

**Press Release**  
**by the Chair of the High Level Panel on an ASEAN Human Rights Body**  
**at the Conclusion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HLP on AHRB**  
**15 November 2008, Bali**

On 13-15 November 2008, the High Level Panel on an ASEAN Human Rights Body (HLP) had their meeting in Bali, Indonesia, during which they discussed several significant issues on the Terms of Reference of an ASEAN Human Rights Body (TOR of AHRB) including the composition of the body, modalities for the operation of the body, secretariat support as well as the mobilization of resources necessary for the operation of the body.

On composition, the HLP discussed the issues of appointment process, qualification and term of office of the Members of the body. They recognized the need to have qualified Members serving in the body and the need to ensure the continuity of the AHRB's work.

On modalities, the HLP discussed the frequency and duration of AHRB meetings and the decision making process, which will rely on ASEAN principle of consultation and consensus. They also look into how studies, reports and documents of the body would be available to public.

On secretariat and funding, the HLP agreed that it is necessary to provide the AHRB with sufficient resources, including funding and personnel, to ensure efficient functioning of the body. Funding will be mobilized from within ASEAN as well as external sources where appropriate.

The HLP will meet again on 10-12 December, before the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Chiang Mai, Thailand. After such meeting, they will report the progress made so far in the drafting of the TOR of AHRB to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting on 14 December 2008.

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