



## ASEAN FOUNDATION eNews

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### **ASEAN Foundation holds 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration; Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister delivers keynote address**



H.E. Mr. Marty Natalegawa, Foreign Affairs Minister of Indonesia answers questions from the guests during the open forum. Ms. Fifi Aleyda Yahya (seated, right), TV news anchor, moderates the discussion.

The ASEAN Foundation celebrated its 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a forum highlighted by an interactive dialogue by H.E. Mr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Foreign Affairs Minister of Indonesia. Dr. Agung Laksono, Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare of Indonesia, Dr. Endang Rahayu Sedyaningsih, Minister of Health of Indonesia and Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN delivered inspirational messages of support to the ASEAN Foundation while Dr. Makarim Wibisono, Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation formally opened the forum by inaugurating the new institutional audio-visual presentation of the Foundation. More than 200 guests from the Indonesian government, diplomatic corps, ASEAN and ASEAN Dialogue Partners, business sector, the academe, international and regional NGOs and media attended the forum.

Minister Natalegawa stressed the importance of ASEAN and how its activities towards building the ASEAN Community should provide a sense of ownership among the peoples and stakeholders of the region. He further remarked that for ASEAN to be more "people-centered", it should bring the grouping closer to its stakeholders by providing opportunities for participation and involvement. The mandate of ASEAN Foundation to collaborate and engage various stakeholders in ASEAN is an avenue to achieve this objective.

The anniversary forum also held a recognition program for its donors and partners that have contributed to the projects and activities of the ASEAN Foundation. Among those that were recognized were the Government of Japan for its continuing contribution through the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund, the People's Republic of China, Royal Philips Electronics, Inter-American Development Bank, Microsoft Indonesia and Hewlett-Packard. The Foundation likewise took the opportunity to recognize its former Executive Directors, namely, H.E. Mr. Wisber Loeis, Dr. Ruben Umaly, Mr. Apichai Sunchindah and Dr. Filemon A. Uriarte, Jr.

TIFA Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Jakarta, Indonesia was also recognized for joining the Friends of ASEAN. An initiative of the ASEAN Foundation, the Friends of ASEAN aims to develop partnerships and mobilize resources to further strengthen and enhance the participation of various stakeholders in building the ASEAN Community.

Established by the ASEAN Leaders on 15 December 1997, the ASEAN Foundation is mandated under Article 15 of the ASEAN Charter to promote greater ASEAN awareness and identity, encourage interaction among various ASEAN stakeholders and help address socio-economic disparity and poverty issues in the region.

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**AF eNews is a publication of the ASEAN Foundation. We welcome your feedback.**

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