

Press Release

The United Kingdom Appoints Ambassador to ASEAN

ASEAN Secretariat, 20 January 2009

The United Kingdom has appointed Martin Hatfull as its first Ambassador to ASEAN.

Welcoming news of the appointment, Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, said, "We thank the UK for this significant gesture which underscores the importance that the UK attaches to ASEAN. We look forward to working with Ambassador Hatfull to build closer ties bilaterally and to further strengthen our relationship with the European Union, which the UK is a member of."

With the appointment of Ambassador Hatfull, the UK became the first member state of the European Union to appoint its Ambassador to ASEAN. The European Union has established dialogue relations with ASEAN since 1972.

Ambassador Hatfull is concurrently the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Republic of Indonesia.

Under the ASEAN Charter, non-ASEAN Member States and relevant inter-governmental organisations may appoint Ambassadors to ASEAN.