

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

1. The 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters was held in Bangkok from 23-29 May 1989.
2. The Meeting was attended by senior officials from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The Narcotics Desk Officer of the ASEAN Secretariat was also in attendance.
3. His Excellency Mr. Pong Sarasin, the Deputy Prime Minister and concurrent Chairman of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand delivered the Opening Address. He stated that the effective measures to combat the spread of drug abuse and network of criminal organizations must be carried out at the international level. ASEAN had played a vital role in the international anti-drug efforts and the ASEAN's achievements in narcotics control and prevention is at a highly satisfactory level. He believed that all the ASEAN member countries would become parties to the new Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
4. The Meeting agreed to invite Burma, Laos and Hong Kong to future ASOD Meetings as observers, subject to the approval of the ASEAN Standing Committee.
5. The Meeting agreed that for drug prevention and control projects in the ASEAN region to be effectively implemented, financial resource must be made available. The Meeting, therefore, expressed appreciation for the

continuing financial and technical support extended by the ASEAN dialogue partners and other international organizations on ASEAN drug-related projects.

6. The Meeting decided that future ASEAN drug project be formulated on a long term basis based on the guidelines of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control (CMO), the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the ASEAN five year plan of action.

7. The Meeting decided to explore the possibility of setting up an ASEAN Drug Fund.

8. By rotation it would be Brunei Darussalam's turn to host the 13th ASOD Meeting scheduled in 1990.

9. The Meeting was held in the usual ASEAN spirit of solidarity and cordiality.