

## The 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information – ASEAN-COCI

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam hosted the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI) on 10-15 December 2012 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The meeting was attended by all ASEAN Member States and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat. The Thai delegation was composed of representatives from the Ministry of Culture, the Public Relations Department, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Miss Chansuda Rukspollmuang, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Culture, was the head of the Thai delegation to the ASEAN-COCI.

Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hung, Deputy Minister of Information and Communications of Vietnam, gave a welcome speech for the delegates. He emphasized the importance of culture and information to building an ASEAN identity, to promoting ASEAN awareness, a regional identity and cultural values, especially the cultural heritage of all ASEAN Member States. Moreover, culture and information were said to promote people-to-people relations, and the cultural value of different lifestyles in the region, as well as different traditions and customs. Dr. Nguyen Van Tinh, Director-General of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam, chaired the ASEAN-COCI. He highlighted the importance of ASEAN-COCI, stating that ASEAN-COCI meetings have been held since 1978, which have contributed to the development of ASEAN cooperation on culture and information for the past 34 years. Moreover, these meetings have led to important projects on culture and information, which helped to promote knowledge, understanding, and continued, effective cooperation among ASEAN Member States.

The ASEAN-COCI meeting considered the approval of project proposals by ASEAN Member States, and considered constructive cooperation on culture with China. At present, ASEAN and China are in the process of drafting the ASEAN-China Workplan on Cultural Cooperation, which seeks to promote long-term cultural cooperation between ASEAN Member States and China. During the initial stage of the workplan, from 2013-2014, there will be an ASEAN-China Cultural Forum, including two important projects: the ASEAN-China Cultural Youth Forum, and the ASEAN-China People-to-People Exchange Program.

With regard to Thailand's contribution to cultural cooperation, Thailand organized the People-to-People Exchange Program to Promote ASEAN-China Cultural Interactions at the Grassroots Level, on 15-21 February 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand, and on 22-29 February 2012 in Yunnan, China. Moreover, Thailand's proposed project for 2013 on the Symposium for the

Sharing of Best Practices on the Protection of National Treasures and Cultural Properties was also approved by the ASEAN-COCI. This Symposium will take place on 25 February to 1 March 2013 in Lampang, Thailand. With regard to projects on information, Thailand and Malaysia will organize the ASEAN Integrated quiz, which will feature questions and answers on ASEAN. This Quiz will test the standard of knowledge on ASEAN, and the three pillars of the ASEAN Community. Moreover, the Quiz will also serve as a data bank on information about ASEAN, and include 1000-1500 questions altogether.

In 2012, the Public Relations Department organized the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Quiz, and sent the national winners to compete in the ASEAN Quiz at the regional level. The 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Quiz will be hosted by Vietnam. In addition to the ASEAN Quiz, other important projects include the ASEAN Television News and the ASEAN in Action Radio Programs.

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