



## **DRAFT Joint Press Statement**

### **9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) + Australia Consultation**

The 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation was held on 30 August 2013 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Major General Le Thanh Dzung, Director-General of the Immigration Department, Ministry of Public Security of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and Mr Peter Vardos, Deputy Secretary, Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), Australia.

The Meeting noted the success of ongoing activities undertaken in 2012-13 as agreed by the 8<sup>th</sup> DGICM+ Australia Consultation.

The Meeting agreed to pursue a number of practical activities in 2013-14, demonstrating the shared interest that ASEAN and Australia have in continuing a constructive partnership that benefits the project countries of ASEAN and Australia.

Recognizing the agility and flexibility of criminal networks, the Meeting called for a closer regional cooperation and vigilant approach in effectively responding to the irregular movement of people, trafficking in persons and people smuggling.

ASEAN and Australia agreed that they would continue to work together on cooperative arrangements in relation to immigration matters across the region. The meeting also agreed to further publicise, where appropriate, the agreements of the ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation through the ASEAN website.

It was agreed that the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation would be held in conjunction with the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN DGICM in Brunei Darussalam in 2014.

All participants expressed appreciation to the people and the Government of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to all the delegates.