



TRIBUNAL DE RECURSO

GABINETE DO PRESIDENTE

RUA DE CAICOLI, DÍLI, TIMOR-LESTE - TELEFONE: 333 1149 – WEBSITE: www.tribunais.tl

REMARKS BY CHIEF JUSTICE TIMOR-LESTE

Your Excellency, Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Thailand Hon. Adisak Tantiwong ,

Your Excellencies, Chief Justices of the Supreme Courts of the ASEAN Countries,

Your Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings.

First of all, allow me to express my highest respect and appreciation to the government and Supreme Court of the host country for organizing this very important meeting. The ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting is a strategic platform for strengthening judicial cooperation, reinforcing the rule of law, and enhancing public confidence in judicial institutions in the ASEAN region.

It is a profound honor and pride for Timor-Leste to be present and participate in this distinguished forum. As an ASEAN member state, Timor-Leste is committed to actively contributing to realizing a peaceful, stable and prosperous region by strengthening its legal system and independent, professional, and integrity-based judiciary.

On behalf of the Supreme Court of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and all of our people, allow me to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all the Chief Justices of ASEAN countries who accepted us as full members on February 16, 2026. The acceptance of the Supreme Court of Timor-Leste as a full member of the ASEAN judicial family is a transformative moment that we have eagerly anticipated.

The support and consensus provided by Your Excellencies is a clear demonstration of the spirit of fraternal solidarity and a shared commitment to the rule of law in the Southeast Asian region. This is not merely an administrative record, but rather a recognition of our



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determination to continue strengthening institutional capacity and aligning judicial standards with regional standards.

Timor-Leste believes that cooperation among ASEAN judicial institutions plays a crucial role in addressing various cross-border legal challenges, including transnational crime, digital transformation in the judicial sector, human rights protection, and improving public access to justice.

Timor-Leste continues to undertake various institutional reforms, including the establishment Courts of First Level, Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court, enhancing human resource capacity, utilizing information technology, and strengthening judicial independence and accountability. We believe that the experiences and best practices of ASEAN countries will be valuable inspiration for judicial reform in Timor-Leste.

Furthermore, Timor-Leste is also ready to share its experiences in building a judicial system in as young country, while upholding the values of democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights.

Through this meeting, we hope that the friendly relations and cooperation among the Supreme Courts of ASEAN countries will strengthen, thereby making a tangible contribution to the creation of a modern, effective, transparent, and service-oriented judicial system.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all participants for the spirit of cooperation they have fostered. I hope this meeting will produce recommendations and concrete steps that will benefit the advancement of judicial institutions in the ASEAN region.

Thank you.

Afonso Carmona

President of Court of Appeal Timor-Leste