

**Press Release**  
**by the Chair of the High Level Panel on an ASEAN Human Rights Body**  
**at the Conclusion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HLP on AHRB**  
**14 October 2008, Singapore**

On 12-14 October 2008, the High Level Panel on an ASEAN Human Rights Body (HLP) had their meeting in Singapore, during which they made significant progress on the drafting of the Terms of Reference of an ASEAN Human Rights Body (TOR of an AHRB), specifically on the issue of mandate and functions of the AHRB.

It was agreed that in order to fulfill its mandate to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of the peoples of ASEAN, functions of the AHRB will cover a range of activities, focusing on raising public awareness on human rights, promoting capacity building of ASEAN Member States for the effective implementation of their human rights obligations, strengthening human rights norms in ASEAN, promoting dialogue, consultation and cooperation among ASEAN Member States and engagement with relevant stakeholders as well as preparing studies and reports on issues related to human rights in ASEAN.

The HLP also had preliminary discussion on the composition of the AHRB.

The meeting was marked by very constructive and cooperative spirit of all HLP Members, all of whom had shown their determination to move the process forward.

The next meeting of HLP will be held in Bali on 13-15 November 2008.

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