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Asean-Indonesia

INDONESIA CELEBRATES ASEAN'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

By: Khairdzir Yunus

JAKARTA, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Thirty white pigeons were released by child flag-bearers as Indonesia celebrated Asean's 30th anniversary at the Asean secretariat here today.

It was preceded by the hoisting of the flags of the nine members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations -- Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Asean secretary-general Datuk Ajit Singh and ambassadors of Asean member countries here were present.

A band made up of children of staff of the Indonesian Works Ministry was also in attendance.

Last night, popular artistes from member countries performed at an Asean Festival of Songs at the Indonesian Television auditorium here.

Also last night, the Asean Business Forum presented the Asean achievement awards to personalities in recognition of excellent contribution in various fields for the upliftment of the Asean communities at large.

From Malaysia, the recipients included president of the national Aids council Datuk Paduka Marina Mahathir for community service and president and chief executive officer of Mimos Bhd Datuk Tengku Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen Tengku Ibrahim for information technology.

(Mimos stands for Malaysian Institute of Microelectronic Systems)

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus was also honoured for contribution in science.

The awards were presented by the Indonesian Co-ordinating Minister of Production and Distribution Hartarto Sastrosoenarto.

Tonight president Suharto is scheduled to officiate at a formal Asean anniversary dinner at the Jakarta Convention Centre here.-- BERNAMA

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