



## EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN



### PH AMBASSADOR BATS FOR ACTION-ORIENTED ASEAN–PAKISTAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AT FPCCI INTERACTIVE SESSION



ISLAMABAD, 24 July 2025—Philippine Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Emmanuel R. Fernandez, joined fellow ASEAN envoys, Pakistani government officials, and key business leaders at the “Interactive Session on Economic Integration between Pakistan and the ASEAN Region,” held at the FPCCI Capital Office in Islamabad. The event was jointly organized by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Regional Rapport.

In his remarks, Ambassador Fernandez emphasized the importance of transforming ideas into action, stressing the need to deepen economic and institutional linkages between ASEAN and Pakistan. Addressing a packed hall of policymakers and private sector stakeholders, he highlighted the significance of the gathering as a valuable platform to engage directly with key players from Pakistan’s business and industry sectors.

Ambassador Fernandez underscored ASEAN’s transformation over nearly six decades into the world’s fifth-largest economy, a success driven not only by regional cooperation but also by strong external partnerships. He highlighted that ASEAN’s growth has been significantly shaped by its engagement with global partners—an approach it now seeks to deepen with Pakistan.

He acknowledged the growing trade ties between Pakistan and the Philippines, particularly in pharmaceuticals, textiles, halal food production, renewable energy, and IT services. He highlighted the shared socio-economic characteristics of the two countries—young workforces, expanding middle classes, and strong remittance inflows—as a foundation for even deeper collaboration.

“We also face similar challenges: climate, infrastructure, food security, and digital transformation. But that also means we have shared opportunities to collaborate and to learn from one another,” Ambassador Fernandez noted.







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To realize these opportunities, he advocated for practical initiatives such as:

- Organizing trade missions and business matching activities;
- Promoting maritime and academic exchange;
- Strengthening people-to-people ties and institutional trust;
- Enhancing system interoperability for digital trade and regulatory facilitation.

In a candid and forward-looking call to action, he emphasized the importance of translating the day's discussions into concrete outcomes, urging participants to ensure that the session leads to immediate and tangible progress rather than remaining merely as a symbolic exchange.

The session covered multiple sectors of interest for ASEAN-Pakistan collaboration, including logistics and infrastructure under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), renewable energy, halal-certified trade, digital economy, agriculture, the blue economy, and maritime development. Specific opportunities were flagged for the Philippines in agri-processing, ICT-BPO services, halal certification capacity-building, and education and skills exchange.

The Philippine Embassy reaffirmed its readiness to facilitate exploratory visits, business dialogues, and technical cooperation with Pakistani institutions. Ambassador Fernandez committed to working closely with the FPCCI and other stakeholders to translate the momentum from the interactive session into meaningful partnerships and sustainable growth.

The event also featured remarks from ambassadors of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Vietnam, as well as senior Pakistani officials and sectoral experts, who echoed the importance of enhanced connectivity and inclusive development across the region. END







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*Ambassador Emmanuel R. Fernandez (fourth from left) with fellow ASEAN Heads of Mission, FPCCI officials, and business leaders at the conclusion of the Interactive Session on Economic Integration held at the FPCCI Capital Office*

