



MEDIA STATEMENT

Malaysia Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Official Visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia

Advancing Legal Reforms Under Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2025

Phnom Penh, 10 February 2025 – In conjunction with Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2025, the **Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) of Malaysia, YB Dato' Sri Azalina Othman Said** kicked off her **Official ASEAN Working Visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia today**. **YB Dato' Sri Azalina** held a **bilateral meeting with His Excellency Koeut Rith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, Cambodia**, discussing a range of topics centred on strengthening legal cooperation and exploring mutual interests in institutional and legal reform, reinforcing Malaysia's commitment to regional legal harmonization and economic integration.

This mission reflects the vision set forth by the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, **YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim**, emphasizing good governance, the rule of law, and institutional resilience as core pillars of ASEAN's future. The discussion also supports the call for stronger regional cooperation in international commercial arbitration and mediation, in line with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat ("AMM Retreat"), convened in Langkawi, Malaysia on 19 January 2025.

The main agenda of the working visit is to promote the development of international commercial arbitration and mediation among ASEAN member states given the need for a robust and harmonized dispute resolution framework becomes increasingly critical as ASEAN economies continue to expand rapidly. Towards this end, Malaysia remains committed to positioning ASEAN as a trusted hub for arbitration and mediation, in line with global best practices.

In this regard, YB Dato' Sri Azalina Othman Said extended a formal invitation to HE Koeut Rith and shared insights on the ASEAN Law Forum 2025, a forum which Malaysia will host with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN member states, and Japan as the ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) dialogue partner. The Forum will serve as a key platform to foster regional legal cooperation, strengthen access to justice, and enhance economic integration through effective dispute resolution mechanisms.

Discussions also emphasized the promotion of both mediation and arbitration as cost-effective, and more efficient approaches to commercial dispute resolution, benefiting businesses and investors across the region. In addition to advancing the alternative dispute resolution landscape, the Forum will also explore contemporary legal issues, including online safety, cyber-related crimes, cross-border insolvency, commercial law, and good governance.

The ASEAN Law Forum 2025 will conclude with the formalization of a Joint Statement by ASEAN Law Ministers, reaffirming their collective commitment to strengthening international commercial arbitration and mediation within the region.

Malaysia remains dedicated to working with ASEAN partners, including Cambodia, to develop a more predictable and business-friendly legal environment, reinforcing ASEAN's status as a competitive and reliable destination for international commerce and investment. This mission marks another step in strengthening bilateral legal cooperation between Malaysia and Cambodia and underscores Malaysia's dedication to advancing regional legal reforms that support economic growth, stability, and good governance within ASEAN.

**Legal Affairs Division,
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