



28 January 2017

Her Excellency SUSHMA SWARAJ

Minister of External Affairs

Republic of India

NEW DELHI

Excellency,

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, I would like to extend, on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations, warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Government and people of the Republic of India.

Since their commencement in 1992, ASEAN-India relations have made significant progress and expanded to cover a wide range of areas of political-security, economic, and socio-cultural cooperation. Our collective commitment to promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region as a shared strategic vision and cornerstone of ASEAN-India relations has been demonstrated through India's early accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia and India's strong support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture, including India's active participation in and positive contributions to the ASEAN-led regional mechanisms.

With the establishment of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area, there exists vast potentials for both sides to boost trade and investment. The ongoing review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement is expected to pave the way for more robust trade between the two sides in the future. ASEAN and India have also made substantial progress in other areas of cooperation such as human resource development, science and technology, people-to-people contacts, transport and infrastructure, small and medium enterprises, tourism, information and communication technology, agriculture, food security, climate change, energy, culture and arts, and implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration.

One Vision, One Identity, One Community

The implementation of the annual ASEAN-India Students Exchange Programme, the Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats, and the Delhi Dialogue, as well as the on-going programmes such as the International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links, the ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme, the ASEAN-India Young Farmers Exchange Programme and the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks are examples of our continued efforts to enhance mutual understanding and friendship among the peoples of ASEAN and India. Following the successful conclusion of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015), we are committed to effective implementation of the successor 2016-2020 Plan of Action to further advance our relations.

As we are celebrating a quarter of a century of the ASEAN-India Relations, ASEAN remains committed to working closely with India with a view to bringing the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership to new heights in the interest of regional and international peace, stability and prosperity. In the spirit of our close partnership, we look forward to India's continued support for ASEAN's Community building efforts, including the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration!

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