



## ASEAN FOUNDATION

### eNews

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## ASEAN Foundation, business groups launch ASEAN network for corporate social responsibility



On 14 July 2010, the ASEAN regional network for corporate social responsibility (CSR) or ASEAN CSR Network was formally launched in Manila, Philippines highlighted by the formal signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among the ASEAN Foundation and the founding members of the regional body, namely, the Indonesia Business Links (IBL), International Chamber of Commerce-Malaysia, League of Corporate Foundations (Philippines) and the Singapore Compact for CSR. It was agreed that Thailand would also be a founding member. Singapore Compact was selected to host the Network's secretariat.

Catalyzed by the ASEAN Foundation, the ASEAN CSR Network was established to promote corporate social responsibility in the region. In line with the actions called for in the Blueprint for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, the ASEAN CSR Network aims to become a platform for networking and cooperation among various ASEAN stakeholders, a repository of knowledge and information, and a capacity-builder in the field of corporate social responsibility. The Network also aims to engage and generate the support of other CSR networks, chambers of commerce and business groups in ASEAN member countries to become members and participate in the Network's activities.

Held in conjunction with the annual CSR Expo of the League of Corporate Foundations, representatives from the Stock Exchange of Thailand, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce witnessed the signing ceremony and participated in the second organizational meeting of the Network that included discussions on a planned roundtable meeting between ASEAN and China-based CSR practitioners.

The proposed roundtable, which is supported by funds from the People's Republic of China, aims to engage ASEAN Dialogue Partners in discussions on CSR issues, promote exchange of information and practices and encourage collaboration and partnerships between stakeholders that will further strengthen ASEAN-China relations.

The establishment of the ASEAN CSR Network is the culmination of two projects supported by the ASEAN Foundation through the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund and implemented by the Asian Institute of Management and the League of Corporate Foundations (Philippines).

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