



H.E. Dr. Surin PITSUWAN
Chairman of Board of Advisers
GCEL Asia
Malaysia

&

Secretary General ASEAN, 2008 – 2012

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Thailand, 1997 – 2001

Dr. Surin Abdul Halim Bin Pitsuwan is the former ASEAN Secretary General and former Thailand Minister of Foreign Affairs. He is a political scientist by training, and politician and a diplomat by vocation. He is the 12th Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Dr. Surin was elected a Member of Parliament from his home province of Nakorn Sri Thammarat, in 1986, under the banner of Democrat Party. He has served as Secretary to the Speaker of the House of Representatives (1986-1989), Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Interior (1989-1992), Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (1992-1995), Minister of Foreign Affairs (1997-2001), Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee (2000).

Aside from his national service, Dr. Surin has served on many international commission. He was a member of the Commission on Human Security (2001-2003), World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization (2002-2003), an advisor to the UNDP Human Development Report Project (2003-2004) and a member of the Advisory Board, UN Human Security Trust Fund.

Dr. Surin holds a B.A. Degree in Political Science from Thammasat University in Bangkok and Claremont Men's College in California, USA, in 1972. With the support of the Rockefeller Foundation, he went on to pursue his Masters and Ph.D at Harvard University (1974, 1982). He also spent one and a half year studying Arabic and doing his research at the American University in Cairo, Egypt (1975-1977). He became a Congressional Fellow under the sponsorship of the American Political Science Association (APSA) in 1983-1984, which enabled him to have a first-hand experience of the American legislative process.