

'Let Thailand complete its tenure as the chair. Hand over the hosting of Asean summits to another member'

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The Straits Times, 18 April 2009

I refer to Mr Guo Jin Sheng's letter on Tuesday, 'Thailand should hand over Asean chair'. I think Mr Guo is confusing the difference between 'chair' and 'host'. Asean would do well to let Thailand complete its tenure as the chair of the regional group this year. It will send a clear signal that Asean is united and willing to support Thailand through thick and thin. The best way forward is for Thailand to hand over the hosting of the Asean summits and related meetings to another Asean member or to the Asean Secretariat based in Jakarta. There is nothing wrong if Thailand remains as Asean chair, even if it does not host meetings. I agree with Mr Guo that there should be some urgency in moving forward the region's agenda, given the global economic crisis and the unrest in the Korean Peninsula.