



## NEWS RELEASE

### Ministers endorse six documents for adoption at ASEAN Summit

JERUDONG (September 26, 2013) – Ministers responsible for coordinating socio-cultural cooperation in the region endorsed Thursday six documents to be submitted to Leaders for adoption at the ASEAN Summit next month.

The documents comprise five declarations and a Report on the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint adopted by the Leaders in 2009. The Report was completed ahead of a meeting of senior ASEAN officials in Jerudong on Tuesday.

The Tenth Meeting of the ASCC Council, chaired by His Excellency Pehin Hazair Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, also endorsed declarations on youth entrepreneurship and employment, eliminating violence against women and children, and strengthening social protection.

In addition, the ASEAN Ministers endorsed declarations on noncommunicable diseases and enhancing cooperation in disaster management, which will also be submitted to the Twenty-Third ASEAN Summit on October 9.

“The Ministers acknowledged that the primary goal of the ASCC is to contribute to realising the ASEAN Community that is people-centred and socially responsible,” a joint ministerial statement said.

Such contributions are “with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the nations and peoples of ASEAN, by forging a common identity and building a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and harmonious where the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the peoples are enhanced.”

The ASCC Council, which coordinates the third pillar of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, came two weeks ahead of the Summit. ASEAN’s political-security and economic pillars are coordinated by two other councils.

**Further information:**

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