

**ASEAN Secretariat Press Release  
First ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting  
Manama, Bahrain, 30 June 2009**

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The First ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Ministerial Meeting was held on 29-30 June 2009 in Manama, Bahrain. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers, high-level representatives of ASEAN and the GCC Member States and the Secretaries-General of ASEAN and GCC.

This first ever ministerial meeting between ASEAN and the GCC provides for the two organizations to develop closer and beneficial relations. Significant outcomes of the Meeting include agreements to explore the possibility of establishing an ASEAN-GCC cooperation framework and a trade agreement; and to foster people-to-people ties, and tourism.

The Ministers further agreed that the ASEAN Ambassadors in Riyadh or in neighbouring countries in the Gulf shall be accredited to the GCC Headquarters in Riyadh, while the GCC Ambassadors in Jakarta or in neighbouring ASEAN Member States shall be accredited to ASEAN.



"It is very inspiring for all of us to see the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ASEAN and the GCC engaging in their formal discussions with such enthusiasm and commitment to enhance cooperation between the two regions. What is significant here is the unmistakable solid collective political will on both sides to forge more cooperative relations for the benefits of our peoples in the two regions. We must capitalize on this momentum and carry it forward now that we have a clear and unequivocal political direction from our leadership," said Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN, at the conclusion of the first ever ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting in Manama, Bahrain, on Tuesday 30 June.

ASEAN and the GCC also adopted an ASEAN-GCC Joint Vision which aspires to build a new ASEAN-GCC partnership. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ASEAN Secretariat and the GCC Secretariat General was also signed. The MOU provides for enhanced cooperation in wide areas of cooperation.

The next ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting will be convened in 2010 in an ASEAN country.

GCC groups United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.

- For the Joint Press Statement of the First ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting, please click [here](#).