



Association of Southeast Asian Nations



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO INDONESIA
AND BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Joint Media Release

Harmonisation of ASEAN STATISTICS Gathers New Momentum

Jakarta, 6 October 2009

New Statistical Service of ASEAN Inaugurated – EU & ASEAN Launch Programme on Statistical Capacity Building

By hitting the traditional Indonesian gong, Dr Anish Kumar Roy, on behalf of the Secretary-General of ASEAN Secretariat H.E. Dr Surin Pitsuwan, and the Representative to ASEAN and Head of the European Commission Delegation, Ambassador Julian Wilson, officially launched the new ASEAN Secretariat statistical service, to be called ASEANstats, on Thursday October 6th in Jakarta. The heads of the national statistical offices of the ASEAN Member States and representatives from a wide range of users of statistic services attended the Opening Ceremony.

On the occasion of the Opening Ceremony, through Dr. Roy, the Secretary-General of ASEAN said, “ASEANstats is a new milestone on the road to putting the ASEAN framework on statistics into practice”. Together with the EU-ASEAN programme, the ASEAN Secretariat is confident to make a difference and further progress in harmonisation of the ASEAN statistics in core areas of ASEAN work.

ASEANstats is responsible for compiling, consolidating, processing and disseminating ASEAN statistics. It publishes a series of annual reports and provides database of key statistics that are important in providing benchmarks for the regional and global economic integration of the ASEAN community, and in promoting informed management and knowledge building for and about the ASEAN Community. ASEANstats is also envisioned to become the driving force of the further harmonisation of ASEAN statistics, and strong advocate for the strengthening of national statistical system. Further, besides focusing on meeting the increasing demand related to the new ASEAN, ASEANstats also responds to the global initiative on statistics to ensure its compliance with the international standards.

This regional statistical cooperation is managed under the umbrella of the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting (AHSOM), comprising the heads of the statistical offices of the ten ASEAN Member States, and with close collaboration with other key players in the ASEAN statistical community.

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At the same time, Ambassador Julian Wilson and Dr Roy - initiated a three-year European Union - ASEAN cooperation programme for statistical capacity building (EASCAB Programme). Ambassador Wilson said, "Harmonised statistical data will help improve information exchange between the European Union and ASEAN Member States at various levels. Reliable and comparable data are a fundamental prerequisite for planners in all sectors. This statistical capacity building programme will be a tool for sharing European experience in cooperation and coordination of national statistical offices and assist the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting in implementing its policies."

The programme will support the ASEAN Secretariat in direct cooperation with ASEANstats to further enhance the quality of statistical services in the association. It provides support in selected statistical fields, mainly in foreign direct investments, international merchandise trade and international trade in services.

Creating better comparable official statistical data among ASEAN Member States and making them available to the users is the primary goal of the EU-ASEAN statistical capacity building programme. The programme aims in the first place at providing a database of comparable trade and investment statistics accessible widely and thus being of interest to a wide range of users.

Through this programme, the ASEAN Secretariat and the National Statistical Systems of the ASEAN states will have training and technical assistance from international and regional statistics experts. A regional database exchange system will also be developed that will facilitate wider dissemination of statistics and promotion of informed management and knowledge building for and about the ASEAN Community. Study visits in Europe will be conducted to enable exchanges of experiences with Eurostat (the statistical office of the European Commission) and statistical offices of EU member states.

Additionally, this programme will render special assistance to the ten ASEAN Member States with a particular emphasis on the least developed ASEAN Member States.

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