



**THE FOURTEENTH EAS ECONOMIC MINISTERS' MEETING
21 September 2026, Manila, Philippines**

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Fourteenth East Asia Summit (EAS) Economic Ministers' Meeting was held on 21 September 2026 in Manila, Philippines. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Ma. Cristina A. Roque, Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry of the Philippines.

2. The Meeting noted that based on ASEAN's preliminary statistics, the combined nominal GDP of EAS participating countries amounted to USD 69.6 trillion in 2025. The Meeting also noted that ASEAN's two-way merchandise trade with non-ASEAN EAS participating countries stood at USD 3.07 trillion in 2025, whilst foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows from non-ASEAN EAS participating countries to ASEAN was recorded at USD 83.2 billion in the same year.

3. The Meeting exchanged views on regional and global economic developments, as well as the importance of keeping trade corridors open to facilitate trade flows, including energy supplies and other essential goods. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to adhering to international law and strengthening engagement in the promotion and implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo Pacific (AOIP), through economic cooperation which would contribute to the maintenance and promotion of peace, security, stability, and prosperity in the region. The Meeting further stressed the importance of fostering economic cooperation between ASEAN and EAS participating countries, including to strengthen regional economic resilience. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of trade and investment and advancing supply chain resilience. In this regard, the Meeting further reaffirmed the importance of dialogue and the shared resolve to constructively address trade concerns.

4. The Meeting commended the continuous research support that the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) contributes to economic integration in the East Asian region and addressing emerging challenges. The Meeting noted ERIA's report on Powering the EAS Region's Next Wave of Growth: An Integrated Approach to Energy Security and Industrial Clusters which recommended coherent regional strategy to support the alignment of energy infrastructure, industrial and digital demand, and trade and investment policies in support of regional energy integration, economic resilience, and economic growth. The Meeting recognised the importance of adequate and reliable energy supply in achieving energy security, access and affordability, and stressed the importance of accelerating collaborative efforts in regional initiatives such as the ASEAN Power Grid.

5. The Meeting recognized the importance of the WTO to advance trade issues and acknowledged the agreed upon rules in the WTO as key to facilitating global trade. The Meeting recognized the WTO has challenges and needs meaningful reform to improve its functions. The Meeting commended efforts to deepen discussions in the WTO on contemporary trade issues.

6. The Meeting welcomed Timor-Leste's accession as the 11th Member State of ASEAN and looked forward to its closer engagement in all EAS meetings and economic cooperation mechanisms. The Meeting acknowledged Timor-Leste's continued efforts to advance its effective participation and full integration to ASEAN, including through the implementation of its ASEAN economic commitments in the *Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN*. In this regard, the Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to continue providing the necessary capacity-building and technical assistance to support Timor-Leste's effective integration into the regional economy.
