



## JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

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*By ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Caucus for Good Governance (AIPCGG) Chairman, Dato' Seri Nazri Aziz and Member of the Regional Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism, Dato' Param Cumaraswamy*

The Colloquium on Good Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights: The Way Forward for ASEAN took place from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at Parliament House, Kuala Lumpur.

The Colloquium is co-organised by the ASEAN inter-Parliamentary Caucus for Good Governance and the Regional Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism.

The Colloquium was officiated by the Foreign Minister, YB Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Bin Syed Jaafar Albar.

The colloquium provided a forum for parliamentarians from the region, ASEAN human rights groups and civil society representatives who are concerned about good governance issues of accountability, transparency, openness, integrity, justice, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Tun Musa Hitam, Chairman of ASEAN Eminent Persons Group, delivered the keynote address on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007. "ASEAN was formed through a top-down approach. That is the reality. Now that the regional organization's Charter has been signed, concerned parties must work to make that document an instrument for people empowerment," Tun Musa said.

The Director of Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Ambassador K. Kesavapany, addressed the question of "ASEAN Charter – Towards rules-based regionalism?" on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007.

Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, President of Transparency International Malaysia, spoke at the Dinner Talk on "The Promotion of Good Governance, Transparency, Integrity and Accountability in ASEAN".

There were three issue-based panels during the Colloquium, viz.

- The role of Parliament in the promotion of good governance, rule of law and human rights in ASEAN;
- Promotion and protection of the rights of women and children in ASEAN;
- Enhancing rule of law and protection of human rights in ASEAN.

After two days of discussion, the colloquium agreed on a plan of action that includes the following major points (*see attached document*).