

## ASEAN to broaden engagement with CSOs

Written by Administrator

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**JAKARTA, 22 June 2016** – The Habibie Center hosted the 35<sup>th</sup> Talking ASEAN dialogue, “ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People’s Forum (ACSC/APF) 2016 in Timor-Leste: Potentials and Constraints for the Future of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)’ Engagement” in Jakarta yesterday. The Director of Community Affairs Directorate of ASEAN Secretariat, Mr Lee Yoong Yoong, was invited to speak at the event.

The main objective of the dialogue is to examine the potentials and challenges for Timor-Leste in hosting the ACSC/APF2016, and to identify ASEAN perspective on the importance of Timor-Leste as the host of the ACSC/APF2016 in engaging Southeast Asia people, while exploring the possibilities of improving CSOs future engagement through the existing mechanism of the ACSC/APF.

The dialogue was attended by numerous CSOs, think tanks, students from the institute of higher learnings in Indonesia, as well as opinion leaders and academics.

On August 2-5 2016, Southeast Asia-based CSOs will gather for the annual ACSC/APF. With

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the theme of “Expanding Peoples’ Solidarity for a Just and Inclusive ASEAN Community”, the ACSC/APF this year will serve as an important milestone, given the first year into the on-going ASEAN Community process .

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