



Photo from the 46th ASEAN Summit in Malaysia

48TH ASEAN SUMMIT STARTS TOMORROW

ENERGY SECURITY HIGH ON THE AGENDA

Amid the global energy problem brought about by the Middle East crisis, leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations gather in Cebu tomorrow, May 8, for the 48th ASEAN Summit, with the region's energy security high on the agenda.

Leaders from all 11 ASEAN member-states—Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam—will meet at the Mactan Expo in Lapu-Lapu City to discuss various concerns including economic resilience and sustainability; peace and security; food security; financial integration; digital transformation and people empowerment.

Most events will take place in Lapu-Lapu City, with additional activities in Cebu and Mandaue. About 3,000 delegates, including officials, staff, and international media, are expected.

The Leaders' Summit comes in the wake of supply-chain disruptions caused by the Middle East conflict that broke out on February 28, later worsened by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which more than 25 percent of global crude oil passes.

"A disruption that begins in the Strait of Hormuz ripples through Singapore, the Strait of Malacca, and onward to Manila, Tokyo, Seoul, [and] Jakarta within days,"

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said during the Asia Zero Emission Control Summit on April 15, to emphasize the vulnerabilities shared by countries across Asia and ASEAN.

In one of several meetings that set the tone for the Summit, ASEAN's Economic Ministers recognized the close link between energy markets and economic stability and underscored the importance of strengthening regional energy security and resilience, given ASEAN's exposure to global supply routes and developments in international energy markets.

"We emphasized the need to manage energy consumption, diversify energy sources and supply routes,

particularly through biofuels and renewable energy, enhance regional cooperation on energy preparedness, and cooperation on reserves, including with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, and accelerate renewable energy transition and alternative energy development," the Ministers said in a statement.

The Meeting also called for continued collaboration to advance ASEAN's existing energy cooperation frameworks, including the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Petroleum Security (APSA), the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) Enhanced Memorandum of Understanding, and the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP), to ensure stable, secure, sustainable, and resilient energy connectivity and supply.

"It is clear that the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Petroleum Security (APSA) matters more now than at any point since its adoption," President Marcos also said.

The enhanced APSA, endorsed at last October's ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, establishes the architecture for coordinated emergency responses, emergency supply sharing, and, critically, joint oil stockpiling.

President Marcos said the Philippines fully supports its operationalization.

The Philippines is hosting the Summit under the theme, "Navigating Our Future, Together."



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

With great pride and a profound sense of purpose, we welcome our brothers and sisters from our ASEAN family to this historic 48th ASEAN Summit.

We gather at a time when the world is wrapped in tension and volatile fuel prices that have disrupted our economies and brought difficulties to our people. All these add to the challenges that we already face—from climate risks to digital divide to geopolitical uncertainty.

Now more than ever, our responses require more than just individual effort; they demand a unified, collective act and vision.

"Navigating Our Future, Together," is, therefore, more than just the theme of our Summit. It captures the strength of our solidarity in facing the challenges ahead and charting the course of our shared future.

Let this Summit then serve as a moment for action – when dialogue leads to results that benefit all of ASEAN.

Together, let us navigate the complexities of this time and forge a future that is secure, peaceful, stable, and prosperous for every ASEAN national.

Thank you to our fellow ASEAN members for the opportunity to chair this 48th Summit.

Mabuhay!

(Sgd.)

FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.
PRESIDENT
Republic of the Philippines



Office of the President
Malacañang



Distinguished leaders and partners across Southeast Asia: welcome to the Philippines.

As we gather for the 48th ASEAN Leaders' Summit, we come together as one region with a shared responsibility: to secure a brighter and more resilient future for all our peoples, especially in a time of uncertainty and rapid change.

As Chair of ASEAN 2026, the Philippines is guided by three priorities: Peace and Security, Prosperity, and People Empowerment. These reflect our commitment to keep our region stable, our economies growing, and our citizens at the center of progress.

But today's challenges demand more from us. With tensions in the Middle East affecting us all, this Summit is an opportunity to deepen collaboration on the issues that matter most: energy security, food security, and the safety of ASEAN nationals wherever they may be.

As host, the Philippines is determined to use this platform to advance concrete and sustainable solutions to current and future challenges in order to shape a better future for all. Let us match the scale of today's demands with the strength of our solidarity. We aim not only to overcome these difficulties, but to emerge stronger than ever.

With unity as our anchor, ASEAN will continue to be a force for good in the world. May our partnerships remain steadfast, our institutions responsive, and our aspirations bold as we "navigate our future, together."

Mabuhay!

(Sgd.)

RALPH G. RECTO
ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Chair, 48th ASEAN Summit
National Organizing Council

