

Consultation Workshop: “Engaging the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) – The People’s Views”

Event » Consultation Workshop:
“Engaging the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) – The People’s Views”
22 August 2009, Saturday
8.30am to 3.45pm
Novotel Hotel, Clarke Quay

Organiser » MARUAH (Singapore Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism)

Sponsoring Partner » Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

Partner » Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
ASEAN Studies Centre

Background » The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ASEAN Human Rights Body, as enshrined in Article 14 of the ASEAN Charter, have been accepted recently by ASEAN Foreign Ministers. This October the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) will be born at the ASEAN Summit. This is a considerable breakthrough for all countries in ASEAN.

This Commission can only get better when stakeholders are engaged. In the next three months countries will select their government representative to the Commission. The TOR will go into effect from October. There are other sectoral bodies on women, children and migrant workers.

How will the people sector engage in this process? How will the people sector ensure that the Commission will become an enabling instrument? Here’s the chance to be engaged. Please come. Please share your thoughts. Please be a stakeholder in this process.

- Aims »**
1. To raise awareness on the functions and roles of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights,
 2. To reflect on the implications of rights-based perspectives on stakeholders
 3. To make recommendations on the following:
 - a. Selection process on the government representatives to the AICHR,
 - b. The role of government representatives within the Commission, and
 - c. The process of stakeholders’ engagement with the Commission

RSVP » *Please return the reply slip by **Tuesday 19th August** to help the organisers prepare for the workshop and to be economical for catering purposes..*

Note » *The Consultation will be a closed door discussion. A press conference will be held at the end of the day.*



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Tentative Programme »

- 08.30am » Registration
- 09.00am » Welcome Address
- 9.15am » Plenary Discussion

Chair: MARUAH (Singapore Working Group for ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism)

Speakers:

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, *Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy; former ASEAN Secretary-General*
“Singapore’s participation in the AICHR establishment process”

Dr Sriprapha Petcharamesree, *Human Rights Department, Mahidol University; Chairperson of the Thai Working Group on ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism:*
“Challenges in the AICHR”

Ms Shanthi Dairium, *Former UN CEDAW Committee member and founder of IWRAW(Asia-Pacific)*
“Role of Sectoral Bodies in the AICHR”

Mr Arpee Santiago, *Working Group on ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism*
“Going Forward”

- 10.15am » Q & A
- 10.45am » 10.45am Coffee Break
- 11.15am » Break-out Sessions
 - I. Selection of Candidates for the AICHR
 - II. Dynamics between the State and the AICHR
 - III. The human rights role of civil society and its synergy with the AICHR
 - IV. The Political Declaration and the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration
 - V. The dynamics between the Sectoral Bodies and AICHR
- 11.45am » Presentations By Groups
- 1.00pm » Lunch
- 2.00pm » Recommendations and Adoption of Recommendations
- 3.45pm » End of Consultation and Commencement of Press Conference



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