



**THE THIRTEENTH EAS ECONOMIC MINISTERS' MEETING
25 September 2025, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Thirteenth East Asia Summit (EAS) Economic Ministers' Meeting was held on 25 September 2025 in Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Aziz, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry of Malaysia. The Meeting also welcomed H.E. Filipus Nino Pereira, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the Meeting as an observer.
2. The combined nominal GDP of EAS participating countries amounted to USD 65.9 trillion in 2024. The Meeting also noted that based on ASEAN's preliminary statistics, ASEAN's two-way merchandise trade with non-ASEAN EAS participating countries stood at USD 1.9 trillion in 2024, whilst foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows from non-ASEAN EAS participating countries to ASEAN was recorded at USD 92.8 billion in the same year.
3. The Meeting recognized the importance of the WTO to advance trade issues and acknowledge the agreed upon rules in the WTO as key to facilitating global trade. The Meeting recognized the WTO has challenges and needs meaningful, necessary, and comprehensive reform to improve all its functions, through innovative approaches, to be more relevant and responsive in light of today's realities. The Meeting commended the efforts to deepen discussions in the WTO on contemporary trade issues. The Meeting intend to work together to deliver a successful Fourteenth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14) in March 2026 in Cameroon.
4. The Meeting exchanged views on and noted economic and broader challenges including on issues related to food and energy security. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to adhering to international law and strengthening engagement in the promotion and implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) through economic cooperation which would contribute to the promotion of peace, security, stability, and prosperity in the region.
5. The Meeting underscored the importance of fostering closer economic cooperation between ASEAN and the EAS Participating Countries and highlighted the importance of engaging in constructive dialogue, open communication, and collaboration to address challenges. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of trade and investment and acknowledged the readiness and capacity of the EAS Participating Countries to unlock the full benefits of the digital economy. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of women's economic participation for overall economic growth.

6. The Meeting commended the continuous research support that the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) contributes to economic integration in the East Asian region and addressing emerging challenges. The Meeting noted ERIA's report on Unlocking New Frontiers of Economic Integration: Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)-Driven ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan 2026-2030 (ASP) which recommended several pathways for mainstreaming Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into strategic plans for economic integration in the region. The Meeting noted ERIA's continued support in advancing ESG-related policy recommendations, capacity-building initiatives, and analytical work to assist the EAS participating countries to support the ASEAN Economic Community Strategic Plan 2026-2030.

7. The Meeting welcomed ASEAN Leaders' decision at the 46th ASEAN Summit to admit Timor Leste as the 11th member of ASEAN at the 47th ASEAN Summit in October 2025 and Timor-Leste's commitment toward its accession to ASEAN in accordance with the criteria outlined in the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN. The Meeting affirmed its support for Timor-Leste's integration efforts into ASEAN and expressed readiness to provide continued capacity building and technical assistance to facilitate its effective inclusion into the regional economy.
