Reiterating ASEAN’s Voice in the Special ASEAN-US Summit
Contents

1 | Reiterating ASEAN’s voice in the Special ASEAN-US Summit (page 3)

2 | Marie-Louise Hannan: Ambassador for Canada to ASEAN (page 5)

3 | Celebrating 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Canada Relation in 2017 (page 6)

4 | ASEAN-CANADA: Reafirm commitment to Strengthen Partnership (page 7)

5 | ACO Spring Sport 2016: Table Tennis Fun Tournament (page 8)

7 | The ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ voice: Unity and Centrality to Overcome Regional Challenges (page 9)

8 | ASEAN Culture: Pencak Silat (page 10)

6 | The 3rd ASEAN- RUSSIA Summit, Sochi, 19-20 May 2016 (page 11)

9 | 25th World Economic Forum On ASEAN – Shaping The ASEAN Agenda For Inclusion And Growth (page 12)

10 | Letter to the Editor of Ottawa Life Magazine from the Ambassador of the Philippines to Canada (page 14)

11 | Pictorials (Page 16)
Sunnylands, California, US, 15-16 February 2016, The Southeast Asian leaders as well as the ASEAN Secretary-General attended a two-day special summit hosted by US President Barrack Obama at the historic Sunnylands Center in Rancho Mirage, California, 15-16 February 2016. This summit is the first bilateral high level meeting after the ASEAN-US strategic partnership passed in 2015 and in fact it was held in US is a notable achievement for the current and future place of Southeast Asia and ASEAN in the U.S.’ Asia policy. The discussion and the Joint Statement also reflected the leaders’ vision, urgency and the importance of ASEAN-US Strategic Partnership.

The Sunnylands summit was divided into three main sessions, each with one major agenda that highlights the interest of ASEAN and the US in the Asia Pacific Region, especially in the ASEAN Community three pillars including politics and security, economic and socio cultural.

The first agenda is Promoting an Innovative Entrepreneurial ASEAN Economic Community. The ASEAN-US Leaders are discussing the importance of pursuing policies that lead to dynamic, open and competitive economies that foster economic growth, job creation, innovation, entrepreneurship and connectivity. The leaders also have the chance to discuss these issues with the CEOs of three US Companies, Microsoft, IBM and Cisco. Indonesian President Joko Widodo highlighted the importance of technology and digital economy for Small Medium Business Enterprises. The Lao President as the ASEAN Chairman Laos, also stated that “ASEAN Members can learn a lot from the Silicon Valley”, to support small medium business can operate globally. The leaders underlined “innovation” as a key of strong development of the ASEAN region, along with the financial options and the willingness to learn further through research and development.

The second agenda: Protecting Peace, Prosperity and Security in the Asia Pacific focused on Maritime Issues, Terrorism, and Transnational Challenges such as the world health, climate change, illicit
trafficking in persons, drugs, wildlife, timber and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. The US emphasised on the need of international cooperation on terrorism mitigation, and encouraged ASEAN to conduct the possible preventive steps on extremist group without undermining the freedom of speech and the principle of fair trials. ASEAN emphasised the cooperation to promote tolerance, and to control the root causes in order to mitigate terrorism. Both ASEAN and US reiterated their commitment to implement the Paris Agreement to overcome with the climate change, and the transmitted diseases such as MERS, SARS, and Zika Virus is a serious global threat. Both US and ASEAN will cooperate with WHO on this matter.

At the Working Dinner, the Leaders discussed Regional Strategic Outlook which focused on South China Sea (SCS) in order to preserve a safe and peaceful region by emphasizing self-restraint and non-militarization. Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia also reiterate the importance to fight the IUU Fishing; while Singapore and the Philippines reiterates the importance of people's access to clean water and clean water management.

Ian Storey of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore stated that "ASEAN is America's fourth-largest trading partner. It's by far the largest destination for U.S. investment in Asia — more than China, Japan, South Korea and India combined. It's huge," "Southeast Asia is enormously important to the United States, and the Obama administration has been giving it the attention it deserves."

"ASEAN is America's fourth-largest trading partner. It's by far the largest destination for U.S. investment in Asia — more than China, Japan, South Korea and India combined. It's huge,"

- Ian Storey, researcher at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
Demonstrating its commitment to enhanced relations with the South East Asia Region, Canada appointed Marie-Louise Hanan as the new ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on January 16, 2016.

Previously, Canada increased its diplomatic presence in the ASEAN region with the opening of its first resident diplomatic mission in Yangon, Myanmar in 2013, and opened offices in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Vientiane, Laos, in August 2015, thereby ensuring for the first time a permanent, resident Canadian diplomatic presence in all 10 ASEAN member states.

In her message in the Global Affairs website, Hanan stated “Having started my career in Southeast Asia, I am proud to once again represent Canada in this important region.” She also congratulates ASEAN for the successful launch of the ASEAN community. Canada is using its new diplomatic resources in the region to support Laos, ASEAN Chair for 2016, as well as ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat, in realizing the Community’s full potential.

Prior to Hanan’s assignment as the Ambassador of Canada to ASEAN, she was the Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner at the Canadian Consulate General in Sydney, Australia (2013-2016). Marie-Louise Hanan began her career as a researcher at the Centre for Information Technology Innovation (CITI) in Montreal. Upon joining DFAIT in 1997, she worked in Ottawa in the China division and the Overseas Operations division. Marie-Louise has had a variety of international assignments as a Trade Commissioner, including duty in Beijing, Shanghai, Delhi and Mumbai, and postings to Malaysia, Taiwan and the United States. At the Canadian High Commission in Malaysia, she was responsible for the energy and environment sectors. During her assignment to the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, she led a team promoting Canadian technologies in the telecommunications, information technology, aerospace and urban transit sectors, and later led the Investment and Science & Technology team.

In 2005, she was assigned to the Canadian Consulate General in Boston as Consul for Investment, working with New England organizations to explain Canada’s many advantages as a place to do business and facilitating introductions to outstanding Canadian companies and institutions. In 2008, Marie-Louise was named Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner, managing a team of 10 highly effective people in the International Business Development section of the Consulate. From 2011-2012, she worked in the Privy Council Office as a foreign policy analyst and was responsible for the United States and for energy files. She speaks English, French, Mandarin, and Malay.

“Having started my career in Southeast Asia, I am proud to once again represent Canada in this important region”
Senior Officials from ASEAN and Canada recently reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen and deepen cooperation as both sides near the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Canada relations in 2017. This was a key message that emanated from the 13th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue on 15-16 June 2016 held in Dusit Thani Manila, The Philippines.

It was co-chaired by H.E. Enrique A. Manalo, Under-secretary for Policy, Department of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Susan Gregson, Assistant Deputy Minister for Asia-Pacific, Global Affairs Canada. During the Dialogue, The Co-Chair, ASEAN SOM Leader Enrique Manalo, emphasized that “the 40th Anniversary provides us with an opportunity to recognize our achievements and emboldens us to be more ambitious. ASEAN and Canada are important to each other. Our economic partnership is expanding at a fast pace with merchandise trade experiencing double digit growth and Canada has welcomed thousands of permanent residents from ASEAN in recent years”.

ASEAN and Canada had an extensive review on regional and international issues including Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crime; Trade and Investment; Human Rights and Global Economy at the meeting. Both sides underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, and freedom of navigation and over-flight in the South China Sea. They agreed that disputes should be resolved peacefully, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes and without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with universally-recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The Meeting noted Canada's global pledge of CAD10 million dollar for the disaster management support, and CAD 2.65 billion to support clean-energy and environment programs and agreed to explore new cooperation on environment and biodiversity. Canada is also supporting new economic integration initiatives, including the World Economic Forum's “Grow Asia” Program supporting private sector development in the agricultural sector, the CAD2 million Toronto Center Program on Financial Sector Supervision and Regulation, and Canada's CAD 4.5 million contribution to the “Supporting Regional Project Development for ASEAN Connectivity” program.

The Meeting noted the positive implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action 2016-2020. In less than a year, 16 on-going projects on Community Building have been initiated. In this opportunity, Canada reaffirmed its commitment to ASEAN Community Building and preparing several initiatives based on the ASEAN three pillars.

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of dialogue relations in 2017, ASEAN and Canada agreed to launch a series of commemorative activities that will enhance the visibility of the partnership, particularly in engaging the private sector and the youth.
JAKARTA, 24 May 2016 – ASEAN and Canada held their 4th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) Meeting at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta yesterday, reaffirming their strong commitment to further strengthen their long-standing partnership and cooperation for mutual benefit.

The ASEAN-Canada JCC, which is composed of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the Canadian Ambassador to ASEAN, discussed various initiatives and projects to implement the 2016-2020 Plan of Action (POA) to implement the ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership.

The JCC also exchanged views on the preparations for the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations in 2017, including possible commemorative activities to celebrate this milestone.

H.E. Elizabeth P. Buensuceso, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to ASEAN and country coordinator for ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations, described the outcome of the JCC as “historic”, as both sides agreed to cooperate and not just to coordinate, referring to the decision of the JCC to change the nomenclature of the mechanism from “ASEAN-Canada Joint Coordination Committee” to “ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee.” She referred to Canada as a “great friend of ASEAN” and emphasized that the Philippines, as country coordinator, will work closely with ASEAN Member States and Canada to elevate their partnership to a higher level.

H.E. Marie-Louise Hannan, Canada’s first dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN, reaffirmed that ASEAN remains a top foreign policy priority for Canada, as reflected in the establishment of its Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta as well as its diplomatic presence in all ASEAN Member States. She indicated
that Canada’s initiatives will be backed with higher engagement with ASEAN. She also cited Canada’s active role in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) as well as its interest to join the East Asia Summit (EAS) and ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) Plus mechanisms.

The meeting noted with satisfaction the implementation of the 2010-2015 ASEAN-Canada POA and the progress achieved in the implementation of the 2016-2020 POA. These include cooperation in combating transnational crime and international terrorism, infrastructure development, trade and investment, SMEs development, human rights and women empowerment, child health, disaster risk management and people-to-people contacts, among others.

Furthermore, the meeting discussed possible ways to promote physical and people-to-people connectivity between the two regions, including through direct flights to Canada and student exchanges, and agreed on the benefits scholarship programmes would bring. The meeting also exchanged views on how to substantiate the partnership in years to come, particularly as ASEAN and Canada will celebrate the 40th anniversary of their dialogue relations in 2017, which also coincides with the 50th anniversary of ASEAN and the 150th anniversary of Canada as a nation.

The 4th ASEAN – Canada JCC was co-chaired by Ambassador Buensuceso and Ambassador Hannan, and attended by the CPR as well as the ASEAN Secretariat.

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**Table Tennis Fun Tournament**

**Ottawa, May 2nd, 2016**- The Indonesian Embassy hosted the annual ASEAN Committee in Ottawa (ACO) Table Tennis Tournament. About 80 table tennis enthusiasts and supporters participated in the Tournament, including Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam, High Commissioner of Malaysia, and Ambassador of Thailand, the Global Affairs Canada officials and ASEAN Community in Ottawa.

Both the players and supporters enjoyed playing and cheering to this fun sport that lasted about 2.5 hours. The competition was followed by enjoying several types of food and beverages that were prepared by ASEAN Missions in Ottawa and the GAC.

The winner of this ACO Table Tennis Tournament 2016 will be re-announced and prized at the ACO Picnic which is planned to held in August 2016.
Vientiane - The ASEAN Unity and Centrality are the main commitments among the ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM) Retreat in Vientiane Laos, 27-28 February 2016. Unity is very important to overcome regional challenges, including other traditional challenges such as overlapping claim, nuclear weapon proliferation and non-traditional challenges such as terrorism, climate change and irregular migration.

The meeting itself focused on the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, especially the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint, and strengthening of ASEAN's external relations and ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture. Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno L. P. Marsudi highlighted that “the launching of the ASEAN Community at the end of 2015 and the adoption of ASEAN Community Vision 2015 required the ASEAN Members to enhance their cooperation and push the implementation for direct benefit for all ASEAN people.”

The ASEAN Ministers highlighted that such implementation would be pursued through, among others, strengthening ASEAN institutional capacity, improving ASEAN work processes, including streamlining ASEAN meetings and expediting the secondment of officers from the AEC and ASCC pillars to the respective permanent missions of ASEAN Member States in Jakarta and cross-sectoral coordination at the regional and national levels, and putting in place a robust monitoring and reporting system.

This AMM Retreat is the first gathering of ASEAN Foreign Ministers under Lao PDR’s ASEAN Chairmanship in 2016. Under the chairmanship of H.E. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR introduced eight priorities for her ASEAN Chairmanship in 2016 with the theme of “Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community”.

The eight priorities for the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2016 are (1) the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, (2) narrowing of the development gap, (3) trade facilitation, (4) small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) development, (5) tourism development, (6) connectivity, (7) decent work promotion: transition to formal economy in ASEAN, and (8) enhancement of regional cooperation for the preservation, protection and promotion of ASEAN cultural heritage.

In line with the priorities of narrowing the
development gap and enhancing regional connectivity, two key deliverables under Lao PDR’s Chairmanship would be the Initiative for the ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III and the post-2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity. These two documents, upon adoption by the ASEAN Leaders in September 2016, will form an integral part of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

This AMM retreat also underlined the importance of ASEAN centrality in a dynamic and outward looking region and discussed ways and means to further deepen cooperation with Dialogue Partners as well as strengthen engagement with other external parties for mutual benefit. ASEAN will work closely together with Dialogue Partners to ensure effective implementation of the action lines and measures under the various Plans of Action 2016-2020 which will support the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

In this occasion the ASEAN Foreign Ministers also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest and concern. These include emerging non-traditional security challenges such as terrorism, cyber security, natural disasters, climate change, irregular migration, human trafficking, maritime security and cooperation, and developments in various regions, including the Middle East, the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea, among others.

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**Pencak Silat**

**Pencak Silat** is the Indigenous Martial Art from the South East Asian Region. “Pencak Silat” itself has only been used as a general term of traditional martial art application since about the 1050s in Indonesia. With times, Pencak Silat is developing into wide diversity of styles and techniques by different people in different regions without necessarily emanating from a common source. There are hundreds of different styles of pencak silat that spread across the South East Asia Region.

The term Pencak Silat derives from two components. The word “pencak” is commonly used in Java, Madura, Bali. Whereas the term “Silat” is more likely used in Sumatera and Malay, while they call it “Pasilat” in the Philippines. Now, Pencak Silat is part of a common South East Asia culture spanning from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Some recent movies with Pencak Silat themes are helping this martial art to become more popular along with the athletes. Few of the most popular are Yasmin (2014) from Brunei Darussalam, that tells the story about a female pencak silat athlete and the Trilogy: Merantau (2009), The Raid (2011), and The Raid 2 (2014), that tells about gangster stories are full of amazing choreographed fights. This trilogy helps to bring their actors/pencak silat athletes to Hollywood. The main actors Iko Uwais and Yayan Ruhiyat from Indonesia also played in the recent Star Wars movie and Joe Taslim played in the Fast and the Furious 6.
JAKARTA, 24 May 2016 – The ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit in Sochi Russia on May 20th 2016 was hosted by the President of Russia and Laos Prime Minister and attended by 8 Heads of ASEAN Members. The aim of this summit is to strengthen the ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership and to seek the possibility for Russia to become a strategic ASEAN Dialogue Partner in the near future. The President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo in his remarks on the Plenary Session reiterates the 20th year of ASEAN-Russia partnership and that it shall contribute to world prosperity and peace. “It is time for all nations in the world to prevent and solve conflict”.

In Sochi, the leaders found that there is more room to develop potential cooperation for mutual interest of both regions after the ASEAN-Russia partnership in 1996. President Widodo suggests Indonesia and Russia’s similar wish to implement regional architecture with ASEAN as the leader and center in the South East Asia region. Furthermore, the ASEAN-Russia partnership shall be focused on physical connectivity, energy cooperation to support energy security and cooperation in Small Medium Enterprises in order to support each other in the global market.

The Sochi Summit also expressed their concern on the escalating situation in the Middle East that affected peace, security and regional stability in the region and the whole world, including the effort of gain of Palestine independence, Saudi-Iran bilateral relations stabilisation, and the ending of the Syrian conflict resulting humanitarian and migration crisis, and escalating extremism.

25th World Economic Forum On ASEAN – Shaping The ASEAN Agenda For Inclusion And Growth

The 25th World Economic Forum on ASEAN explored how Southeast Asia and the newly formed ASEAN Economic Community can lay the foundation for the region to play a greater role on the global stage and prepare its societies for the profound changes brought by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The meeting took place in Kuala Lumpur on June 1 and 2 under the theme “Shaping the ASEAN Agenda for Inclusion and Growth”.

“With its young workforce, ASEAN has strong foundations for future growth. But the global context is changing and the Fourth Industrial Revolution will bring new challenges. The strong potential of the ASEAN region will only be realised if government and business can collectively craft appropriate responses,” said Justin Wood, Head of Asia-Pacific at the World Economic Forum.

The meeting programme revolved around three pillars: “Driving Sustainable Growth and Social Inclusion”, “Mastering the Fourth Industrial Revolution” and “Strengthening Regional Relationships”. The Forum will launch new reports on the Future of Jobs in ASEAN, Inclusive Growth as well as Barriers to Investment in Airlines.

“We had formally established the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) at the end of last year and it remains a work in progress. It is my hope that the hosting of this year’s World Economic Forum on ASEAN will provide the catalyst to generate new ideas that could help promote deeper economic integration within the region. We need to continue pushing the envelope and promoting a broader vision of a more inclusive ASEAN”, said Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of Industry and International Trade of Malaysia.

The Co-Chairs of the World Economic Forum on ASEAN were Sigve Brekke, Chief Executive
Other key participants included Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Hans-Paul Bürkner, Global Chairman, The Boston Consulting Group, Anthony Fernandes, Group CEO Air Asia and Michelle Yeoh, Actress and Cultural Leader.

Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia was joined by several members of his cabinet, including the ministers for industry and trade, foreign affairs, health, defence, transport and energy. Rui Maria de Araújo, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of Indonesia and Trinh Dinh Dung, Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam are among the more than 40 public figures.

Opening Address by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Honourable Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Razak

In his opening address, PM Najib said that the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) will not achieve its full potential if economic barriers and issues are not eradicated and managed properly. In order to realise the potential of trade agreements and associations with international markets, it is imperative for ASEAN to carry on the process of deepening its own community.

“Removing non-tariff measures is a case in point. According to a recent joint report by the UN and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, while tariff rates halved between 2000 and 2015, non-tariff measures actually tripled over that time — from 1,634 measures to 5,975,” he said. PM Najib also called for efficient ways of ensuring Member Countries recognise each others’ documentation, whether it is for pharmaceutical products, professional certificates, or port entry requirements.

“When we talk about the bright future that ASEAN could have, these are the kind of issues that have to be tackled head-on in order for us to reach that horizon. They are complex, detailed and require an extraordinary amount of coordination.”

“We must also concentrate on where we are now, and make sure we deliver in the short-term to raise awareness of ASEAN and to provide tangible benefits to our peoples, so that we can build the ASEAN Community, both in the minds and hearts of our people, but also in practical ways,” he said.

Malaysia, according to PM Najib, believes that ASEAN Secretariat needs to be strengthened.

He said the annual allocation of around US$17 to US$20 million (RM83.04 million) is inadequate for the Secretariat to drive ASEAN forward, both in terms of integration and agreements with other trading powers.

PM Najib also believes the office of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States in Jakarta has to be enhanced to assist with the increasing workload of ASEAN, and for national representatives to be able to cut across borders and agendas.

With a combined gross domestic product of US$2.6 trillion, collectively, ASEAN is already the seventh-largest economy in the world, and 625 million-strong population is forecast to be the fourth-largest market by 2050 at the latest — with one global bank predicting it will achieve that status by 2030.

“The fact that WEF (World Economic Forum) has chosen to focus on ASEAN specifically this year is a testament to the growing significance of the region,” said PM Najib.
Letter to the Editor of Ottawa Life Magazine from the Ambassador of the Philippines to Canada

This letter to the editor of Ottawa Life Magazine from the Ambassador of the Philippines, Petronila P. Garcia, is a response to the article "Correcting Misconceptions & Upholding Justice in the South China Sea" from our February/March 2016 print issue. The letter is included below in full.

Sir,

This refers to the March 2016 issue of Ottawa Life Magazine, featuring an article entitled "Correcting Misconceptions and Upholding Justice in the South China Sea" written by Ambassador Luo Zhaohui of the People’s Republic of China to Canada.

On "Correcting Misconceptions and Upholding Justice in the South China Sea"

From a Philippine standpoint, the OLM op-ed piece articulating China’s views on the South China Sea (SCS) issue recycles factual inaccuracies. Conclusions drawn by the writer differ from realities on the ground.

Disputing China’s indisputable sovereignty

Economically and militarily a modest country, the Philippines has neither the inclination for aggression nor the wherewithal to “victimize” a country as large as China. For over two decades, the Philippines has engaged China in bilateral discussions towards a peaceful settlement of maritime claims in the West Philippine Sea (WPS), in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). For far too long, the Philippines hoped for a negotiated solution that would recognize our maritime entitlements based on UNCLOS. These talks, whether at the bilateral level or involving ASEAN’s Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), were ultimately fruitless, on account of China’s insistence on its “indisputable sovereignty” in the South China Sea, as embodied in its excessive 9-dash line claim on the basis of questionable historic rights. While talks dragged on, China occupied features in the SCS in violation of paragraph 5 of the DOC. These features now host Chinese military outposts.

Even as China avers its commitment to “safeguard peace and stability” in the region, it has used its might to advance its interests in the South China Sea by 1) driving out claimants by military force, as it did in the Paracel Islands in 1974; 2) harassing and denying Filipino fishermen access to their own traditional fishing grounds; 3) violating safety zones of the Galoc Oil Field platform located 32 nm northwest of Pag-asa Island, Palawan Province; and 4) massive island-building and deployment of military vessels to these features.

The allegation, therefore, that the Philippines and the other claimant countries “are now intensifying their attempts to occupy more islands and reefs” is simply outrageous, and flies in the face of the evidence on the ground.

China’s claim of sovereignty within its 9-dash line encompassing over 55% of the SCS lies at the core of the dispute. On this point, the EU and the G7 have, on various occasions, expressed their support for solutions based on the principles of international law (UNCLOS), rather than unilateral actions which change the status quo, including island-building, or the assertion of claims through intimidation, coercion or force. Many other responsible members of the international community have joined the call for a peaceful and rules-based solution to the disputes.

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The Philippines' arbitration case: Right is Might

Having exhausted bilateral and regional avenues to no avail, the Philippines was well within its rights to invoke international law and to bring fundamental questions before an Arbitral Tribunal under Article VII of UNCLOS. The Philippine submission did not seek a ruling on territorial sovereignty but a clarification of the extent of the maritime entitlements of the Philippines and China – where they overlap and where they do not. The Tribunal's ruling could also put to rest the central question of whether maritime entitlements are governed strictly by UNCLOS.

The Philippines' arbitration case is consistent with the principles established in the DOC, which does not limit the Parties' options exclusively to consultations and negotiations between and among themselves. Each Party has every right to seek legal remedy in another forum, as the Philippines did, when dialogues and consultations have become futile, ineffective or impractical.

To this day, China has not offered any credible reason for its refusal to submit itself to arbitration despite repeated invitations from the Philippines and the Tribunal. This would have been an excellent opportunity for China to clarify its claims and the nature of the 9-dash line.

Undermining freedom of air and sea navigation covering the South China Sea

Belying its claim that it cares “more than any other country about the freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea”, China's declaration of an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) over the East China Sea in 2014 has transformed an entire air zone into China's domestic airspace, thereby infringing on the freedom of flight in international airspace and compromising the safety of civil aviation and national security of affected states. It also displayed wanton disregard for ICAO-established Flight Information Regions when it landed commercial flights on its artificial islands in January 2015.

Philippine aircraft conducting routine patrols over its EEZ have also received threatening audio warnings.

Marine environment – a victim of irresponsible and unlawful land reclamation

While China claims that its construction activities are for the public good, the extent of its reclamation and infrastructure development has wrought irreversible damage to the marine environment in the South China Sea.

In reclaiming land and building various installations, China has destroyed at least 17 reefs critical to the preservation of the marine ecosystem and biodiversity of the region. Its expansion has exposed both marine and terrestrial environments to serious disruption and ecological imbalance to its native flora and fauna, some of which are classified as endangered species. The area is home to almost 3,000 marine species and more than a hundred terrestrial species.

Abiding by the Tribunal's ruling

These developments highlight the importance of respecting and abiding by the Tribunal's ruling.

The Philippines is committed to follow the Tribunal's award. We hope, for the sake of regional peace and stability, that China will do the same.

PETRONILA P. GARCIA
Ambassador
01 ACO HOM Welcoming Dinner for the Malaysian High Commissioner Dato’ Aminatun Karim Shaharudin, Indonesian Ambassador’s Residence, 2 March 2016.

02 248th ACO HOM Meeting, Indonesian Embassy in Ottawa, 14 June 2016.

03, 04, 05, 06 247th ACO HOM Meeting, Indonesian Embassy in Ottawa, 18 February 2016.
07 ACO Working Group, Indonesian Embassy in Ottawa, 31 May 2016
08 ACO Working Group, Indonesian Embassy in Ottawa, 28 January 2016
09 CABC Meeting, Calgary, 24 May 2016
10, 11 ACO Table Tennis Tournament, Indonesian Embassy in Ottawa, 29 April 2016
12, 13 ACO Working Group Farewell Lunch for Mr. Dedy Faisal from Malaysia, 31 May 2016
13, 14, 15, 16 The Philippines National Day Reception, Ottawa, 16 June 2016
17 Malaysian High Commissioner and Prime Minister of Canada at EU-Canada 40th Anniversary Diplomatic Reception, Rideau Club, Ottawa, 18 February 2016
18 SIAL Canada, Montreal, 13-15 April 2016
19 Ottawa Travel and Vacation Show, 9-10 April 2016
20 Indonesian Embassy Day, 24 February 2016
21 Indonesian Festival, Ottawa City Hall, 22-23 May 2016