



## **Mediators' Retreat Singapore 2005**

### **It's time to talk: a practitioner's forum on conflict mediation in the South and South East Asian Region**

#### **AGENDA**

With the ink on the peace agreement for Aceh barely dry, the attention of conflict mediators, governments and policy experts involved in peace processes in the South and South East Asian region is focussed on negotiated settlements to conflict. At this important time for the region, this regional Mediators' Retreat aims to promote the exchange of views and experience between senior conflict mediators from a range of institutional backgrounds. Our objective is to create a space where mediators can discuss openly the dilemmas they face, bringing them together with key actors from the government and policy communities involved in peace processes to learn from each other's experience how such dilemmas might be overcome. We hope through this practical exchange and interaction to promote a greater understanding of the issues conflict mediators in the region face, a stronger shared sense of common purpose among them, and to facilitate the emergence of an informal network that can be called on for support and advice.

#### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

##### **13:00 Lunch and welcoming remarks**

Guest Speaker H.E. Raymond Lim  
Second Minister for Finance & Minister of State for Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Singapore

##### **15:00 Session One: Conflict today in South East Asia: trends and prospects**

*What are the key trends and issues in the region today in terms of conflict and its resolution? How do aspects of the international context affect conflict in the region?*

##### **17:00 Close of session**

##### **19:00 Reception and dinner**

#### **Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

FINAL

**09:00 Session Two: Engaging with armed groups: challenges and options**

*Most of the region's armed conflicts are civil wars involving armed groups (or rebels, insurgents and terrorists). What challenges do mediators face in dealing with such groups, and how can they be overcome?*

**10:30 Coffee Break**

**11:15 Session Three: the architecture of peace building**

*What are the recurring issues in peace building which mediators must confront? Given the very different contexts in which peace building must be undertaken, how should mediators handle these issues in their work?*

**13:00 Lunch**

**15:00 Session Four: Regional approaches and institutional responses**

*Unlike other regional bodies, such as the AU, OAS or EU, ASEAN has so far not taken on an active role in conflict resolution, for familiar reasons including respect for sovereignty and non-interference. In the current climate, and with the development of the new ASEAN charter, is this a problem or not? If so, what might be done about it? What is the role of international bodies such as the UN in this context within the region?*

**16:30 Break**

**17:00 Summary and ideas for further reflection**

**17:30 Close of meeting**

**19:00 Reception and Dinner**

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**Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

Participants depart