



Remarks by

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Timor

At the AIPA conference

**"Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth
in ASEAN"**

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Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Esteemed Colleagues,

It is an honor to address you at this AIPA conference, representing Timor-Leste, a country **still present here as an observer.**

First, we want to express our deep gratitude to **Laos and its wonderful people for hosting this excellent** conference and for choosing the theme "Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth in ASEAN."

Excellencies,

Our nation's journey has taught us the **powerful impact of connectivity and dialogue.**

It is our guide, our **first, second, third,** and last resort when facing challenges.

This is the belief that has shaped our diplomacy and development.

The belief that allowed us to build peace with **our Indonesian brothers and sisters** and engage in strong partnerships across the region and the world.

Our experience in international organizations like the **CPLP (Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries)** and **G7+** has shown us, also, the great benefits of working together.

And our recent joining of the World Trade Organization further strengthens our firm commitment to global economic cooperation.

The steps we have taken allow us to hope that one day we will be welcomed into **ASEAN**. We believe **it is our natural home**, where we can help build a **stronger, more united region**.

This is why this year's conference theme **connects so deeply with our hopes for inclusive progress**.

As our leader, Xanana Gusmão, recently said at the United Nations: "**What kind of world is this we live in, where we can fuel wars, but cannot feed children?**" This stark question reminds us to double our efforts for peace **and inclusive development.**

Timor-Leste **remains committed to learning from your experiences and adding to constructive talks** for shared solutions to regional and global challenges.

We bring not only **our challenges but also our unique perspectives and strong dedication** to regional prosperity.

May the spirit of dialogue, cooperation, and inclusive growth guide us in the challenges ahead.

Finally, I would like to state that **Timor-Leste firmly believes that in our diversity, we find our strength, and together, we are stronger.**

And so, we look forward to the day when we can stand among you not as observers, but as full members of the ASEAN family.

Thank you for your attention.