



## **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA SUMMIT**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 22 NOVEMBER 2015**

### ***OUR PEOPLE, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR VISION***

The 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia and was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015. It was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and the President of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Park Geun-hye.

2. The Republic of Korea (ROK) welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Community, which is a culmination of a five-decade long effort of community-building towards a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible Community. The ASEAN Leaders encouraged the ROK to contribute towards the realisation of the vision and goals outlined in *ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together*.

3. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the ROK's continued support for ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, in particular the ASEAN Plus Three, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum as well as its support for the strengthening of the East Asia Summit as it commemorates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015.

4. We noted the significant progress achieved in ASEAN-ROK relations in the 25 years since its establishment in 1989. We expressed optimism that the ASEAN-ROK strategic partnership will continue to be further enhanced and deepened in line with our renewed commitments at the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in Busan, ROK on 11-12 December 2014.

5. We expressed satisfaction with the realisation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Republic of Korea Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015), welcomed the adoption of the new Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2016-2020) and looked forward to its full and effective implementation.

6. We are pleased to note that trade between ASEAN and the ROK remains robust, accounting for 5.2 per cent of ASEAN's total trade in 2014. The ROK was ASEAN's fifth largest trading partner, a position it has maintained since 2010. We welcomed the increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from the ROK to ASEAN, accounting for 3.3 per cent of all FDI into ASEAN in 2014, positioning the ROK as ASEAN's sixth largest source of FDI. While trade and

investment continues to figure prominently, we underlined the need to intensify efforts to further liberalise and remove barriers through the ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Agreement, with a view to achieving two-way trade amounting to USD\$200 billion by 2020.

7. In this regard, we were pleased to note the finalisation of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods (AKTIG) Agreement, which will further facilitate and allow for a more effective implementation of the Agreement. We were also encouraged that our Economic Ministers have agreed on a modality for further liberalisation of products placed in the sensitive track of the AKTIG as a further step to enhance ASEAN-ROK trade.

8. We focused attention on the importance of enhancing participation in the business sector and welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN-ROK Business Council and the ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit at the sidelines of ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in 2014. We agreed that the ASEAN-ROK Business Council should be utilised to further promote cooperation among the private sector and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) including through human resource development and the sharing of best practices as well as its participation in the regional value chain. We welcomed the successful organisation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-ROK Business Council Meeting on 20 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur aimed at further promoting closer collaboration among the business community.

9. In line with this, we also agreed to further discuss the establishment of an ASEAN-ROK innovation centre to promote cooperation on innovation. The Centre aims to enhance innovation capacity, optimise human capital development and improve the capacity and capability of ASEAN MSMEs, enabling them to become an engine of growth for the global economy.

10. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's support for the full operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) as well as the on-going implementation of the second phase of the Work Programme of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) 2013-2015 and the post-2015 AADMER work programme to be launched early next year.

11. We attached great importance to mitigating the impact of climate change on the livelihood of peoples in the region and underlined the importance of sustainable forest management, including through the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation Agreement (AFoCo). We noted on-going dialogue on the establishment of an Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation (AFoCO).

12. We appreciated the continuous cooperation of the ROK towards gender equality and in empowering women in the region. We noted with satisfaction the implementation of various regional projects on the Development and Delivery of Livelihood-based e-Service for ASEAN Women; Strategy for ASEAN Women's Socio-economic Empowerment through ICT Literacy and Leadership Education; ASEAN-Korea Education and Exchange Program for Young Scholars in Women's Studies; and Program on Curriculum Development on "Gender and Development" in the Universities of ASEAN Member States.

13. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the ROK's commitment to supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, including through Public-Private Partnership (PPP), particularly in physical infrastructure, development of information and communications technology and people-to-people connectivity, including by enhancing greater air connectivity and to this end, encouraged the conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial air services agreement with the ROK in support of tourism, trade and investment flows. We also attached great importance to the Mekong-ROK cooperation, which has contributed to narrowing the development divide and enhanced connectivity, thereby contributing to meaningful economic integration.

14. The Leaders also recognised that regional integration and narrowing the development divide are priorities in the ASEAN community-building process and towards that end, looked forward to the ROK's continued cooperation and support for narrowing the development divide in the region, including through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II and its successor document.

15. We commended the role played by the ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting trade, investment, tourism, cultural exchanges, people-to-people contacts and to raise awareness of ASEAN in the ROK, in line with the Centre's vision to build a genuine partnership between the two sides. We encouraged the Centre to create greater synergies with the ASEAN-China and ASEAN-Japan Centres as well as the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) to further deepen integration in the region.

16. We emphasised the importance of enhancing cultural cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK and looked forward to the inauguration of the ASEAN Culture House in Busan in 2017 to further enhance understanding of ASEAN culture in the ROK.

17. We appreciated the ROK's support for the establishment and operationalisation of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC), which will serve as a regional center of excellence in addressing the humanitarian aspects of the explosive remnants of war for interested ASEAN Member States.

18. The Leaders expressed concern over developments on the Korean Peninsula and underlined the importance of peace, stability and security in the region. We registered deep concern over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's ballistic missile launch in May 2015 and emphasised the need to fully comply with all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and for parties to abide by their commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We also called for the creation of necessary conditions for the early resumption of meaningful Six-Party Talks, which would pave the way for the complete and verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. We commended the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea on their initiative of family reunions and stressed the importance of trust-building activities on the Peninsula.

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