

**Press Release**  
**Secretary-General of ASEAN to attend G20 Summit in London**  
**ASEAN Secretariat, 6 March 2009**

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The Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, has been invited by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown to attend the G20 Summit in London on 2 April 2009.

Dr Surin will join Thailand's Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, who has been invited as ASEAN Chair to attend the summit that aims to restore worldwide financial stability and put the world on the path of economic recovery.

Dr Surin said, "The invitation sends a strong signal of recognition of ASEAN by the G20. Both emerging and developing countries as well developed countries need to work together to contain the ongoing global financial crisis."

"With the global economic prospects continuing to deteriorate, the G20 Summit in London is timely. ASEAN Leaders have stressed the importance of macroeconomic policy coordination to address the crisis and seek a bold and urgent reform of the international financial system. They also stand firm against protectionism."

At the recently concluded 14th ASEAN Summit in Thailand, ASEAN Leaders agreed to work in tandem with the G20, particularly on the reform of the international financial institutions and markets, and work together with other major economies to address the current global economic and financial crisis.

At the sidelines of that summit, Dr Surin met Lord Mark Malloch-Brown, the British Government's envoy for the London Summit. Lord Mark Malloch-Brown also met the ASEAN Foreign Ministers. "The invitation to the London Summit is another important recognition for ASEAN as a regional player and a global actor," said the ASEAN Chief.