



# Engaging ASEAN on Human Rights

**Ray Paolo J. Santiago**

Secretary General

Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism

*6<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultation on ASEAN and Human Rights*

*01-02 October 2013*



## Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism (Working Group)

- 1993: ASEAN foreign ministers ***“agreed that ASEAN should also consider the establishment of an appropriate regional mechanism on human rights”*** in support of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of June 25, 1993.
- 1995: The Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism was set up by the Human Rights Committee of the Law Association of the Asia and the Pacific Region or LAWASIA.



## Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism (Working Group)

- ❖ Primary goal is to help develop and strengthen ASEAN human rights mechanisms to effectively address human rights issues and concerns within the ASEAN region.
- ❖ The Working Group follows a step-by-step, constructive and consultative approach when it engages governments and other key players in the region.



## Working Group Engagements

- ❖ Meetings with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers (1996-1997) then with the Senior Officials (ASEAN SOM) since (1998-2008)
- ❖ Workshops on the Regional Mechanisms on Human Rights in ASEAN (since 2001)
- ❖ Roundtable Discussions on Human Rights in ASEAN (since 2005)
- ❖ NHRIs
- ❖ Meetings with AICHR



Working Group for an  
ASEAN Human Rights  
Mechanism



## Other Engagements

- ❖ ASEAN Charter Process
  - ❖ EPG
  - ❖ HLTF
  - ❖ HLP
  
- ❖ ASEAN Human Rights Declaration
  
- ❖ ACWC



## What to do?

1. Getting from Point A to B.
2. Changing mindsets – the Political Attitude
3. Steering the way
4. Institutionalizing Engagement



Working Group for an  
ASEAN Human Rights  
Mechanism



## **Maraming Salamat Po!**

*For more information on the Working Group,  
please visit [www.aseanhrmech.org](http://www.aseanhrmech.org)*