

Tackling Regional Integration Pragmatically - CEO of CIMB ASEAN Research Institute meets with ISEAS and ASC Head



Director of the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, Ambassador Kesavapany, met with Mr John Pang, CEO of the newly minted CIMB ASEAN Research Institute (CARI) today (7 May 2010) at ISEAS. Head of the ASEAN Studies Centre at ISEAS, Mr Rodolfo Severino and the Centre's Lead Researcher for Socio-Cultural Affairs, Ms Moe Thuzar, were also present. Discussions focused on priority topics that the ASEAN Studies Centre and CARI could jointly carry out, as both entities take a pragmatic, results-oriented and problem-solving approach to issues pertaining to ASEAN integration, particularly in the economic sphere. The two can bring their combined strengths to bear in key areas of regional cooperation such as the free trade area (FTA) agreements with Dialogue Partners; addressing barriers to trade (including non-tariff and behind-the-border barriers); financial market integration; and in engaging with and promoting networking among ASEAN business leaders.

CARI was established on 5 April 2010 as an independent corporate entity focused on ASEAN integration. Funded and incorporated as a wholly owned subsidiary of CIMB Group, CARI will be based in Jakarta.