



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation - Religion - King



Royale Embassy of Cambodia
to France

The Ambassador

Paris, 21 December 2017

H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh
Secretary-General of ASEAN
Jakarta

Dear *Mr. Secretary General,*

Subject: 2017 Annual Report of the ASEAN Committee in Paris

Pursuant to the Rules of Procedures and Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Committees in Third Countries and International Organisations (ACTCs), I have the honour to inform you of the outcomes achieved by the ASEAN Committee in Paris (ACP) in 2017 as follows:

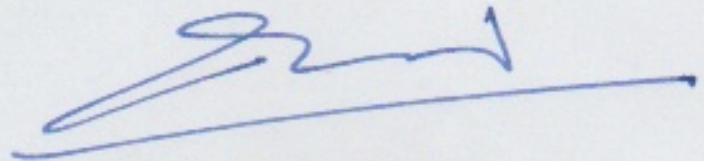
- ACP convened seven meetings. In addition, seven ACP Working Group Meetings were also convened to assist the ACP in the preparation of many activities in the Republic of France. The lists of ACP Working Group and ACP meetings in 2017 as well as the Summary Notes of the ACP Meetings are attached herewith.
- To promote ASEAN's interests and visibility in France, ACP organized many activities including the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN which was held on 16 October 2017 with your high presence and participation. In this regard, in my capacity as the Chair of ACP from November 2017 to February 2018, I would like to express, on behalf of the ACP, my sincere thanks to you for sparing your tight schedule and time with the ACP to celebrate this important event in Paris. The list of ACP Activities in 2017 are enclosed herewith.

In 2018, up to this stage, ACP is planning to undertake the following activities:

- Working Lunch with Mr. Philippe Errera, Director-General of the General Department of International Relations and Strategy (DGRIS), Ministry of Armed Forces, scheduled to be held on 24 January 2018
- ACP Visit to Station F
- Working Lunch with Mr. Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, Minister of State to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Working Dinner with Mr. Gérard Larcher, President of the French Senate
- Working Lunch with Presidents of Friendship Groups of the French National Assembly (10 + 9 Format)
- ASEAN Family Day

Moreover, in order to attract more attention from France to ASEAN, further strengthen and boost effectively cooperation between ASEAN and France, ACP also tasked its Deputy Heads of Mission (DCM) to study an ACP Strategic Paper on ASEAN-France Relations which will be considered and tentatively adopted by the ACP by January 2018 before presenting to the French government for consideration.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Dr. Widhya CHEM

Chairman of the ASEAN Committee in Paris

Cc:

- **H.E. Mr. Sakal Nong**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to ASEAN

ASEAN Committee in Paris

- **H.E. Datin Paduka Malai Halimah Yussof**
Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam

- **H.E. Mr. Hotmangaradja Pandjaitan**
Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia
- **H.E. Mr. Yong Chanthalangsy**
Ambassador of the Laos People's Democratic Republic
- **H.E. Datuk Ibrahim Abdullah**
Ambassador of Malaysia
- **H.E. Mr. Han Thu**
Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- **H.E. Ms. M. Theresa P. Lazaro**
Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines
- **H.E. Mr. Zainal Arif Mantaha**
Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore
- **H.E. Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow**
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand
- **H.E. Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Son**
Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

**ASEAN COMMITTEE IN PARIS MEETING
Wednesday, 15 November 2017
Residence of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia
11 Avenue Charles Floquet 75007 Paris**

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda
2. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Summary Notes of the ACP Meeting held on 24 October 2017 at the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam and Annexes
3. Upcoming Activities
 - 3.1. ACP Working Lunch with Mr. Stève Gentili, President of BRED Group :
15 November 2017 at 13h00 at the Residence of Ambassador of Cambodia
 - 3.2. ACP Farewell Dinner in honour of H.E. Mr. Han Thu, Ambassador of Myanmar,
and H.E. Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Son, Ambassador of Viet Nam : 29 November 2017 at
19h30 at the Hotel Le Maurice
 - 3.3. ACP Visit to Vinci Group : 11 December 2017
 - 3.4. ACP Working Lunch with Mr. Philippe Errera, Director-General of DGRIS (General
Department of International Relations and Strategy) : 24 January 2018
 - 3.5. ACP Visit to Station F
 - 3.6. Working Lunch with Mr. Jean-Batiste Lemoyne, Minister of State to the Minister
for Europe and Foreign Affairs
 - 3.7. ACP Working Dinner with Mr. Gérard Larcher, President of the French Senate : at
Croissy-sur-Seine
4. ACP Strategic Paper on ASEAN-France Relations
5. Exchange of views on the recent political and economic developments in France
6. Other matters

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ASEAN COMMITTEE IN PARIS MEETING 06/17
Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Paris
24 October 2017

SUMMARY NOTES

The sixth ASEAN Committee in Paris (ACP) meeting of 2017 was held on 24 October 2017, presided over by Her Excellency Datin Paduka Malai Halimah Yussof, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to France, and the current Chairman of the ACP.

The Chairman warmly welcomed all the ASEAN Ambassadors and representatives to the meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex A.

1. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

The meeting considered and adopted the provisional agenda (Annex B) without any amendments.

2. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Summary Notes of the ACP Meeting held on 18 September 2017 and Annexes

The meeting agreed to amend item 5 and 6 of the Draft Summary Notes (Annex C).

3. Recent and upcoming activities

Recent:

3.1. Working lunch with Secretary General Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (10 October 2017)

The meeting agreed to discuss item 3.1 and 3.4 together.

Brunei expressed her appreciation for the active participation of those present at the meeting with the Secretary-General and looked forward to the ACP taking up the Secretary-General's offer on having quarterly meetings. She also expressed her regrets for her absence during the lunch with Mr. Mathou.

Malaysia sought the views of ambassadors on the difference of the interests of the representatives of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs during bilateral meetings and ACP meetings.

Thailand shared that the representatives have portrayed a general interest at the ACP meetings and believed that there is genuine interest to learn about ASEAN countries individually and as a group. Thailand concurred to having regular meetings with the representatives.

Singapore reminded the meeting that Mr. Mathou had requested for the ACP to be concrete with the ACP's criticisms of the current role of France vis-à-vis ASEAN and thus suggested that the ACP needed to be distinct in what it wishes France to do. With regards to the regular

meetings, Singapore highlighted the need to come up with important points of discussions for each session.

Philippines suggested for ACP Ambassadors to reach out to their respective counterparts each country as they are more likely to be listened to by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

Malaysia highlighted the need to change ACP's framework of argument – from being a buffer to China or India to how ASEAN itself can benefit France. He expressed the necessity to receive feedback from ASEAN Secretariat on what they would like the ACP to achieve.

Laos agreed that it was necessary for the ACP to frame what we want from France as a regional group and for the holding of regular meetings. He highlighted that it was important to monitor the strategic review of Mr. Mathou and proposed for the ACP to inform one another of any information received about the review.

Vietnam concurred the need to be more aware of the policy of ASEAN-France relations according to the ASEAN Secretariat. He proposed to meet the Director General of Political Affairs and Security and for the Deputy Chief of Missions of ACP to propose others in the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs who would be necessary for the ACP Ambassadors to meet.

3.2. Commemoration of ASEAN 50th Anniversary in 2017 (16 October 2017)

3.2.1. MEDEF Business Forum

The meeting acknowledged that the guests present at the business forum were those who were already present in the region and in that regard, did not gain what it aimed for. The meeting agreed that the forum has provided a useful learning experience on how best to improve ourselves for future events. Suggestions made included to conduct future events in French, organise events outside of Paris as well as for ASEAN to always take the lead in its events.

3.2.1.1. Meeting between ASEAN Secretary-General H.E. M. Lê Luong Minh and M. Pierre Gattaz, President of MEDEF

The meeting was briefed that the ASG highlighted that business are currently more bilateral than as ASEAN as a whole and thus stated the need to find ways to enhance ASEAN-France business relations. In response, Mr. Gattaz agreed the need to boost France business relations with ASEAN as whole and shared that MEDEF will look into the matter and suggested that they may possibly look into organizing a visit to the region again in 2018 and also the possibility of having a dedicated person in MEDEF for ASEAN relations. He highlighted the importance of ASEAN integration in order to ease business relations. Mr. Gattaz also took the opportunity to inform that he was going to be candidate of the next President of BusinessEurope and in that regard, look forward to foster ASEAN-BusinessEurope relations should he succeed.

3.2.2. Evening Reception

October 2017)

Brunei thanked all the Ambassadors for their participation at the lunch with the ASG.

3.4. Working lunch with M. Thierry Mathou, Director for Asia and Oceania at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (17 October 2017)

**discussed together with item 3.1*

3.5. Working lunch with Mr. Steve Gentili, President of BRED Group (13hr00, 15 November)

Cambodia informed the meeting that the next ACP meeting will be held 15 November followed by the working lunch with Mr. Gentili at the residence of H.E. Dr. Widhya Chem.

Upcoming:

3.6. Visit to Vinci Group (11 December 2017)

Cambodia informed the meeting that the revised date and programme of the visit will be shared once available.

3.7. Working Lunch with Mr. Philippe Errera, Director-General of DGRIS (General Department of International Relation and Strategy), Ministry of Armed Forces (24 January 2018)

Cambodia informed the meeting that the details of the working lunch will be shared once available.

3.8. Visit to Station F – January onwards

Brunei informed the meeting that dates are currently being worked out for the visit which may likely take place in January.

4. Pending matters:

4.1. ACP Paper on ASEAN-France Relations

The meeting agreed for the framework of the ACPM Paper to be presented by the next ACP meeting on 15 November 2017.

4.2. Working lunch with Minister of State to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs M. Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne

Brunei informed the meeting that due to the clash of timings in early October, it was not possible to arrange the working lunch with the Minister of State then however, Brunei will continue to work on the dates for the near future.

5. Discussion on the political and economic developments in France

The meeting discussed President Emmanuel Macron's current popularity standing. Thailand noted that the decrease in President Macron's should not be a surprise particularly when considering his initial results and the reforms he has introduced. Thailand stated that President Macron has however succeeded in reforming the labour law and in promoting innovation. Another area of strength is also his revival of the European Union.

Singapore expressed that France currently hold a very good image particularly in Europe. President Macron has been doing well. However it has been noted that is his biggest weakness himself as there are no others that he relies on. Singapore also highlighted that it is interesting to see where France is heading in 2022 with President Macron's current only credible competition being Jean Luc Melanchon.

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Laos stated that President Macrons leadership style is smart and unprecedented with him making his own choice to take control over everything on his own. Laos shared that the country is very much in favour of President Macron is strongly championing multilateralism. Laos believed that it is an opportune time for EU to have President Macron.

Malaysia shared that President Macron is a beacon of hope of France and a man of action with relatively not much opposition when compared to his predecessor.

6. Handover of ACP Chairmanship to Cambodia

The Chairman handed over the ACP Chairmanship to Cambodia and thanked all the ACP members for their support and cooperation in the work of the ACP during the Chairmanship of Brunei. The Chairman also thanked the WG for its hard work in preparing the ACP meeting and events.

On behalf of the ACP, Laos congratulated Brunei for the successful Chairmanship which was filled with substantial discussions and expressed belief that Cambodia will also continue to do so.

7. Other matters

Singapore sought the view of the ACP Ambassadors on their view of having dinner with Gerard Larcher, President of the Senate, in Croissy-sur-Seine to which none of the ambassadors objected. Additionally, Singapore highlighted the need to keep in touch with those that the ACP have met, including Gerard Collomb.

Thailand proposed to have arrange a working lunch with the ambassadors of the ASEAN +3 in based in France.

Concept Paper of the ACP Strategic Paper on ASEAN-France Relations

The ASEAN Committee in Paris (ACP) continuously seeks ways to further advance relations between ASEAN and France across multiple fields through various activities. It has however, over the years, remain a concern that ASEAN is not viewed nor appreciated for its own merits and neither is it a top priority to France. In this regard, the Deputy Chief of Missions (DCM) of the ACP has been tasked to prepare a strategic paper on ASEAN-France Relations which will allow the ACP to reassess its current focus and explore different means of engagement with the country.

The paper will start with a brief introduction and provide latest facts and figures of ASEAN as a regional organisation and highlight the policy of ASEAN-France relations. It will touch upon the work of the ASEAN Committee in Paris (ACP). The paper will then seek to explore how and explain why France should do more in ASEAN. Furthermore, the paper will also specify how ASEAN views France and what ASEAN would like France to do for the region. The paper will share the progress of ASEAN-France relations as well as the level of engagement of the ACP and French officials thus far and discuss the ACP's assessment of it and provide concrete suggestions of how it wishes to progress.

The paper may be used as an official ACP paper which can be shared with our French counterparts for a quick yet comprehensive introductory to ASEAN and in particular, ASEAN-France relations.

Upon consideration of the ACP Ambassadors, the DCM will proceed with the relevant research and seek to provide a first draft of the paper by 15 December 2017.

NON-PAPER BY THE ASEAN COMMITTEE PARIS ON ASEAN-FRANCE RELATIONS

Preamble

1. *Outline key objectives of the non-paper which include the following:*
 - (i) Highlight key areas of cooperation between ASEAN and France
 - (ii) Highlight ASEAN's value proposition for France as a region
 - (iii) Propose new or potential areas of cooperation and suggest ways to increase mutual awareness.

Main Section

2. *Current areas of cooperation between France and ASEAN*
 - (i) Economic relations (cite import/export figures, combined size of ASEAN market, French involvement in key infrastructure projects)
 - (ii) Political/strategic relations (bilateral Strategic Partnerships, multilateral fora such as ASEM, Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, UN)
 - (iii) Cultural cooperation (cooperation in UNESCO, examples of bilateral collaborations between AMS and France, number of French nationals in ASEAN countries, Alliance Française/Institute Français in ASEAN countries)
 - (iv) People to people relations e.g. tourism, education cooperation (number of ASEAN students studying in France, French students studying/working in ASEAN, education exchanges, joint research or education projects)
3. *ASEAN's Value Proposition for France*
 - (i) Potential for French businesses (combined market size of ASEAN, projected GDP of ASEAN, growing middle class, ASEAN offers opportunities for French enterprises to conduct different activities within the value chain within the same region)
 - (ii) Support French foreign policy interests (ADMM+, Anti-Piracy, Freedom of Navigation – ASEAN's support for France's interest to maintain the freedom of navigation in its maritime trade routes, as well as the maritime routes between metropolitan France and its overseas territories e.g. in the Pacific)