

25th

Asia-Pacific Roundtable

30 May - 1 June 2011 | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Welcoming Remarks

by

Mr DANG Dinh Quy
Chair of ASEAN-ISIS and
Acting President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

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**Opening Remarks by Mr. Dang Dinh Quy,
Chair of ASEAN-ISIS and
Acting President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam
At the 25th Asia-Pacific Roundtable
Kuala Lumpur, 30 May – 1 June, 2011**

*The Honourable
Tan Sri Dato' Muhyiddin Yassin
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia*

*His Royal Highness
Raja Dr Nazrin Shah ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah
The Crown Prince of Perak Darul Ridzuan*

*His Excellency
Dr Surin Pitsuwan
Secretary-General of ASEAN*

*Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan
Chairman of ISIS Malaysia*

*Dato' Dr Mahani Zainal Abidin
Chief Executive of ISIS Malaysia*

On behalf of the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies, i.e. the ASEAN-ISIS network, it is an honor and a great pleasure for me to warmly welcome you to the 25th Asia-Pacific Roundtable.

I would like to take this special opportunity to congratulate and express our deep thanks to ISIS Malaysia for the untiring efforts, enormous dedication and exceptional enthusiasms that you have shown over the past 25 years, with the assistance of ASEAN-ISIS fellows and sponsors, to make the Asia-Pacific Roundtable a flagship track II event of the Asia-Pacific.

ASEAN-ISIS also wishes to register our sincere thanks and appreciation to our sponsors and supporters, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the Japan Foundation, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Telekom Malaysia Berhad (TM), The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau

(MyCEB) for their contributions and assistance in the hosting of the Roundtable.

And of course my deep appreciation goes to all of you, the most distinguished officials, scholars, analysts, reporters... through out the Asia-Pacific, for attending this special event. Many of you have traveled great distances to be here in Kuala Lumpur to join us in the commemoration of the Silver Anniversary of the Roundtable. Many of you have made this June event a permanent one in your busy schedules. It is your presence and active contribution, I believe, that has become one of the most valuable treasures of the Asia-Pacific Roundtable over the last 25 years.

*Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Over the years, the Asia-Pacific Roundtable has been the zenith of track II activities in the region. The APR provides a solid forum for scholars, experts and policy advisors to discuss issues of common concerns. It has become an annual gathering of track II people with an aim to assisting governments, enterprises and organizations in figuring out fresh approaches to regional issues. It has become a summit of track II diplomacy, where scholars of various background and expertise share their latest findings and analysis, where the seniors meet the young promising leaders for similar purposes.

This year's Asia-Pacific Roundtable is held amid generally positive signs of recovery in the world economy. The rapid recovery of Asian economies that have been leading the global recovery, and the perception of the shift of global economic gravity to Asia, have brought about enormous opportunity and optimism to this region. Nevertheless, the opportunity could only be turned into reality if the region can effectively deal with ensuing security challenges, both existing and emerging ones. In addition to left over territorial and border disputes, there have emerged new security issues such as maritime security, water security, nuclear security and so on. The fast geo-political transformation of the region, the latest events in the Middle East, natural disasters in Japan and other developments all have exerted complex impacts on the region. These issues may threaten regional economic recovery and the stable environment in which the recovery is made possible.

In order to cope with these challenges, regional government officials, scholars and people are searching for the root causes of the problems, debating relevant approaches to the issues, and making efforts in constructing a regional architecture that can preserve an environment of lasting peace and

stability, which will ensure economic growth and accommodate the interests of all nations and peoples.

For the evolving architecture to withstand the winds in the regional power chessboard, much of the regional effort was spent on promoting the active and central role of ASEAN. Thanks to these efforts, ASEAN continues to be the center stage of regional cooperation in an ever widening network of regional mechanisms and fora, all contributing to the promotion of dialogue and cooperation, and to the harmonisation of the interests among all players.

*Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

ASEAN-ISIS is proud to host this annual event for the last quarter of a century. The nature of ASEAN-ISIS rests upon the exchange of viewpoints and promotion of studies to provide policy recommendations on strategic issues. The activities of ASEAN-ISIS over the years have shown the operation of a robust scholars' community in the Asia-Pacific, and an indispensable ideational mechanism in the construction of a regional community. The rise of Asia and the opportunities and challenges that follow are calling for an even greater contribution from the Track II community, a greater role of ASEAN-ISIS as a prominent network of regional think-tanks in providing timely and relevant policy recommendations to the region.

The Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV) has the honor to assume the chairmanship of ASEAN-ISIS at this silver anniversary of the APR. We look forward to working closely with ASEAN-ISIS fellows and partners to broaden the network, deepen the scholarly exchanges and enhance the spirit of community building.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The imperatives in the region require us to look squarely at the issues and topics in the APR agenda, which the host and ASEAN-ISIS has arranged for us. This year's APR agenda has reflected the burning issues in the region that we must face together. Therefore, we look forward to frank discussions and sincere exchanges in the APR, under the community spirit that track II people have cherished for a long time now.

Before I conclude, allow me to thank His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Perak, Raja Dr Nazrin Shah ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah for his support of the Roundtable. It is indeed an honour for us that His Royal Highness has chosen to grace this event. We are also proud that the

Roundtable continues to receive the support of those at the highest levels of government, as demonstrated by the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tan Sri Dato' Muhyiddin Yassin.

I am sure that the participants are looking forward to hearing his reflections on the region. And so, without further ado, I would like to invite Tan Sri Dato' Muhyiddin Yassin to deliver his keynote address and to officiate the 25th Asia-Pacific Roundtable.

Please Tan Sri Dato....