

Malaysia Given The Honour To Host The First Asean Editors Meet
Bernama
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by Azeman Ariffin

JAKARTA, (Bernama) -- The Indonesian National Press Day celebration is an annual event that gathers the heads of the local media fraternity to present various proposals for the benefit of media practitioners and the Indonesian government.

During the 2015 gathering held in Batam last week, about 50 senior media practitioners from Malaysia received a big round of applause from more than 500 participants at the event in appreciation of their presence during the gathering.

The event Chairman, Margiono while delivering his welcoming speech highlighted that the presence of their counterparts from Malaysia along with Communication and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek reflected the close ties of the media fraternity from both sides.

The Malaysian media delegation organised by Ikatan Setiakawan Wartawan Indonesia-Malaysia (Iswami) was led by Bernama General Manager Datuk Zulkefli Salleh.

The gathering was also attended by media practitioners from ASEAN who gave whole-hearted support for Malaysia's proposal to organise the first ASEAN Editors Summit in Kuala Lumpur sometime in August this year.

The idea mooted by Ahmad Shabery was unanimously seconded by participants from the countries that pioneered ASEAN - Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines.

Ahmad Shabery then told reporters that Malaysia offered to host the summit based on the goodwill shown by the host in Indonesia and the fact that Malaysia is now the ASEAN chair.

"Moreover, we realised that the summit is important as we are talking about ASEAN community, it will serve as a platform in creating thought and perception on the ASEAN community.

Media plays an important role in establishing ASEAN community's perception and with a 600 million population, the region promises a huge market," he said.

Meanwhile, Zulkefli said the summit would contribute to the ASEAN Community building efforts.

He pointed out though most of the media practitioners in ASEAN have high nationalist spirit, they should not neglect the significance of the regional communities.

"If the European countries have established the European community, the peoples of

ASEAN should also appreciate the significance of the ASEAN community to ensure that the region emerges as a cohesive block," he said.

Zulkefli said for example, in the tourism sector, the ASEAN countries instead of competing with each other could create a network to lure tourists from all over the world to the region.

Bernama's Chairman Datuk Abdul Rahman Sulaiman and Bernama's Editor-in-Chief Datuk Zakaria Abdul Wahab also attended the three-day Press Day celebration.

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