

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

1. The 10th Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters was held in Manila from 29 September to 3 October 1986.
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. Two representatives from Hong Kong attended the Meeting as observers.
3. The Honorable Alfredo R.A. Bengzon, Minister of Health and Chairman of Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) of the Republic of the Philippines, delivered the Keynote Address. He emphasized that the problem of drug abuse indicts both the individual victim and the victimizing society. He therefore recommended a unified effort to combat drug abuse including a constant need to systematize and streamline activities.
4. Much had been achieved since the ASEAN Declaration of Principles to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the First ASEAN Drug Experts Meeting in 1976. The most significant achievement was the development of a unified approach/strategy in its unrelenting efforts to curb drug abuse and trafficking.
5. The 10th ASOD Meeting was timely convened before the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT), Vienna, June 1987. The Meeting formulated a joint ASEAN strategy on the substantive issues and organization of work for the said conference.

6. The Meeting was unanimous in supporting the candidacy of Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammad for the Presidency and Thailand for the Vice-Presidency of the forthcoming international conference.

7. The Meeting likewise expressed appreciation for the continuing financial and technical support extended by the ASEAN dialogue partners and other international organizations on ASEAN drug-related activities/projects.

8. By rotation it would be Singapore's turn to host the 11th ASOD Meeting scheduled in March/April 1988.

9. The delegations of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand expressed their deepest appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to them and the efficient arrangements made for the Meeting.

10. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN cordiality and solidarity.