



## **Press Release**

### **by the Chairman of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat(AMM Retreat)**

17<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, U Wunna Maung Lwin as Chair of ASEAN for 2014, hosted and chaired the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat today in Bagan. The Retreat is the first in the series of ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meetings under Myanmar's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014 under the theme ***“Moving forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community”***.

During the Retreat, ASEAN Foreign Ministers discussed the Priorities of ASEAN for 2014. The issues include ASEAN's efforts to speed up community building and ASEAN integration and to move forward to the realisation of Master Plan for ASEAN Community.

The ASEAN Ministers also discussed to develop Vision for Post 2015 ASEAN Community as guided by ASEAN Leaders' Statement at 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and explored ways to strengthening ASEAN's external relations.

On the regional and international issues, the Ministers stressed the importance of upholding ASEAN's Centrality in the evolving regional and architecture in addressing the issues of

common interest and concern. The Ministers also discussed ways to further contribute to the peace, stability and prosperity of the region and beyond.

The Foreign Ministers expressed their concerns on the recent developments in the South China Sea. They further reaffirmed ASEAN's Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea and the importance of the maintenance of peace and stability, maritime security, freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea.

They called on all Parties concerned to resolve their disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and urged continued self-restraint in the conduct of activities. They called on all parties to the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) to undertake the full and effective implementation of the DOC in order to build an environment of mutual trust and confidence. They emphasized the need to expeditiously work towards early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

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