



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

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Dr John Carter  
Sub-Committee Secretary  
Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee  
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Parliament of Australia  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Dr Carter

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) appreciates the opportunities provided by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade to present evidence for consideration in its Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with ASEAN. I would be grateful if the Committee could accept the following corrections to the information provided by DFAT.

- As at 31 December 2007, 5.1 per cent of Australia's foreign direct investment went to ASEAN member countries, not 3.2 per cent, as previously advised.
- I wish to revoke my comment of 22 September (page 16 of the Proof Hansard) that we do not deal with ASEAN on counter-terrorism. In 2007, we signed the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership which provides a framework for cooperation between Australia and ASEAN, including in relation to security, counter-terrorism and transnational crime. There is a Plan of Action to help implement the Comprehensive Partnership including agreement for increased information sharing, capacity building and strengthening links between counterpart agencies. We remain committed to working with ASEAN members to implement the Plan of Action.

During our hearing sessions, the Committee mentioned its interest in meeting the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, in the course of its Inquiry. Our Embassy in Jakarta has conveyed this to the ASEAN Secretariat, and has been advised that Dr Surin has no plans to visit Canberra in the near future.

We continue to follow the progress of this Inquiry with interest, and look forward to considering the Committee's report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a horizontal line and a long, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

Peter Woolcott  
First Assistant Secretary  
South-East Asia Division