



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

In 1967, the five Founding Members of ASEAN, including the Philippines, committed to bind themselves in friendship and cooperation in order to secure for their peoples enduring peace, freedom and prosperity.

More than five decades hence, we celebrate ASEAN as a community of ten Member States with one vision and shared destiny. As a force for peace and prosperity in the region, ASEAN has had indeed unparalleled success.

Today, ASEAN is the fifth largest economy in the world, driving growth and development across the region. It is at the center of mechanisms promoting peace and stability in our rapidly changing regional environment. More importantly, ASEAN is moving closer to becoming one politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible Community.

Though challenges remain, most notably the COVID-19 pandemic, ASEAN's commitment to community-building has never been stronger.

Bouncing back from the pandemic appears to be a daunting task. But if pursued with friends, the burden is shared and transformed into an opportunity to create a more resilient Southeast Asian region. With a deeper sense of common purpose, we will continue to work together as one ASEAN and strengthen partnerships with friends within and outside the region.

We are confident that the ASEAN way of partnership and mutual aid will help us overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and move forward with our community-building endeavors.

Mabuhay ang ASEAN!


RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA
8 August 2020