

NUJ HOSTS THE CONFEDERATION OF ASEAN JOURNALISTS (CAJ) 16TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

39 CAJ delegates from Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos while observers from China and South Korea attended the CAJ event from 30 September – 3 October 2009. The 16th CAJ General Assembly was held at Nikko Hotel Kuala Lumpur on Oct 1, 2009 and was officiated by Human Resources Minister Datuk S. Subramaniam. 88 attended the conference including 18 NUJM officials, 39 CAJ delegates and the rest from NGOs, TV stations, Embassies, Corporate bodies and personal invites. The CAJ Presidency and the Secretary General's posts are now given to the NUJ President Ms. Norila Daud and General Secretary Mr V.Anbalagan for a two year term beginning 2009 while its Vice President is Mr Benny Antiporda, President of the National Press Club of the Philippines (NPC). CAJ Permanent Secretary remains status quo (Mr Saiful Hadi of Persatuan Wartawan Indonesia PWI).

NUJ was given the task of hosting the event in February at an informal board of directors' meeting in Jakarta. Many thanks and appreciation goes to committee members and branch committee members for their support and cooperation.



CAJ KUALA LUMPUR ACTION PLAN 2009-2011

The 16th General Assembly of the Confederation of ASEAN Journalists (CAJ) hosted by the National Union of Journalists Malaysia (NUJM) was held in Kuala Lumpur from September 30 – October 4, 2009.

In the past four years since the last CAJ General Assembly in Bangkok in 2005, a lot of changes have taken place in the region. The most significant was the world economic crisis which impact heavily on several countries in the region. The swine flu pandemic which originated in Mexico has swept across the globe including ASEAN region where hundreds of people have been killed so far.

The delegates attending the 16th CAJ General Assembly as well as representatives of CAJ's member organizations – Indonesian Journalists Association (PWI), Lao Journalists Association (LJA), National Union of Journalists Malaysia (NUJM), National Press Club of the Philippines (NPC), Singapore National Union of Journalists (SNUJ), Confederation of Thai Journalists (CTJ), and the Vietnam Journalists Association (VJA) – have come together and agreed as follows:

1. Despite the fact that CAJ was established more than three decades ago, it remains little known outside media circles. Thus, the CAJ must try to raise its profile to transform itself to become part of the civil society organizations recognized by ASEAN.
2. Regarding the seemingly endless violence and murders of journalists in the Philippines, the CAJ members are seriously concerned with the situation and

- strongly urge the Philippine government to try harder to ensure the safety of the journalists.
3. With the ethnic, political and religious conflicts throughout the region, the CAJ urges the journalists to be impartial and act in accordance with the highest standard of code of ethics in promoting stability and peace.
 4. Bearing in mind that the traditional print and electronic media is facing stiff competition from new media, the CAJ called on the government of member countries to review or abolish laws deemed restrictive to press freedom and to refrain from introducing new legislations which is not conducive to free expression.
 5. Having realized the far-reaching impact of the world economic crisis, the CAJ will set up a working committee to look into the possible impact on journalists which may affect the performance of duty.
 6. Recognizing the solidarity of the ASEAN member countries, the CAJ will try to convince journalist's organizations in Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar and Cambodia to join CAJ. Then the idea of a single voice of ASEAN can be explored and implemented.
 7. In order to keep journalists abreast with the fast changing political, social and economic situation in the region, the CAJ members will conduct more regional or bilateral professional training workshops for journalists.
 8. The CAJ deeply appreciates the great contribution made by the Nihon Shinbun Kyokai (NSK) to the CAJ for the past 30 years and strongly hope that such contribution will continue. We are also grateful to the All China Journalists Association for its tireless effort in promoting closer ties with the CAJ affiliates.
 9. In reference to the proposal made by the CAJ Action Group in November 2005 which was only partially implemented, the CAJ agrees that it is high time that the proposal should be reviewed and fully implemented.

The CAJ leadership calls on CAJ affiliates and ASEAN media to fully implement the Kuala Lumpur Action Plan designed to promote the cause of freedom of expression, mutual understanding, cooperation and development, and to maintain regional peace and prosperity.

Done and signed in Kuala Lumpur, October 1, 2009



Norila Daud, President,
Confederation of ASEAN Journalists & National Union of Journalists Malaysia



Saiful Hadi, Permanent Secretary,
Confederation of ASEAN Journalists



August Parengkuan, Chairman of the International Affairs Committee,
Indonesia Journalists Association (PWI)



Somsanouk Mixay, Vice President,
Lao Journalists Association (LJA)



Benny Antiporda, President, President,
National Press Club of the Philippines (NPC)



Mindy, Kwok Sin Thang, Secretary General,
Singapore National Union of Journalists (SNUJ)



Prasong Lertatanawisute, President,
Confederation of Thai Journalists (CTJ)



Dinh The Huynh, President,
Vietnam Journalists Association (VJA)