

Prime Minister pays official visit to Myanmar

On Thursday 23 November 2006, Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont paid an official visit to the Union of Myanmar. During the trip, he paid a courtesy call on Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, and had a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Myanmar, General Soe Win.

In a press briefing afterwards, Prime Minister Surayud said that he had discussed with the Myanmar leaders issues involving bilateral cooperation, such as mutual drug suppression, especially in border areas, Thailand's assistance in constructing a 40-km road from the Thai border, illegal labor, the sharing of expertise and services in public health, and energy. On multilateral issues, Thai reaffirmed that it would carry on cooperation under the ACMECS, BIMSTEC and ACD frameworks, such as contract farming and industrial estates in border areas.

During the discussion, Senior General Than Shwe stated that the democracy process in Myanmar would continue. He recognized that that Myanmar military government could not rule the country forever, but, at this time, he had to make sure that the transformation period was constructive and peaceful. He also expressed his belief that Thailand under the new government would soon be able to resolve its internal political conflict.

Thailand's Prime Minister, as a final point, affirmed Thailand's willingness to encourage Myanmar to join ASEAN forum and support Myanmar on international matters.
