



**PRIME MINISTER**

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

**AT THE 43rd ASEAN – CHINA SUMMIT**

**Jakarta, Indonesia, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Thank you Chair for the opportunity to address this forum.

Your majesty

Honourable Leaders of ASEAN,

Honourable Premier of the People's Republic of China,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been an honour for me to observe the ASEAN and China partnership at this ASEAN-China Summit meeting.

As the leader of the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the People's Republic of China for your friendship and development support.

The People's Republic of China has contributed to our country by supporting the building of essential power and transport infrastructure. We look to China as a model of sustainable and inclusive development.

We also appreciate China's support for our accession to ASEAN.

Timor-Leste will work bilaterally, and through ASEAN, to strengthen our partnership with China in the future.

Timor-Leste welcomes ASEAN and China's reaffirmation in this forum of your mutual commitments to strengthen the relationship in line with the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

China's reaffirmation of its commitment to support ASEAN Centrality will help ensure the region remains the epicentrum of global growth.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.