



15th ASEAN SUMMIT
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PRESS RELEASE

The Informal Meeting between ASEAN Foreign Ministers and HLEG

On 22 October 2009, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers had a fruitful meeting with the High Level Legal Experts' Group on Follow-up to the ASEAN Charter.

During the meeting, ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed its appreciation of HLEG's hard work in laying down a solid foundation for a rules-based and effective ASEAN. On that note, The ASEAN Foreign Ministers look forward to the signing of the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of ASEAN on 25 October 2009, which will operationalise ASEAN legal personality and ensure the necessary privileges and immunities to ASEAN to facilitate its work.

Furthermore, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers took note of the progress that HLEG made concerning the Draft Protocol to the ASEAN Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanisms (DSMs). The Draft Protocol will be an effective tool in allow ASEAN Member States resolve disputes on a rules-based basis and with a certain finality. With that in mind, The ASEAN Foreign Ministers agreed to extend the mandate of HLEG to the end of the 2009 to allow HLEG to finalise the Draft Protocol and related issues.

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