



PRIME MINISTER

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

AT THE 20th ASEAN – INDIA SUMMIT

Jakarta, Indonesia, 7th September 2023

Thank you, Co-Chairs

Your Majesty

Honourable Leaders of ASEAN,

Honourable Prime Minister of India

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to have observed the positive dialogue in this ASEAN-India Summit and to witness the progress of the partnership evolving under the theme of ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth.

We acknowledged the excellent work by Singapore as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. The partnership between ASEAN and India continued to solidify over the years.

We commend the steady progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action and we are confident that the partnership will be even more mutually beneficial in the coming years. Timor-Leste welcomes ASEAN and India renewed commitment in this meeting to intensify their longstanding relations.

We hope that under the theme of “ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth,” the partnership between ASEAN and India will strengthen and progressed. As a prospective member of ASEAN, Timor-Leste is looking forward to intensify our engagement with ASEAN and India for the eventual full membership in ASEAN in the future.

As an advocate for democracy and human rights, Timor-Leste is also keen to build its strong relations with ASEAN and India to achieve a common goal of stability and prosperity in the region and globally.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.