

Speech
by H.E. Le Luong Minh,
Secretary-General of ASEAN
at the Inaugural Session of the Delhi Dialogue VI:
Realising ASEAN-India Vision for Partnership and Prosperity
6 March, New Delhi

Excellency Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India,
Excellency U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister of Foreign Affairs of
Myanmar, Chair Country of ASEAN
Deputy Prime Minister,
Mr. Sidharth Birla, President of FICCI
Excellencies, Ambassadors,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to express my appreciation to His Excellency Minister Salman Khurshid and the Ministry of External Affairs of India, FICCI, and the organisers of Delhi Dialogue VI for the opportunity for us all, from ASEAN and India, to deliberate on the continued realization of the ASEAN-India Vision for future partnership and prosperity.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

For 22 years since their establishment, the ASEAN- India Dialogue Relations have evolved and matured transcending the realm of functional cooperation to now cover a wide spectrum of political-security, economic and social- cultural cooperation culminating in their elevation to strategic level in 2012. India participates actively in ASEAN-initiated regional dialogue and cooperation mechanisms where it supports ASEAN's central role. ASEAN-India trade has

reached more than 70 billion US dollars with the target of 100 billion set for 2015. Investment from India to ASEAN though still modest keeps increasing. The development of tourism, the enhancement of people-to-people contacts and cooperation in a wide range of social- cultural spheres from health to science and technology, information and communication to SMEs, transport, energy, agriculture and in the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration have been contributing greatly to the mutual sense of belonging between our peoples. In that context, the adoption of the ASEAN-India Vision Statement provided a new impetus to further advance ASEAN-India relations. The Vision Statement serves as guide to our pursuit of an enduring partnership for peace and shared prosperity.

Less than two years before the deadline of December 2015, ASEAN is on track towards the establishment of a three-pillared ASEAN Community, one of political cohesion, economic integration, one with a caring and sharing society, one people-oriented, people-centred, rules-based and of shared interests. Less than two years before the establishment of such a Community, ASEAN has also embarked on the process of building a post-2015 Vision for consolidating and furthering its integration gains. The Vision would include ambitious targets in terms of expanding ASEAN's external relations and trade, investment and economic growth. Narrowing development gaps, connectivity and infrastructure development, disaster management and response, counter-terrorism, food, energy and maritime security, among others, will continue to be priorities. By 2015 the more connected ASEAN and India will find themselves accounting for more than half of the biggest single market in the world in the framework of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership where ASEAN and India share a great many common interests and values. The potentials for ASEAN and India to further enhance our partnership for peace and shared prosperity are immense and far greater.

To realize those potentials, ASEAN and India need to work closely to implement the ASEAN-India Vision Statement by undertaking practical and action-oriented projects, programs and activities which should be prioritized and aligned to the two sides' common strategic orientations involving broad spectrums of stakeholders so that the benefits of the partnership will be felt by all. As efficient mechanisms and coordination are essential to deliver tangible results, existing cooperation mechanisms need to be examined to ensure that they are contributing effectively to the ever expanding cooperation. Periodic reviews of cooperation programs are also necessary for possible adjustments to enable them to correspond to the new requirements and needs of both sides in their respective new stages of development.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Believing in the future of the dynamic ASEAN-India Partnership, I also believe that thought provoking engagements such as those at these Delhi Dialogues will contribute to maximizing its potentials in the shared interests of the peoples of ASEAN and India.

I wish the Delhi Dialogue VI great success! Thank you!