

Thailand supports U.S. Rebalance to Asia Policy; Ready to strengthen cooperation for stronger ASEAN – U.S. Strategic Partnership



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The Prime Minister of Thailand participated in the 4th ASEAN – United States Summit in Vientiane, Laos on September 8, 2016. Followings are highlights of his remarks.

- ❖ Commend President Obama for initiating the Rebalance to Asia policy and for regularly attending the meetings with ASEAN leaders.
- ❖ Commend President Obama for hosting the Special U.S.-ASEAN Summit at Sunnylands in February 2016, which underscored the strategic partnership between ASEAN and the U.S.
- ❖ Inform that Thailand is boosting the country’s competitiveness through “Thailand 4.0 model” that seeks to transform Thailand into an economy that is driven by entrepreneurship, technology, innovation and creativity. This is in line with the discussion at the Sunnylands Summit.
- ❖ Hope that the U.S. will increase its support to ASEAN countries in areas such as science and technology, innovation, STEM education, digital economy, green economy, e-commerce, technology transfer, capacity building for SMEs and start-ups, including women entrepreneurs, and workforce skill development.
- ❖ Ready to work with the U.S. to advance the U.S.-ASEAN Connect initiative as announced by President Obama at the Sunnylands Summit, through partnership with a Connect Center in Bangkok. ASEAN and the U.S. should utilize the U.S.-ASEAN Connect initiative to promote “Creative ASEAN” which aims to strengthen ASEAN countries’ capacities in science, technology, and innovation.
- ❖ Support continuation of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) in conjunction with other initiatives such as the Fulbright Scholarship and the ASEAN- U.S. Internship Program proposed by the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam at the Sunnylands Summit.
- ❖ Support closer ASEAN-U.S. partnership in counter-terrorism, cyber security, climate change, natural disaster preparedness and response, early warning and reconstruction, water management, food security, maritime security, and respect for international law.
- ❖ Will expedite domestic procedures for early ratification of Thailand to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- ❖ Appreciate President Obama’s personal commitment to strengthen the strategic partnership between ASEAN and the U.S., and wish him happiness and success in the future.

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