



SG Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN

**Pre-recorded Remarks at the Spring Festival
by The People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China &
Mission of People's Republic of China to ASEAN**

5 February 2026 | ASEAN Secretariat/ Headquarters, Jakarta, Indonesia

H.E. Wang Qing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to ASEAN,

H.E. Sarah Devadason, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to ASEAN, and Country Coordinator for ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations,

Excellencies, Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States to ASEAN,

Ambassadors of the ASEAN External Partners,

Representative from The People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China,

H.E. San Lwin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the ASEAN Secretariat/ ASEAN Headquarters

While I regret that I cannot be with you in person today, I am very pleased to join you in celebrating this joyful Spring Festival. I would like to express my appreciation to the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China and the Mission of the People's Republic of China to ASEAN for organising this wonderful occasion.

In the same spirit, the ASEAN Secretariat is pleased to open its premises to support activities of the ASEAN family, as well as our external partners who have been actively contributing to ASEAN's community-building efforts.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Spring Festival marks the beginning of a new year according to the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. Over time, it has evolved into a global celebration, and its inscription on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of

Humanity in 2024 recognises the richness of this shared human heritage—expressed through customs, traditions, knowledge, and vibrant cultural performances.

Across ASEAN, the Spring Festival, or Lunar New Year, is celebrated in many Member States, including Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam. Each country has embraced it in unique ways: Imlek in Indonesia, Tsinoi New Year in the Philippines, and the Lunar New Year as called as Tết in Viet Nam. These celebrations, whether marked by family gatherings, festive performances, or community events, remind us of the deep human connections that transcend borders.

These shared traditions highlight how cultural practices evolve, interacting with local wisdom to create new expressions that enrich both the tradition itself and the communities that celebrate it.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Under the ASEAN Vision 2045: Our Shared Future, ASEAN remains committed to nurturing a community that takes pride in its identity and assumes ownership of the preservation, conservation, and value creation of its cultural heritage, arts, and traditions, while also promoting cultural and creative industries.

In line with this, the 17th ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting for Culture and Arts plus Three, including China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, held on 19 November 2025 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, reaffirmed the shared commitment to advancing regional cooperation in culture, arts, and creative industries. This cooperation strengthens cultural exchanges, promotes mutual understanding, and contributes meaningfully to ASEAN's regional community-building efforts.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Spring Festival at the ASEAN Secretariat is part of ongoing efforts to enliven our Headquarters through a range of cultural and promotional activities, showcasing the work and engagement of ASEAN centres, entities, and partners. In this spirit, I warmly invite all ASEAN partners to support and participate in these initiatives, translating our shared vision into meaningful collaboration.

As we celebrate today, we are reminded of the joy and energy these traditions bring to communities across ASEAN—from the dazzling lion dances in Malaysia and Singapore, the festive gatherings in Indonesia and the Philippines, and the colourful Tết flower markets in Viet Nam. As we welcome the Year of the Horse, let us embrace the vitality, grace, and forward momentum this noble animal represents. May this festival fill your hearts with joy, your homes with laughter, and your year with the spirited optimism of more journeys ahead.

Let us gallop together into this new year with hope, resilience and unity, celebrating the rich tapestry of traditions that connect ASEAN and China.
Thank you.
