

PRESS RELEASE

Department of Foreign Affairs

2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, Philippines

Tel. No. 834-4000

www.dfa.gov.ph



SFA-AGR-597-07

27 July 2007

ASEAN EMBASSIES IN VIENNA HOST SUCCESSFUL “ONE ASEAN” CONFERENCE AT VIENNA’S DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY

ASEAN CHARTER TASK FORCE CHAIR AMB. ROSARIO MANALO DISCUSSES ASEAN-EU TIES



Ambassador Rosario G. Manalo delivers her presentation on ASEAN-EU political relations and the ASEAN Charter at the “One ASEAN” Conference co-hosted by the ASEAN Embassies in Austria and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

27 July 2007—The newly formed ASEAN Committee-Vienna (ACV), composed of the diplomatic missions of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam in the Austrian capital, successfully hosted a one-day conference on the topic “One ASEAN: A Partner for Europe” at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna last 19 July.

The conference was formally opened by ASEAN Secretary General Ong Yeng Kong and Dr. Johannes Kyrle, Secretary General of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, with diplomats, businessmen, think-tank representatives and members of the academe in attendance. The

programme featured two sub-sessions, during which ASEAN-European Union political relations and ASEAN-EU relations in the economic arena were discussed through presentations by a panel of experts from the ASEAN and EU sides, who then fielded questions from the audience.

Ambassador Rosario G. Manalo of the Philippines, Chair of the High-Level Task Force Chair of the High-Level Task Force on the Drafting of the ASEAN Charter, delivered a well received presentation on the topic “ASEAN-EU Political and Security Relations: An Assessment and the Way Forward”. Ambassador Manalo provided a historical overview of ASEAN, tracing its evolution into one of the world’s most cohesive and successful regional organizations, as well as the development of its 30-year-old relationship with its first –ever dialogue partner, the EU.

Ambassador Manalo also provided the audience with an update on ASEAN’s moves towards becoming an ASEAN Community by 2015 and on the status and highlights of the draft ASEAN Charter. Ambassador Manalo stressed the Charter’s anticipated central role in ASEAN’s efforts towards becoming a rules-based organization characterized by efficiency, improved working methods, and a membership that adheres to the group’s collective instruments and decisions.

Aside from Ambassador Manalo, the ASEAN side was represented at the Conference by ASEAN-Indonesia Director General Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani, ASEAN-Thailand Director General Nopadol Gunavibool. The two sub-sessions were moderated by Former Indonesian Ambassador to the US Soemadi D.M. Brotodiningrat and Ambassador Wolfgang Schallenberg, President of the Austrian Association for Foreign Policy and International Affairs.

The One ASEAN conference kicked off a series of commemorative activities being organized by the ASEAN diplomatic missions in Vienna during the year, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the organization. END