

Updates on the ASC project on use of ICT for ASEAN coordination and community-building

After two successful meetings in Yangon and Singapore, the ASEAN Studies Centre continued with the third, fourth and fifth roundtables on the use of ICT to improve coordination, efficiency and community-building in ASEAN.

The third roundtable was held on 12 April 2010, in Jakarta. The Centre, in collaboration with its project partner Ideacorp of the Philippines, worked with the Habibie Centre to ensure the third roundtable's success. Participants included representatives from Indonesia's Foreign Ministry, academic institutions and non-governmental organisations. ASC and Ideacorp also met with Dr Surin Pitsuwan, ASEAN Secretary-General on 13 April 2010.

The fourth roundtable was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 14 April 2010, involving participants from Brunei's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, academics and think tanks, and the business sector, particularly the telecommunications industry.

The fifth in the series of roundtables took place in Manila on 19 April. As in the other places, the roundtable in Manila centred on a presentation by Emmanuel Lallana, Ideacorp's chief executive, advocating the many ways and the myriad advantages of using ICT in the ASEAN process. Discussants were Wilfrido Villacorta, former ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General, and Carlo Subido, Intel's business development manager in the Philippines. Laura del Rosario, acting director of the Foreign Service Institute, which co-organised the Manila roundtable, welcomed the participants. Others who took part were other senior officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and personages from the business, academic and civic communities, as well as Rodolfo Severino, head of the ASEAN Studies Centre.

On the project:

The objective of this project is to assist ASEAN - as an intergovernmental organization - to use ICT to enhance:

- policy coordination;
- inclusive regionalism; and
- build an ASEAN community.

The series of roundtables in ten ASEAN capitals is organised jointly by Ideacorp, a Philippine-based non-profit, and the ASEAN Studies Centre of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. The project kicked off on 2 April 2010 with the first roundtable in Yangon. Roundtables bring together perspectives of government, civil society, academia and the business community on how ICT can assist ASEAN community-building.

The Centre has posted updates on its website: <http://www.iseas.edu.sg/aseanstudiescentre/> under “What’s new” and “Upcoming Events”.

Regular posts appear on the Centre’s Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/ASEAN-Studies-Centre-ASC/10150092481150128?ref=nf> and updates are also tweeted.