



**PRIME MINISTER**

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

**AT THE 18<sup>th</sup> EAST ASIA SUMMIT**

**Jakarta, Indonesia, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

[The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a forum that brings together leaders from ASEAN and its eight dialogue partners: Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the United States.]

Thank you, Mr. Chair

Your Majesty

Distinguished Heads of Delegations of the East Asia Summit,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I wish to thank the Chair of ASEAN for the invitation to participate as observer at this 18<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit Meeting.

I commend the Leaders of East Asia Summit Participating Countries for the successful convening of this Summit as an important Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in the region and beyond.

I congratulate ASEAN for initiating the East Asia Summit – a vitally important platform that brings all the world’s major powers together to focus on strategic issues affecting our region. This kind of dialogue is crucial to the increasing geopolitical tensions and power rivalry.

Timor-Leste supports ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture and, at this critical juncture where current global security environment rests unpredictable, ASEAN and its ASEAN-led mechanisms including the EAS remains effective platforms for dialogue and cooperation.

Timor-Leste hopes this forum continues to provide an avenue for positive dialogue with world leaders focused on our region, particularly the devastating impact of climate change in our region.

It was pleasing to see from all of Your Excellencies deliberations, a strong manifestation of on-going commitments to concretely supporting ASEAN Centrality and ways to maintain the role of the region as the epicentrum of global growth.

As prospective full member, Timor-Leste's engagements with the ASEAN and its member states as well as with the ASEAN partners in this process of our full integration into the ASEAN family will continue to strengthen our support for the ASEAN's Centrality and unity.

In this regard, Timor-Leste deeply appreciates the unwavering supports from all the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Partners on our accession to ASEAN. Timor-Leste is looking forward to work together with the East Asia Summit Participating Countries for the eventual full membership in the future.

Finally, I want to reiterate that Timor-Leste shares the values of all nations that respect and uphold the principles of democracy and human rights and uphold the international law in the conduct of international relations.

I thank you Chair for this great opportunity.