

**Welcome Remarks by
Secretary-General of ASEAN
H.E. Dr Kao Kim Hourn**

**Signing Ceremony of ASEAN Foundation-Huawei and
ASEAN Centre for Energy-Huawei**

Nusantara Hall, ASEAN Secretariat, Tuesday, 12 December 2023

Excellency, Ambassador Heng Sarith, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to ASEAN and Chair of Board of Trustees of the ASEAN Foundation,

Excellencies, Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN and ASEAN Foundation Board of Trustees,

Mr. Simon Lin, President of Huawei Asia Pacific,

Dr Piti Srisangnam, Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation,

Dr Nuki Utama, Executive Director of the ASEAN Centre for Energy,

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen, and Friends,

1. Good morning. It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to this signing ceremony this morning for the two Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), between the ASEAN Foundation (AF) and Huawei, and between the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and Huawei.
2. Indeed, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the ASEAN Foundation, the ASEAN Centre for Energy, and Huawei for organising this signing ceremony. I am certain that by working together, in the spirit of cooperation and friendship, they can encourage new ideas, build sustainable solutions, and make a positive difference to the ASEAN Community.
3. When I took the office of Secretary-General of ASEAN back in January 2023, I pledged to prioritise what I called as the “6Ps-strategy”, which consists of ***peace, prosperity, planet, people, partnerships, and potentials***. The signing ceremony today has embodied at least four of my priorities. With the partnership being strengthened through these MOUs, Huawei is committed to cultivate digital potential of our people with the Foundation and safeguarding of our planet with the Centre for Energy. This is something admirable.

4. Certainly, the signing of these MOUs also represents a shared vision and commitment towards a prosperous ASEAN Community. It showcases the collaboration between the public and private sectors via the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. By joining strengths, resources, and expertise, we can speed up research and development to find practical solutions for current and future challenges.
5. Today's MOU signings are the beginning. I am excited to see the tangible outcomes from such collaborations. This partnership will act as a catalyst for a brighter future, fuelled by innovation, collaboration, friendship, and shared prosperity for the people of ASEAN.
6. I encourage both the ASEAN Foundation and the ASEAN Center for Energy to continue their partnerships with the private sector in order to carry out their activities, programs, and projects to serve the people of ASEAN. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Huawei for offering their partnership in working with these two institutions, which are among the key building blocks of the ASEAN Community. They have their roles and responsibilities to work across the different sectors, in particular to reach out to the people of ASEAN and in the area of green transition, respectively.
7. Also in terms of the digital economy, which the ASEAN Economic Ministers have started negotiations on the Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) and will be a big undertaking, we hope that partnerships with institutions in the private sector will make a positive contribution.

Thank you.