



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

PRIME MINISTER

Congratulatory Message

from

His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the
Philippines and Chairman of ASEAN,

To His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the
Republic of India, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary
of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations

As Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and on behalf of its Member States, it is my distinct honor to convey our congratulations to the Government and People of the Republic of India on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.

Since the forging of ASEAN-India sectoral dialogue partnership on 28 January 1992, we have elevated the relationship to a strategic level, partnering in groundbreaking initiatives across political-security, economic, and socio-cultural pillars for mutual benefit. In the last 25 years, ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations have contributed to the maintenance of peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

ASEAN and India have further strengthened their cooperation, partnership and mutual trust through India's active involvement in various ASEAN led mechanisms, including the ASEAN-India Summit, East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN-India Post Ministerial Conference (PMC), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and other senior official meetings and engagements. India's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 08 October 2003 demonstrated its strong commitment to peace and stability in the region and to the development of friendly relations with ASEAN Member States.

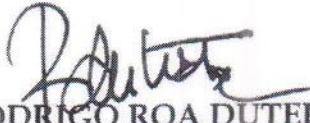
THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

In terms of economic cooperation, India is one of ASEAN's top ten trading partners. We look forward to further invigorating trade and investment relations through direct investments and a more robust trade in goods and services. There is greater potential for this through our ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement as well as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. We also appreciate India's commitment of a USD 1 billion line of credit for ASEAN Connectivity projects and await the development of modalities for utilizing this mechanism. We welcome India's support for ASEAN's efforts in narrowing development gaps between and within ASEAN Member States through various capacity building programmes under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), and look forward to India's continued commitment in this regard.

We laud India's commitment to strengthen ASEAN-India people to people ties through the annual Delhi Dialogue; ASEAN-India Student Exchange Programmes; Indian scholarship programmes for ASEAN students; Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats; ASEAN-India Young Farmers Exchange Programme; ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme; and the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks. We appreciate India's support for the establishment and early operationalization of the ASEAN-India Center to further strengthen cooperation.

ASEAN welcomes a more productive partnership with India in years to come, cognizant of its historical and cultural ties with ASEAN Member States, and its growing contribution to the fulfillment of our common goal of peace, security, progress, and shared prosperity. We look forward to further strengthening the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership which would contribute towards the realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration as we look forward to broader ASEAN-India engagement at all levels for the benefit of our countries, peoples, and the region.


RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE