

ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR)

NEWSLETTER

January - June 2026



Highlights:

- ASEAN-IPR Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Training Programme, Module 3.5
- ASEAN-IPR Participation in the 10th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN
- Launch of the ASEAN-IPR Course on Preventing Violent Radicalisation among the Youth
- Second Iteration of the ASEAN-IPR and CMI Introductory Training on Conflict Analysis and Conflict Resolution





I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja

Executive Director of ASEAN-IPR

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the fifth edition of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) Newsletter. As we reflect on the first half of 2026, this issue brings together stories and highlights of the Institute's continued efforts to forge and foster sustainable peace across the region and beyond.

This year marks a significant chapter in ASEAN's (as well as ASEAN-IPR's) journey, as 2026 marks the first full year with eleven (11) ASEAN Member States, following Timor-Leste accession as a full-fledged member of ASEAN. Moreover, we are also guided by the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship theme, "Navigating Our Future, Together," which underscores the importance of solidarity, resilience, and collective action in addressing the opportunities and challenges of an evolving regional landscape.

In this edition, we are pleased to feature a range of our initiatives that aims to strengthen efforts in prevention of violent radicalisation in the region, enhance regional capacities in conflict analysis and conflict resolution; in addition to continuing our work to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) as well as the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas.

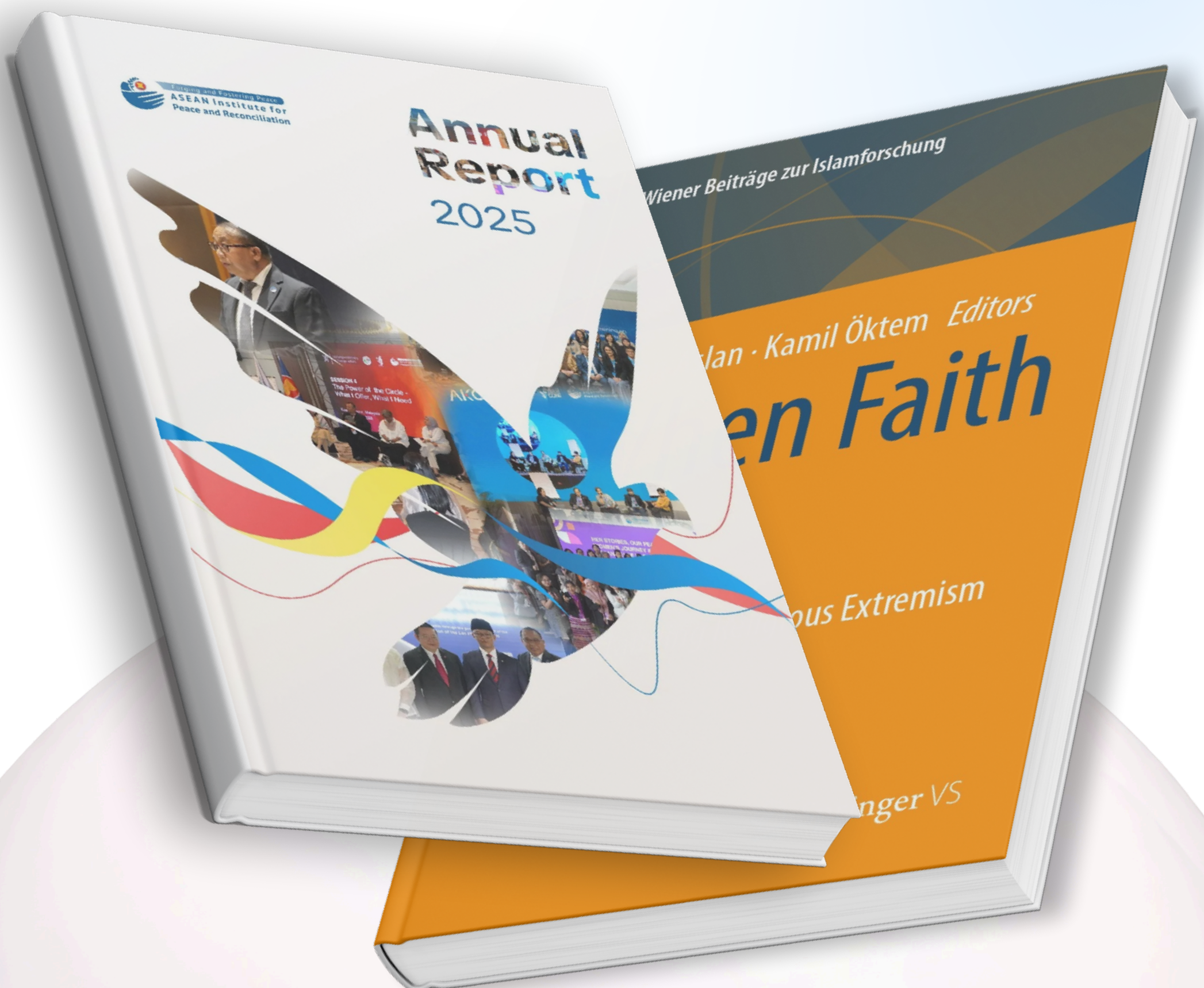
This edition is particularly significant – as it comes in a moment of transition for the Institute, with the conclusion of my tenure as Executive Director by end of October 2026. Looking back, I am encouraged by the progress we have achieved together in expanding partnerships, strengthening institutional capacities, and advancing initiatives that contribute to the Institute's mandate and functions, as well as ASEAN's peacebuilding efforts in the broader scale.

Above all, we would like to express our unwavering appreciation to the Members of the ASEAN-IPR Governing Council, Advisory Board, and the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry for their steadfast support, guidance, and commitment to the Institute's work.

To our readers, I hope this issue provides valuable insights into the work of ASEAN-IPR and celebrates the collective efforts that have brought ASEAN and the Community to where we are today. Thank you for being part of this journey and for continuing to foster a more peaceful, inclusive, and resilient ASEAN Community.

New Publications!

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ASEAN-IPR Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Training Programme Module 3.5



Jakarta, 10-12 February 2026 – The final module of the ASEAN-IPR Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Training Programme was convened in Jakarta, Indonesia with the theme “Strengthening WPS Implementation through the YPS Agenda. This training brought together twenty-four (24) participants from government officials, civil society representatives, think-tank researchers, and youth leaders.

Throughout the Training, participants engaged in highly interactive sessions featuring in-depth presentations, case studies, and simulations on how the WPS and YPS agendas could be applied to address regional challenges. The Training culminated with country groups presentation on policy recommendation briefs, that was designed to be shared directly with national decision-makers.

The series of ASEAN-IPR WPS Training Programme were made possible by the generous support of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) through the UK Mission to ASEAN.

“At the National Youth Commission of the Philippines, we believe that development can only be fully realised in a climate of peace built on inclusivity and equity. Through this training, I gained a deeper appreciation of the importance of amplifying the voices of youth and women and promoting meaningful as well as inclusive participation in building national and regional harmony”

Ernest Lucas, Participant from Philippines



39th Meeting of the ASEAN-IPR Governing Council



Jakarta, 13 February 2026 - The ASEAN-IPR Governing Council convened its 39th Meeting at the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.

It was the first Meeting under the Philippines Chairship of ASEAN in 2026, presided by H.E. Evangeline T. Ong Jimenez-Ducrocq, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to ASEAN and Representative of the Philippines to the ASEAN-IPR Governing Council. It also marked the first meeting of the Governing Council with eleven (11) ASEAN Member States, following Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN.

Introducing the Philippines' priorities under its 2026 ASEAN Chairship with the theme "Navigating Our Future, Together", the Chair underlined the importance of regional cooperation, shared responsibility, and unity in addressing common challenges and opportunities, reaffirming ASEAN's commitment to an inclusive, resilient, and forward-looking future.

The Meeting reviewed the Institute's operations and proposed activities for the year which was reflected in the Provisional Annual Work Plan for 2026. The Meeting also considered the Institute's draft Annual Report for 2025, which would be submitted to the 39th Meeting of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council. The 39th Governing Council Meeting also kick-started the process of recruitment of the next ASEAN-IPR Executive Director for the period 2027-2029; and initiated discussions to brainstorm priorities to be reflected in the Institute's next Three-Year Work Plan (2027-2029).

18th Meeting of the ASEAN-IPR Advisory Board (AB)



Jakarta, 8 April 2026 - ASEAN-IPR's Advisory Board (AB) convened its 18th Meeting – also the first under the Philippines' 2026 Chairship of ASEAN.

The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Andres S. Aguinaldo Jr., Representative of Philippines to the ASEAN-IPR Advisory Board and Executive Director IV for Plans and Programs, Philippines' Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU). Discussions focused on the Institute's priority research areas, with members deliberating on ways to advance their implementation and translate them into concrete activities.

The Meeting also welcomed H.E. YEAP Samnang and Ms. Muna Zawani Hj. Md. Idris, as the new Advisory Board Representatives of Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam, respectively. In addition, AB members officially welcomed Mr. Hugo Maria Fernandes as Timor-Leste's Representative to the Advisory Board, as Timor-Leste is now officially a full-fledged ASEAN Member State.

ASEAN-IPR Launches Regional Initiative to Prevent Violent Radicalisation among the Youth



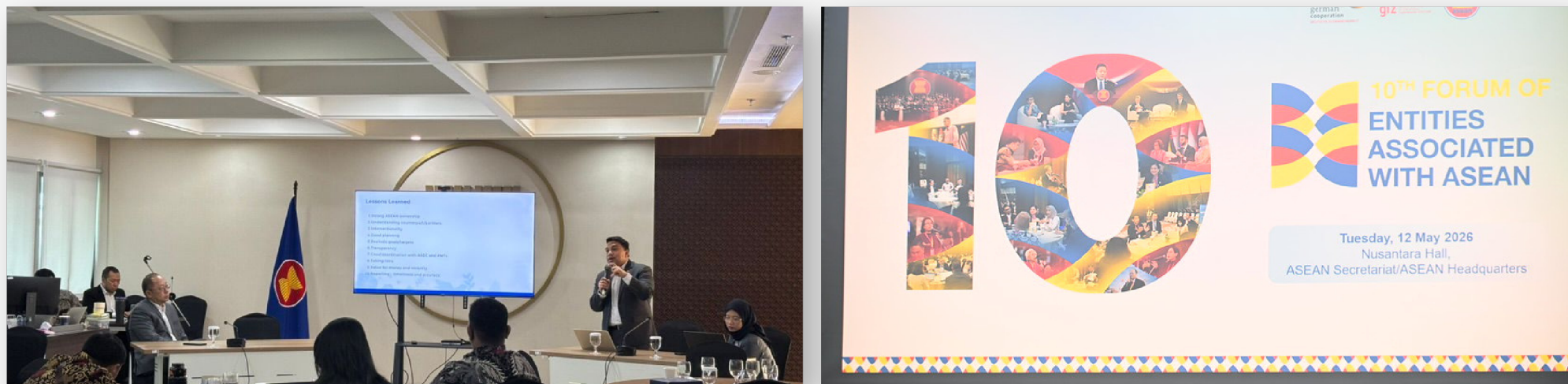
Jakarta, 6 April 2026 - The ASEAN-IPR officially kicked-off its latest project entitled **ASEAN-IPR Course on Preventing Violent Radicalisation among the Youth**. Held in a hybrid format, the meeting brought together researchers from across the region, representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as representatives from Mission of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to ASEAN and the ASEAN-Korea Programme Management Team (AKPMPT).

Supported by the Government of ROK through ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF), the project aims to address existing gaps in regional efforts, particularly the limited availability of comprehensive and comparable data on youth radicalisation across ASEAN.

The initiative will commence with a multi-country baseline study/research to examine current trends, drivers, and pathways of radicalisation across the region. These insights will inform the development of a structured syllabus and a capacity-building programme tailored to the ASEAN context. As ASEAN advances to implement the Community Vision 2045 and the ASEAN Communities Strategic Plan, the initiative underscores a shared commitment to empowering youth as key partners in promoting a culture of peace and resilience across the region.



ASEAN-IPR Participation in the 10th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN



Jakarta, 12–13 May 2026 - The ASEAN Secretariat hosted the 10th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN at the ASEAN Headquarters, Jakarta.

The Executive Director (ED) of ASEAN-IPR was invited to serve as moderator for a session in the Forum titled “Kaleidoscope of 10 Years of Engagement of ASEAN Entities”, which reflected on a decade of collective achievements and encouraged ASEAN Centres and Entities to further strengthen partnerships in advancing the ASEAN Community.

On the second day of the forum, the ED also participated in a side event as a mentor during the speed-mentoring session of the 2nd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) ConNEXT. During the session, the ED engaged directly with young leaders, sharing insights on regional cooperation, peacebuilding, and the role of youth in shaping ASEAN’s future.

The Institute also delivered a presentation in a project proposal workshop session to share its best practices/lessons learned in project implementation and demonstrated how available resources could be effectively leveraged and maximized to generate meaningful impact for the region.

40th Meeting of the ASEAN-IPR Governing Council (GC)



Jakarta, 8 April 2026 - The ASEAN-IPR Governing Council (GC), as the Institute's highest decision-making body, convened its 40th Meeting at the ASEAN Secretariat/Headquarters in Jakarta.

During the meeting, the Governing Council deliberated the Institute’s on-go-

-ing activities, considered the Institute’s proposed Annual Operational Budget (AOB) for Financial Year 2027, and reviewed newly proposed initiatives for the Institute. In addition, the GC also continued final discussions on the process of recruiting the next Executive Director of the Institute.

The GC is due to convene another meeting in August in Manila, which will be held back-to-back with its annual Interface Meeting with the Advisory Board.

Second Iteration of the ASEAN-IPR and CMI Introductory Training on Conflict Analysis and Conflict Resolution

Jakarta, 3–5 June 2026 – Building on a successful flagship collaboration in November 2025, ASEAN-IPR and CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation organised the second iteration of the Introductory Training on Conflict Analysis and Conflict Resolution.

The Training was preceded by an online “Module Zero” session on 29 May 2026, which introduced the overall programme and featured discussions on regional and global peace mechanisms.

The three-day programme brought together twenty-eight (28) participants, comprising officials from ASEAN Member States, Members of the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry and ASEAN-IPR Advisory Board, as well as officials from the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN bodies/centres/entities.



Through simulations, panel discussion, facilitator-led sessions, group exercises, and self-reflective learning methods, the Training provided participants with practical knowledge and tools on conflict analysis, peace-making, and conflict resolution within the ASEAN context. One of the key highlights of the Training was the scenario-based simulation and case study analysis sessions tailored to the ASEAN context, which enabled participants to work collaboratively in developing practical recommendations to address emerging challenges in the region.

With the conclusion of the Training, ASEAN-IPR and CMI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), reaffirming both institutions' shared commitment to advancing culture of peace and paving the way for future joint programmes in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution. This year's Training was also supported by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Norway-ASEAN Regional Integration Programme (NARIP).



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