

ASEAN Secretariat Press Release
Students Today, Scientists Tomorrow - Young Researchers Honoured at the ASEAN Secretariat
ASEAN Secretariat, 14 July 2009



A small group of young ASEAN citizens were honoured today as ASEAN scientists of tomorrow in a simple ceremony at the ASEAN Secretariat. They were the selected young researchers from the region who had taken part in the 59th Meeting of the Nobel Laureates.

The four scientists – Mr Mohd. Sukor bin Su'ait (National University of Malaysia), Ms Lye Yan Ni (National University of Malaysia), Mr Chia Weisheng (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) and Mr Marc Rhyan J. Puno (De La Salle University, Philippines) – were the first group of students to have represented ASEAN in such a prestigious gathering. Mr Puno, however, did not attend the ceremony.

The 59th Nobel Laureates Meeting, held from 28 June to 30 July 2009 in Lindau, Germany, drew almost 600 young researchers from around the world, giving them a chance to engage in scientific discussions and interact with more than 20 Nobel prize winners.

In his speech, Dr Surin said, "The Meeting provided the young researchers the opportunity to interact with brilliant minds from around the world. Therefore, we plan to provide more opportunities to talented individuals from ASEAN to take part in such meetings in the future. The benefits that they will derive will be tremendous, both for their home countries and the region."

Also gracing the celebration was the German Ambassador to ASEAN and Indonesia, Baron Paul Von Maltzahn.

During the exchange of experiences held during the ceremony, the students expressed how proud they were to have been selected to take part in the Meeting. "As a researcher, you have to think beyond basic knowledge and the Meeting has inspired me a lot," said Mr Sukor. Mr Chia added, "What is very interesting about the Meeting is that if 600 people from 67 countries all over the world can come together to one place and transcend all differences to look at science, this is something that is good for the world itself."

The participation of the students at the Meeting was made possible with the assistance and sponsorship by the ASEAN Secretariat, the OPEC Fund for International Development and Air Asia.