



**Indian Council of World Affairs**

Sapru House, Barakhamba Road  
New Delhi

**19 December 2012**

## **Press Release**

on

### **Interaction with Senior Editors from ASEAN Countries**

Indian Council of World Affairs organized an “Interaction with Senior Editors from ASEAN countries” at Sapru House on 19th December, 2012. The interaction was chaired by eminent journalist Mr. S. Nihal Singh. A number of former diplomats, journalists and academicians from India participated in the interaction.

Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs, welcomed the visiting Editors. He pointed out that the meeting was being held at a very important juncture, when India and ASEAN Commemorative Summit to mark the twenty years of the dialogue partnership was taking place. He urged the media and strategic community from both sides to further strengthen the partnership by providing more media coverage and establishing think tank links. He also suggested that exchange of guest Editors from two sides should take place at regular intervals.

The senior Editors from ASEAN countries spoke of the need to improve communication and connectivity between the two regions and for more people to people exchanges. They emphasized that freedom of press was important but was being challenged by ownership of Media houses by corporates, which could have political implications. The Editors spoke fondly of the historical linkages with India in the form of Buddhism and also of the Bollywood influence on the region. They argued that there was a lot which could be done to bring people from the two regions closer. There was a need to promote tourism between the two sides to further strengthen the relationship.

India and ASEAN have done much to give momentum and substance to the relationship. Nevertheless, they need to continuously engage each other at all levels to make the relationship more dynamic and vibrant.

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