

Remarks by H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi
Secretary-General of ASEAN (2018 – 2022)
Handover Ceremony for the Transfer of Office of the Secretary-General of ASEAN
Jakarta, 5 January 2018

Your Excellency Ibu Retno Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia,

Your Excellency Le Luong Minh,

Excellencies the Committee of the Permanent Representatives, Ambassadors, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank Ibu Retno for her presence despite her busy schedule. Allow me to extend my appreciation to His Excellency Le Luong Minh for his valuable contributions as the ASEAN Secretary General for 2013-2017. During his time in office, we have witnessed several historic milestones.

Just last year, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of ASEAN. In 2015, we formally declared the establishment of an ASEAN Community with the adoption of the *Kuala Lumpur Declaration*.

ASEAN's progress over the years has been outstanding. The region enjoys continued peace, stability and security and there has also been rapid growth and development. Globally, ASEAN is emerging as an important economic player.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The constantly evolving global and regional landscape means that the challenges and opportunities facing ASEAN today are different compared to its early days. Current political, economic and social shifts confront us with non-traditional challenges and opportunities across the three Community pillars.

The world is looking at ASEAN, and will measure its success on ASEAN's resilience; how it stays on course in its integration efforts; and how it responds to emerging issues and developments arising from an interconnected world. For these reasons, it is incumbent upon ASEAN to be united and ensure that its work takes into account the realities of the world that we live in today.

Doing this can greatly enhance ASEAN's work to strengthen physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity, and will enable ASEAN to remain the driver for the economic integration process in the region.

Immediate tasks for ASEAN would be to prepare its people for the new technological age and change, and to ensure the region advances towards inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our region is a disaster-prone area, and this underscores the need to strengthen ASEAN cooperation in disaster management and humanitarian assistance. At this juncture, I'd like to express my sympathy on the loss of lives and considerable damage recently on Typhoon Tembin. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the people of the Philippines and to all of those affected.

So there is greater scope for the ASEAN Secretariat to be more proactive and savvy in order to serve ASEAN Member States, and improve our capability to prepare Member States on issues that will affect ASEAN the most.

Therefore, as ASEAN's community building process moves forward, the ASEAN Secretariat must also be able to efficiently assist in the implementation of the respective Community Blueprints.

I will be encouraging greater coordination across pillars; enhance the analytical and research capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat, and galvanize the necessary support to all ASEAN Member States, particularly on issues requiring immediate attention.

While the task that we have in front of us is big, I am confident that ASEAN will continue to prevail as a dynamic region of growth. And in this connection, the ASEAN Secretariat looks forward to further enhance its cooperation with ASEAN's dialogue and external partners, and key institutions as we join hands in building a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN

Community. By working together in the true spirit of ASEAN, we can overcome our challenges, and harness our collective potential.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The greater demand on the role of the ASEAN Secretariat well coincides with the expansion of the ASEAN Secretariat building. Once completed, the new home of the Secretariat will greatly elevate ASEAN's profile as an important institution on the international stage.

I wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for their generosity and full support to the ASEAN Secretariat, especially as we take the next step with the groundbreaking ceremony for the new building later today.

As I assume the role of ASEAN Secretary General, I am committed to build upon the excellent work accomplished by my predecessors, including H.E. the late Dr. Surin Pitsuwan who served as ASEAN Secretary-General from 2008-2012. I take this opportunity to express my deepest condolences for his recent passing. His legacy for ASEAN will be remembered by all.

In concluding, I'd like to say that I am humbled by the trust and privilege ascribed to me to as the new ASEAN Secretary General. Let us work together to bring ASEAN to greater heights.

Thank you and terima kasih.