



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
SECRETARY-GENERAL

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10 January 2012

H.E. BAN KI MOON
Secretary-General
The United Nations
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Manhattan, NY 10017
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Phone: (212) 963-8687

ACTION *Mr. Pascoe*

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Your Excellency,

May I take the opportunity to convey my warm wishes for 2012.

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Thank you very much for your letter of 28 November 2011 to follow up on the 4th ASEAN-UN Summit in Bali on 19 November 2011. I am pleased to witness how ASEAN-UN relations have deepened since I took office in 2008. I agree with you that the Joint Declaration is a substantive document which will bring ASEAN and the United Nations closer together. There are few organizations in the world with which ASEAN has a natural affinity.

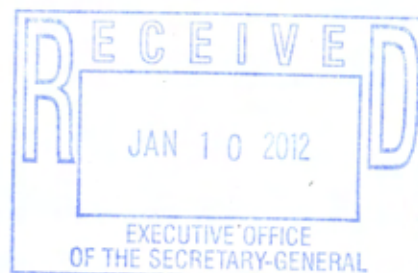
As you are aware, ASEAN cooperation continues to expand and deepen, covering political-security, economic and socio-cultural issues. These are the same issues which the UN specialized agencies have accrued much experience on. The UN also has regional offices in Asia, covers almost every ASEAN country. It is thus well equipped to study and report on issues on the ground. Our Secretariat-to-Secretariat meetings will give us the opportunity to streamline our efforts and exchange information on areas of mutual interest.

Beyond the technical areas of work, I have also been promoting the benefits of inter-regional exchanges and capacity building, sustainable development, civilisational dialogues, the strengthening of regional institutions, regional coordination and the narrowing of development gaps between ASEAN members. The Chair of ASEAN this year, the Prime Minister of Cambodia has expressed his support of these ideas. This is an opportune time for us to build on the strengths of our organizations for the good of ASEAN.

I am confident that we can further enrich the partnership. I look forward to continuing this relationship in more concrete ways.

Sincerely,

DR. SURIN PITSUWAN



One Vision, One Identity, One Community

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