

**Co-Chairs' Statement of the 1st Meeting between the
Committee of Permanent Representatives of ASEAN and
The Ambassadors/Representatives of the Pacific Alliance,
ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, 25 May 2015**

1 The Committee of Permanent Representatives of ASEAN (CPR) and the Ambassadors/Representatives of the Pacific Alliance (PA) held the 1st CPR-PA Ambassadors/Representatives Meeting at the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) on 25 May 2015. The Meeting was co-chaired by Singapore and Mexico on behalf of ASEAN and PA Pro Tempore Presidencies respectively.

2 Following on from the ASEAN-PA Ministerial Meeting in September 2014 in New York, the Meeting exchanged views on a broad range of issues and current developments in both regions. Both sides agreed to foster closer economic cooperation to facilitate trade and investment flows between their respective regions for mutual benefit. The regional economies of the PA and ASEAN are among the fastest growing in the world. To this end, the Meeting recognised the many opportunities for mutually beneficial economic and technical cooperation. The Meeting also highlighted the role that the private sectors, particularly the SMEs, can play to boost inter-regional trade and investment.

3 The Meeting encouraged greater exchanges between both regions through trade missions and business forums. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed Singapore's hosting of the 11th Latin-Asia Business Forum in Singapore in October 2015. The Meeting also exchanged views on opportunities for cooperation in areas which may include energy and minerals, trade facilitation, innovation, logistics, urban infrastructure, SMEs, and agriculture, among others.

4 The Meeting noted the importance of cultivating closer people-to-people ties, to enrich relations and deepen mutual knowledge and understanding between the two regions. In this regard, the Meeting supported greater collaboration in areas such as education, culture, tourism and sports.

5 Both sides exchanged views on recent developments in the Asia-Pacific and Latin American regions. Both sides also took the opportunity to discuss the structure and operations of their respective organisations, so as to facilitate mutual understanding and effective cooperation. The Meeting also expressed hope to further promote cooperation between the two groupings through other frameworks, including FEALAC.

6 The Meeting agreed that it would be useful for both sides to meet to exchange views and follow up on areas of cooperation ahead of future ASEAN-PA Ministerial meetings.

• • • • •