

## **OPENING REMARKS**

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**His Excellency Motegi Toshimitsu**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and Coordinator for the Plus Three Countries**

**His Excellency Li Qiang**

**Premier of the People's Republic of China**

**His Excellency Lee Jae Myung**

**President of the Republic of Korea**

**Your Majesty, Excellencies,**

- 1. On behalf of ASEAN, I am pleased to welcome our friends from the Plus Three Countries to this Summit. I also extend a special welcome to President Lee Jae Myung, who joins us at this Summit for the first time.**
- 2. Nearly three decades on, the ASEAN Plus Three remains one of the most enduring frameworks for dialogue and cooperation. Born in the wake of the Asian Financial Crisis in 1996, the APT has prevailed over other crises such as the 2008 financial crisis and most recently the COVID pandemic.**

- 3. The ASEAN Plus Three experience shows that shared challenges can be turned into strength. In this regard, we must double down on engagement and cooperation, which remain the key to stability. We should also proceed to establish the proposed APT Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (APTRMS) to prepare for future health emergencies.**
  
- 4. We must ensure that growth is fair, prosperity is widely shared, and progress brings peace. We must prepare our youth and women for an East Asia region that is sustainable, inclusive and interconnected.**
  
- 5. I look forward to constructive engagement on the future of this cooperation, where East Asia continues as a cradle of stability, opportunity and hope.**

**Thank you.**

- 6. It is now my pleasure to invite His Excellency Motegi Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, to deliver his Opening Remarks on behalf of the Plus Three Countries.**
  
- 7. Thank you, Excellency.**

- 8. It is now my pleasure to invite His Excellency Li Qiang, Premier of the People's Republic of China, to deliver his Opening Remarks.**
  
- 9. Thank you, Excellency.**