



## ASEAN FOUNDATION eNews

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### ASEAN Foundation supports Roundtable for ASEAN Business Leaders on Human Rights



***Left:* ASEAN Foundation Executive Director Dr. Makarim Wibisono delivered the welcome remarks. *Right:* Participants of the Roundtable for ASEAN Business Leaders.**

The ASEAN Foundation supported the Roundtable for ASEAN Business Leaders on “Implementing Corporate Respect for Human Rights” held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 10 November 2011. The roundtable was formally opened by the event conveners led by Dr. Makarim Wibisono, Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation, Mr. Puvan Selvanathan, Sustainability Advisor, Sime Darby Group and Asia Representative of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Mr. Andrew Bryan Perera, Legal Advisor of the Global Compact Network Malaysia, and Mr. Mark Hodge, Director of the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights.

In his statement, Dr. Wibisono highlighted that the forum was a timely opportunity to bring together business leaders and key experts on human rights in the region and how it addresses the mandates of the ASEAN Foundation, in particular, to promote the practice of corporate social responsibility in ASEAN. He further elaborated that in line with the actions called for in the ASEAN Blueprint for Socio-Cultural Community, the ASEAN Foundation has catalyzed the formation of the ASEAN CSR Network to aims to become a platform for networking and cooperation among various ASEAN stakeholders, a repository of knowledge and information on CSR in the region, and a capacity-builder and an advocate for corporate social responsibility in ASEAN.

The one-day roundtable enabled the more than 100 business executives, human rights experts and NGO representatives from ASEAN and other countries to discuss issues and challenges of the relationship between business sustainability and human rights taking off from relevant policies and guidelines such as the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights developed by Professor John Ruggie, the UN Global Compact Principles and the ISO 26000 Guidelines on Social Responsibility, among others. Among the topics covered were linking human rights and business, international policy developments and business expectations, common themes in the ASEAN context, business challenges and good practices and incorporating respect for human rights in corporate policies. The roundtable also included breakout sessions to cover specific areas such as labor rights, community consultation, and human rights in health, energy and water.

The roundtable was jointly organized by the ASEAN Foundation, Global Business Initiative for Human Rights, Business Council for Sustainability & Responsibility Malaysia (BCSR Malaysia), ASEAN CSR Network and the Global Compact Network Malaysia.

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