

**VIDEO MESSAGE OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF INDONESIA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE ASEAN DAY CELEBRATION  
(PRE-RECORDED)**

**8 August 2020**

-----

***Excellencies,  
ASEAN Colleagues,  
Secretary General of ASEAN, Dato' Lim Jock Hoi  
Dear friends,***

The late Indonesian Foreign Minister, Ali Alatas once said...there were too many skeptics who predicted the collapse of ASEAN.

The skeptics believe that the wide divergence of views among us...made it difficult for ASEAN to survive the tests of time.

Yet here we are...standing ever stronger and forging even deeper relation....53 years after the Bangkok Declaration.

In 1967, our founders envisioned...that in the face of “common problems...we need to further strengthen the bond of regional solidarity and cooperation”.

Indeed...the COVID-19 pandemic has put the ASEAN values of solidarity and cooperation to the test.

But since the start of the outbreak, ASEAN has been quick to respond...from sharing information...to facilitating repatriation of citizen; from keeping trade moving...to helping those who are in need.

Support from our external partners is also essential...in building our regional health resilience and preparedness.

This crisis has shown that being inward looking is not an option.

Cooperation and collaboration are central to ASEAN response to the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

***Colleagues,***

The road ahead is not getting any easier.

COVID-19 will leave profound impacts to the world as we know it. Global economy is suffering. The threat of virus infection showed no signs of slowing.

All of these...while rivalries between great powers are intensifying. Trust between countries are diminishing. The virtue of international cooperation is being questioned.

The strength of our values is tested once more.

To survive this crisis, we must take responsibility to each other.

We must work together to revive our economy...to restore jobs...rebuild market confidence...including by re-establishing essential travels...gradually and carefully

We must also work together to maintain our regional peace and stability...not to be dragged into the storm of geopolitical tension...or being forced to choose sides...

Therefore, we must stay ahead of the curve...to maintain our centrality.... maintain our relevance... and be at the driving seat in turning rivalry into cooperation...distrust into strategic trust.

The ASEAN values must continue to be our guiding principles, including the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

### **Colleagues,**

Finally, I wish to recall to exactly a year ago...when President Joko Widodo officiates the new ASEAN Secretariat Building.

He expressed his vision of a NEW ASEAN...an ASEAN that delivers to its people...an ASEAN that is agile...an ASEAN that is fit to face future challenges.

Now it is our task to make it fit for purpose....to withstand the challenges over the next half a century.

I believe that if we continue...carrying the wisdom of our founders of SOLIDARITY and COOPERATION...we can emerge stronger from this crisis.

**Please Check against Delivery**

HAPPY ASEAN DAY.

LONG LIVE ASEAN.

\*\*\*\*\*