

As of August 31, 2009



National Conference on

**“Cambodia - 10 years of ASEAN membership
Achievements, Challenges and Prospects”**

Co-organized by

Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace

And

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

Background

Decades of civil war and isolation made Cambodia to be one of the least developed countries in the world. After one year of gaining “total peace” in 1998, Cambodia was admitted as the 10th ASEAN member on 30 April 1999. Cambodia’s hopes and expectations of joining the group were high. Peace and prosperity were believed to be the overall results of regional cooperation and integration.

For the past 10 years of being an ASEAN member, Cambodia is said to have benefited to a large extent in the spheres of economics, politics and security. However, the questions remain: Has the ASEAN membership been playing the key role in improving Cambodia’s domestic political, socio-economic and external security situation over the past decade? What can Cambodia do to gain more from this membership in future? As ASEAN is evolving to meet new challenges, how can Cambodia contribute to furthering the integration process for the benefits of all members? This conference attempts to answer these very questions and outline Cambodian membership experiences and future directions.

Objectives of the conference

The objectives of this National Conference are:

- to take stock of Cambodia’s key benefits from the ASEAN membership and it’s major contributions to the ASEAN community
- to review, assess, and update the current developments within ASEAN
- to highlight challenges and opportunities and the future direction of ASEAN
- to engage the public and policymakers in an open dialogue so that they will have an opportunity to raise issues and concerns as inputs to Track I (governmental level);
- to focus on specific topics and issues that may have great impact on the Cambodian people as a whole;

- to identify Cambodia's role, expectations, aspirations as well as challenges in each of the key ASEAN issues, such as Cambodia and AFTA; ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Human Rights Body
- to promote civil society's and Cambodia's active thinking and involvement in ASEAN (Beyond officials' level);

Participants

The conference will bring together approximately 80 participants from a broad spectrum, including ASEAN representatives, members of the diplomatic corps based in Phnom Penh, Cambodian government officials, members of the National Assembly and the Senate, members of civil society and academia, journalists, and students.

Tentative Program

Date: September 2, 2009
Venue: Cambodiana Hotel

Language: Khmer and English (Simultaneous translation will be provided)

Time	Contents
8:00 - 8:30	<i>Registration</i>
8:30 – 8:40	<p>Opening Remark</p> <p>H.R.H. Samdech Norodom Sirivudh, Supreme Privy Counselor to His Majesty the King of Cambodia, Founder and Chairman, Board of Directors, CICP</p>
8:40 - 8:50	<p>Welcome Remark</p> <p>Dr. Stefanie Elies, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Office for Regional Co-operation in Asia</p>
8:50 - 10:00	<p>Keynote Speeches</p> <p>20 minutes each speaker and afterwards Q&A</p> <p><i>Reflections on ASEAN and Cambodian Economy</i> Dr. Hing Thoraxy Deputy Chief of Cabinet and Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister, Office of the Council of Ministers</p> <p><i>Reflections on Cambodian expectations from ASEAN</i> Mr. Chheang Vannarith, Executive Director, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace</p> <p>Q&A</p>
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 - 12:30	<p>Panel Discussion on “Cambodia in ASEAN”</p> <p>Moderator: H.E. Mr. Sorn Samnang, Advisor to Royal Government of Cambodia</p> <p>15 minutes each speaker and afterwards Q&A</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p><i>Economic aspects</i> H.E. Dr. Chap Sotharith, Chief of Cabinet and Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister Mrs. Men Sam An; Member of Board of Directors, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace</p>

	<p><i>Political and security aspects</i> Mr. Leng Thearith, Bureau Chief of Political Cooperation Division, ASEAN General Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Research Fellow at the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace</p> <p><i>Social aspects</i> Mr. Long Kosal, Deputy Director, Department of Cultural Development, Museum and Heritage Norms, APSARA Authority and Research Fellow at the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace</p> <p><i>Cambodia and a people-centered ASEAN</i> Mr. Soun Ngoun Y, Secretary General of Cambodia-ASEAN Human Rights Association(CAHRA),</p> <p>Q&A</p>
12:30- 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 15:00 15 minutes each speaker and afterwards Q&A	<p>Open Space Discussion</p> <p>Moderators: Dr. Stefanie Elies, Director, Ms. Pham Huong Giang, Project Manager, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung</p> <p><i>Topic 1: What should Cambodia do to realize the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015?</i></p> <p><i>Topic 2: What should Cambodia do to realize the ASEAN Political and Security Community by 2015?</i></p> <p><i>Topic 3: What should Cambodia do to realize the ASEAN Social and Cultural Community by 2015?</i></p>
15: 00 - 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 - 16: 30	<p>Group Presentations</p> <p>Representative of each topic discussion group will make a 10 minute presentation on results or findings deriving from the group discussion on the concerned topic</p>
16: 30 - 17:00	<p>Closing Remark</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Un Ning, Chairman of Home Affairs, National Defense, Investigation, Anti-Corruption and Public Function, National Assembly and Member of Board of Directors, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace</p>

	<p>Dr. Stefanie Elies, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Office for Regional Co-operation in Asia</p>
<p>18:30 - 21:00</p>	<p>Dinner Reception</p> <p>Co-hosted by:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">H.R.H. Samdech Norodom Sirivudh, Supreme Privy Counselor to His Majesty the King of Cambodia, Founder and Chairman, Board of Directors, CICP</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Dr. Stefanie Elies, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Office for Regional Co-operation in Asia</p> <p>On the occasion of introducing Mr. Chheang Vannarith, new Executive Director of CICP, and farewell to Dr. Chap Sotharith, former Executive Director of CICP</p> <p>Venue: Cambodiana Hotel</p>