



H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN

**Special Remarks at the
59th ASEAN Day Reception hosted by the Ambassador of the Republic of
Indonesia to the Federative Republic of Brazil and Chair of the ASEAN
Committee in Brasília**

18 August 2026, Official Residence of the Ambassador of Indonesia in Brasília

***Your Excellency Andhika Chrisnayudhanto, Ambassador of the Republic of
Indonesia to Brazil and Chairperson of the ASEAN Committee in Brasília,***

***Your Excellency Susan Kleebank, Secretary for Asia and the Pacific of the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs of Brazil,***

Your Excellency Henrique Ferraro, Ambassador of Brazil to ASEAN,

Excellencies, Members of the ASEAN Committee in Brasília,

***Excellencies, Distinguished Government Officials and Members of the Diplomatic
Corp,***

Esteemed Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good evening. Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the ASEAN Committee in Brasília (ACB) for bringing us together today on the Occasion of the 59th ASEAN Day. My special thanks go to His Excellency Ambassador Andhika Chrisnayudhanto, Ambassador of Indonesia to Brazil and Chair of the ACB for his gracious hospitality in hosting us this evening.

Ten days ago, on 8 August, we celebrated ASEAN Day at the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. Tonight, some 16,000 kilometres away, it is a particular pleasure to continue that celebration here in Brasília, together with our ASEAN colleagues, friends and partners in Brazil. At the ASEAN Headquarters that day, His Excellency Sugiono, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, delivered the ASEAN Day Address, and His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., President of the Philippines and Chair of ASEAN 2026, delivered the Chair's Message. We also marked another significant milestone for ASEAN this year: the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), which remains an important foundation for peace, stability and cooperation in our region.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we celebrate ASEAN Day here tonight, these occasions offer us an opportunity to reflect on ASEAN's journey over nearly six decades and on the principles that have sustained the organisation through a changing regional and global landscape. From its five founding members, ASEAN has grown into a community of eleven Member States, while remaining committed to dialogue, mutual respect, cooperation, and the peaceful resolution of differences. These principles have enabled ASEAN to promote peace, stability and prosperity in Southeast Asia and to build constructive partnerships well beyond the region.

The continued relevance of these principles is also reflected in ASEAN's growing network of partners. ASEAN now has 12 Dialogue Partners, 10 Sectoral Dialogue Partners and 5 Development Partners. The TAC now has 62 High Contracting Parties from all corners of the globe. ASEAN is also supported by a broad diplomatic community, with 97 Non-ASEAN Ambassadors accredited to ASEAN. Through ASEAN-led mechanisms, ASEAN continues to bring together countries with diverse interests and perspectives, reinforcing the importance of ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture.

It is in this broader context that we attach great importance to our relationship with Brazil. Brazil is a key partner for ASEAN in Latin America, and there is considerable scope to further develop mutually beneficial cooperation between our two regions.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ACB has an important role in this regard. As one of 56 ASEAN Committees in Third Countries and International Organisations worldwide, the ACB helps strengthen ASEAN's collective presence and engagement abroad. Through its engagement with the Brazilian government, business, academic and research communities, the Committee has contributed to raising awareness of ASEAN and identifying opportunities for closer cooperation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

ASEAN-Brazil relations have made significant progress in recent years. Brazil acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in 2012 and became an ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partner in 2022. Brazil subsequently appointed a dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN and established its Mission to ASEAN in 2023. Next year will mark the fifth Anniversary of the ASEAN-Brazil Sectoral Dialogue Partnership. This provides an opportunity to take stock of what we have achieved together and to consider how we can further strengthen the partnership.

The momentum in our relations was evident in 2025, with President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva making the first visit by a Brazilian Head of State to the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat in October, followed by his participation as Guest of the Chair at the 47th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur. These were significant milestones in the ASEAN-Brazil relationship. Cooperation under the ASEAN-Brazil Practical Cooperation Areas 2024–2028 is also gaining momentum, with initiatives being pursued across priority sectors. Our economic ties continue to grow, with Brazil now ASEAN's 13th largest trading partner, while ASEAN is Brazil's fifth largest trading partner.

Brazil's application for Dialogue Partnership status, currently under ASEAN's consideration, further demonstrates its strong interest in deepening engagement with ASEAN and exploring new areas of cooperation. And I want to add that now, the eleven ASEAN Member States have already endorsed for the full assessment of the Dialogue Partnership request to be conducted by the ASEAN Secretariat to move forward.

There is considerable potential to build on this positive trajectory. As a leading voice of the Global South, Brazil and ASEAN can work together in support of dialogue, multilateralism and inclusive cooperation, as well as peace, stability and prosperity in our respective regions and beyond.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We welcome Brazil's support for ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms, as well as its commitment to advancing the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) through practical cooperation. There is also significant scope to expand cooperation and collaboration in trade and investment, the digital economy, innovation, connectivity, tourism, food security, public health, renewable energy, climate action and sustainable development. In fact, given the energy crisis due to the situation in the Middle East, this is one of the primary areas where ASEAN is interested in working with Brazil.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year's ASEAN Day also comes as ASEAN begins a new chapter with the implementation of *ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future*. Realising this vision will require strong and constructive partnerships, including with Brazil.

ASEAN and Brazil may be separated by geography, but our engagement over the years has shown that distance need not limit the depth and scope of a partnership. From Southeast Asia to Latin America, we share an interest in a more peaceful, stable, open and prosperous international environment.

The growing ties between ASEAN and Brazil demonstrate what can be achieved when we continue to reach across regions, build understanding and find areas where our interests converge.

As we look ahead, I am confident that the partnership between ASEAN and Brazil will continue to develop, and that the ACB will remain an important bridge between our two regions. I encourage the Committee to continue its proactive efforts to foster dialogue and identify new opportunities for cooperation. I also welcome the continued support of the Brazil-ASEAN Joint Parliamentary Front in further strengthening the strategic engagement and enhancing cooperation between ASEAN and Brazil.

I look forward to seeing the ASEAN-Brazil partnership continue to deepen in the years ahead, and to the many opportunities we will have to work together for a more connected, resilient and prosperous future for our two regions.

With that, thank you very much and have a good evening.
