



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS NA YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Executive Director**
National Water Resources Board

The Directors
Climate Change Service
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Forest Management Bureau

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

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR PROPOSED KEY MESSAGES AND INTERVENTIONS FOR PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR. FOR THE 44TH AND 45TH ASEAN SUMMITS AND RELATED SUMMITS, 8-11 OCTOBER 2024**

DATE : **29 AUG 2024**

This refers to the letter from DFA requesting for Proposed Key Messages and Interventions for President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. for the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summit and related summits to be held from 8-11 October 2024. In preparing these key messages, agencies are encouraged to:

1. Articulate the Philippines' positions on key issues and developments in ASEAN, particularly those under your respective ASEAN Sectoral Bodies;
2. Highlight ASEAN initiatives or programs under your respective ASEAN Sectoral Bodies that are in line with the Philippines' priorities in ASEAN, especially those that were proposed or shepherded by the Philippines;
3. Consider the key deliverables of ASEAN in 2024, including those in line with the priorities of the 2024 ASEAN Chair (copy attached);
4. Identify successful engagements or Philippine-led initiatives or programs between ASEAN and its external partners, and new initiatives or programs that should be undertaken between ASEAN and its external partners (for ASEAN Leaders' Summits with ASEAN's external partners); and
5. Provide references or background information to support proposed key messages.

MEMO NO. 2024 - 780

In view of the above, we have prepared a draft letter to DFA with proposed messages (attached) for your review and or concurrence. We hope to receive your inputs by **COB 30 August 2024**. Please note that this request was previously emailed to your offices on 12 August 2024, with follow ups on 21 and 27 August 2024. Should we fail to receive any feedback, kindly allow us to assume that you have no further inputs and concur with the messages therein. We will be coordinating with you further on this matter. You may submit an advance copy via email to: psddivision@gmail.com.

For your information and appropriate action, please.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL
aml *pl*



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS NA YAMAN



MR. DANIEL R. ESPIRITU

Assistant Secretary
Office of ASEAN Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs
2330 Roxas Boulevard
Pasay City

Dear Assistant Secretary Espiritu:

This pertains to your letter dated 02 August 2024, requesting for proposed key messages for the interventions of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. for the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits to be held on 8-11 October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Apropos thereto, hereunder are our proposed inputs with backgrounders for your consideration:

1. ASEAN Summit

KEY MESSAGE	BACKGROUND
<p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>The Philippines has reinforced its commitment to climate and disaster resilience through a whole of nation approach, translating key international conventions into robust national policies and comprehensive sector-wide programs. The Philippines is one of the few nations with a National Adaptation Plan, Nationally Determined Contribution Plan, and a comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory.</p> <p>The Philippines is exploring the potential of carbon markets in the Philippines through ongoing collaborations with development partners. Including a Forest Carbon Roadmap, developing carbon pricing instruments, and enabling national policies to support voluntary and compliance carbon markets.</p>	<p>The NAP adopts a sectoral approach, emphasizing key areas vital for effective climate change adaptation, such as sustainable water management, food security, resilient infrastructure, land use and urban systems management, and resilient cultural heritage. Drawing from the latest climate science and analytics, the NAP builds upon and refines foundational strategies established in the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028. The NAP provides a comprehensive framework that guides our nation in crafting, coordinating, and implementing adaptive measures with a view to innovation. With this holistic approach, we ensure that our national climate adaptation initiatives are encompassing, well-founded, and inclusive.</p> <p>Carbon credits are tradable certificates or permits allowing the</p>

	<p>holder to emit specified amounts of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gasses in a specified period.</p> <p>The DENR is developing a carbon credit program through reforestation in partnership with private companies and a university, starting in Negros Occidental province.</p> <p>DENR signed on Friday a memorandum of understanding in Tokyo, Japan with Marubeni Corp., DMCI Holdings unit Dacon Corp., and the University of the Philippines – Los Baños College of Forestry and Natural Resources (UPLB-CFNR) for the project.</p> <p>DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga proposed to craft legislation for carbon credit systems in the Philippines and to review the Climate Change Act of 2009 or Republic Act 9729.1</p>
<p>Loss and Damage Fund. One of the most notable outcomes of the recent UNFCCC COP 28 was the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF). This fund is a long-fought struggle to assist those countries most affected by climate-induced losses and damage to recover and build. It is a landmark achievement, with over \$700 million pledged from various countries, as of December 2023. It is designed to assist nations dealing with the severe impacts of climate change that go beyond mere adaptation and mitigation. As we move forward, we anticipate that this fund will become operational, providing crucial support to those in greatest need and helping to address the deep-seated losses resulting from climate change. The Philippines is also honored to have secured a set on the LDF Board as representative of Asia-Pacific countries, as well as the host the LDF Board. PBBM may reiterate the Philippines' readiness to lead policy</p>	<p>At the UN Climate Change Conference 2022 (COP27) in Egypt, an agreement was reached to create a fund that will help low-income developing countries offset the damage from natural disasters caused by climate change. Named the "Loss and Damage Fund," this financial mechanism was designed to provide crucial support to vulnerable nations facing the brunt of climate-related challenges. To facilitate the implementation of the fund and related climate finance mechanisms, a Transitional Committee was formed, comprised of representatives from 24 nations encompassing both developed and developing countries.</p> <p>The topic of climate finance for developing countries became one of the priorities on the agenda of the UN Climate Change Conference 2023 (COP28) in Dubai, UAE. During the</p>

¹ <https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2023/02/12/504378/denr-partners-with-private-sector-academe-for-reforestation-carbon-credit-program/>

<p>directions of the LDF Board and call for support in its speedy operationalization.</p> <p>The President may also cite the recent enactment of the Loss and Damage Fund Board Act or Republic Act No. 12019, which grants juridical personality and legal capacity to the Loss and Damage Fund Board with full legal capacity to contract, acquire, and dispose of immovable and movable property, as well as institute legal proceedings. This act is critical to accelerating climate finance and investments.</p>	<p>inaugural plenary session on the conference's first day, the participants made a historic decision to create a dedicated fund aimed at addressing and compensating for the losses and damages incurred due to climate change.²</p>
<p><u>ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change and the UNFCCC COP 29</u></p> <p>The Philippines welcomes the ASEAN Climate Finance Strategy to accelerate the flow of climate finance in the ASEAN Region and call for its immediate implementation and support from partners. The goal of the ASEAN Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy to ensure that climate finance can be effectively accessed, mobilized and scaled up to contribute to achieving climate goals of the ASEAN Member States under the Needs-based Climate Finance (NBF) project that was established at COP 23 and 26 that accessing and mobilizing climate finance are priorities for all AMS to support for NDC implementation and a range of climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives.</p> <p>Parties should strengthen their adaptation efforts by implementing, among others, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, focusing on the protection of the livelihoods and fulfillment of basic necessities (water,</p>	<p>One of the regular initiatives of ASOEN is the development of the ASEAN's joint statement to the UNFCCC 29. The ASEAN Joint Statement to the UNFCCC 29 will be delivered by the current ASEAN Chair, Lao PDR. It outlines ASEAN's common stance with respect to commitments made under the ambit of the UNFCCC. It also frameworks ASEAN's expectations and priorities for negotiations.</p> <p>The ASEAN Climate Finance Strategy is an ASEAN initiative, led by Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines with support from the UNFCCC RCC, prepared as a framework for countries in the region to improve access, and benefit from climate finance mechanisms both internationally, regionally, and domestically, based on best available science.</p> <p>In accordance with the AWGCC Action Plan, this strategy also aims to promote or support present initiatives for common understanding on the optimal institutional arrangements and enabling environment for accessing multilateral funds and mobilizing private sector finance.</p>

² <https://www.undp.org/belarus/stories/loss-and-damage-fund-developing-countries>
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www.dnr.gov.ph

<p>food, energy, and environmental health) of the vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The Means of Implementation committed by developed country Parties to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, such as finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building are key drivers to facilitate AMS and other developing countries' low GHG emissions, green, and climate-resilient development.³</p>	
<p><u>ASEAN Joint Statement on Biodiversity to the CBD COP 16</u></p> <p>We reaffirm our dedication to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) and emphasize our commitment to aligning regional efforts with its goals through the updating of our respective National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans.</p> <p>We reiterate our call for enhanced financial and technical support from developed nations to achieve global biodiversity target. Emphasize how critical enhanced financial and technical support as ASEAN prepares to implement the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan, which is our Post-2025 vision aligned relevant global and regional frameworks and the KM-GBF. The plan is a dynamic in nature with a broad framework and approach that aims to contribute to the achievement of the KM GBF through regional interventions.</p>	<p>ASEAN Biodiversity Plan 2024 – 2030</p> <p>The ASEAN Biodiversity Plan aims to contribute to the implementation of the KM GBF through regional interventions, and to complement the efforts of the AMS in carrying out their respective NBSAPs, through capacity development, and establishing platforms for sharing knowledge and best practices on addressing common challenges and emerging issues affecting the region's natural wealth. This will likewise highlight the direct contributions of ASEAN to the implementation of the KM GBF.</p> <p>The ASEAN Biodiversity Plan seeks to enhance coordination among the ASEAN Member States in conserving, sustainably managing, and using biodiversity, as well as equitably sharing the benefits from the utilisation of the region's rich biological resources . Specifically, the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address ASEAN community-wide concerns related to biodiversity through region-wide approaches; and 2. Complement the ASEAN Member States' efforts in implementing their respective

³ PH Position to ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change
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	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
ASEAN draft Declaration on Plastics Circularity	<p>The draft Declaration aims to advance and implement circular management of plastics across its lifecycle through a more land-based approach, as well as amplify ASEAN's aspiration and voice in the ongoing negotiations at the International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI). It reiterates existing commitments such as in the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN.</p> <p>Notably, it encourages the enhancement of plastic product design, foster legal, transparent and equitable trade in plastic chemicals, and improve plastic waste management systems.</p>
<p><u>ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.</u> It is with great pride that we host the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity in the Philippines. We have witnessed how the organization grew from its roots as a foreign-assisted project under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Now, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity stands in the limelight as a centre for excellence for biodiversity, facilitating coordination and cooperation among the ASEAN Member States in advancing the conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of benefits from the region's biological resources.</p> <p>In the past years, we have witnessed ACB transform into a credible, stronger, globally-trusted and recognised international governmental organisation, evident by its recent accreditation by various notable UN Bodies, such as the UNFCCC and the UNEA. This was capped by the designation of the ACB</p>	

<p>as one of only 18 regional and/or sub regional centres to be part of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), even topping the list of applicants' world-wide.</p> <p>This year, we agreed to increase our budget support to the ACB by 25%, to help enable the Centre to become more effective in dispensing its new role as a sub-regional organisation responsible for supporting the region in meeting the KMGBF targets, as well as to help sustain the Centre's operations and assist them in continuing their efforts to leverage resources for biodiversity programmes in the ASEAN. With the fully operationalised ASEAN Biodiversity Fund, we now have a working financial mechanism where donors and partners can contribute funding for our identified and agreed biodiversity action priorities at the regional level.</p>	
<p>ASEAN Heritage Parks. The Philippines is honored with the nomination of three protected areas in the country as ASEAN heritage park namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park, • Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary, and the • Apo Reef Natural Park. <p>These protected areas represent the pinnacle of biodiversity conservation in our region showcasing unique and irreplaceable natural treasures that ASEAN is home to.</p> <p>The Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park is renowned for its picturesque twin crater lake and known habitat of threatened endemic</p>	<p>First envisioned in 1978 as a group of national parks and nature reserves with outstanding wilderness and biodiversity values, the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) Programme was established to highlight the importance of a select group of protected areas in regional and global efforts in biodiversity conservation. AHPs were then created through the ASEAN Declaration on Heritage Parks and Reserves on 29 November 1984, which named the first 11 protected areas listed under the AHP Programme. A new Declaration on ASEAN Heritage Parks was issued in December 2003, which recognised additional AHPs.</p>

<p>wildlife species such as the Negros Bleeding Heart, Visayan Spotted Deer, Visayan Leopard Cat and more.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary is a critical nesting site for the endangered green sea turtles, playing a vital role in the preservation of this species. It is also a trans boundary protected area that extends to Malaysia's borders.</p> <p>Lastly, the Apo Reef Natural Park is the largest atoll-like reef in the Philippines. It is a vibrant marine sanctuary that supports an incredible diversity of marine life.</p>	<p>The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) currently serves as the Secretariat of the AHP Programme and the AHP Committee, with representatives from the 10 AMS serving as members. In the management of AHPs, the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB) provides guidance and promotes regional coordination in the implementation of conventions and activities related to biodiversity conservation.</p>
<p><u>Hosting of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2024</u></p> <p>The Government of the Philippines in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) will host the 2024 APMCDRR which will be held on 14-18 October 2024 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City, Philippines.</p> <p>The theme "Surge to 2030: Enhancing ambition in Asia-Pacific to accelerate disaster risk reduction," is a critical opportunity to review risk reduction efforts, share innovative solutions, and course correct policies and actions to accelerate risk reduction in the face of climate change and other uncertainties.</p>	<p>The APMCDRR is the main platform in Asia and the Pacific to advance, monitor, review, and enhance cooperation for the implementation of the goals, targets, and priorities for action of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.</p> <p>This event unites governments, intergovernmental, international, national, and civil society organizations, the private sector, science, academia, and stakeholder groups from the Asia-Pacific in developing strategies and initiatives and exchanging good practices in risk prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.</p> <p>The conference is expected to bring together more than 3,000 high-level international and local delegates and will facilitate the exchange of practical solutions, promote inclusive disaster risk governance, and enhance resilience in Asia and the Pacific. It is a critical opportunity for the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific region to advance efforts to build resilient communities.</p>

2. ASEAN-Japan Summit

KEY MESSAGE	BACKGROUND
<p>Commend the significant progress in the Strategic Program for ASEAN Climate and Environment (SPACE)</p>	<p>SPACE is an initiative to work with ASEAN to address the triple global crises of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. It is intended to further strengthen cooperation between ASEAN countries and Japan under the on-going summit-level initiatives, such as ASEAN-Japan Environmental Cooperation Initiative, and the ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda 2.0. The main cooperation activities under SPACE are as follows:</p> <p>Climate Change. Transparency Partnership for Co-Innovation (PaSTI), support for the development of the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), a supply chain for climate information disclosure, development of the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan 2025-2030, methane reduction projects through the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), development of emission reduction technologies through the ASEAN-Japan Midori Cooperation Plan, promotion of sustainable wood use through ITTO contributions, capacity building for building quality carbon markets through the Paris Agreement Article 6 Implementation Partnership, development of CCS guidelines, promotion of technology development, and the Clean City Partnership Program (C2P2), promotion of cooperation in disaster reduction through the ASEAN-Japan Disaster Reduction Action Plan, introducing of early warning systems through public-private partnerships, development of adaptation projects for vulnerable areas and capacity building on loss and damage.</p> <p>Pollution. Support against Plastic Pollution Development and implementation of national action plans including for waste management, identification of</p>

	<p>plastics in the environment, strengthening of monitoring capacity, preparation of inventories, assessment of ecological impacts of plastics, knowledge sharing and capacity building through ERIA.</p> <p>Other Pollution. Promotion of water pollution, air pollution, and chemical management.</p> <p>Partnership on E-waste and Critical Minerals. Survey on the current status of E-waste, environmental improvement including legislation on E-waste treatment, efficient collection of important minerals, capacity building on E-waste recycling, and promotion of utilization of recycled important minerals.</p> <p>Biodiversity Loss. Support for the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) through the Japan Biodiversity Fund (JBF), capacity building, the SATOYAMA Initiative, support for implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework including measures against invasive alien species, sharing of good business practice.</p>
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3. ASEAN-US Summit

KEY MESSAGE	BACKGROUND
<p>The partnership between Philippines' department of environment and natural resources and NASA on the Airborne and Satellite Investigation of Air Quality (ASIA-AQ) mission stands as a testament to our joint efforts in improving air quality models and policies. This pioneering initiative, based at Clark International Airport, involves sophisticated airborne research flights and cutting-edge technology aimed at advancing public health and combating climate change.</p>	<p>The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is holding a scientific research mission to address air quality issues in the country from February 11 to 15, 2024.</p> <p>Dubbed "Airborne and Satellite Investigation of Asian Air Quality" (ASIA-AQ), the mission aims to help The national government via the DENR improve air quality models, provide accurate forecasts, and develop effective policies for better air quality.</p>

	<p>The ASIA-AQ Science Mission based in Clark International Airport has four planned research flights within the two-week period to observe the atmosphere of Metro Manila and get samples across three to five locations in the country.</p> <p>Scientists and air specialists use advanced satellite technology, ground-based observations, and airborne missions in the conduct of airborne using NASA G-III and DC-8 aircraft, which carries a payload of 26 instruments for in-site sampling of atmospheric compositions including gaseous compounds, fine particles, and meteorological variables.</p> <p>The DENR, in a statement, said that data gathered from research flights will be the agency's basis in crafting its air quality programs to mitigate air quality issues that affect public health, and mitigate the effect of climate change. The data will be openly shared during all phases of the joint mission, the conduct of joint analysis, and reporting of findings to local government units. ASIA-AQ is a landmark project led by NASA, in partnership with the Philippines, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, and the United States. The Philippine mission involves the Philippine Space Agency, Manila Observatory, Ateneo de Manila University, and the University of the Philippines.⁴</p>
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4. ASEAN-Korea Summit

KEY MESSAGE	BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philippines expresses its gratitude to ROK for the grant of two (2) Air Quality Monitoring Station Equipment to the Philippines under the Clean Air for Sustainable ASEAN Project. The Clean Air For Sustainable ASEAN (CASA) project, supported by 	<p>The 4 years project aims to provide comprehensive support for ASEAN Member States (AMS) to mitigate air pollution and its negative impact on health through political, scientific and technical measures. The project is composed of four primary outcomes. Outcomes 1 is to raise understanding of the source and health impact of air</p>

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https://faspselfib.denr.gov.ph/sites/default/files//DENR%2C%20NASA%20hold%20air%20quality%20mission%20in%20Clark_0.pdf

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<p>the ASEAN-ROK cooperation fund and in collaboration with the UNESCAP are working with various entities to enhance capabilities of ASEAN member states in mitigating air pollution. Under this project, we recently concluded the capacity building workshop on utilizing digital technology and data to monitor and mitigate air pollution in ASEAN last July 24-25 in Manila. The workshop was designed to empower AMS in effectively employing digital technologies to monitor and mitigate air pollution and the Philippines is honored to be able to contribute and share its initiatives and promote digital cooperation for combatting air pollution across ASEAN.</p>	<p>pollution. Each AMS will find the major sources of air pollutants in their selected major cities by understanding the composition of particulate and gaseous air pollutants. The health impact assessment will enable each AMS to understand the health benefit of improving air quality. In particular, the result of the health impact assessment will be a scientific basis for air pollution policy development by comparing the health benefits and economic impacts of air pollution policy. Outcome 2 is to improve access to information on the status of air pollution. The situation analysis to recommend locations of air pollution monitoring stations in AMS will be conducted using satellite (GEMS operated by Korea MOE) and ground data.</p>
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5. ASEAN-EU Summit

KEY MESSAGE	BACKGROUND
<p>Express appreciation for the Copernicus Capacity Support Action Programme for the Philippines worth PhP 610 Million.</p> <p>The Philippines and the EU have strengthened their collaboration to enhance responses to natural disasters and climate change through the Copernicus Earth Observation Program. This partnership will provide the Philippines with access to cutting-edge satellite data and technology, enabling more effective disaster management and climate resilience efforts. By joining forces, the Philippines and the EU are taking significant steps towards safeguarding communities and promoting sustainable development in the face of global environmental challenges</p>	<p>The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and the European Union (EU) launched today (24 April 2023) the Copernicus Capacity Support Action Programme for the Philippines (CopPhil) worth approximately Php 610 million or €10 million.</p> <p>The first space cooperation programme in the region, this new initiative will help Philippine authorities develop national systems to make use of EU's earth observation's satellites data in the country's disaster mitigation and climate change adaptation and food security strategies.</p>

	<p>The EU's earth observation flagship programme, Copernicus provides free environment and climate data derived from a constellation of satellites –the Sentinels- which monitor the earth and its many ecosystems 24-hours daily. This free information aims to help public authorities, businesses, and international organisations mitigate climate change impacts and build a sustainable future for all.</p> <p>In the Philippines, Copernicus' satellite images have already helped authorities monitor the situation of remote communities in the aftermath of typhoons such as Odette or accidents like an oil spill to help authorities plan their disaster preparedness plans and mitigation programmes.</p> <p>The launch of CopPhil featured a line-up of high level national and international speakers from the Philippine Government, academia, industry, and space agencies, as well as representatives from the European public sector and space agencies from Austria, Italy, Greece, Spain, Germany, France and Romania, and from the European Space Agency (ESA).</p> <p>During the launch, Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum welcomed Copernicus and the Copernicus programme in the Philippines as “A long-awaited cooperation on an innovative system that will provide the Philippines new opportunities to develop earth observation applications for disaster risk reduction and management, environmental protection, and climate change adaptation.”⁵</p>
<p>In addition, the Philippines recognizes the major contributions of</p>	<p>President Marcos, Jr, signed Republic Act No. 11995 or the</p>

⁵ <https://philsa.gov.ph/news/copernicus-philippines-and-eu-join-forces-for-better-response-to-disasters-and-climate-change/>

<p>EU through the E-READI — a demand-driven dialogue instrument that supports ASEAN regional integration by drawing on EU experience, and facilitates on-going or new dialogues between the EU and ASEAN in policy areas of joint interest. The timely efforts of E-READI for the development of the natural capital roadmap, coincides with our own efforts to institutionalize natural capital accounting in the planning and decision making processes of the government with the recent enactment of the RA 11995 or the Philippine ecosystem natural accounting system act this year. In the implementation of this law, a well-capacitated workforce is crucial and in this we would like to express our interest in further cooperation for knowledge exchange, and capacity building.</p>	<p>Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act on May 22, 2024, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said.</p> <p>The new law aims to recognize, protect and promote the ecological balance and resilience of the country by institutionalizing environmental and economic accounting frameworks that are accepted internationally.</p> <p>Included under the law's accounting framework is the list of officially designated statistics on the depletion, degradation, and restoration of natural capital; environmental protection expenditures; pollution and quality of land, air and water; and environmental damage.</p> <p>The law is expected to support the government's economic, environmental and health policy development and decision-making. It will also help provide tools and measures that contribute to the protection, conservation and restoration of the country's ecosystems.</p>
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We hope for your kind consideration on our submitted proposals. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES
Undersecretary
Policy, Planning and International Affairs
ASOEN Philippines National Focal Point



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS



OFFICE OF ASEAN AFFAIRS

Our Ref. No. : DIV1-316-ASEAN-2024
Subject : **Request for Proposed Key Messages and Interventions for President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, 8-11 October 2024**
Date : 2 August 2024

Dear Colleagues,

The Department kindly requests your agencies' proposed key messages for the interventions of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits to be held on 8-11 October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

In preparing the key messages, agencies are encouraged to:

1. Articulate the Philippines' positions on key issues and developments in ASEAN, particularly those under your respective ASEAN Sectoral Bodies;
2. Highlight ASEAN initiatives or programs under your respective ASEAN Sectoral Bodies that are in line with the Philippines' priorities in ASEAN, especially those that were proposed or shepherded by the Philippines;
3. Consider the key deliverables of ASEAN in 2024, including those in line with the priorities of the 2024 ASEAN Chair (*copy attached*);
4. Identify successful engagements or Philippine-led initiatives or programs between ASEAN and its external partners, and new initiatives or programs that should be undertaken between ASEAN and its external partners (for ASEAN Leaders' Summits with ASEAN's external partners); and
5. Provide references or background information to support your agencies' proposed key messages.

Attached for agencies' reference are the list of meetings of the President and the tentative programme of the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, as circulated by Lao PDR. Likewise enclosed is the latest copy of the Philippines' priorities in ASEAN for 2024 for reference.

Your agencies are highly encouraged to submit proposed key messages and backgrounders for more than one Leaders' meeting. Your agencies may also submit proposed key messages for more than one topic, as appropriate.

Your agencies' inputs are essential in ensuring that the President's interventions will reflect the Philippines' key priorities in ASEAN. The ASEAN Philippines National Secretariat would highly appreciate receiving the requested materials from your respective agencies in a Word document/editable copy through asean.div1@dfa.gov.ph on or before **22 August 2024 (Thursday)**.

Thank you for your usual cooperation and assistance.

Very truly yours,
For the Secretary for Foreign Affairs



DANIEL R. ESPIRITU
Assistant Secretary

Attachments: as stated.

ALL AMTB AGENCIES

Matrix of Key Messages of the President for the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits

44th and 45th ASEAN Summit (Plenary Session¹)	
Topic	Key Message
<i>(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)</i>	<i>(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)</i>

27th ASEAN-China Summit	
Topic	Key Message
<i>(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)</i>	<i>(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)</i>

¹ While the agenda has not been provided, it is anticipated that the topics for the plenary session will focus on ASEAN Community-building under the three ASEAN Community Pillars, as well as Lao PDR's Chairship priorities, "Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience"

Topic	Key Message	Background
(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)	<i>(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)</i>	<i>(Provide references or other information that would substantiate the proposed key message)</i>

27th ASEAN-Japan Summit		
Topic	Key Message	Background
(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)	<i>(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)</i>	<i>(Provide references or other information that would substantiate the proposed key message)</i>

27th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit		
Topic	Key Message	Background
<i>(Kindly identify the Topic of the</i>	<i>(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet</i>	<i>(Provide references or other information that</i>

<p>proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)</p>	<p>points for multiple key messages under the same topic)</p>	<p>would substantiate the proposed key message)</p>

<p>21st ASEAN – India Summit</p>		
<p>Topic</p>	<p>Key Message</p>	<p>Background</p>
<p>(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)</p>	<p>(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)</p>	<p>(Provide references or other information that would substantiate the proposed key message)</p>

<p>4th ASEAN-Australia Summit</p>		
<p>Topic</p>	<p>Key Message</p>	<p>Background</p>
<p>(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)</p>	<p>(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)</p>	<p>(Provide references or other information that would substantiate the proposed key message)</p>

ASEAN-Canada Special Summit on Enhancing ASEAN Connectivity and Resilience	
Topic	Key Message
(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)	(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)

12th ASEAN-U.S. Summit	
Topic	Key Message
(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)	(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)

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19th East Asia Summit (EAS) ²		
Topic	Key Message	Background
(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)	(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)	(Provide references or other information that would substantiate the proposed key message)

14th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit		
Topic	Key Message	Background
(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)	(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)	(Provide references or other information that would substantiate the proposed key message)

² In view of EAS engagements under the economic, energy, and education sectors, we particularly would like to request inputs, if any, from DTI, DOE, and DepEd for the 19th EAS

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ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)		
Topic	Key Message	Background
(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)	(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)	(Provide references or other information that would substantiate the proposed key message)

ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC)		
Topic	Key Message	Background
(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)	(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)	(Provide references or other information that would substantiate the proposed key message)

ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Youth

Topic	Key Message	Background
<i>(Kindly identify the Topic of the proposed key message. Example: Climate Change, Food Security, etc.)</i>	<i>(Insert the proposed key message of the President. Kindly use bullet points for multiple key messages under the same topic)</i>	<i>(Provide references or other information that would substantiate the proposed key message)</i>



Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship 2024 "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience"

Explanatory Note on Priorities

In 2024, ASEAN, like other regions around the world, continues to face a myriad of challenges, including lingering economic and financial difficulties, even though the region has been gradually recovering from multidimensional disturbances, and yet this recovery remains fragile. Additionally, climate change, natural disasters, and traditional and non-traditional security issues, among others, also continue to be pressing challenges. Against this backdrop, enhancing connectivity and resilience is of utmost importance to ensure ASEAN collective efforts in the strengthening of the ASEAN Community and to seize opportunities and address present and emerging challenges effectively.

It is, thus, imperative for ASEAN to enhance its cooperation on ASEAN connectivity and resilience through intensifying ASEAN cooperation under the three community pillars; promoting infrastructure connectivity, narrowing development gap, promoting greater economic integration and people-to-people exchanges; and further strengthening ASEAN's relations with external partners, while maintaining ASEAN's relevance and ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture, among others.

To this end, the Lao PDR has determined the theme "**ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience**" for its ASEAN Chairmanship in 2024.

Summary of priorities under this theme is as follows:

I. **Enhancing Connectivity**

Connectivity plays a crucial role in supporting an integrated ASEAN Community building process, which comprises political-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars, especially in promoting the regional economic integration, the ASEAN competitiveness and recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as in building resilience to address growing challenges.

Under "Enhancing Connectivity", the Lao PDR will seek cooperation on the following priority areas:

1. Integrating and Connecting Economies: this priority area would focus on deepening connections in areas such as regulatory alignment, removing barriers to trade and investment, and strengthening supply chain connectivity across ASEAN – highlighting that ASEAN is stronger and more resilient, when economies are better connected. A number of the Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) under this priority are centred on economic integration. This means building stronger connections between the economies of ASEAN and ASEAN partners. Stronger connections, in particular through trade and investment, narrowing the development gaps between ASEAN Member States, building

resilience through economic growth and stability. Several PEDs to support the Integrating and Connecting Economies include an ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Supply Chain Connectivity; completing the Review with a view to upgrading the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AFAIPC); achieving Substantial conclusion of Upgraded ASEAN-China FTA “3.0”; and Achieving Entry-into-Force of the 2nd Protocol on the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA) and reframing strategies for narrowing development gaps and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the ASEAN region.

2. Forging an Inclusive and Sustainable Future: This priority recognises the importance of sustainable development for ASEAN, connecting environmental and social objectives with the building of a more resilient ASEAN region. PEDs under this priority have a particular focus on cooperation in areas of sustainable development. Under the Lao PDR’s Chairmanship, PEDs will support outcomes on sustainable agriculture, new ecotourism standards, a strategy for crop burning reduction and a new approach to energy infrastructure and power trade across ASEAN borders. Fostering inclusion deepens connections among different groups within ASEAN, including marginalized communities and businesses, and ensures that the benefits of ASEAN economic integration are available to all. Under the Lao PDR’s Chairmanship, PEDs will also support the MSME sector across ASEAN – the backbone of our economies – by exploring new ways to address access to finance and financial inclusion. Several PEDs to support this priority include developing the Strategy/Guideline for Crop Burning Reduction to support the implementation of the ASEAN Carbon Neutrality Strategy and an ASEAN Action Plan on Sustainable Agriculture; achieving substantive progress in finalizing a successor agreement on the ASEAN Power Grid and multilateral power trade in the region and an ASEAN Ecotourism Standards; and addressing Financing Gaps Among MSMEs.

3. Transforming for the Digital Future: this is to support ASEAN’s emergence as a leading digital economy, building deeper connections across ASEAN and with the world using modern tools. In turn, these modern tools will create new opportunities and build resilience for the challenges of the modern global economy. Digital transformation can enhance connectivity within ASEAN by providing new ways for member states to communicate, collaborate, and share information. By adopting digital technologies, electronic payment methods and platforms, ASEAN can overcome physical barriers and enable real-time communication, facilitating the development of a more connected and integrated community. Digital transformation can also enhance resilience of ASEAN by improving its ability to adapt to changes and disruptions. Under the Lao PDR’s Chairmanship, PEDs will focus on reducing friction in our trading system, paving the way for a new generation of the ASEAN Single Window and establishing a roadmap towards new digital trade standards aligned with global norms. The Lao PDR will also drive PEDs under this priority to create new opportunities in the digital sector for individuals, through the launch of the ASEAN Online Education Platform for Industry 4.0, and for businesses through the roadmap on Unique Business Identification Numbers. Several PEDs to support this priority include completing the technical study on a New Generation of ASEAN Single Window and adopting a Roadmap on Digital Trade Standards in ASEAN, an ASEAN Online Education Platform for Industry 4.0 and a Roadmap to Establish Regionally Comparable and Recognized Unique Business Identification Numbers (UBIN) in ASEAN.

4. Culture and Arts: Promoting the Role of ASEAN Culture and the Arts for Inclusion and Sustainability: this priority aims at promoting the role of culture and arts in the

ASEAN region in order to strengthen the human capacity building and increase more activities and projects of the culture and the arts in developing the Small and Medium-sized Cultural Enterprises along with the Green Growth and Sustainable Development. Several deliverables are expected to support this priority, such as a Declaration on Promoting the Small and Medium-sized Cultural Enterprises aligned with the Green Growth for Sustainable Development, an ASEAN Vientiane Performing Arts Programme, an ASEAN Vientiane Film Week, the Best of ASEAN Performing Arts 2024: "ASEAN as One Stage", an ASEAN-Japan Youth Exchange Programme on the Creative Fine Arts Productions, an ASEAN-Korea Music Festival 2024, an ASEAN's Musical Instrumentalist Students Exchange Programme, a Saa Paper Workshop to Promote Plastic-Free in ASEAN and an ASEAN Heritage Train – Enhancing Connectivity towards Cultural Diversity.

II. Enhancing Resilience

The Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship is carried out in a year when geo-political and geo-economic landscapes are increasingly complex with multi-dimensional challenges. Enhancing resilience is of paramount importance as it would enable ASEAN to navigate through and address these challenges in an effective and sustainable manner for the common course of peace, stability, and development cooperation.

The following activities and areas are to support "Enhancing Resilience":

1. Development of strategic plans to implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2045:

2024 is an important year as ASEAN approaches its final stage of the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. A review and evaluation of the APSC blueprint 2025 will be commenced in 2024 and completed in 2025.

The ASEAN Community Vision 2045 was noted by the 43rd ASEAN Summit. In 2024, the strategic plans to implement this Vision would be developed for adoption in 2025 by the ASEAN Leaders. An ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Development of Strategic Plans to implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 is expected to support this endeavour.

2. Enhancing ASEAN Centrality: The focus would be made on the followings:

The Lao PDR will continue to enhance ASEAN's external relations with a view to further contributing to the ASEAN Community-building efforts as well as maintaining peace and stability, and promoting sustainable development and prosperity, including through ASEAN-led mechanisms, while maintaining ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture. The Lao PDR will seek to further strengthen ASEAN's relations with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, and Development Partners through the existing frameworks, Plans of Action, ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, Practical Cooperation Areas and development cooperation programmes based on mutual interest and benefit. As the ASEAN Chair and Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations, the Lao PDR will ensure the success of a Special Summit to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations.

To support Timor-Leste's preparations for Full Membership in ASEAN, the implementation of the Roadmap and working toward Timor-Leste's accession to the Treaty on the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone will be pursued.