



ASEAN Newsletter

ASEAN Committee in Ankara—Newsletter

Issue No. 3

A publication by the ASEAN Ankara Committee



ASEAN 2021 Under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
2021

Brunei Darussalam is Chair to ASEAN from 1 January to 31 December 2021, under the theme **“We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper.”** The theme portrays ASEAN’s collective commitment to care for its people and prepare for future opportunities and challenges, with the goal of ensuring that the whole ASEAN Community can sustainably prosper.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam’s Chairmanship’s **broad priorities** are to:

- Harness the caring nature of ASEAN to build a harmonious and resilient Community with people at its centre.
- Prepare and adapt for the future to ensure ASEAN remains relevant and its people can take advantage of the new opportunities, as well as overcome existing and future challenges.
- Create opportunities for people to benefit through initiatives that enhance the sustainable prosperity of the region.

In order to realise these broad priorities, we **shall promote a strategic and holistic coordinated approach** to address relevant emergencies, economic crises, disasters and disruptions that may face the ASEAN Community.

With regards to ASEAN’s overall work in 2021, we **shall uphold ASEAN’s principles**, continue work towards achieving the **ASEAN Community Vision 2025** and strengthen ASEAN’s institutions.

We will also **implement the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework** to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, cooperate on vaccines and enable a swift recovery.

In doing so, we will also work with external partners and utilize ASEAN-led mechanisms including the ASEAN Plus Three and the East Asia Summit to strengthen the region’s resilience to future health emergencies, advance work towards a regional recovery and address the long-term impacts of the pandemic.

At the same time, we will strengthen ASEAN’s engagement with existing external partners and where necessary establish new ones, which among others engaging those partners that wish to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia.

For the ASEAN Economic Community Pillar, ASEAN hopes to lead ASEAN in its post-pandemic economic recovery efforts through efficient coordination with relevant sectors and stakeholder, pursuing new opportunities with external partners and ensuring a continuous supply chain through facilitating trade.





Strengthening the ASEAN integration agenda and resiliency by leveraging on **new technologies and digitalization**.

Promoting coherence and inclusiveness to advance ASEAN's commitment to **sustainable economic development**, including efforts in energy security, supporting MSMEs, and maximizing the efficiency of resources.

For the Socio-economic Community Pillar, ASEAN hopes to focus on socio-economic / cultural progress that will **enhance the standard and quality of life for all**, especially the vulnerable group, including amongst others, through the pursuit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, whilst empowering the people of ASEAN.

Foster greater understanding, tolerance and a sense of regional agendas among the people, to promote greater coherence and narrative in guiding ASCC efforts on this front, including instilling the Culture of Prevention in the ASEAN Community.

Nurture a participative and socially responsible approach, which engages and empowers people (people-centred / people-oriented) including youths, women, persons with different abilities and the elderly to contribute towards a sustainable future through partnership with and participation in ASEAN Community.

Promote greater ASEAN awareness and a sense of belonging, togetherness towards a more holistic and relevant ASEAN Community.

Official Media Platforms:

Website: <http://www.asean2021.bn/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asean2021.bn>

Instagram: @asean2021.bn

Twitter: @asean2021.bn





Chairman’s Statement on the ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting 24 April 2021, Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia

1. The ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting was convened on 24 April 2021 at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, and chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting was convened with the view to advance ASEAN Community building, hasten recovery from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, strengthen ASEAN’s external relations and address pressing issues of common interest to all ASEAN Member States.
2. In the pursuit to strengthen our regional solidarity and resilience, we reiterated that the political stability in ASEAN Member States is essential to achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous ASEAN Community. We underscored the need to maintain our unity, Centrality, and relevance in the region and to collectively address common challenges. We recognised that the strength of the ASEAN Community lies in putting people at its centre and fulfilling their desire to live in a region of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity, and social progress. In this regard, we reaffirmed our commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, including adherence to the rule of law, good governance, the principles of democracy and constitutional government, respect for fundamental freedoms, and the promotion and protection of human rights.
3. We expressed our full support towards Brunei Darussalam’s ASEAN Chairmanship priorities and deliverables under the theme of “We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper”, which focuses on harnessing the caring nature of people in the region, preparing ASEAN for the future, and enabling sustainable prosperity in a resilient region. We welcomed efforts to pursue a Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters (ASEAN SHIELD). We looked





**Chairman's Statement on the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting
24 April 2021, Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia**

forward to the establishment of a platform to enable the peoples of ASEAN to contribute to natural disaster relief efforts in the region. We reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to upholding multilateral cooperation, anchored in international law, towards achieving peace, security, stability, and prosperity in the region and beyond. We recognised the importance of focusing on our people and in this regard, agreed to enhance cooperation with external partners individually and under the East Asia Summit (EAS) to help address mental health issues in the region. We stressed the importance of fostering a greater sense of ASEAN identity and belonging, including amongst junior officials.

4. We expressed our commitment to support the timely realisation of Brunei Darussalam's Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) under the ASEAN Economic Community Pillar, which are divided into three strategic thrusts of Recovery, Digitalisation, and Sustainability. As we aspire towards a people-centred, people-oriented Community, we appreciated the continued efforts to further strengthen the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Pillar and its Sectoral Bodies' agendas towards ASEAN Community building, to ensure ASEAN will be more coordinated, resilient and prepared for the future. In this regard, we looked forward to the adoption of the Regional Policy Framework on Fostering Greater Understanding, Tolerance and a Sense of Regional Agendas among Peoples of ASEAN at the 38th ASEAN Summit in October 2021.
5. On the COVID-19 pandemic, we reiterated our commitment to implement the Implementation Plan of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework in a timely manner and welcomed ASEAN Sectoral Bodies' efforts to complement the Framework. We welcomed the decision to utilise the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund to procure vaccines for the people of ASEAN as soon as possible. We also welcomed the recent announcement made by Brunei Darussalam to respectively contribute USD 100,000 to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund. We encouraged the expeditious conclusion of the ASEAN Travel Corridor Arrangement Framework (ATCAF), as well as the early operationalisation of the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies. We underscored the importance of establishing the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases in a timely manner.





**Chairman’s Statement on the ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting
24 April 2021, Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia**

6. We underscored the importance of further strengthening ASEAN Centrality and unity in our engagement with ASEAN’s external partners through ASEAN-led mechanisms in order to build mutual trust and confidence as well as to reinforce an open, transparent, inclusive, and rules-based regional architecture with ASEAN at the centre. In this regard, we instructed the ASEAN Foreign Ministers to hold their meetings with the People’s Republic of China and the United States as soon as possible, prior to the 54th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting. Additionally, we looked forward to commemorating the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations as well as the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations.
7. We agreed to maintain ASEAN’s proactive and outward looking approach in the conduct of ASEAN’s external relations based on shared interests, constructive engagements, and mutual benefits, which can contribute to ASEAN’s Community building and development cooperation efforts. We agreed with the ASEAN Secretariat’s recommendation for ASEAN to accept the United Kingdom’s application for Dialogue Partnership and tasked the ASEAN Foreign Ministers to undertake the appropriate process to facilitate the United Kingdom to become a Dialogue Partner by the 54th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting/Post Ministerial Conferences (54th AMM/PMC).
8. We, as an ASEAN family, had a close discussion on the recent developments in Myanmar and expressed our deep concern on the situation in the country, including reports of fatalities and escalation of violence. We acknowledged ASEAN’s positive and constructive role in facilitating a peaceful solution in the interest of the people of Myanmar and their livelihoods, and therefore agreed to the “Five-Point Consensus” attached to this Chairman’s Statement. We also heard calls for the release of all political prisoners including foreigners.
9. We also underscored the importance of Myanmar’s continued efforts in addressing the situation in the Rakhine State, including commencing the repatriation process, in a voluntary, safe and dignified manner in accordance with its bilateral agreements with Bangladesh. In this regard, we looked forward to the resumption of repatriation of verified displaced persons as soon as possible. We reiterated our appreciation to the Secretary-General of ASEAN for his efforts in leading the implementation of the recommendations of the Preliminary Needs Assessment (PNA). We also looked forward to the conduct of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) and encouraged the Secretary-General of ASEAN to continue identifying possible areas that can effectively facilitate the repatriation process for displaced persons from Rakhine State. We further underscored the importance of efforts to addressing the root causes of the situation in Rakhine State.





Chairman's Statement on the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting

Five-Points Consensus

On the situation in Myanmar, the Leaders reached consensus on the following:

- First, there shall be immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar and all parties shall exercise utmost restraint.
- Second, constructive dialogue among all parties concerned shall commence to seek a peaceful solution in the interests of the people.
- Third, a special envoy of the ASEAN Chair shall facilitate mediation of the dialogue process, with the assistance of the Secretary General of ASEAN.
- Fourth, ASEAN shall provide humanitarian assistance through the AHA Centre.
- Fifth, the special envoy and delegation shall visit Myanmar to meet with all parties concerned.





ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) Activities under the Chairmanship of the Philippines from July - December 2020

ASEAN ANKARA COMMITTEE COMMEMORATES THE 53rd FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASEAN NATIONS WITH A FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY IN ANKARA, TURKEY



H.E. Raul S. Hernandez, Philippine Ambassador to Turkey and Chairman of the ASEAN Ankara Committee with the Guest of Honor, Director General for Overseas Promotion and Cultural Affairs of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ambassador Deniz Çakar, along with Ambassadors and representatives of ASEAN missions in Ankara and ASEAN Dialogue

The ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC), under the chairmanship of H.E. Raul S. Hernandez, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Turkey, commemorated the 53rd anniversary of ASEAN with a flag-raising ceremony on 28 August 2020 in Ankara, Turkey.

Ambassador Hernandez led the AAC along with Ambassadors and representatives of the eight ASEAN missions represented in Turkey – Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Also in attendance were six of ASEAN’s Dialogue Partners (the European Union, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand and Russia), representatives from the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of the Turkish academe and the media.

Director General for Overseas Promotion and Cultural Affairs of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ambassador Deniz Çakar, graced the event as the AAC’s guest of honor. The event was marked with a flag-raising ceremony and followed by speeches from Ambassador Hernandez and Director General Çakar.

In his speech, Ambassador Hernandez noted the swift measures ASEAN has taken for a timely and effective response to COVID-19 in Southeast Asia including the establishment of the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and attempts to strengthen healthcare and food security systems, research and development initiatives and future preparedness for outbreaks. The Ambassador said that since its founding in 1967, ASEAN has become one of the world’s most successful communities, experiencing the longest period of peace in the region through the “ASEAN Way”, a process based on consultation, consensus and cooperation.





Ambassador Hernandez added that ASEAN remains committed to achieving sustainable, balanced and inclusive economic growth with open markets free from trade restrictions through the ASEAN Economic Community. The Ambassador also encouraged external partners to further cooperate in ASEAN’s connectivity, sustainable development and economic initiatives. Institutional linkages have been strengthened between ASEAN and Turkey since the latter’s acceptance as Sectoral Dialogue Partner in 2017 with stronger relations expected as Turkey pursues its “Asia Anew Initiative.”

In her response, Director General Çakar said that Turkey recognizes ASEAN as one of the world’s most successful regional communities and hailed ASEAN’s efforts to build an ASEAN community by 2025. The Director General emphasized growing ties between Turkey and ASEAN in trade and investments, education, culture and defense with relations expected to further deepen in the coming years as Turkey pursues its “Asia Anew Initiative.”

Under its Sectoral Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN, Director General Çakar noted that Turkey has contributed USD1 million for joint sectoral dialogue projects with two approved projects and five projects under consideration. Turkey’s Foreign Minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu, is also expected to attend the upcoming 23rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting once the date and format of the conference are determined to pursue greater cooperation with ASEAN in all fields including new areas of cooperation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ASEAN flag-raising ceremony was one of the first diplomatic events held since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Turkey five months ago. Notwithstanding current challenges posed by COVID-19, the AAC, its external partners and networks of contacts and friends in Turkey attended the event in a show of solidarity and unity to honor the 53rd anniversary of ASEAN’s founding.



The Ambassadors and representatives of the ASEAN Ankara Committee with the Guest of Honor, Director General for Overseas Promotion and Cultural Affairs of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ambassador Deniz Çakar





H.E. Ambassador Raul S. Hernandez delivering his speech.



Guest of Honor, Director General for Overseas Promotion and Cultural Affairs of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ambassador Deniz Çakar gives her response



Indonesian cadets march and the ASEAN Flag is hoisted as the ASEAN Hymn is played.





ASEAN Ankara Committee Undertakes First-Ever Book Donation to the Presidential Library of the Republic of Turkey



The Heads of Missions and representatives of the ASEAN Ankara Committee with their spouses and Mr. Ayhan Tuğlu, Head of the Presidential Library with Mr. Mahmut Kazan, General Director, Administrative Services of the Office of the Presidency at the Cihannuma Hall following the book donation ceremony.

The ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC), under the Chairmanship of the Philippine Ambassador to Turkey, H.E. Raul S. Hernandez, donated over a hundred books to the National Library of the Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey (Presidential Library) at a ceremony on 26 October 2020. The book donation was the first-ever undertaken by the AAC to the Presidential Library of Turkey since its inauguration in February 2020.

Six Ambassadors from the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam and two representatives from Cambodia and Malaysia donated books on ASEAN and on individual member countries on political, economic and socio-cultural topics, among others, to Mr. Mahmut Kazan, General Director, Administrative Services of the Office of the Presidency and Mr. Ayhan Tuğlu, Head of the Presidential Library. The AAC's donated books were housed in the impressive Cihannuma Hall which contains a collection of 200,000 books and has a seating capacity of 224 persons in an area of 3,500 square meters. In addition to books, the AAC also donated handicrafts and display items including a painting from Madam Ana Algabre-Hernandez, the spouse of Ambassador Hernandez, for display within the library's premises.

In his remarks, Ambassador Hernandez stated that the books donated by the AAC will help raise awareness and foster a deeper understanding of ASEAN and its member states in Turkey and provide access to students and researchers who wish to learn and know more about the region. The Ambassador added that the books will also promote greater cooperation between ASEAN in Turkey in the fields of education, culture and arts. Mr. Tuğlu welcomed the donation of books by the AAC to add to its inventory and expressed hope that younger generations of Turks will be able to know more about ASEAN and its member countries.





Ambassador Raul S. Hernandez, Chairman of the ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) delivering his remarks.

After the book donation ceremony proper, the AAC was given a tour of the Presidential library, which consists of four million books in 150 languages, 120 million electronic publications and 550,000 e-books and rare collections. The Presidential library was conceptualized by Turkey’s President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the country’s leading intellectuals, library managers and non-governmental organizations who worked together with the aim of producing the best and most comprehensive library in Turkey. Prior to COVID-19 restrictions in Turkey, the Presidential library was visited by 153,330 people in just 25 days since its grand opening, drawing an average of 6,133 visitors on weekdays and 14,700 on weekends.



Madam Ana Alagbre-Hernandez donates a painting to the Presidential Library of Turkey.





H.E. Ambassador Raul S. Hernandez Completes Chairmanship of the ASEAN Ankara Committee for the Second Half of 2020

H.E. Raul S. Hernandez, Philippine Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, completed his chairmanship of the ASEAN Ankara Committee Heads of Missions (AAC HOMs) for the second half of 2020.

Under his leadership of the AAC HOMs, Ambassador Hernandez implemented activities aimed at increasing awareness and raising the profile of ASEAN in Turkey.

Ambassador Hernandez led the AAC HOMs in commemorating the 53rd anniversary of ASEAN with a flag-raising ceremony in August. The eight ASEAN missions represented in Turkey, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, representatives from the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and members of the Turkish academe and media attended the event in a show of solidarity and unity to honor ASEAN’s founding. It was one of the first diplomatic events held since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Turkey.



H.E. Raul S. Hernandez, Philippine Ambassador and Chairman of the ASEAN Ankara Committee along with the Ambassadors and representatives of the eight ASEAN mission in Turkey.

Ambassador Hernandez also spearheaded the first-ever book donation to the Presidential Library of Turkey in October. The AAC donated more than 100 books to the Head of the Presidential Library to provide students and researchers with access to books covering political, economic and socio-cultural topics of ASEAN and its member states. In addition to the books, other handicrafts and display items were also donated. For the Philippines, Madame Maria Ana A. Hernandez, spouse of the Ambassador, donated her “Blue Mosque” painting to the Presidential Library.





However, other planned activities such as an ASEAN Family Day, an economic seminar in one of Turkey’s commercial centers and a visit to Gaziantep for political and economic engagements with local government officials were postponed due to new and more stringent measures implemented by the Turkish government in late October to stem the tide of rising COVID-19 cases in Turkey.

At a meeting and turnover ceremony presided by Ambassador Hernandez on 21 December 2020, the Ambassador expressed his gratitude to the AAC HOMs for their support and assistance throughout his Chairmanship and congratulated the incoming Chairman of the AAC HOMs, H.E. Meas Kim Heng, Ambassador of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia for assuming his new role.



H.E. Ambassador Raul S. Hernandez presiding over the last ASEAN Ankara Committee Heads of Missions meeting during his Chairmanship.



Ambassador Hernandez passes on the ASEAN Flag to H.E. Meas Kim Heng, Ambassador of Cambodia and incoming Chairman of the ASEAN Ankara Committee.





ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) Activities under the Chairmanship of Cambodia from January—June 2021

Farewell Luncheon in honor of Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines



A Farewell luncheon organized by ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) on 23 December 2020 in honor of H.E. Raul S. Hernandez, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, who completed his tour of duty and would leave Ankara at the end of December 2020.



During the farewell event, Ambassador Meas Kim Heng, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Incoming Chairman of the AAC from January-June 2021, and other ASEAN Heads of Mission expressed their high appreciation for the achievements made by Ambassador Raul S. Hernandez during the Philippines' Chairmanship amid the outbreak of Covid-19 in Turkey.





Courtesy Call on the Minister of Foreign Affairs



On 06 January 2021, ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) Heads of Mission led by H.E. Meas Kim Heng, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of the AAC for the 1st Half of 2021, had meeting with H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

In his Opening Remarks, H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey stated that Turkey gave special importance to its relations with the ASEAN Member States within the framework of Asia Anew, launched in 2019, and Turkey aimed to improve ties with Asian countries in different areas.

H.E. Minister underlined that eight of the ASEAN Member States have embassies in Turkey and the embassies tremendously contributed to mutual relations and trade volume. He added that the trade volume with the countries where Turkey has recently opened embassies grew by 27%.

H.E. Minister also appreciated the recent developments in Turkey-ASEAN relations, including the improvement of bilateral relations and relations among all ASEAN Member States.

Regarding Sectoral Dialogue Partnership, H.E. Minister said it allowed deepening cooperation with ASEAN in many areas, including the fight against extremism and terrorism, public-private partnership, renewable energy resources, sustainable development, education, culture, tourism, trade and investment, and e-commerce.

H.E. Minister added that Turkey's relations with ASEAN was very fruitful and Turkish businessmen had a great interest in ASEAN countries.

In reply, H.E. Meas Kim Heng, expressed on behalf of ASEAN Ankara Committee, his gratitude to the government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the support and contribution to ASEAN Member States in ASEAN Community Building, and his appreciation to Turkish Foreign Minister for the launch of Asia Anew Initiative in 2019 that the full implementation of this initiative would substantially contribute to consolidate ASEAN-Turkey Partnership in the years to come.





Courtesy Call to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ambassador Meas Kim Heng highlighted a good development in ASEAN-Turkey relations, especially after Turkey signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in 2010 and after Turkey became a Sectoral Dialogue Partnership of ASEAN, where both sides have exchanged of frequent high-level visits from executive and legislative bodies and private sectors of ASEAN Member States and Turkey, mutual support at international fora, regular political and economic dialogues based on mutual respects and shared interests. In addition, a number of mechanisms covering the three pillars of cooperation, namely political, security, economic socio-cultural cooperation were established. He stressed that the 43 measures/action lines in the ASEAN and Turkey Practical Cooperation Areas (2019-2023) reflected the importance of Asia Anew Initiative and the mutually beneficial cooperation between ASEAN and Turkey, and the full implementation of these measures will surely contribute to peace and economic



Ambassador Meas Kim Heng pointed out that the Covid-19 pandemic has impact on two-way trade and foreign direct investment between ASEAN and Turkey. However, ASEAN is committed to working together to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic. He also commended the Turkish government for sending medical supplies and equipment to over 150 countries around the globe on humanitarian ground, including some ASEAN Member States to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Ambassador Meas Kim Heng recalled that the recent signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement initiated by ASEAN and participated by 15 countries contributed to strengthen ASEAN cooperation with regional and external partners on the basis of ASEAN centrality. RCEP covers about 30% of global GDP and about 30% of global population and reach 2.2 billion consumers, and provides a good opportunity for Turkish investors to invest in the ASEAN Member States.

He also informed the meeting that ASEAN Ankara Committee stands ready to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and other related institutions to promote multifaceted cooperation for the mutual benefit of ASEAN and Turkey.





Farewell Luncheon in honor of Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand



On 23 February 2021, ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) under the chairmanship of H.E. Meas Kim Heng, organized a farewell lunch in honor of H.E. Mrs. Phantipha Iamsudha Erkarohit, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand, who completed her tour of duty in Turkey. Ambassador Meas Kim Heng and other ASEAN Heads of Mission expressed their gratitude to Ambassador Phantipha for her active contribution and participation in the AAC Activities in Turkey.





Farewell Event in honor of MFA Director-General for Asia-Pacific

On 26 April 2021, Singapore Ambassador Jonathan Tow, on behalf of AAC, hosted a farewell and appreciation lunch to thank Turkish MFA Director General for Asia-Pacific Namik Guner Erpul as he completed his stint as Director General and assumed a new overseas assignment. AAC members collectively expressed their gratitude to Ambassador Erpul for his strong support and constant encouragement. In particular, AAC members appreciated how Ambassador Erpul was always ready to offer his active assistance to help promote ASEAN in Turkey. His passion for diplomacy and desire to strengthen relations with Asia was highly appreciated. We wish Ambassador Erpul the very best in his new assignment!

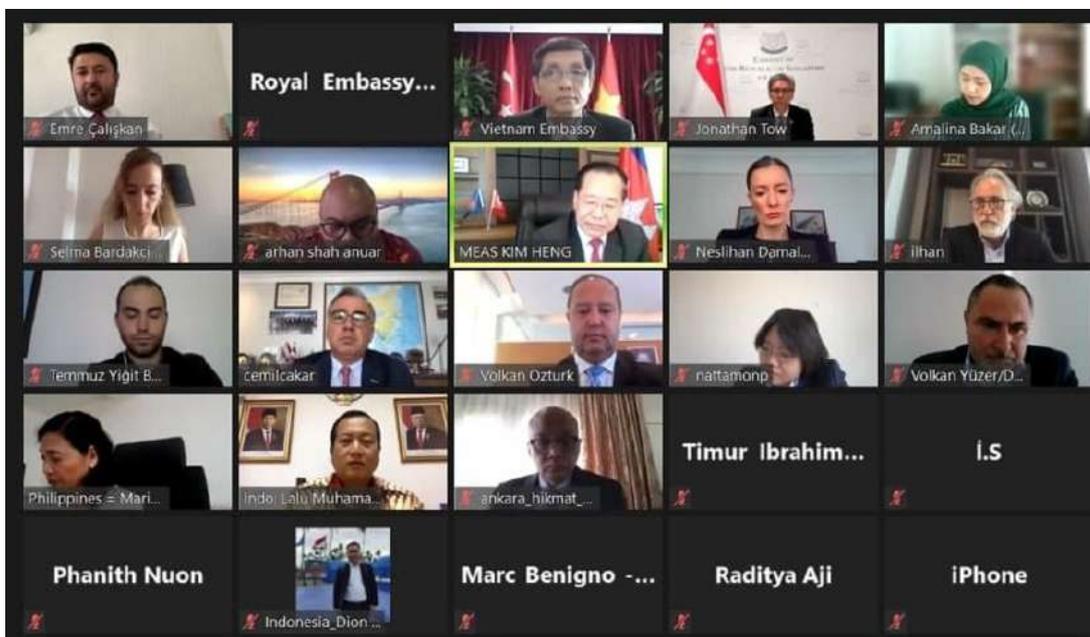




Meeting with Foreign Economic Relations Board-DEIK/ASEAN Working Committee

H.E. Meas Kim Heng, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chair of ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) hosted an online meeting between ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) Heads of Mission (HoMs) and Co-Chairmen and members of Foreign Economic Relations Board-DEIK/ASEAN Working Committee, on 25 June 2021. This is the first interaction between ASEAN Heads of Mission in Ankara and the groups of Turkish Business Council of each ASEAN Member State. A number of issues were discussed at the meeting, including people-to-people contact, cultural and social exchanges, trade, investment and tourism, which contributed to enhance the ASEAN-Turkey relations and ASEAN awareness. The Co-Chairman of the DEIK/ASEAN Working Committee informed the meeting of the intention of the DEIK/ASEAN Working Committee to organize a physical meeting between AAC and DEIK/ASEAN Working Committee in the future, Business Networking Meeting next year, as well as the joint meeting between the ASEAN Heads of Mission and DEIK/ASEAN Working Committee and Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs or Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

H.E. Meas Kim Heng, Ambassador of Cambodia noted with satisfaction that there have been a lot of positive development in ASEAN-Turkey relations in all dimensions, reflecting through the exchanges of frequent high-level visits from executive and legislative bodies and private sectors of ASEAN Member States and Turkey, and regular economic dialogues based on shared interests. Since Turkey signed TAC in 2010 and became the Sectorial Dialogue Partnership of ASEAN in 2017, economic cooperation, trade and tourism between ASEAN and Turkey were on the rise. However, since last year, we have been passing the most challenging years in the modern history of the world due to the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, which has caused severe public health crisis and led to the disruption of the global socio-economic development.





Fortunately, the global economy is expected to recover this year despite the risks of new variants of coronavirus and the escalation of geopolitical tensions. According to a June 7 report by Oxford Economics, Southeast Asia is still set for a 4.8 per cent rebound in growth in 2021. ADB forecasts the region to grow 5.1% in 2022.

Currently, ASEAN member states already signed six bilateral free trade agreements (FTA) with Japan, South Korea, China, India, New Zealand and Australia. The economic prospects have further enhanced after the virtual signing of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) late last year in Hanoi. Once it is ratified, the landmark agreement will link ASEAN with China, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, a group of countries with a combined population of 2.3 billion, into the world's largest free trade agreement. The trade deal covers 30% of global GDP and 28% of the world's trade. According to the Brookings Institution, ASEAN countries are expected to benefit significantly from RCEP, potentially by up to US\$19 billion per year by 2030. He drew the attention of the meeting that while India is not part of the RCEP, ASEAN already has an FTA with India. With that, ASEAN exports are able to have preferential market access to India.

With the signing of the RECP, Ambassador Meas Kim Heng expressed his firm belief that this will provide varied opportunities for ASEAN and Turkey to unlock full potentials of business for the common benefit.

Worth noting that DEIK is a Foreign Economic Relation Board of Turkey. The DEIK/ASEAN Working Committee was just set up late last year to coordinate with ASEAN member states on economic cooperation in the framework of Turkish Asia Anew Initiative.





Handover of the AAC Chairmanship for the First Half of 2021



H.E. Meas Kim Heng passed the ASEAN flag on to H.E. Sazali Mustafa Kamal in a symbolic gesture of the handover of the AAC Chairmanship from Cambodia to Malaysia.

H.E. Meas Kim Heng, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia, announced the completion of Cambodia's Chairmanship of the ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) for the first half of 2021 at the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) Heads of Mission (HOMs), which was held on 28 June 2021 at Ankara Hilton Hotel.

During Cambodia's Chairmanship from January-June 2021, Ambassador Kim Heng coordinated and conducted a number of activities, including the farewell event in honor of H.E. Mr. Raul S. Hernandez, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, farewell event in honor of H.E. Mrs. Phantipha Iamsuhda Ekarohit, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand, two Meetings of the ASEAN Ankara Committee (AAC) Heads of Mission (HOMs), and the meeting with DEIK/ASEAN Working Committee on economic cooperation between ASEAN and Turkey.

The Meeting thanked Ambassador Kim Heng for his efforts in implementing AAC activities in order to promote ASEAN visibility and the AAC in Turkey during his tenure as the Chair of the AAC for the first half of 2021 despite the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic. The Meeting also congratulated H.E. Sazali Mustafa Kamal, Ambassador of Malaysia for assuming his role as the next Chair of the AAC for the period from July to December 2021. The Meeting conveyed its commitment to supporting the incoming Chair in implementing AAC activities during the Chairmanship of Malaysia.





Other News About ASEAN

Turkish Foreign Minister's Visit to Jakarta, 21-22 December 2020



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, H.E. Mevlut Cavusoglu, paid an official visit to Jakarta on 21-22 December 2020. This visit coincided with the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Turkey in 2020.

At this visit, Minister Mevlut had a bilateral meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, H.E. Retno L.P Marsudi. At the meeting, both Ministers exchanged views on efforts to intensify bilateral relations among other by forming a High Level Strategic Cooperation Council, and discussed various regional and international issues, including on emphasizing the importance of multilateralism to overcome the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, and strengthening cooperation between ASEAN and Turkey.

At the end of the bilateral meeting, the two Ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey on the Diplomatic Capacity Building Cooperation.

Apart from that, Minister Mevlut had an opportunity to pay a courtesy call to President of Indonesia, H.E. Joko Widodo, and to Minister of Defence of Indonesia, H.E. Prabowo Subianto.





Miscellaneous

ASEAN Football Get-together



On 23rd June 2021, the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in Ankara hosted the friendly ASEAN football get-together amongst ASEAN friends and family members. The game was played in a cheerful and friendly spirit, with the participation of family members who enjoyed the outing after a long period of lockdown during the COVID-19.





ASEAN Restaurants: Indonesia

As a country with a diverse culture, Indonesia is very rich in terms of culinary. There are a wide variety of Indonesian cuisines, many of them are considered among the world's best foods, such as *rendang*, *sate* and *nasi goreng*.

There are several Indonesian restaurants in Turkey where you can enjoy the authentic taste of Indonesian cuisines. Those restaurants are as follows:

Antalya

ENDONEZYA RESTAURANT

Aşağı pazarıcı 1001 sokak no 85 Manavgat, Antalya - Turki

Phone: +90 539 314 22 85; Favourite dishes: Nasi Campur, Ayam Geprek

Istanbul

KOALI LOUNGE & DINE

Hacımimi mah. Galata Beyazıt sok. Selin Han no:6 Tophane, Beyoğlu - İSTANBUL

Phone: +90 (212) 251 6690; +90 5013190117 (whatsapp & phonecall)

Favourite dishes: Rendang Bundo, Seblak, Nasi KOALI

WARUNG IBU DEDEN

Küçük Ayasofya Mahallesi, Nakilbent Sk. No:29, 34122 Fatih/ İstanbul

Phone: +90 545 883 10 29 ; +90 534 278 34 54

Favourite dishes: Indonesia Oxtail Soup, Fried Oxtail

WARUNG NUSANTARA

Merkezefendi Mah. Gümüşsuyu Davutpaşa cad No:42A, Zeytinburnu İstanbul

Phone: +90 212 679 8934; Mobile: +90 554 335 9277

Favourite dishes: Sate, Bebek Kremes, Indonesian Grilled Chicken

RASA KITA

Sivas Sokak No: 11 B Ortabayır Kağıthane, İstanbul

Phone: +90 5393 436 718; Favourite dishes: Ceker Soup Komplıt, Cumi Sambal Bajak

Sakarya

JAVA CAFE

Kemalpaşa mah. Üniversite cad. A Blok No:39/A/6 Serdivan/SAKARYA





ASEAN Restaurants: Thailand

Istanbul

COK ÇOK THAI

Meşrutiyet Cad. No:51/A Beyoğlu/Istanbul

Tel: 0 212 2926496

Website: <https://cokcok.com.tr/>

Favourite dishes: Green curry, Papaya salad, Pad Thai, Chanom drink

AZ ÇOK THAI

Kuloglu Mah. Aga Kulhani Sok. No: 12/A Cukurcuma, Istanbul

Tel: 0 212 2511811

Website: <https://www.azcokthai.com/>

Favourite dishes: Pad Thai, Spring Rolls, Green curry

PERA THAI KITCHEN OF BUA KHAO

Meşrutiyet Cad. No:94/A Beyoğlu/Istanbul

Tel: 0 212 245 57 25-26

Website: <https://www.perathai.com.tr/en/>

Favourite dishes: Pad Thai, Spicy & Sour Seafood Soup, Spicy Chicken Salad

Ankara

Thaicurry Restaurant

1480 Sok. Besakule Çukurambar B2/7 Çankaya/ Ankara

Tel: 05301710250

Website: <https://ankarathaicurry.com>

Favourite dishes: Green curry, Tom Yum, Kua Kling, Som Tum

Thai Asian Shop

Güvenevler Mh. Meneviş Sk. 56/B Aşağı Ayrancı Çankaya/ANKARA

Tel: 05443639199/05393338757

