

**OPENING REMARKS
H.E. RETNO L.P. MARSUDI
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDONESIA
AT
ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING
LABUAN BAJO, 09 MAY 2023**

Colleagues,

Good morning and welcome to Labuan Bajo.

We had started our works last night in the working dinner, to discuss some issues that will be taken up by our Leaders in the Summit.

This meeting is intended, among others, to discuss a number of issues:

First, ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth. This is related with ASEAN Community Building.

Under this agenda item, we will discuss and recommend to our Leaders how to build a strong foundation for the future of ASEAN, a long-term vision, and a stronger capacity of ASEAN to enable ASEAN to face future challenges.

Second, we will discuss updates on the accessions to the TAC.

Third, to summarize our discussion on the implementation of 5PC during last night's working dinner.

Fourth, effective implementation of ASEAN Outlook on the Indo Pacific.

The role ASEAN is instrumental for peace, stability and prosperity of the region.

We cannot imagine what will happen in this region if we don't have ASEAN.

But we cannot be complacent. This achievement should be an asset to build a stronger ASEAN. A more relevant ASEAN.

For sure, the future challenges that ASEAN will face will be bigger, including in the Indo-Pacific.

This is why implementation of AOIP becomes more important right now.

Therefore, we need to work harder, not business as usual.

I am sure that, together, we will achieve ***ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth.***

Thank you.

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