



**P R I M E
M I N I S T E R**

**GENERAL STATEMENT ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO**

**IN THE OCCASION OF THE 19th EAST ASIAN SUMMIT
(EAS)**

Vientiane, Lao PDR

11 October 2024

Thank you, Chair, Your Excellency Sonexay SIPHANDONE
Honourable ASEAN Leaders and Leaders of Partner Countries,
Your Excellency Secretary-General of ASEAN,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to join this important meeting of East Asia Leaders as an observer and make these brief remarks.

Timor-Leste commends ASEAN for driving dialogue and cooperation on strategic, political, and economic issues of shared interest in East Asia.

We extend our gratitude to the Secretary-General of ASEAN for providing a comprehensive review of the East Asia Summit, its future direction, and the progress made in implementing its Plan of Action.

Robust dialogue on pressing issues that resonate with our national priorities has taken place.

Timor-Leste stands ready to engage in and contribute to regional initiatives focused on promoting peace and development.

Rising conflict and geopolitical tensions are a concern to Timor-Leste.

We know from our experience that without peace there can be no development.

Timor-Leste joins the calls for a peaceful resolution of conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. We call for international law to be upheld and for respect for the international system to be maintained.

Timor-Leste questions why some countries call for a 'rule-based order' in some parts of the world but not in the Middle East.

Timor-Leste questions why some countries support the selective enforcement of international law depending upon when it suits their narrow self-interest.

On the situation in Myanmar we align ourselves with the international community in urging the implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus.

Inclusive dialogue and a commitment to democratic principles are essential for restoring lasting peace and stability in Myanmar.

Regarding the South China Sea, Timor-Leste reaffirms the importance of dialogue.

The South China Sea fosters connections and solidarity between people and nations in the region by facilitating cultural exchange, economic cooperation, and regional integration.

Given the importance of the South China Sea we must all work together to foster a sense of unity and common purpose and promote cooperation and peace in this maritime area.

We also support continued dialogue and diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula to achieve denuclearisation and lasting peace, standing with the international community in promoting efforts to reduce tensions and resume negotiations.

In conclusion, I want to emphasise Timor-Leste's commitment to close collaboration with all dialogue partners within the ASEAN framework to address common challenges and foster a prosperous, peaceful, and resilient region.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in these important discussions and look forward to ongoing collaboration.

Thank you, Chair.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão