



INTERNATIOANAL SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASEAN

Co-Hosting: Faculty of Political Science, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus, National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, Centre for Human Rights, Research & Advocacy (CENTHRA), Putrajaya, Malaysia, Amnesty International Thailand, Asian Initiatives for Human Rights (IHRA), Jakarta Indonesia and the Southern Border Provinces Administration Centre

Proposed dates: August/ September 2017

Proposed Venue: Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus, Thailand

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Introduction

The Faculty of Political Science, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Cmpus and the Centre for Human Rights Research & Advocacy (CENTHRA) have agreed to jointly organise a International seminar focusing on critical human rights issues which are faced by ASEAN countries.

The seminar will provide a platform for activists and academicians the opportunities to appreciate the achievements and reflect on the opportunities and challenges we face in the region.

The International Seminar is an invitation to all regional stakeholders to joint efforts in realising the rights enshrined in the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration 2012, and contributes towards the strengthening of an ASEAN narrative of human rights in face of the various challenges.

II. Objectives

The One Day International Seminar aims to highlight the opportunities and challenges in respect of the human rights situation in ASEAN. It will also complement the work of various academicians and activists in strengthening an ASEAN human rights narrative, and its contents, by regional academic institutions and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

In particular, the discussion will:

1. Review the opportunities, challenges, share good practices in the promotion and protection of human rights in the region;

2. Constructively engage universities and CSOs to discuss opportunities and challenges in respect of human rights;
3. Exchange perspectives on the work being done by the various stakeholders in complementing the AHRD 2012, and contribute towards the strengthening of an ASEAN narrative of human rights in face of the various challenges.

III. Programme

The proposed one-day International Seminar will be jointly organised by the Faculty of Political Science, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani, Thailand and the Centre for Human Rights Research & Advocacy (CENTHRA), Putrajaya, Malaysia.

It is proposed that the formula for this International seminar be employed follows:

- i. the participation of two representatives from selected universities and NGOs invited by the main organisers and one official representative for each of the 11 ASEAN countries, and in order to have balanced representation between ASEAN countries, 1 representative from the civil society and 1 academician from each of the ASEAN countries, as well as the National Human Rights Commission and ASEAN Secretariat;
- ii. an agenda structured around the main topics related to the subject of the seminar, with discussions held in working groups;
- iii. Q & A Sessions which allow free and direct exchanges of view; and,
- iv. a set of recommendations elaborated collectively to be sent to the relevant CSOs and to government institutions in ASEAN countries as informal contribution to the official ASEAN inter-governmental dialogue.

The tentative programme is attached as “Annexure A” hereto.

It is anticipated that about 100 participants will attend the International Seminar, among others, academicians, lawyers, civil society organisations, diplomatic community, and interested members of the public.

IV. Deliverables

The main organisers will issue a Joint Press Release on the outcome of the International Seminar and publish a monograph being the seminar proceedings. The proceedings will be used for the main organisers’ future reference when deliberating on human rights issues at various level of engagement.



**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASEAN:
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

15th August 2017 at 3rd Floor, Faculty of Political Science,
Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Pattani Campus

SEMINAR SCHEDULE:

08.00 – 09.00	Registration (3 rd Floor, Faculty of Political Science, PSU)
09.00 – 09.15	Opening Ceremony by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chusak Limsakul President of Prince of Songkla University
09.15 – 09.45	Keynote Address by Dr. Eakpant Pindavanija Director, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP) Mahidol University “Human Rights in ASEAN”
09.45 – 10.00	---- Refreshment ----
10.00 – 12.00	Sharing Country Experiences: <i>Thailand</i> - “Human Rights Situation in Thailand” By Mrs. Angkhana Neelapaijit, Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission of Thailand <i>Malaysia</i> – “Towards strengthening the ASEAN Human rights Narrative” by a Malaysian Perspective Mr. Azril Mohd Amin, CEO, Centre for Human Rights Research & Advocacy (CENTHRA) Malaysia <i>Indonesia</i> – Asst. Prof. Dr. Heru Susetyo, Faculty of Law, University of Indonesia Moderator: Mr.Najmee Madmarn, Faculty of Political Science Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus

12.00 - 13.30	Lunch and Zuhur Prayers
13.30 - 15.00	<p>Papers Presentation: Session 1 (3rd Floor, Faculty of Political Science)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Thailand: They cannot Keep Us Quiet: The Criminalization of Activists, Human Rights Defenders, and others in Thailand” by Miss Wipanee Chamnanphaison, Amnesty International Thailand - “The refugee crisis in ASEAN: Lessons for Human Rights practitioners” by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zarina Othmana, University of Kebangsaan Malaysia - Dr. Mahbubul Haque, Faculty of Political Science, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus <p>Moderator: Dr. Muazzan Binsaleh, Dean, Faculty of Communication Science, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus</p> <p>Discussants: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Afandi Bin Salleh, University Sultan Zainal Abidin, Malaysia</p>
15.00 - 15.15	---- Refreshment ----
15.15 – 16.45	<p>Papers Presentation: Sessions 2 (3rd Floor, Faculty of Political Science)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Cultural Pluralism and Rights To Development In Thailand" by Ms. Tuenjai Deetes, Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission of Thailand - Dr. Bakri Mat, University of Utara Malaysia - Asst. Prof. Dr. Iwan Satriawan, University of Indonesia - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Afandi Bin Saleh, University Sultan Abidin, Malaysia <p>Moderator: Dr. Mahbubul Haque, Faculty of Political Science, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Narongraksaket, Deputy Director for Postgraduate and Research, College of Islamic Studies, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zarina Othmana, University of Kebangsaan Malaysia

16.45 – 17.00	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Asst. Prof. Chidchanok Rahimmula Dean, Faculty of Political Science, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus- Mr. Azril Mohd Amin, CEO, Centre for Human Rights Research & Advocacy (CENTHRA) Malaysia
17:30	<p>Dinner Talk on “National Policy on Southern Border Provinces of Thailand” at C.S. Pattani Hotel, General Manee Juntip, Special Governmental Representatives</p>