



PRESS RELEASE
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PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO III ARRIVES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO ATTEND ASEAN-US LEADERS SUMMIT



Photo above shows President Benigno S. Aquino III arriving at Palm Springs, California.

Los Angeles, 18 February 2016 – President Benigno S. Aquino arrived in Palm Springs on 15 February 2016 to attend the ASEAN-US Leaders Summit in Sunnylands, California held from 15 to 16 February 2016.

During the two-day meeting, the leaders discussed issues on trade, regional and maritime security and regional prosperity.

The summit focused on promoting an innovative, entrepreneurial ASEAN Economic Community; and protecting peace, prosperity, and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

At the conclusion of the summit, the US and ASEAN leaders issued the Sunnylands Declaration which reaffirmed 17 key principles, including “mutual respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality and political independence of all nations; and firm adherence to a rules-based regional and international order that upholds and protects the rights and privileges of all states.”

The declaration also pledged that the leaders would “lead on global issues such as climate change, terrorism and violent extremism,” and in combating trafficking in persons, drugs, wildlife and timber, as well as illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

The declaration also committed to “strengthen people-to-people connectivity through programs that engage ASEAN and American citizens, particularly young people, and that promote opportunities for all our peoples, particularly the most vulnerable, to fulfill the vision of the ASEAN Community.”



Photo shows US State Department Representative, Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. and Consul General Herrera-Lim proceeding to welcome President Aquino.



Photo shows President Aquino greeted by the Representative of the US State Department.



Photo courtesy of above Malacanang Photo Bureau.