



PRIME MINISTER

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

AT THE 24th ASEAN – THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA SUMMIT

Jakarta, Indonesia, 6th September 2023

Thank you Chair for the opportunity to deliver my remarks.

Your Majesty

Honourable Leaders of ASEAN,

Honourable President of the Republic of Korea,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank the Co-chairs for providing me the opportunity to deliver these brief remarks and to have observed directly the positive dialogue between ASEAN Leaders and the Republic of Korea.

I would also like to congratulate Vietnam for the excellent work as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Republic of Korea Dialogue Relations.

As the leader of the 9th Constitutional Government of Timor-Leste, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Republic of Korea for its friendship and development support to Timor-Leste.

We admire and seek to learn from the Republic of Korea's development success.

We are grateful for your support for our goal of food security.

We are also grateful for the opportunity the Republic of Korea has given thousands of our young people to access its 'Employment Permit System'.

Our young people speak highly of their Korean employers and value the experience of living in your country.

The Republic of Korea and Timor-Leste have established a genuine development partnership since the restoration of our independence.

We highly appreciate the support for our accession to ASEAN and we are looking forward to strengthening our partnership in the future. Timor-Leste as a prospective full member of ASEAN, continues to seek to understand the ways and relationship

that ASEAN has with its partners including with the Republic of Korea. We deeply appreciate the unwavering support from all the ASEAN Members States throughout our accession process and is committed to continue to work with ASEAN and the Republic of Korea in this endeavor.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.