

PRESS RELEASE

Philippine Embassy, Canberra

1 Moonah Place, Yarralumla, ACT 2600

* Tel. No. 02-6273-2535 *

www.philembassy.org.au



ASEAN Committee in Canberra Celebrates the 49th Anniversary of the Foundation of ASEAN

15 September 2016 – The ASEAN Committee in Canberra (ACC) celebrated the 49th Anniversary of the Foundation of ASEAN on 15 September 2016 at the historic Old Parliament House, one of Australia's most memorable heritage sites.

H.E. Luong Thanh Nghi, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Chair of the ACC, said that over the last 42 years, the bond between Australia and Southeast Asia has gone from strength to strength. He said that this year, ASEAN and Australia have witnessed significant progress in their Strategic Partnership following the agreement among Leaders that the ASEAN-Australia Summit will be held biennially starting 2016. This will bring about excellent opportunities for Australian and ASEAN leaders to discuss how we can work together to make our region secure, more prosperous and people-oriented.



ASEAN Heads of Mission with Senator the Hon George Brandis QC with the symbolic ASEAN handshake for the 49th Anniversary of the foundation of ASEAN on 15 September 2016.





Guest of Honor Senator the Hon George Brandis QC said Australia and ASEAN are close partners not only because of geography but also by choice and by our shared, long-standing commitment to the future prosperity and stability of our region.

He said Australia continues to value ASEAN centrality in the region and in setting an agenda that promotes peace and stability. He noted the adoption of the renewed ASEAN-Australia Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism and said Australia is committed to working in partnership with ASEAN to strengthen regional cooperation in addressing the challenge of terrorism.

H.E. Minda Calaguian-Cruz, Philippine Ambassador to Australia, her spouse former Philippine Ambassador to Korea Luis T. Cruz with Senator The Hon George Brandis QC on 15 September 2016.

Guests of the ASEAN Missions in Canberra enjoyed an evening together with a beautiful view of the Parliament House.

The reception was the first ASEAN Day celebration in Canberra, Australia, following the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015.



The Philippine Embassy led by H.E. Minda Calaguian-Cruz, Philippine Ambassador to Australia at the ASEAN Day Reception on 15 September 2016.

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