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Summit-Citation

FOUNDING SIGNATORIES CONFERRED ASEAN CITATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- Asean marked its commemorative summit here by honouring the five signatories of the Bangkok Declaration of 1967 that led to the birth of the Southeast Asian grouping.

However, only former Thai foreign minister Tun Thanat Khoman was present to accept the prestigious "Asean Heads of Government Citation" award at a gala dinner hosted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is the summit chairman, at the Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel here, tonight.

The other surviving recipient, former Singapore foreign minister S. Rajaratnam was represented by Singapore Foreign Minister Prof S. Jayakumar while the late Tun Razak Hussein, Tun Adam Malik and Narciso Ramos were represented by their widows, Tun Rahah Tan Sri Noah, Puan Nelly Adam Malik and senator Leticia Ramos Shahani.

Abdul Razak was Malaysia's Minister of Defence and National Development while Adam Malik was Indonesian Foreign Minister and Ramos, Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary, when they signed the Bangkok Declaration.

The award is the highest form of recognition conferred by Asean and is given to a limited number of outstanding individuals every decade.

They each received a gold medallion and a scroll bearing the citation signed by all the nine Asean heads of government.

The leaders who attended the dinner tonight were Brunei's Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah, Laotian Prime Minister Khamtay Siphandone, Myanmar's Senior General Than Shwe, Philippine President Fidel Ramos, Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Vam Khai.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Alialatas represented President Suharto, who cancelled his trip here on doctors' advice.

Also present was United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Anan, who is in Malaysia for a four-day official visit. -- BERNAMA

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