Against the backdrop of ASEAN's successes, the CPR, established in 2009, has served as a lightning rod even as an infant compared to the other existing and long-established organs. The CPR does not only support the improvement of coordination and coherence of all ASEAN Organs and liaison with the ASEAN Secretariat in ensuring the proper functioning of ASEAN, but also plays an important role in broadening and deepening its engagement with relevant stakeholders and external partners to advance ASEAN's agenda of realizing a people-oriented, people-centered Community.

As a Community, ASEAN plays a major and significant role in maintaining regional peace, security, stability and prosperity. ASEAN has shared common interests in the economic development and the meaningful involvement of all ASEAN Member States. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) has played an important part in the formulation of various ASEAN guidelines and engaged actively with various stakeholders, both internal and external. Another important responsibility of the CPR is to work with the coordinating mechanisms of the ASEAN Community pillars to deal with cross-pillar issues. In terms of ASEAN's External Relations, the CPR has taken advantage of its presence in Jakarta by engaging with external partners, particularly with the Ambassadors of Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners and Development Partners of ASEAN in Jakarta. The CPR is also responsible for negotiations of important outcome documents of ASEAN in Jakarta. It is imperative for the CPR in Jakarta to continue to join hands in further strengthening and expanding active partnerships to promote ASEAN Community building.

At this important juncture of the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the CPR in 2019, the CPR will continue to advise its work that will inevitably increase and expand due to the ever-changing regional and global landscape. The CPR will continue its contributions towards the future of a people-oriented, people-centered ASEAN that leaves no one behind.

Contributions of the CPR to the Future of ASEAN

The work of ASEAN over the past half-century has put in place truly remarkable progress for all countries in Southeast Asia, bringing benefits to their people. In the ten years since its creation, the CPR has grown into an integral part of ASEAN, overseeing cross-cutting matters such as ASEAN Connectivity as well as providing a point for engagement with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and other external partners. Looking ahead, I believe that the role of the CPR will continue to evolve as an important mechanism to bridge the three pillars of ASEAN, as well as to strengthen relations with our external partners.

The Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), which comprises Permanent Representatives of ambassadorial rank from all ten ASEAN Member States is based in Jakarta. The CPR was established in 2009, following the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter. Over the last decade, the CPR has continued to discharge its roles and responsibilities covering many issues and multiple layers of the ASEAN structure in line with the ASEAN Charter and its Terms of Reference. To promote ASEAN Community building, the CPR has played an important part in the formulation of various ASEAN guidelines and engaged actively with various stakeholders, both internal and external. Another important responsibility of the CPR is to work with the coordinating mechanisms of the ASEAN Community pillars to deal with cross-pillar issues. In terms of ASEAN's External Relations, the CPR has taken advantage of its presence in Jakarta by engaging with external partners, particularly with the Ambassadors of Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners and Development Partners of ASEAN in Jakarta. The CPR is also responsible for negotiations of important outcome documents of ASEAN in Jakarta. It is imperative for the CPR in Jakarta to continue to join hands in further strengthening and expanding active partnerships to promote ASEAN Community building.

The CPR has played a critical role in the efforts of narrowing the development gap among ASEAN, notably the initiative for ASEAN Integration (AI), which serves as the main platform in narrowing the development gap among the ASEAN Member States and achieving equitable economic development. The ten Permanent Representatives to ASEAN serve as members of the AI Task Force, which promotes policy guidance and directions in the development and implementation of the AI Work Plan, designed to assist Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) to meet ASEAN-wide targets towards narrowing the development gap among the ASEAN Member States. Significant progress has been made in this endeavor thus far.

The CPR will also continue to intensify its engagement with ASEAN sectoral bodies, institutions and various stakeholders through face-to-face interactions in ensuring the broader and urgent mandates that it foresaw in 2009 has indeed carried out towards the full realization of the ASEAN Community and brighter future for the region.

The Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) has played a key role in the ASEAN Community building process, fulfilling its mandate in coordinating cross-pillar issues and ensuring the effective implementation of ASEAN Leaders' decisions. At the same time, the CPR has served as an important channel for dialogue and cooperation between ASEAN and external partners and other stakeholders.

Since its establishment in 2009, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) has played a key role in the ASEAN Community building process, fulfilling its mandate in coordinating cross-pillar issues and ensuring the effective implementation of ASEAN Leaders' decisions. At the same time, the CPR has served as an important channel for dialogue and cooperation between ASEAN and external partners and other stakeholders.

In the years ahead, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN will continue to play a key role in the ASEAN Community building process, fulfilling its mandate in coordinating cross-pillar issues and ensuring the effective implementation of ASEAN Leaders' decisions. At the same time, the CPR has served as an important channel for dialogue and cooperation between ASEAN and external partners and other stakeholders.