

**CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 25TH ASEAN SUMMIT AND RELATED SUMMITS
AND
HANDOVER OF ASEAN CHAIRMANSHIP TO MALAYSIA**

REMARKS BY YAB PRIME MINISTER

2015 BELONGS TO ALL OF ASEAN

Your Excellency U Thein Sein
President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

Your Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah,

My fellow ASEAN Colleagues,

Leaders of ASEAN Dialogue Partners,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is a privilege for me to speak to you here in Nay Pyi Taw, at the conclusion of Myanmar's Chairmanship of ASEAN.
2. This has been a historical milestone for ASEAN: the first time this Golden Land (Shwe Naing Ngan) has held this responsibility, and played a central role in steering our region forward.
3. I warmly congratulate you, Mr. President, for your most able stewardship of the Association. Myanmar has displayed a deep awareness of the responsibility that comes with being Chairman of ASEAN, and you have discharged this responsibility admirably. You have also shown a tremendous depth of generosity, manifesting the best of the Asia's traditions.
4. The highly commendable Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on ASEAN's Post-2015 Vision is a journey we embarked on here in Myanmar, and for this Myanmar will forever have a place in ASEAN's history.
5. Forty seven years ago, South East Asian nations joined hands. In the spirit of peace and mutual prosperity, we came together to form ASEAN: an association for development, stability and growth.
6. It was a bold decision that our forefathers made. But they had the courage of their convictions. And today we recognise them for their visionary leadership,

which made ASEAN what it is today – the 7th largest economy in the world, and the 3rd largest in Asia.

7. By these figures alone, we have come far. And we have travelled well. Our evolution is one that we can all be proud of.
8. We have endured many challenges, and become stronger in the process. We persevered and we upheld ASEAN solidarity; resolute in our belief in the 'ASEAN Way'.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Malaysia will assume the Chairmanship of ASEAN next year, at a historic time. In 2015, ASEAN's new era begins, as we establish the ASEAN Community: the culmination of five-decades of region building. Our main priority in 2015 will be to work towards the completion of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community.
10. Malaysia plans to drive ASEAN towards several goals in the year ahead. We are conscious that the formation of the Community will happen on our watch, and we will work tirelessly toward that ambition. We will devote our efforts to developing the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, as a guide for the Community to further prosper and grow.
11. We will also strive to promote regional peace and security through moderation as a shared value in addressing conflict and finding solutions to issues concerning regional peace and security.
12. But we also hope to steer ASEAN closer to the people of South East Asia: to make this institution part of people's daily lives, by creating a truly People-Centred ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

13. The goal of regional unity, stability and prosperity is not Malaysia's alone. It is a vision which we have all committed to.
14. As Chair of ASEAN in 2015, we will continue to work to achieve that vision and the programme of work outlined for the years ahead. As we do so, we will continue to work together closely, like ASEAN always has. We are more than just a regional body; we are a family.
15. Before I conclude, I would once again like to congratulate you, Mr. President and your extremely capable team of Ministers and Senior Officials and each of their teams for a remarkable year.

16. Your unswerving commitment to ASEAN Community-building has brought us close to the finishing line of establishing an ASEAN Community. And your team has achieved this commendable feat in your signature unflappable style. You have raised the bar for us, Mr. President; and raised our ambition for what is possible next year.
17. I very much look forward to welcoming all of you to Malaysia in 2015.

Thank you.