

Asean To Continue Contributing To Regional, Global Community
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JAKARTA, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Asean celebrated its 45th anniversary today, with a message that the success in its vision and mission will continue to contribute to the well-being, stability and prosperity in the region and global community.

To commemorate the event, the Asean Secretariat here held a flag-hoisting ceremony which saw the release of 45 balloons in the Asean colours of red, blue, and yellow, while children attending the event waved various flags from the 10-member countries.

In a statement Wednesday, the Asean Secretariat said that during the event, Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa had emphasised confidence in Asean's role within the region and globally.

Asean secretary-general Dr Surin Pitsuwan, meanwhile, emphasised the invaluable friendship with all Asean Dialogue Partners for the success of the region.

"We truly appreciate the work, contribution and cooperation of Dialogue Partners as you have done so much. You have responded effectively to the call to achieve the Asean goal and mission for the region," he said.

Cambodian Ambassador Kan Paridh stressed on the importance of cooperation, stating: "We are mindful and aware of our challenges and tasks ahead, but together, we are confident of overcoming the challenges and building the Asean Community by 2015."

Speaking on behalf of all Dialogue Partner Countries, Ambassador Julian Wilson of EU also echoed the sentiments: "Regional integration is important. Asean succeeds because it is a good idea.

"Ten together, achieves more than 10 apart."

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