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PRESS STATEMENT

15th Asian Conference 2024 of the Valdai Discussion Club in partnership with Bait Al Amanah, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and Institute of Strategic Analysis and Policy Research

Kuala Lumpur, 25 November 2024 - The 15th Asian Conference of the Valdai Discussion Club is set to convene on December 9 and 10, 2024 at Royale Chulan Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, marking a significant milestone in fostering constructive dialogues on the most pressing issues shaping geopolitical and economic landscapes of our time. Organized by the Valdai Discussion Club, Bait Al Amanah, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and Institute of Strategic Analysis and Policy Research, this gathering will bring together policymakers, academics, thought leaders, and industry players from Malaysia, Russia and the broader Asia-Pacific region.

The conference will delve into critical themes that reflect the evolving dynamics of regional and global cooperation. Discussions will explore Southeast Asia's engagement with BRICS, examining the opportunities and challenges in fostering dialogue and cooperation between these dynamic economies and ASEAN nations like Malaysia. Potential synergies from an economic and political standpoint will be analyzed, taking into account shared development priorities. These discussions carry far-reaching implications, particularly for Malaysia's foreign policy and Malaysia-Russia bilateral relations, as well as ASEAN's responses to BRICS amid the evolving world order.

Another key focus will be the movement towards dedollarization and financial diversification in response to the complexities of globalization, sanctions, and shifting trade dynamics. In this regard, Malaysia and its ASEAN partners will explore strategies to navigate these changes, aiming to strengthen both national and regional economic resilience and stability.

The future of the ASEAN-Russia strategic partnership will also form a crucial part of the agenda. This relationship exemplifies dynamic interstate cooperation and highlights the potential for deeper economic and political engagement. Attention will be given to past achievements, challenges that remain and new avenues to enhance cooperation particularly in trade, digital transformation, and cultural exchange, all within the context of ongoing structural shifts in the global economy and geopolitics.

This conference highlights the importance of fostering partnerships that go beyond traditional boundaries to address contemporary global challenges. Malaysia's role as the host is particularly timely, as the country prepares to assume the ASEAN chairmanship in 2025. This positions Malaysia to play a pivotal role in shaping regional cooperation, engaging with global powers, and contributing to the development of a more resilient and cooperative global order.