

ISEAS's project on ASEAN's Founding Fathers Book Series continues...



(From right) Dr Pavin Chachavalpongpun (ISEAS Fellow), Ambassador Nopadol Gunavibool (Royal Thai Embassy in Singapore), Dr Sompong Sucharitkul (Seminar Speaker) and Mr Rodolfo Severino (Head of the ASEAN Studies Centre).

Aiming to produce five books on ASEAN's founding fathers of the original five members, ISEAS, on 26 March 2010, invited Dr Sompong Sucharitkul to give his seminar on the initial years of ASEAN; this will be a part of the book on the life of Dr Thanat Khoman of Thailand and his role in the establishment of ASEAN.

Dr Sompong Sucharitkul, one of the closest aides to Dr Thanat Khoman, Thailand's Foreign Minister from 1958-1971 who was considered one of the founding fathers of ASEAN, gave his seminar on the "Early Years of ASEAN: From the Perspectives of ASEAN Founding Fathers". From the very beginning, an association made up of all the countries of Southeast Asia was envisioned. Even at the initial years of ASEAN, how a plan to expand membership was set. The attractiveness of a new organisation drew countries like Sri Lanka which expressed its interest to join ASEAN in those early years.

One of the reasons behind the success of ASEAN was the thinking among its founding fathers of creating an association that was pragmatic and resilient; a true reflection of how ASEAN has become an effective regional organisation of today.