



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
 Biodiversity Management Bureau
 Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
 Environmental Management Bureau
 Forest Management Bureau
 Mines and Geoscience Bureau
 Climate Change Service
 Legal Affairs Service

FROM : **The OIC Director**
 Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **OUTCOMES OF THE 27TH MEETING OF THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION-COMMITTEE FOR THE ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (PCRC-CAEC)**

DATE : **11 JUL 2024**

This refers to the outcomes of the 27th Meeting of the Philippine Council for Regional Cooperation-Committee for the ASEAN Economic Community (PCRC-CAEC) conducted on 05 July 2024, via hybrid mode.

In this regard, we are pleased to inform you of the highlights of the said meeting concerning the Department, to wit:

Topic/Agenda	Highlights
Consultation with the Philippine Representative to the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (BAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ASEAN BAC Philippines Executive Director Gil Gonzalez reported the priorities of the ASEAN BAC and 2026 PH chairship. He mentioned that "Connectivity" will be the cross-cutting theme. He also presented the recommendations of the ASEAN BAC PH to CAEC on the following topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) More regular private sector interface support needed for other strategic areas covered by ASEAN BAC; 2.) Customs-related: Disclosure of workplans, metrics and assessments, Harmonization of Customs Rules and Regulations; Status of ASEAN Single window; Status of ongoing study of new generation of ASW; 3.) Legacy projects - Digital Trade Connect, SmartGrowth Connect, Integrated Logistics and Transport Network, ASEAN Alliance for Carbon Market and ASEAN Circular Economy Business Alliance (ASEAN BAC PH would like to sit down with DENR); 4.) Unfinished homework - Adding chapters in the ATIGA on circular economy, sustainable issues, E-commerce, MSME Support

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DENR representative asked if the ASEAN BAC PH already sent a request to the Department regarding the proposed/planned discussion re: ASEAN Alliance for Carbon Market and ASEAN Circular Economy Business Alliance. Director Gonzales remarked that the ASEAN BAC presented to the DENR Secretary last year their sustainability priorities. They will follow up with their Sustainability Development Working Group on the next engagement request at the national and at the regional levels.
Observer Status Granted to Timor-Leste Application for ASEAN Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies are requested to confirm if there is an ongoing negotiation with Timor Leste, e.g. DENR to confirm if there is an ongoing negotiation with Timor Leste re: Forestry

Moreover, the upcoming High Level Meetings are shown below:

Meeting	Level	Date	Venue
SEOM 3/55	SEOM	9-15 July 2024	Vientiane, Lao PDR
46th HLTF-EI & WG-AEC Post 2025	Vice Ministers/ HLTF-EI	12-14 August 2024	Lao PDR
56th AEM Meeting	Ministers	15-22 September 2024	Vientiane, Lao PDR
24th AEC Council Meeting	Ministers	6-7 October 2024	Vientiane, Lao PDR
44th ASEAN Summit	Leaders	October 2024	Vientiane, Lao PDR
SEOM Retreat 2025	SEOM	December 2024	Malaysia

In view of the status of membership of Timor Leste relative to its application for ASEAN membership, we would like to confirm or request the information on the previous and/or existing engagement/s of the DENR, through your respective Offices, with Timor Leste (if any). We would appreciate receiving your response by 31 July 2024.

For your information and consideration, please.


 CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL, EnP