



## **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA SUMMIT**

**7 September 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

### ***Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community***

The 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit was held on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Thongloun SISOULITH, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and H.E. Park Geun-hye, President of the Republic of Korea (ROK). The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.

2. The ROK welcomed the progress made in ASEAN Community-building following the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's commitment to contribute towards the realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the ROK's continued support for ASEAN's Unity and Centrality in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, in particular the ASEAN Plus Three, the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

3. We noted the significant progress achieved in ASEAN-ROK relations over the past one year and looked forward to the effective implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2016-2020) which would further advance our cooperation.

4. We were pleased to note the well performing trade and investment relations between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in 2015. With total bilateral merchandise trade reaching USD 122.9 billion, and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows from ROK to ASEAN recorded at USD 5.7 billion, ROK remained ASEAN's fifth largest trading partner and ASEAN's fifth largest source of FDI.

5. We were also pleased to note the entry into force of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement (AKTIGA), which will further contribute to the smooth implementation of the Agreement. We were encouraged that the negotiation for further liberalisation of Sensitive Track products under the AKTIGA have commenced

and looked forward to substantive outcomes from the negotiation as a step forward to enhance ASEAN-ROK trade. We hoped that these efforts will help achieve our aim of a two-way trade target of USD 200 billion by 2020.

6. We noted joint efforts in intensifying the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. In view of the large potential of the RCEP to promote global trade and growth, we urged RCEP participating countries to exercise their best endeavour to achieve a modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial agreement.

7. We noted with satisfaction the activities and programmes on sustainable forest management, rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest and capacity building in ASEAN under the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) Agreement, which terminated on 4 August 2016. We also acknowledged and expressed our support for the progress in the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation (AFoCO). The Agreement text for the Establishment of AFoCO was finalized on 22 September 2015. It shall enter into force upon ratification by 5 signatory countries including the ROK.

8. We welcomed the pragmatic proposals of the Korea-ASEAN Business Council to build and enhance growth of MSMEs through dialogue, market research, study visits and sector- and industry-specific networking and collaboration. In this connection, we urged active participation of the business associations in ASEAN to take advantage of the opportunities presented by these proposed collaborations.

9. We highlighted the importance of enhancing participation in the business sector and encouraged the role of ASEAN-ROK Business Council (AKBC) as well as the establishment of the ASEAN-ROK Innovation Centre Network Initiative Supporting Science, Technology and innovation (STI) cooperation aimed at promoting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) cooperation, including human resource development and the sharing of best practices. We welcomed the convening of the 3rd AKBC, on 3 August 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

10. ASEAN welcomed ROK's support for the launch of ASEAN's Tariff Finder Initiative which would allow ASEAN MSMEs' greater access to information as well as the understanding of the ASEAN-led Free Trade Agreements, including ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Agreement.

11. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's support for the operationalization of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and its Work Programme. We encouraged the ROK's support for the realisation of ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disaster as One in the region and outside the region.

12. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed ROK's assistance in disaster risk reduction and mitigation efforts regionally and bilaterally through the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to strengthen capacity to address the impact of climate change, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in mobilizing climate financing.

13. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the ROK's commitment to supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2015, including through Public-Private Partnership (PPP), particularly in physical infrastructure, development of information and communications technology and people-to-people connectivity, and looked forward to ROK's continued support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025. In this context, we welcomed the contribution of the ASEAN-Korea Centre for its organisation of the annual ASEAN Connectivity Forum to facilitate business opportunities and enhance Public-Private Partnership in connectivity projects and its hosting of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Connectivity Forum on 8 November 2016 in Seoul. We also looked forward to deepening cooperation in the area of aviation through the ASEAN-ROK Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements and noted the heightened expectations of ASEAN Transport Ministers for the early conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial air services agreement between ASEAN and the ROK, while noting ROK's view that such development would require sufficient time to discuss.

14. We recognised that regional integration and narrowing the development gap 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 gap between and among ASEAN Member States, through the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III (2016-2020). In this regard, we noted ROK's four presidential initiatives for the implementation of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely Better Life for Girls, Safe Life for All, Science, Technology and Innovation for Better Life and the New Rural Development Paradigm. We also attached great importance to the Mekong-ROK cooperation, which has contributed to narrowing the development gap and enhanced connectivity, and sustainable management of natural resources, thereby contributing to meaningful economic integration.

15. We expressed appreciation to the ASEAN-Korea Centre for its continued contribution and encouraged the enhanced role of Centre in promoting trade, investment, tourism, cultural cooperation and people-to-people contacts between ASEAN and the ROK.

16. We emphasized the importance of enhancing cultural cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK and looked forward to the inauguration of the ASEAN Culture House in Busan as well as the observance of the ASEAN-ROK Cultural Exchange Year in 2017 to further enhance understanding and appreciation of ASEAN culture in the ROK. In line with this, we took note of the ROK's initiative to establish Busan Asian Film School.

17. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed ROK's continued support to enhance friendly relations and promoting people-to-people mobility between ASEAN and the ROK through educational and exchange activities, such as enhancing the capacity of vocational education, the Fostering ASEAN Future Leaders Programme, the ASEAN-Korea Academic Exchange Programme, the ASEAN-Korean Knowledge Exchange Program, and the ASEAN-Korea Forum and Advanced Seminars for 2015 and 2016. We also note with appreciation the Program on Curriculum Development on Gender and Development, ASEAN Cyber University Project, KRIVET Project, the ASEAN-Korea Education and Exchange Program for Young Scholars in Women's Studies, the ASEAN-Korea Future-Oriented Youth Exchange Programme, the ASEAN- Korea Frontier Forum (AKFF), the ASEAN Next Generation Leaders' Visit to Korea, the ASEAN-ROK Film Leaders Incubator as well as ASEAN-KOREA Youth Taekwondo Cultural Exchange Camp.

18. We reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and expressed support for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. We shared serious concerns over the recent developments on the Korean peninsula, including the nuclear test on 6 January 2016 and subsequent launches using ballistic missile technology, including submarine-launch ballistic missile on 23 August 2016 by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which are in violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. We called for the creation of an environment conducive to the resumption of the Six-Party Talks to make further progress in denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. We urged the DPRK to comply with all relevant UNSC resolutions, including the UNSC Resolution 2270 and called on all parties to exert common efforts to maintain peace and security in the said region.

19. We expressed support for the Republic of Korea's Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula and the "Initiative for Peaceful Unification of the Korean Peninsula" as well as the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI) in promoting lasting peace in the Korea Peninsula, as well as cooperation and trust in Northeast Asia.

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