



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present the third volume of the ASEANSai Newsletter for 2024. In this edition, we bring you the latest updates on activities from July to September 2024.

These include highlights such as the ASEANSai Workshop on Advancing the Roles of SAIs in Reviewing Voluntary National Review (VNR) and the Auditor-General's Courtesy Visit to ASEANSai Secretariat, which further strengthened regional collaboration.

Additionally, in our Uniqueness Column, we feature "Koh Kood: Thailand's Untouched Island Paradise," a hidden gem nestled in the heart of Southeast Asia, showcasing the serene beauty of one of Thailand's best-kept secrets.

Lastly, the Secretariat always welcomes your submissions of articles, special reports, news, and other materials related to ASEANSai and its members' activities. Please feel free to share and submit them to the Secretariat at aseansai@bpk.go.id. Stay safe, and enjoy reading!

Warm Regards,
Bahtiar Arif

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 The ASEANSai Secretariat

 www.aseansai.org

ASEANSai Workshop on Advancing Roles of SAIs in Reviewing Voluntary National Review (VNR)

As part of the implementation of ASEANSai's Knowledge Sharing Committee (KSC) work plan, The Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK) hosted the "ASEANSai Workshop on Advancing Roles of SAIs in Reviewing Voluntary National Review (VNR): A Contribution to the Achievement of SDGs" from 29 - 30 August 2024 in hybrid mode.

The workshop aimed to enhance ASEAN SAIs' understanding of the VNR review process, facilitate knowledge sharing and experience exchange between ASEANSai members, and identify challenges and solutions to improve the effectiveness of VNR reviews.

It facilitated discussions among ASEANSai members, experts, academics, and government officials on the challenges, best practices, and lessons learned in reviewing the VNR process, with a focus on strengthening the role of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The workshop opened with remarks from the Chair of the Knowledge Sharing Committee, Datuk Wan Suraya Wan Mohd Radzi, followed by an opening speech from the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia's Vice Chairperson, Hendra Susanto. Experts from international organizations such as ERIA, UNESCAP, and SEANTAG presented insights into ASEAN's progress toward the 2030 SDGs, including the challenges.

Representatives from the Ministry of National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia, the Central Bureau of Statistics, and SAI Indonesia also took part in the discussion of the critical role of SAIs in promoting transparency in the VNR process.



Auditor-General's Office of Singapore Courtesy Visit to ASEANSai Secretariat, Strengthening Regional Collaboration

Delegations from the Auditor-General's Office (AGO) of Singapore, led by Auditor General Ms. Goh Soon Poh, paid an official visit to the ASEANSai Secretariat located at the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK) headquarters on August 22, 2024. This significant visit aimed to fortify bilateral cooperation, deepen professional ties, and facilitate the exchange of insights on advanced audit practices between the two highly regarded institutions. It marked a pivotal step in fostering regional collaboration and advancing audit excellence in ASEAN. The visit commenced with a formal courtesy call between Ms. Goh Soon Poh and Dr. Isma Yatun, the Chair of BPK. Both leaders underscored their dedication to enhancing the longstanding partnership between AGO Singapore and BPK by focusing on areas of mutual interest.



Key priorities included improving audit standards, advancing capacity-building initiatives, and promoting the implementation of innovative audit methodologies. During the cordial meeting, Ms. Goh Soon Poh expressed her gratitude for the warm reception and presented a thoughtful gift as a gesture of appreciation, symbolizing the spirit of camaraderie between the two institutions.

The engagement culminated with an in-depth discussion on the preliminary arrangements for the 8th ASEANSai Summit. The dialogue reaffirmed the shared commitment to fostering a robust partnership and highlighted the importance of sharing best practices to uphold audit integrity, transparency, and accountability. Additionally, both parties voiced their support for the forthcoming Chairmanship of SAI Singapore, emphasizing its significance in driving regional initiatives and strengthening ASEANSai's role in promoting good governance across the region.

Engagement of ASEANSAI Secretariat at the Southeast Asia Regional Political Finance and Anti-Corruption Workshop Multi-Stakeholder Meeting

The ASEANSAI Secretariat participated in the Southeast Asia Regional Political Finance and Anti-Corruption Workshop and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting, held in Jakarta from September 24-26, 2024. This pivotal event was co-organized by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC), bringing together anti-corruption agencies, parliamentarians, and key stakeholders from across the region.

The event provided a vital platform for engaging institutions such as SEAPAC, ASEANSAI, AIPA (ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly), ASEAN-PAC (ASEAN Parliamentarians Against Corruption), and the ASEAN Secretariat to explore future collaborative efforts. With a shared commitment to promoting good governance, transparency, and accountability, these organizations discussed how to enhance collective action against corruption, in alignment with the principles of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

This set of activities demonstrates ASEANSAI's continuous commitment to fostering regional collaboration and addressing key governance challenges, strengthening the collective efforts to combat corruption and promote transparency in Southeast Asia.



Tucked away in the Gulf of Thailand near the Cambodian border, Koh Kood (also spelled Koh Kut) remains one of the country's best-kept secrets. Known for its untouched natural beauty, this serene island offers an escape from the bustling tourist crowds of Thailand's more famous destinations like Phuket and Koh Samui. With its crystal-clear waters, powdery white-sand beaches, and lush tropical rainforests, Koh Kood is emerging as a haven for nature lovers and travelers seeking tranquility.

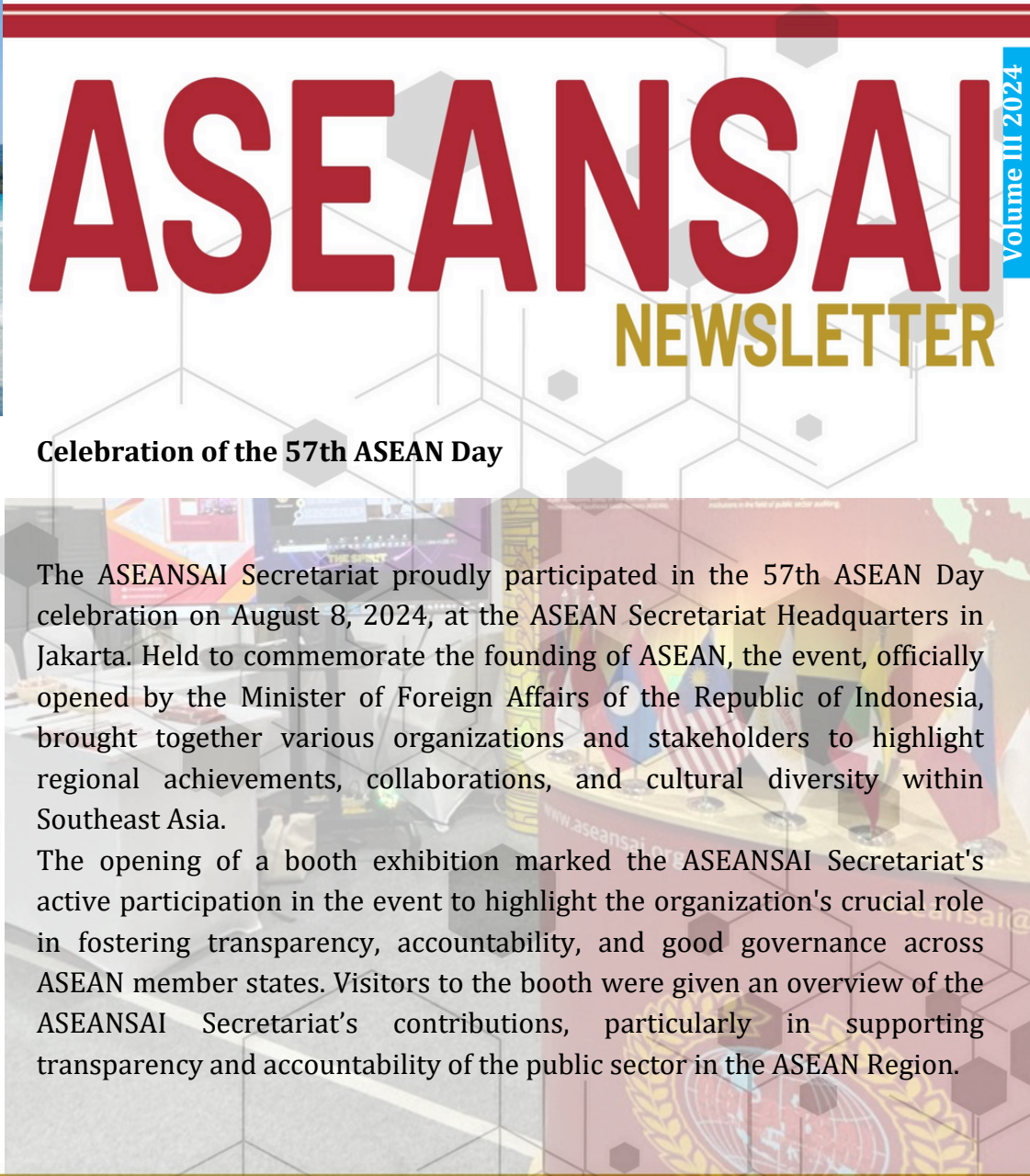
A Haven of Untouched Natural Beauty

Koh Kood is the fourth-largest island in Thailand but remains relatively undeveloped compared to its popular counterparts. With only a few roads, no large resorts, and a population of around 2,000 people, the island has retained its pristine charm. The lack of mass tourism infrastructure ensures that its beaches, waterfalls, and jungles remain largely unspoiled.

Activities for Every Traveler

Despite its quiet reputation, Koh Kood offers a range of activities for those who want to explore its natural wonders. Snorkeling and diving are popular, with coral reefs surrounding the island and offering a chance to spot vibrant marine life. The island's crystal-clear waters are home to various species of fish, making it a paradise for underwater enthusiasts.

For those who prefer to stay on land, hiking trails weave through the island's jungles, leading to scenic viewpoints and hidden beaches. Koh Kood's calm, shallow bays are also ideal for kayaking, and some resorts offer boat tours to nearby islands for further exploration.



Celebration of the 57th ASEAN Day

The ASEANSAI Secretariat proudly participated in the 57th ASEAN Day celebration on August 8, 2024, at the ASEAN Secretariat Headquarters in Jakarta. Held to commemorate the founding of ASEAN, the event, officially opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, brought together various organizations and stakeholders to highlight regional achievements, collaborations, and cultural diversity within Southeast Asia.

The opening of a booth exhibition marked the ASEANSAI Secretariat's active participation in the event to highlight the organization's crucial role in fostering transparency, accountability, and good governance across ASEAN member states. Visitors to the booth were given an overview of the ASEANSAI Secretariat's contributions, particularly in supporting transparency and accountability of the public sector in the ASEAN Region.

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