

PRESS RELEASE

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Governor General of Australia and ASEAN Heads of Mission Celebrate 50 Years of ASEAN



His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and Lady Cosgrove, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, Shadow Foreign Minister Penny Wong, ASEAN Heads of Mission in Canberra and spouses celebrated 50 Years of ASEAN at the Government House in Canberra on 08 August 2017.

CANBERRA, Australia (08 August 2017) – His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and Lady Cosgrove hosted, with the ten (10) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Heads of Mission in Canberra, a reception to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN on 08 August 2017 at Government House in Canberra. The reception coincided with global celebrations on the founding anniversary of ASEAN.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, Shadow Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Ambassadors from ASEAN Dialogue Partner countries and representative from Australian government agencies, business and academia graced the event.

The Governor-General underscored the importance that Australia places on its relationship with ASEAN and congratulated ASEAN for its achievements in the past 50 years and contributions to peace, security and prosperity in the region.

H.E. Kuong Koy, Ambassador of Cambodia and Chair of the ASEAN Committee in Canberra, in his remarks recalled that Australia was ASEAN's first Dialogue Partner in 1974. He said, *"With the strong commitment from both sides, the partnership has been positively developed to the strategic level since 2014 encompassing the areas of political-security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation."* END