



Welcoming Remarks

**by H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN
at the
Policy Speech by His Excellency Anutin Charnvirakul
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand**

ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat, 4 August 2026

Your Excellency Anutin Charnvirakul, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand,

Excellencies, Distinguished Members of the Royal Thai Government accompanying His Excellency the Prime Minister,

Excellencies, Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States,

Excellencies, Ambassadors of ASEAN's External Partners,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A Good Morning.

1. It is my distinct honour and great privilege to warmly welcome His Excellency Anutin Charnvirakul, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, to the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat. Your Excellency's visit is a testament to Thailand's steadfast commitment to ASEAN and offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on our shared journey while hearing Thailand's vision for ASEAN's continued evolution.
2. Thailand has played a defining role in ASEAN's history since its founding. It was in Bangkok, on 8 August 1967, that the ASEAN Declaration – or the Bangkok Declaration – was signed by the five founding Member States, laying the foundation of our shared journey of regional cooperation, integration and Community-building. Thailand has since remained a steadfast contributor to ASEAN's development and transformation – advancing regional connectivity, deepening economic integration and promoting sustainable development, while consistently supporting initiatives that strengthen our institutions and foster a more inclusive and resilient ASEAN Community.
3. Building on this distinguished legacy, Thailand is well placed to make an important contribution to ASEAN's future direction, and to advancing a region that is more

integrated and more peaceful, more resilient and more responsive to the aspirations of its peoples.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Prime Minister Anutin's visit is indeed historic and comes at an important juncture, as ASEAN navigates a complex strategic environment shaped by geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation, supply chain challenges, technological change, climate pressures, and disruptions to trade, food and energy security. Of course, has ASEAN been facing both internal and external challenges. These realities sharpen the importance of ASEAN unity, Centrality and of our collective capacity to respond effectively to the evolving needs of our peoples. They also remind us that our strength rests on peace, mutual respect, restraint, and the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law, the ASEAN Charter, and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), in which we are celebrating the 50th anniversary this year.
5. At the 48th ASEAN Summit, Your Excellency articulated the "3Rs" — Regionalism, Resilience and Relevance — as strategic priorities for this evolving landscape. We are honoured to hear Your Excellency elaborate on these priorities and share Thailand's vision for ASEAN in today's Policy Speech.
6. As we implement *ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future*, our institutions must remain adaptive, relevant, and fit for purpose, addressing today's complex and multidimensional challenges while advancing ASEAN's long-term priorities and interests, particularly peace, prosperity, planet and people. The ASEAN Secretariat stands fully committed to supporting Thailand and all ASEAN Member States in this endeavour.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Allow me, once again, to express our sincere appreciation to Prime Minister Anutin for honouring the ASEAN Secretariat with his historical presence today. It is now my great honour to invite His Excellency Anutin Charnvirakul, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, to deliver his Policy Speech on the Future of ASEAN.
8. Your Excellency, the floor is yours. Thank you very much.