**Re-Appointment of Mr. Rafendi Djamin as Indonesian Representative for the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)**

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After going through an open selection process since August 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia has decided to re-appoint Mr. Rafendi Djamin as Indonesian Representative to AICHR for the 2013-2015 period. The selection, which has been conducted over the past five months, was not an easy process as the candidates have an extensive background and experience in the field of promotion and protection of human rights at the national, regional, and international levels.

Based on the consideration of the selection team which is comprised of the representative from the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Komnas HAM, journalist/mass media, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the selection team has decided to re-elect Mr. Rafendi Djamin to serve as the Indonesian Representative to the AICHR for 2013-2015.

AICHR was founded in 2009 and is only three years old. At such a relatively early stage, ASEAN is committed to continue encouraging and strengthening the AICHR mechanism so as to meet the expectations of the people, including the need to establish a regional mechanism to promote and protect human rights in the ASEAN region.

During its three years of existence, AICHR as the ASEAN human rights body which was set up under Article 14 of the ASEAN Charter, needs to be strengthened and to have its role enhanced. With the election of Mr. Rafendi Djamin, it is hoped that the AICHR institutional strengthening process could be pursued. In addition, this selection is also important in light of the various AICHR programs which are currently ongoing and require follow up, including the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), adopted at the 21st ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh in November 2012.

From the AICHR Website