



**PRIME MINISTER**

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

**AT THE 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN – JAPAN SUMMIT**

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

Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to deliver my remarks.

Your Majesty

Honourable Leaders of ASEAN

Honourable Prime Minister of Japan,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank the Co-chairs for providing me the opportunity to deliver these brief remarks and to have observed the positive partnership between ASEAN and Japan.

I extend congratulations to the Head of Delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand for your excellent work as Country Coordinator for promoting ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Japan's long-term assistance in support of Timor-Leste's goals to improve infrastructure and diversify our economy.

Japan has also consistently supported our efforts to join ASEAN and is providing assistance regarding human resource development.

Timor-Leste will be honoured to attend the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation in December this year.

ASEAN-Japan relations have made remarkable progress since 1973.

Japan has made every effort to build relations of mutual confidence and trust with ASEAN Member States and is clearly as committed as ASEAN to peace and prosperity in the region.

Timor-Leste commends the steady progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action.

We believe that under the theme of “ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth,” the ASEAN- Japan partnership will continue to thrive.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.