



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 13th ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 NOVEMBER 2015

“OUR PEOPLE, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR VISION”

The Thirteenth ASEAN-India Summit was held successfully on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia and was attended by the Heads of State /Government of ASEAN Member States and His Excellency Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. The Secretary General of ASEAN was also in attendance.

2. We had a frank and productive exchange of views on various issues of mutual interest, pertaining to regional and international political and economic issues as well as measures to further strengthen ASEAN-India partnership and the future direction of the relations.

3. India commended ASEAN Member States on the establishment of the ASEAN Community and reiterated its support for ASEAN's efforts in building a region that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible.

4. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed India's initiatives, namely the "Act East Policy" and "Make in India" and noted that the initiatives could complement ASEAN's community building efforts. In that regard, the ASEAN Leaders encouraged India to work with ASEAN to realise the vision and goals outlined in the *ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together*.

5. We noted the significant progress of ASEAN-India dialogue relations, with the implementation of various programmes and activities across the three pillars as outlined in the Plan of Action of the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015). We looked forward to further enhancing ASEAN-India relations through the new Plan of Action 2016-2020 adopted at the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in August 2015, which includes cooperation in such areas as science and technology, renewable energy, food security, tourism, climate change and connectivity.

6. We were satisfied with the steady progress made in ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations since its establishment in 1992. India's active participation and positive contribution in numerous ASEAN-led mechanisms, namely the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) as well as

India's support for the strengthening of the East Asia Summit (EAS) as it commemorates the 10th anniversary in 2015.

7. We welcomed the establishment of the Indian Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta that serves as a testament of India's on-going commitment towards ASEAN. We look forward to greater and enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and India, in steering forward the partnership.

8. We noted that trade and investment relations remain modest despite the implementation of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement in 2010. Despite the large combined market of over 1.8 billion population, the economic potentials of ASEAN and India have yet to be fully tapped by the private sector.

9. We welcomed the agreement reached by the Economic Ministers to review the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement to address the implementation issues and trade facilitation related matters as well as to take into account other negotiations on further liberalisation trade in goods. These products are of major exports interests to both ASEAN and India, and their further liberalisation can lead to growth in ASEAN-India trade. We also acknowledged the role of the ASEAN-India Business Council in helping to overcome these challenges with the effective participation of the business representatives from the respective governments. The Council with the support of the governments could assume a more active role in promoting greater awareness of ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement and engagement among the business communities in both regions.

10. Noting that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement is another major trade initiative which can boost trade and investments in ASEAN, the wider East Asian region and India. We call on all Parties to work towards early conclusion of a balanced Agreement, which is beneficial to all and is comprehensive in nature, by equally ambitious agenda with similar timelines for goods and services.

11. We fully support these initiatives as well as renewed commitments by both sides and are confident that the trade and economic relations between ASEAN and India would advance towards fulfilling the aim set in 2012 for the total trade between ASEAN and India to reach USD100 billion mark.

12. We are also pleased to note various initiatives undertaken by ASEAN and India to promote the ASEAN Connectivity Agenda. We strongly encouraged continuous cooperation between ASEAN and India in this area, in all three dimensions, namely physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity. We looked forward to further discussion on the ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Agreement to strengthen maritime connectivity. We also looked forward to the convening of the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN-India Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements for the further negotiations of an ASEAN-India Air Transport Agreement based on 'open skies' principles covering both air freight and passenger services. We should also continue to utilise existing platforms, such as the Delhi Dialogue, to engage with various stakeholders on exploring processes and practical ways which could further connect the peoples of India and ASEAN. We believe such a platform could provide more opportunities for networking as well as exchanging experience and information among our peoples.

13. The Leaders welcomed India's announcement of a USD1 billion Line of Credit for ASEAN Member States to undertake connectivity related projects under the ASEAN-India Strategic partnership and expressed their interest in availing the Line of Credit to, inter-alia, realise the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity.
14. We also looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) and its early operationalisation. We believed the ASEAN-India Centre would serve as a good platform to promote cooperation in various areas and contribute to strengthening ASEAN-India dialogue relations.
15. We also welcomed the decision made at the 12th ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations on 23 August 2015 for the establishment of a stand-alone ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre (AITIC) for which India has affirmed its readiness to fund its operation on a permanent basis. We are pleased to note that India is currently undertaking domestic procedures for the establishment of the Centre.
16. We acknowledged the recommendation of the 1st International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural Link: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions, held on 23-24 July 2015 in New Delhi, to further expand cultural engagement between ASEAN and India. Accordingly, we encouraged the forthcoming International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural Relations, to be held in January 2016 in Jakarta, to further deepen the understanding and strengthen people-to-people contacts between ASEAN and India.
17. We expressed satisfaction that under the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund, projects in fields of bio-technology, IPRs, Functional Food, Technology Information and Commercialisation Portal have been completed while a number of other projects in the field of herbs, folk medicine, tropical fruit and vegetable processing technology and quality systems in manufacturing, are ongoing.
18. We noted the progress towards setting up of a Tracking and Data Reception Station and Data Processing Facility in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, by the Indian Space Research Organisation.
19. We acknowledged the recommendation of the 1st International Conference ASEAN-India Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (AISTIF), projects in fields of bio-technology, IPRs, Functional Food, Technology Information and Commercialisation Portal have been completed while a number of other projects in the fields of herbs, folk medicine, tropical fruit and vegetable processing technology and quality systems in manufacturing, are ongoing.
20. We are pleased to see the growing number of projects to support the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and Narrowing the Intra-ASEAN Development Gap and look forward to India's greater assistance in strengthening CLMV's capacity in English language training, IT and other specialised technical fields.

21. We emphasised the importance of sustaining our dialogue relations at the highest level and looked forward to the 14th ASEAN-India Summit to be held Lao PDR in 2016.
