

30th ASEAN-Australia Forum Co-Chairs' Summary

1. The 30th ASEAN-Australia Forum was held in Canberra on 23 May 2018, with the participation of representatives from ASEAN Member States, Australia and the ASEAN Secretariat. This was the fourth Forum since the formation of the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership in 2014 as well as the third Forum since the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015.
2. The Forum was co-chaired by H.E. Richard Maude, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia and H.E. Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Australia thanked Myanmar for its work as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations since 2014.
3. Australia expressed its support for Singapore's ASEAN chairmanship priorities of strengthening regional resilience, deepening economic integration and encouraging innovation, noting the strong link between these and Australia's foreign policy priorities.
4. The Forum welcomed the clear vision for a new era of ASEAN-Australia strategic partnership articulated in the Sydney Declaration adopted by leaders at the historic ASEAN-Australia Special Summit held in Sydney in March 2018. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to intensify shared work to shape a secure and prosperous region for all people. Both sides looked forward to working closely to implement the outcomes of the Special Summit and fifteen supporting initiatives, including those which enhanced the partnership by expanding cooperation into new areas such as digital standards, smart cities, cyber, women peace and security and counter terrorism cooperation.
5. The Forum discussed the concept of the Indo-Pacific, emphasising ASEAN's place at the heart of the Indo-Pacific and ASEAN's important role in ensuring an open, transparent, inclusive, rules-based regional order where the rights of all States are respected. ASEAN Member States and Australia further stressed the importance of working together through ASEAN-led mechanisms to reinforce the rules and norms that underpin our peace, prosperity and resilience. Australia expressed its enduring support for ASEAN centrality.
6. The Forum also discussed the importance of ASEAN-led mechanisms in addressing regional challenges and ways to enhance ASEAN-Australia cooperation at the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM+), and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF). Both sides expressed their commitment to strengthen the EAS as the region's premier leader-led strategic forum.
7. The Forum reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and over flight in the region. The Forum further emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint

in the conduct of activities and avoid actions that may complicate the situation. The Forum reaffirmed the need for states to pursue the peaceful resolutions of disputes, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and to comply with the relevant standards and recommended practices by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). In this regard, the Forum supported full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety and look forward to an early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

8. The Forum reaffirmed support for the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. Both sides welcomed efforts to improve inter-Korea relations and pursue permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula including the recent Summit between the two Korean leaders and the joint Panmunjom Declaration. The Forum also noted the importance of full implementation of all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. Australia informed the Forum that it would continue to assist ASEAN partners with sanctions implementation through capacity building and information-sharing.
9. The Forum discussed the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in the region, including the need to prevent and suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters in the Indo-Pacific region. Both sides looked forward to implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation to Counter International Terrorism signed at the ASEAN-Australia Counter Terrorism Conference on 17 March 2018 and its package of supporting initiatives that will significantly expand and deepen ASEAN-Australia cooperation on these important issues. The Forum strongly condemned recent terrorist attacks that occurred in Surabaya and Pekanbaru, Indonesia on 13, 14 and 16 May 2018.
10. The Forum discussed the strengthening of long-standing cooperation on law enforcement, customs and immigration to counter transnational crime in the region. Both sides welcomed enhanced cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and promote safe, orderly and regular migration in the region including via the AUD80million ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Initiative, building on 15 years of ASEAN-Australia partnership to combat human trafficking, including under the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP).
11. The Forum recognized the importance of promoting and protecting human rights throughout the region and welcomed Australia's increased engagement with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights both via an AICHR-Australia Dialogue at Ambassador-level and through activities such as the study visit of AICHR representatives to Australia in December 2017. The Forum also reaffirmed the importance of promoting gender equality and noted the outcomes of the ASEAN-Australia Women, Peace and Security Dialogue held in Melbourne, Australia, in April.

12. The Forum discussed the situation in Rakhine State, noting it was a complex challenge for the region, and welcomed ASEAN's role in assisting the Myanmar Government to deliver humanitarian assistance to all communities in Rakhine State.
13. The Forum recognised the shared responsibility of promoting continued prosperity in the region, reaffirming their commitment to maintain free and open markets which facilitate flows of goods, services capital and ideas, resist protectionism and uphold the rules-based multilateral trading system. We recognise the benefits of economic integration which is inclusive of and open to all the region's economies.
14. The Forum discussed the work towards a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the benefits RCEP would provide to the region's economic integration efforts and for shared prosperity in one of the world's most dynamic economic regions. The Forum reaffirmed its commitment to intensify efforts towards the swift conclusion of a modern, comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial RCEP.
15. The Forum also reflected on the success of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) in boosting economic ties and supporting ASEAN's regional economic integration. ASEAN welcomed Australia's continued support through the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Program. Both sides looked forward to realising further gains through the second phase of the AANZFTA General Review and noted the importance of providing recommendations to Economic Ministers this year.
16. Australia reiterated its commitment to furthering the ASEAN Economic Community and institutional strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat through the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II and other economic support programs. Both sides discussed the importance of open and competitive economies that benefit all our people through balanced and inclusive economic growth. ASEAN welcomed the ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards Initiative announced at the Special Summit, which will provide a framework to support the development, adoption and use of international digital trade standards. The Forum noted that harmonised international standards applied across our region will reduce the costs for businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises. ASEAN welcomed Australia's continued support to narrow the development gap within ASEAN Member States including through the implementation of Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III.
17. The Forum discussed the critical role of quality, sustainable and transparent infrastructure development, facilitating access to finance, and smart and sustainable urban planning in improving economic growth and integration in our region. ASEAN Member States welcomed Australia's ongoing support for ASEAN's connectivity agenda including through implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. ASEAN Member States expressed their appreciation for Australia's contribution to improving ASEAN connectivity through the ASEAN-Australia Smart Cities initiative which will

complement the ASEAN Smart Cities Network, and through investments in infrastructure and assistance to facilitate trade and improve transport linkages such as the ASEAN-Australia Infrastructure Initiative. The Forum also recognised the value of enhanced connectivity in the wider region, including through possible links between the various connectivity initiatives.

18. The Forum welcomed the further strengthening of people-to-people links between ASEAN and Australia through a suite of new education initiatives announced at the Special Summit, including dedicated New Colombo Plan and Australia Awards scholarships, and continuation of our other highly successful education, sport, arts and cultural exchange programs including the Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships and the ASEAN-Australia Emerging Leaders Program.
19. The Forum reviewed and reaffirmed the substantive progress and achievements made across the three pillars of the ASEAN Community in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership(2015-2019), which was adopted at the ASEAN-Australia Commemorative Summit in Nay Pyi Taw in 2014. Both sides looked forward to review further progress on the Plan of Action, the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership and the outcomes of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit and its Initiatives at the Post Ministerial Conference in Singapore in August 2018 and the next ASEAN-Australia Forum will be held in Malaysia in 2019. The Forum/Meeting noted the value that ASEAN and Australian Leaders' commitment to continue political dialogue and placed on engagement under the Strategic Partnership including regular Biennial Summits.