



Review of Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, chaired by Mrs Margaret May MP, will hold a public hearing on Monday 12 September to examine the Treaty on Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Signing up to the Treaty will allow Australia to participate in the East Asia Summit which was established in November 2004 by ASEAN States in addition to Japan, Korea and China. The Summit is expected to canvass a range of economic and political issues relevant to the region.

"Australia already fulfils two of the three criteria necessary for full participation in the East Asia Summit," Mrs May said.

"The third criterion requires being a signatory to the *Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia*. The Committee will review the treaty and examine the benefits or otherwise of signing onto the treaty.

"It is important that this Treaty does not affect our existing treaty commitments including ANZUS and the Five Power Defence Arrangements. Foreign Minister Alexander Downer articulated this in his letter of 13 July 2005."

The public hearing will be held in **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra** on **Monday, 12 September 2005** from **10.00 am**. A public hearing program is attached. The public hearing will be broadcast on the House Monitoring Service on Channel 10, radio frequency 98.3MHz and on the Parliament House website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/live/webcast3.asp#>

Further information about the inquiry is available on the Committee's website:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/9august2005/tor.htm>

MEDIA CONTACTS

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PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM: Treaties tabled on 9 August 2005

Monday, 12 September 2005
10.00 am to 10.30 am
Committee Room 2R1

Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (Denpasar, 24 February 1976) as amended by the Protocol Amending the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (Manila, 15 December 1987) and the Second Protocol Amending the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (Manila, 25 July 1998), With Exchange of Letters recording interpretation of key provisions (Canberra, 13 July 2005/Vientiane, 23 July 2005)