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The ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters Met Online for the First Time



On 1 December 2020, National Narcotics Board (BNN), Republic of Indonesia hosted the 41st Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) which was the first online meeting of ASOD due to the pandemic of COVID-19.

The meeting was opened by Police Commissioner General Heru Winarko, Head of National Narcotics Board (BNN) and chaired by Mr. Puji Sarwono, Deputy for Legal Affairs and Cooperation, BNN. The meeting was attended by heads and representatives of national drug control agencies of ASEAN Member States as well as H.E. Hoang Anh Tuan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Political Security Community (APSC), Department of ASEAN Secretariat.

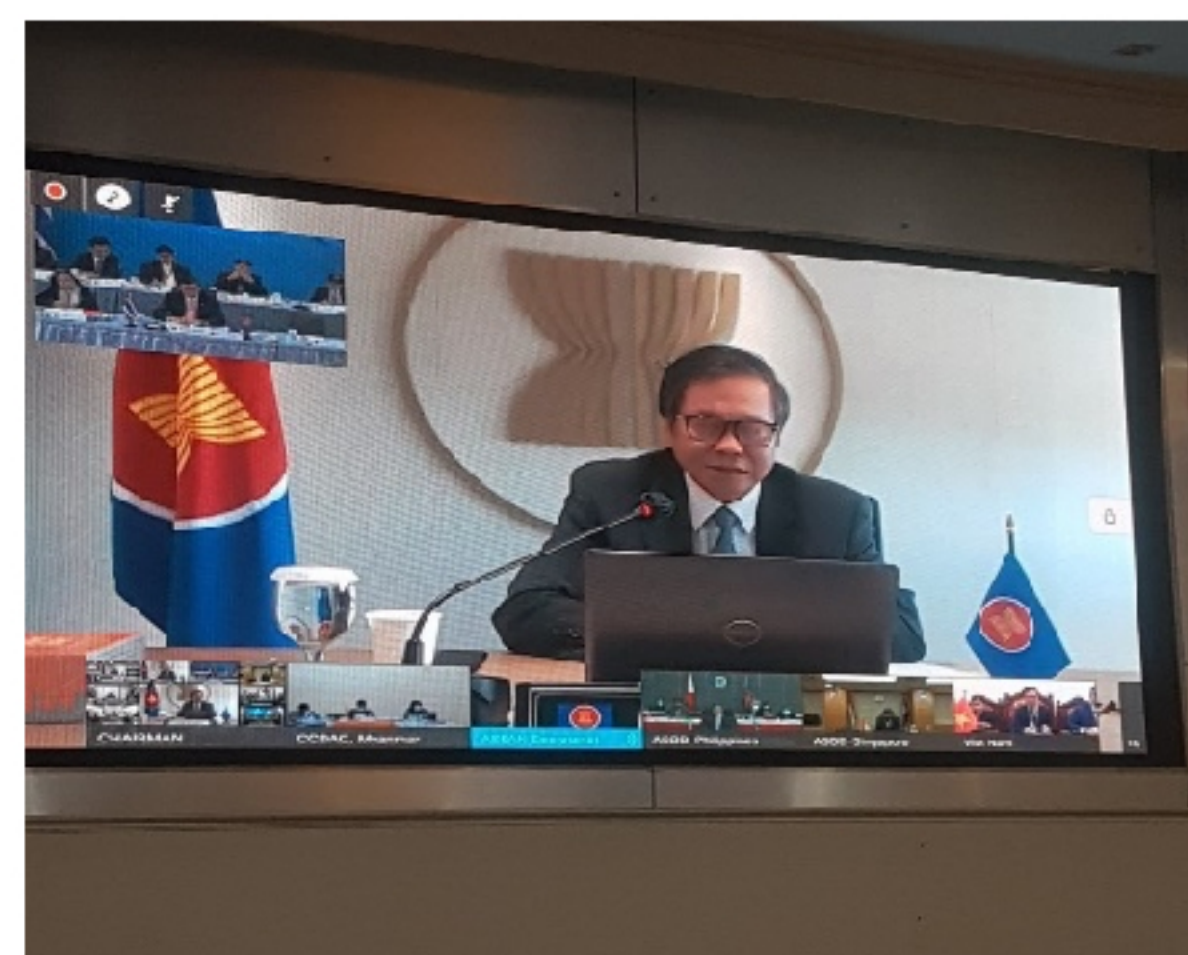
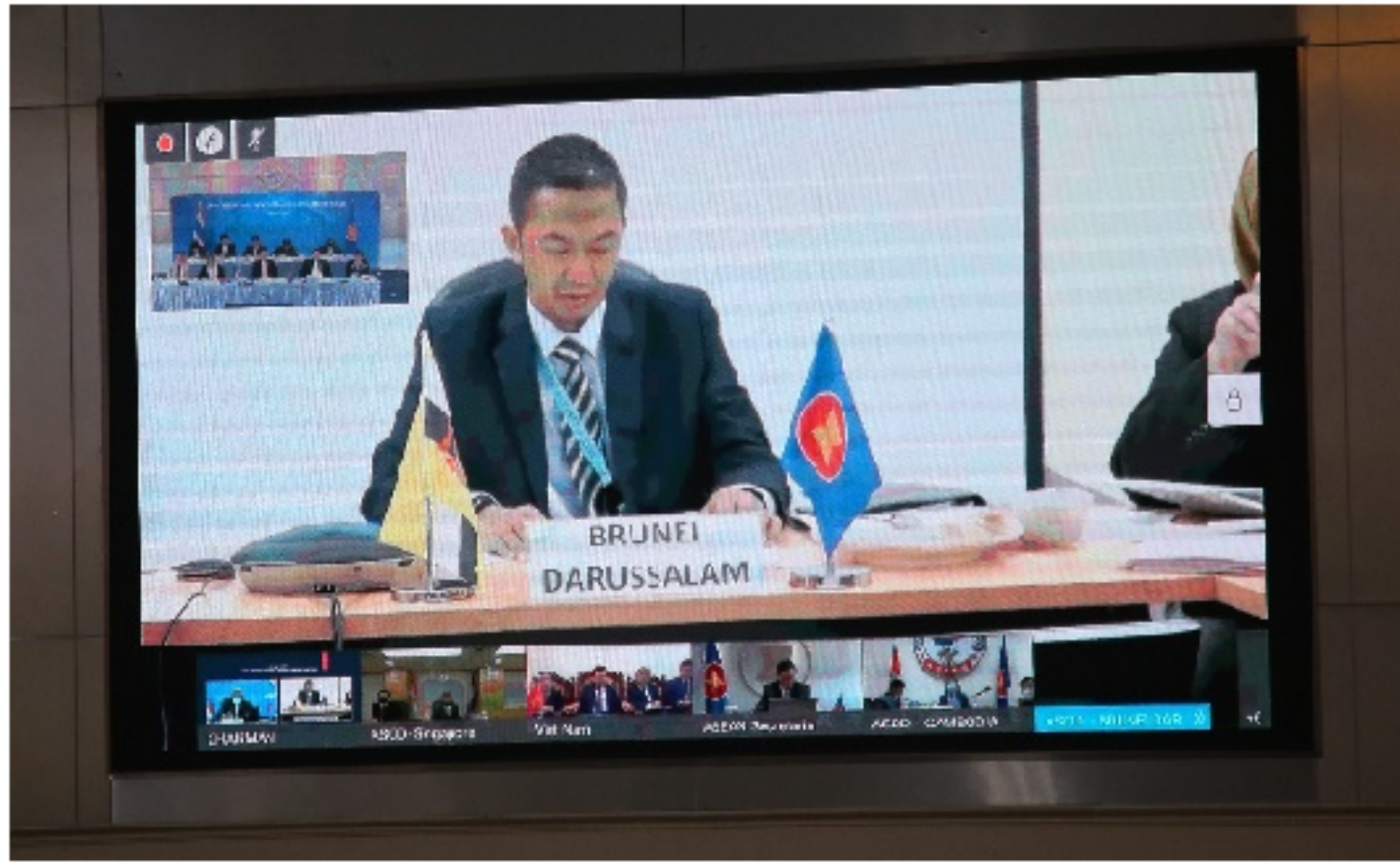




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ASEAN Member States exchanged views on the efforts made at national, regional and international levels to fight against illicit drugs amidst the pandemic of COVID-19. The meeting took note of drug control activities and progress made by ASEAN Member States during the 40th ASOD Chairmanship in the implementation of ASEAN drug control projects namely ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF), ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF), ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN), ASEAN-NARCO as well as the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Drugs (2016-2025) and the ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle (2020-2022); the mid-term review of both Work Plans will be conducted next year. In addition, the matters related to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was discussed, in particular the recommendations proposed by WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) on the rescheduling cannabis and cannabis related substances. ASEAN Member States discussed and shared views with the grave concern that they might lead to the misinterpreted message to the public if the right message was not delivered. Lao PDR will host the next ASOD Meeting in 2021 while Cambodia will host the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) next year.

The meeting ended with spirit of ASEAN cooperation, solidarity and understanding in fighting against drugs to ensure ASEAN security and safety from illicit drugs.