



(Komnas HAM)  
Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia



SUHAKAM



Philippines Commission on Human Rights



National Human Rights Commission of Thailand

---

## **POSITION PAPER OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS OF INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, PHILIPPINES, AND THAILAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF THE ASEAN CHARTER**

In its meeting of 26 June 2007 held in Bali, the national human rights institutions of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, unanimously agreed to recommend to the High Level Task Force for the drafting of the ASEAN Charter the following:

1. The four NHRIs express their appreciation to the High Level Task Force on the drafting of the ASEAN Charter for having extended an invitation to the NHRIs of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand for consultation.
2. The four NHRIs request the High Level Task Force to inform the former on the development of the drafting of the ASEAN Charter.
3. The four NHRIs welcome the decision taken by ASEAN Member States to strengthen their association through the adoption of a legally binding regional instrument, i.e. an ASEAN Charter.
4. The four NHRIs urge the High Level Task Force to ensure that the principles and objectives of the ASEAN Charter should include the principles of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
5. The four NHRIs further urge that the Charter includes a provision on the importance of the role of NHRIs in the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and should therefore be engaged in the realization of such principles.
6. In the light of para 5 above, the four NHRIs also urge that the ASEAN Charter includes a provision on the importance of the establishment of NHRIs in Member States of ASEAN, which have not done so.



(Komnas HAM)  
Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia



SUHAKAM  
SUHAKAM



Philippines Commission on Human Rights



National Human Rights Commission of Thailand

Do hereby declare:

1. The four national human rights commissions shall do whatever possible to carry out jointly, either on bilateral or multilateral basis, programmes and activities in areas of human rights identified and agreed upon at the meetings.
2. Regional strategies for the promotion and protection of human rights shall be gradually developed within and among the four national human rights commissions including advising their respective governments to take the necessary steps to establish an appropriate ASEAN human rights mechanism and/or any organ in the ASEAN Charter.
3. Formalization of cooperation should be further enhanced. More specific terms of references shall continue to be discussed among the four national human rights commissions.
4. The four national human rights commissions shall meet regularly, at least once a year. Host could be rotated on alphabetical basis or as otherwise agreed upon.
5. The four national human rights commissions shall welcome and be open to considering any cooperation or joint efforts with other like-minded organizations, be they governmental or non-governmental or academic institutions, to pursue their commitments to promote respect for and protection on human rights in their respective countries, in the region and in the international community.

Done in Bali, Indonesia on 28 June 2007

*A. Halim*

.....  
Abdul Hakim Garuda Nusantara, Chairperson  
National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia  
Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia (Komnas HAM)

*Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman*

.....  
Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman, Chairperson  
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia  
Suruhanjaya Hak Asasi Manusia Malaysia (SUHAKAM)

*Purificacion C. Valera Quisumbing*

.....  
Purificacion C. Valera Quisumbing, Chairperson  
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP)  
Komisyon ng Karapatang Pantao ng Pilipinas

*Khunying (Lady) Ambhorn Meesook*

.....  
Khunying (Lady) Ambhorn Meesook, Commissioner  
The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand  
Khana Khammakarn Sithi Manusayachon Hang Chart (Khamakarn Sit)