

**Presidential Communications Operations Office  
Presidential News Desk**

**INTERVENTION OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
AT THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) SUMMIT**

[26 October 2021]

President Moon Jae-In,

Your Majesty, Excellencies,

Thirty years of ASEAN-Republic of Korea Dialogue Partnership has truly come a long way. We thank the Republic of Korea for its strong commitment to enhance cooperation with ASEAN.

The Joint Statement on Advancing ASEAN-ROK Cooperation is indeed a key action document, highlighting complementarities between ROK's New Southern Policy Plus and ASEAN's major strategies to build a community of peace and prosperity in the post COVID-19 period.

The ROK's COVID-19 response has been exemplary --- from curbing the spread of the disease to supporting vaccine multilateralism. We are grateful for ROK's generous contribution to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund.

As we work towards recovery, we welcome collaboration on vaccine production and other initiatives under the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework.

With the convening of the ASEAN-ROK Health Dialogue Channel, we also look forward to closer cooperation in public health security.

COVID-19 has exposed the weaknesses of our economies, underscoring the need for deeper regional economic integration.

We should exert all efforts to fully implement the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement and ensure the early entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

We welcome the signing of the Philippines-ROK Free Trade Agreement today. This is a step towards deeper integration which is needed for our economies to recover and bounce back.

The Philippines supports the upgrade of the New Southern Policy, particularly the major initiatives aimed at enhancing people-to-people connectivity.

Cooperation in the digital content industry, through capacity building and co-production, can certainly bring our peoples even closer together.

Your Majesty, Excellencies,

Securing peace in the Korean Peninsula remains a priority issue for all of us. The Philippines reiterates its call for all parties to continue dialogue and work towards lasting peace and stability in a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

I congratulate Brunei Darussalam for its excellent work as previous country coordinator of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations and welcome Viet Nam as the new country coordinator for 2021-2024.

Rest assured of the Philippines' full support for the further strengthening of ASEAN-ROK relations.

Thank you.

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