



PRIME MINISTER

**SPEECH OF
H.E. THE PRIME MINISTER OF
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO**

AT THE 3rd ASEAN – AUSTRALIA SUMMIT

Jakarta, Indonesia, 7th September 2023

Thank you, Co-Chairs.

Your Majesty,

Honourable Leaders of ASEAN,

Honourable Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I appreciate the Chair of ASEAN for inviting Timor-Leste to attend this important meeting and for the opportunity to deliver my brief remarks.

As a close neighbour of both Australia and many ASEAN nations, Timor-Leste is delighted to see the positive partnership between ASEAN and Australia.

Australia is one of the major contributors to the development of Timor-Leste's nation-building and state-building.

We also appreciate Australia for providing the opportunity to thousands of Timorese to gain skills and work experience in Australia through its labor scheme program.

We thank Australia for the strong support for Timor-Leste's ASEAN accession and its commitment in assisting Timor-Leste to implement the roadmap for our accession to full ASEAN membership.

I would also like to thank ASEAN and Australia for the concrete and excellent collaborative effort done thorough the leadership of Lao PDR and Australia to support Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN. With the support from Australia, many of our government officials have attended capacity building programs for ASEAN in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Finally, we appreciate the contribution of Australia to ASEAN Community-building, development cooperation efforts, and the priorities of ASEAN in 2023 under the theme of "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth".

Thank you, Co-Chairs.