



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Special Message



My warmest felicitations and congratulations to the **Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)** for publishing **ASEAN@50: Retrospectives and Perspectives on the Making, Substance, Significance and Future of ASEAN**.

Fifty years ago, amidst socioeconomic uncertainties and geopolitical tensions around the world, five countries joined hands to form the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). They were bound by their common desire to share the future of the region into one of peace, stability, security and prosperity for the benefit of all their peoples.

Guided by the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in domestic affairs, ASEAN has since then built bonds of friendship in the region. This led to its peaceful expansion into the present-day ten-member ASEAN Community which today stands at the center of the future of the Asia-Pacific.

It is a privilege for the Philippines to assume chairmanship of ASEAN on its milestone 50th year. Together with our fellow member-states, we intend to build on the organization's rich history as we prepare our nations for the challenges that lie ahead. May we all be reminded that it is our shared responsibility to ensure that ASEAN continues to fully grow into the rules-based, people-centered and people-oriented community we envision.

Through this compilation of works by extraordinary individuals who helped shape ASEAN into what it is today, I am confident that we can further strengthen our ties and realize our shared dream and vision for our peoples. To be sure, this landmark publication will add substantially to ERIA's significant body of work from which East Asia can truly learn from as we strive together for a more peaceful, progressive and prosperous future for ASEAN and beyond.

Manila, July 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodrigo Roa Duterte".

Rodrigo Roa Duterte
President
Republic of the Philippines