

Speech delivered by H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the 47th Commemorating Ceremony of ASEAN Day

(6 August 2014, MICC II)

His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

His Excellency Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,

At the outset, I would like to express my profound gratitude for your presence at this occasion of commemorating the 47th Anniversary of ASEAN.

Since we joined ASEAN in 1997, Myanmar has been commemorating the ASEAN Day every year. And in addition to this tradition, the commemorating ceremony this year is particularly significant, as Myanmar is currently taking the responsibility of the ASEAN Chairmanship. What is more unique is that this auspicious ceremony is held at a time the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings are

convened in Nay Pyi Taw. Therefore, I am delighted to extend a very warm welcome to all the distinguished guests for their presence.

Myanmar's ASEAN Chairmanship falls at a crucial time. We undertake the chairmanship at the time when we are heading toward the timeline of establishing the ASEAN Community by the end of 2015. That entails a heavier responsibility. With its ambitious objectives, ASEAN is working hard to fulfill the interest of peoples in the region. The noble goals of ASEAN to establish Political and Security Community, Economic Community and Socio-Cultural Community are aimed at bringing sustainable well-being of the people in the region.

His Excellency the President has laid down the priority areas for 2014 Myanmar's Chairmanship by which they are relevant to ASEAN's objectives. The current national policies are also in line with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The guidance of the President will contribute both to the development of the country and the region.

The Nay Pyi Taw Declaration issued at the 24th ASEAN Summit in May is based upon the on-going process of ASEAN Community Building and highlighted our priority of narrowing the development gap in the region.

ASEAN Community will be the reflection of merits of the combined strength of mutual cooperation, understanding and common values. The focal ministries of the three Pillars of the ASEAN Community are closely coordinating and cooperating with relevant ministries and for the people to achieve the objectives of the ASEAN Community.

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,

Myanmar will host the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings from 8th to 10th August. The meetings include AMM, the Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings with the dialogue partners. There are also several sub-regional meetings and sideline events and bilateral meetings during the period.

The 47th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting will make assessments and analysis of ASEAN's achievements in community building and its positions and outlook on regional and international issues.

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,

During Myanmar's chairmanship this year, we have successfully hosted the 24th ASEAN Summit and various Ministerial meetings. There will be more Ministerial and

other meetings throughout the year. The most important of all will be the 25th ASEAN Summit which is planned in November. This summit will be attended by ASEAN and the leaders of our dialogue partners.

In light of holding successful ASEAN Meetings in Myanmar, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all our ASEAN Member States and our friends and the ASEAN Secretariat for their support and good will rendered for the successful Chairmanship. We also greatly appreciate the capacity building programmes and technical and logistic assistance that we have received from friends.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

It is very encouraging that awareness and expectations of Myanmar people on ASEAN is growing every day. It is due to the fact that people from the public and private sectors are playing their respective roles to raise awareness of ASEAN in many ways. Such a trend is very much in line with the ASEAN Political and Security Blueprint where ASEAN is aimed to become a people-oriented Community.

I would like to reaffirm Myanmar's determination to be a responsible member of ASEAN. Moreover, it is our aspiration to pave the way for the people of Myanmar to

enjoy the benefits of the peaceful and prosperous ASEAN Community. To achieve our common goal, Myanmar will continue to enhance the amity and cooperation with fellow ASEAN Member States, dialogue partners and other regional countries.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate once again that the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar highly appreciates the support and encouragement of the entire people and all the stake holders in undertaking the ASEAN Chairmanship. I would like to reaffirm that Myanmar will continue to move forward to the full realization of the peaceful and prosperous community in support of our theme for 2014 ASEAN Chairmanship.

I thank you.
