



**P R I M E
M I N I S T E R**

**GENERAL STATEMENT ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO**

**IN THE OCCASION OF THE 25th ASEAN – REPUBLIC OF
KOREA (ROK) SUMMIT**

Vientiane, Lao PDR

10 October 2024

Your Excellency Sonexay SIPHANDONE,

Your Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea,

Honourable Leaders of ASEAN,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to make some brief remarks about the partnership between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea, on behalf of the Government of Timor-Leste.

Firstly, congratulations on the progress achieved in the implementation of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Plan of Action.

Relations between Timor-Leste and the Republic of Korea date back to before our independence when Korea contributed international peacekeepers.

Since independence, Timor-Leste has benefited from multiple projects supported by the Republic of Korea in areas such as education, health, gender equality, and capacity building, all of which support our preparation for full ASEAN membership.

We are also grateful for the employment opportunities provided to approximately 1,000 Timorese workers dispatched to Korea each year significantly contributing to our socio-economic development and strengthening cultural ties between our nations.

The partnership between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea, and bilateral relations between Timor-Leste and Korea, have been mutually beneficial and robust.

We look forward to deepening our cooperation and are committed to working together to achieve our shared goals.

Thank you.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão