

**OPENING REMARKS OF  
PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE  
AND  
INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI  
DURING THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT**

[Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City | 14 November 2017]

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** There is something to review, may I ask for about three minutes so that I can also organize how I'd steer the talk.

We shall begin.

Excellencies, it is an honor to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to this Summit taking place during the ASEAN's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ASEAN-India dialogue relations.

At the beginning of this year, I had the privilege of sending greetings to the Prime Minister Modi on behalf of the ASEAN on the occasion of our *[inaudible]* anniversary.

And we were pleased to receive his message underlining our shared values and common destiny.

Prime Minister Modi said that nations cannot progress unless they value and cherish their history and heritage.

This is reminiscent of the Philippines' national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, who regarded the people's past as the key to their future.

In this vein, we thank India for the many commemorative activities to highlight historical economic and cultural ties that bind ASEAN and India.

To make way for a more sage advice from Prime Minister Modi, I will stop here and now invite His Excellency Narendra Modi to --- to give his opening remarks.

Sir, you have the floor.

**PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI:** Excellency, Mr. President, I'm delighted to be on my first visit to Manila in this landmark 50<sup>th</sup> year of ASEAN establishment.

We are also celebrating 25 years of ASEAN-India dialogue partnership.

I compliment the Philippines for it's to able to achieve of ASEAN during the significant year here and thank you, Mr. President for the excellent arrangements made for the Summit.

You have played a --- I would also like to thank the Honorable Prime Minister of Vietnam for Vietnam's contribution as country coordinator to further strengthen the ASEAN-India partnership.

Excellencies, the 50 years of ASEAN's remarkable journey is indeed worthy of reflection as much as it is of celebration.

On this historic occasion, I'm confident that ASEAN will further resolve to work together with one vision, one identity, and as one independent community.

India's *[inaudible]* policy is shaped around the ASEAN and ASEAN centrality in the regional security architecture of the Indo-Pacific region is evident.

Our wide-ranged agenda of cooperation under the third ASEAN-India plan of action has progress well, covering the three crucial pillars of political security, economic, and cultural partnership.

Excellencies, maritime links established thousands of years ago between India and ASEAN countries have enabled our trade relations in the past and we have to work closely together to further strengthen them.

India shows the ASEAN of its steady support towards achieving the rules-based regional security architecture that best attests to the region's interest and its peaceful development.

We have, individually, in our own countries, tried very hard to fight terrorism and violent extremism.

It is time that we jointly address this challenge by intensifying cooperation in this crucial area and find a joint solution.

Excellencies, the befitting team of shared values come at *[inaudible]* for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration has been jointly celebrated with a number of commemorative activities.

I look forward to a befitting culmination of the commemorative year and receiving you at the India-ASEAN Special Commemorative Summit on 25th January 2018 in New Delhi.

India and the people of India are looking forward to receiving you for this historic occasion.

The 1.25 billion people of India are keen to welcome the ASEAN leaders as our chief guests at India's 69<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebrations.

I'm committed to working with you for a better future for us all. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** Prime Minister Modi, thank you for your encouraging words.

It's not mine. I'm not joking. It's not mine. Once the members of the media have left the room, the President will preside over a closed session.

I would have wanted everybody just to listen to us. I don't know how.

Excellencies....

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