



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



STRENGTHENING ASEAN'S EXECUTIVE, JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE NETWORKS



ASEAN Judiciary Cooperation Workshop, Phnom Penh (October 2014)

By the end of 2015, ASEAN will become an integrated community and economic market with a combined gross domestic product of US\$2.4 trillion and a population of over 626 million people. This deepening regional integration will present new challenges on cross-border legal issues, including interpreting the ASEAN Charter, court administrative matters, enforcement of judgments and international arbitration, and adapting international treaties into national laws.

In order to address these challenges and to recognize the full potential of an integrated ASEAN Community, it will be even more critical that there is a shared understanding of the rule of law across the region. A regular exchange of views and best practices among the judiciaries of the ASEAN Member States will facilitate common understanding of agreements and treaties within respective jurisdictions. Close collaboration will also foster greater connectivity between judiciary bodies and leaders and strengthen a regional network for sharing legal information and research.

The United States Government, through the ASEAN-U.S. Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (PROGRESS) project, is supporting ASEAN in its efforts to strengthen channels for regional cooperation on existing and emerging challenges. Specifically, U.S. support focuses on the following initiatives:

- **Establishing a formal ASEAN judicial body:** Building upon work began in 2012 under its predecessor project, PROGRESS is hosting a series of workshops to strengthen communication and cooperation among ASEAN judges with the overarching objective to build consensus and support for the establishment of an ASEAN judicial body.
- **Capacity building and court excellence:** Provide shared capacity development opportunities for the new formal judicial body, including an early focus on joint definition of regional standards on court excellence, drawing upon the International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE).
- **Networking opportunities:** The newly formed judicial body will provide opportunities for collaborative capacity development, exchange of best practices, and discussion of common challenges, such as on Trafficking In Persons, human rights, and other ASEAN and U.S. priorities.

USAID RDMA

E-mail: info-rdma@usaid.gov
<http://www.facebook.com/USAIDAsia>
<http://twitter.com/USAIDAsia>

Diman Simanjuntak

Contracting Officer Representative
Jakarta, Indonesia
dksimanjuntak@usaid.gov
<http://www.usaid.gov/asia-regional>

USAID Implementer - DAI

Keith Doxtater
Chief of Party
ASEAN-U.S. PROGRESS
Jakarta, Indonesia
keith_doxtater@dai.com

United States Mission to ASEAN

Email: usasean@state.gov
<http://asean.usmission.gov>
www.facebook.com/USMission2ASEAN
<https://twitter.com/usmission2asean>