



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 1, 2019

Dear Esteemed Leaders of ASEAN:

I am writing to offer my warmest congratulations on another successful Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit. In particular, I wish to convey my deepest respect to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand for the leadership he and the Thai people have shown throughout the Kingdom of Thailand's ASEAN chairmanship in 2019. I have no doubt that all of the visiting delegations will depart with indelible memories of the warmth, dignity, and hospitality of the Thai people.

The United States remains committed to our strategic partnership with ASEAN, and to supporting the organization's central role in the Indo-Pacific region's economic, political-security, and sociocultural affairs. As the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific makes clear, we share a common vision for the future of this dynamic and diverse region, based upon respect for sovereignty, commitment to good governance, and adherence to the rule of law.

I have great memories of my time at the United States-ASEAN Summit in 2017. Since I cannot join you in Bangkok, I have asked National Security Advisor Robert C. O'Brien to serve as my special envoy to this year's United States-ASEAN Summit and East Asia Summit. Mr. O'Brien is well placed to speak authoritatively on the spectrum of issues that are of interest to the United States and ASEAN's 10 member-nations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer an invitation to the leaders of ASEAN to join me in the United States for a special summit meeting at a time of mutual convenience in the first quarter of 2020. This will provide an excellent opportunity for us to broaden and deepen our cooperation on matters of great importance to the nearly one billion people in the United States and ASEAN nations that we have the privilege to represent.

The American people and I hope to see you in the United States soon.

Sincerely,

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Donald Trump, written over the word "Sincerely,".