhance their cooperation, coordination and liaison functions as mandated in the Joint Declaration.

The United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly reaffirmed the commitment of the United Nations to work closely with ASEAN towards their common goals as set out in the Joint Declaration, including attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and support for ASEAN Community building. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers reiterated ASEAN's strong commitment to contribute constructively to the work of the UN and strengthen the ASEAN-UN Partnership in maintaining regional and international peace and security.

The Participants also exchanged views on regional and international matters, that are of common concern and interest to ASEAN and the UN, including among others, development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, the situation in Syria, peace process in the Middle East, in particular the issue of Palestine, disarmament, conflict prevention, peacekeeping, rule of law, human rights, counter-terrorism, international migration, disaster management and response, food and energy security, and sustainable development. The Meeting also looked forward to the upcoming 5th ASEAN-UN Summit, which is scheduled to take place on 10 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.