



8 August B.E. 2562 (2019)

Warm Greetings to the People of the ASEAN Community,

Thailand was the birthplace of ASEAN seventy-five years ago. At that time, ASEAN's founders had a dream of securing "for their peoples and for posterity the blessings of peace, freedom and prosperity". From then to ASEAN's 52nd Anniversary in 2019, our predecessors in their time, and we in our time, joined hands to contribute to realising this shared ASEAN dream. From the Bangkok Declaration in 1967, to the ASEAN Charter, to the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, we helped lay the foundations of the ASEAN Community. Thailand is proud that this message, and that of other ASEAN Leaders, was placed in this time capsule during Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2019, under the theme "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability".

We imagine the world and the region will be very different in 2042, at ASEAN's 75th Anniversary. But because of our faith in ASEAN, we believe that all transformations have been for the better.

So ASEAN may have new priorities in a changed global environment, perhaps marked by a Fifth Industrial Revolution, where newer technologies make people even more connected and their lives more fulfilling. We may have a more borderless ASEAN, where people, products and creative ideas flow across countries with greater ease and greater security. Our oceans and air, forests and wildlife, would be preserved and protected, through enduring commitments to sustainability, for future generations of Southeast Asians to enjoy. And the ASEAN Community may be part of a broader regional community, yet maintain its distinct identity, based on mutual trust, mutual benefit and mutual respect.

Most importantly, we hope that the ASEAN Community before you is and will always continue to be people-centred, leaves no one behind, and looks ever more to the future, where we can continue to draw strength from our diversity as well as inspiration from our shared vision of a peaceful and prosperous region.

Please continue to carry forward our shared ASEAN dream.

Yours sincerely,

General  (Ret.)

(Prayut Chan-o-cha)
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand