

**Joint Press Statement of the Ninth Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of
Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the
Ministries of Foreign Affairs (9th DGICM)**

Siem Reap-Angkor, Kingdom of Cambodia, 9-11 November 2005

1. The 9th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) was held on 9-11 November 2005 in Siem Reap-Angkor, Kingdom of Cambodia. It was chaired by Pol. Maj. Gen. Meach Sophana, Director of Immigration Department, National Police, Ministry of Interior, Kingdom of Cambodia, and was attended by the ASEAN Heads of Immigration and Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The Meeting reviewed the progress of the realization of the Work Programme to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action on Immigration Matters adopted in 2002 and agreed to consider revising the Work Programme taking into account the many new developments in ASEAN.
3. The Meeting reaffirmed its support for the Bali Concord II of 2003, which is a landmark decision for ASEAN to work towards an ASEAN Community comprising three pillars, namely, ASEAN Security Community (ASC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). To achieve the goals and objectives of the Bali Concord II, DGICM agreed to work closely with other ASEAN bodies to implement the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP).
4. The Meeting underlined the significance of enhancing coordination linkages with the ASEAN Senior Official Meeting on Transnational Crimes (SOMTC) in preventing and combating transnational crimes and terrorism. To this end, the Meeting agreed to consider measures to accelerate the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, particularly Women and Children which was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 10th ASEAN Summit held in November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
5. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Cambodia to hold a training workshop on Anti-Fraud Travel Documents.
6. The Meeting reiterated the important role of the DGICM not only in preventing and combating transnational crime, but also facilitating and promoting movement of tourist, business and professional persons in the region.
7. The Meeting shared the experiences of various delegations in their efforts to improve the effectiveness of immigration management and enhance co-operation on immigration matters among Member Countries. In this regard, the Meeting took note of the successful convening of the ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum in July 2005 in Puncak, Indonesia. The Meeting also welcomed Indonesia's offer to host the next Forum to be held back-to-back with the 10th DGICM.
