

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General of ASEAN Secretariat Visits the Centre

H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General of ASEAN Secretariat and former Foreign Minister of Thailand, visited the ASEAN-Japan Centre on March 25, 2008.

Mr. Nobutoshi Akao, Secretary General of the Centre, congratulated him on assumption of the post of the Secretary General of ASEAN. They exchanged views on the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Community, as well as on ASEAN-Japan relations. Mr. Akao also gave a brief explanation on the Centre's recent activities.

Dr. Surin highly appreciated the special events related to the 40th Founding Anniversary of ASEAN which were organized by the Centre in August - September 2007 and for the Centre's current projects focusing on, in particular, supporting CLMV countries. Dr. Surin also mentioned that he would like to continue close cooperation with the Centre to accelerate the ASEAN integration including the narrowing of existing economic gaps among ASEAN member countries.

Further, considering the importance on putting special efforts on PR activities of the ASEAN Secretariat and the Centre both in Japan and in ASEAN, Dr. Surin expressed his willingness to take initiatives in supporting the Centre's PR activities.

Both Secretary Generals reiterated their continued efforts to further strengthen their relationship and implementation of joint projects.

