

## DPRK Decides to Dispatch Its Ambassador to ASEAN

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Pyongyang, July 22 (KCNA) -- A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry gave the following answer to a question put by KCNA Friday as regards the DPRK's decision to dispatch its ambassador to ASEAN:

The DPRK has always paid deep attention to the development of relations with ASEAN with a long history and tradition.

ASEAN has emerged a powerful political and economic force promoting regional peace, stability and prosperity on the principle of respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and equality.

Prompted by its desire to contribute to the peace and development of Asia and the rest of the world through the development of relations with ASEAN, the DPRK joined ASEAN Regional Forum in 2000 and acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia in 2008.

The DPRK government decided to dispatch its ambassador to ASEAN to further expand and develop the friendly and cooperative relations with ASEAN as required by the developing reality.

The current step of the DPRK will contribute to boosting the mutual confidence and mutually beneficial cooperation between the DPRK and ASEAN.