

people with respect and dignity and recognizing that whatever your religious background, whatever your ethnicity, whether you're a man or a woman, whatever your sexual orientation, you have something in common with me; that we are both children of God, that we both were put here for a reason and are deserving of kindness and respect.

And I think that, as young leaders, if you can promote those ideas in your countries, in your businesses, in your governments, if you start—in your nonprofit organizations—if you're always thinking in terms of how do we make sure that everybody is treated fairly and everybody is deserving of respect, then there's no problem we can't solve. And as soon as we lose that sight, lose that vision, and we start treating people differently because they're different than us, and we try to make ourselves more important by putting other people down, that's when bad things happen in every society. That's a universal truth.

And we can celebrate our differences. Just like people are wearing different clothes and people have different foods, people can have different beliefs and different ideas. But the one thing that I believe is universal is that you have to treat people with respect and dignity, no matter who they are. And if you do that, YSEALI, then I'm confident you'll be successful.

All right? Thank you, everybody. It was fun to be with you. Thank you. All right.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:13 p.m. in lecture halls 21 and 22. In his remarks, he referred to Carrie Tan, founder and executive director, Daughters of Tomorrow; musicians Yunalis Mat Zara'ai and Usher T. Raymond IV; and Aisa Mijeno, cofounder and chief executive officer, SALt. He also referred to his sister Maya Soetoro-Ng. Participants referred to Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia; and President Benigno S. Aquino III of the Philippines.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia November 20, 2015

Prime Minister Najib. Well, first of all, I'd like to thank President Obama for visiting Malaysia once again. Not only he has corrected history—we had a hiatus of almost 50 years without a U.S. President visiting Malaysia—but he's visited us twice now. [Laughter] So that's a wonderful accomplishment in terms of his commitment to not only Malaysia, but also to the region. And we are delighted at his support for the ASEAN as well as the East Asia Summit process.

We had a very good discussion on bilateral issues. As expected, we have a very similar position in terms of combating violent extremism. We both agree that we need to work closely together to make this region safer. This region is not immune from threats of violent of extremism. There are groups here operating, and there are groups here that have announced they are aligned to IS. As you know, the Malaysian Government is very clear, unequivocally,

that we are against IS, against its ideology, what it stands for. It is evil. It is against Islam. It's the perversion of Islam. And they do not represent us. So we will work very closely together with the United States and other like-minded countries to make this region safer and to combat any form of violent extremism.

We've also agreed to make Malaysia as a center for—countermessaging center. Because in fighting violent extremism, it's not only a military solution that's required, but it's winning the hearts and minds of its people. And that is why it's important for us to present the counternarrative, to present the authentic Islam, the true Islam, so that people realize that what IS represents, or tries to represent, is a total perversion of Islam. So that work is important for us, and we will continue to present what we believe is a true picture of Islam.

We also talked about the TPP, which is important. We have crossed the finishing line.

I've explained to the President the domestic process. We will present to Cabinet a cost-benefit analysis next week. We will take to Parliament in January, a special session. And we hope with a support and approval of Parliament, the TPP will be ratified within 2 years or put into operation within 2 years.

We believe it will create the kind of increase in trade, investment, innovation, and set the kind of standards with respect to labor, environment, which will ensure that TPP countries be able to create more wealth, more innovation, and set new standards in terms of things like environment and labor.

We also discussed about climate change. The President and I agree that we need a deal in Paris. Malaysia is committed to work to find a deal. If necessary, we will revise our position to make sure that we do not fail in Paris. I think we owe this to the world. We cannot afford not to have a deal in Paris. And that's—I hope we will be able to find common ground so that we can find a deal can be reached in Paris.

We also talked about the South China Sea. We know that—the position of the United States, and I explained to President our position, consonant with the rule of law. And we hope that area of tension will not escalate and that we be able to find a negotiated settlement that's consonant with the principle of international law and that respects the rights of big and small nations as well.

We also talked about general developments. I explained the current situation in Malaysia. President also raised a certain of his views. And we are—we take into account some of his views, some of his concerns. But Malaysia is committed to reforms, and we are committed to ensuring, at the same time, there's peace and stability in Malaysia.

So, overall, it's been a very good meeting, and we appreciate the strengthening of the partnership with the United States on all fronts. And we will continue to work closely together.

Thank you.

President Obama. Well, it is good to be back in Malaysia. And hopefully, I've set a good exam-

ple so that future Presidents won't wait another 50 years before they come back. [*Laughter*]

As I said at the town hall meeting with young people from all across ASEAN, this part of the world occupies a very special place in my heart. But I'm here as the President of the United States because ASEAN countries represent enormous growth, enormous potential, and are critical partners for the United States if we're to achieve our national security, economic, and environmental objectives.

And over the last several years, the relationship between the United States and Malaysia has strengthened on a whole variety of fronts. We have, as the Prime Minister indicated, developed a very strong relationship around counterterrorism issues. Malaysia, like Indonesia, is a majority-Muslim country that represents tolerance and peace. And as a consequence, its voice is critical in the debates that are taking place internationally around terrorism.

And Malaysia, as part of the coalition to fight ISIL, I think can be extraordinarily helpful, particularly, as the Prime Minister mentioned, in issues like countering the destructive and perverse narrative that's developed. And Malaysia's willingness to host a center that uses all the tools of social media and engagement with scholars and clerics to counter this violent narrative is extremely important and most welcome. So we look forward to working with them on that.

Malaysia is also one of the 12 countries that have joined together around TPP. And we had a good discussion about the progress that's being made, even as Malaysia debates and, hopefully, ultimately ratifies the agreement. Malaysia has already started to take some steps in reform, for example, around countering human trafficking and other issues that are embedded in the agreement. And so we will continue to work with Malaysia on that front.

We talked about the South China Sea, and this will be a major topic with all the ASEAN countries. There are a number of claimants there. The United States is not one of them, but the United States does strongly believe in the need to apply rule of law and international

norms to the resolution of maritime disputes. And ASEAN has taken a common position on that. And we look forward to working with them to ensure that those basic rules apply, because freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce has been really the foundation stone for extraordinary development here in this region.

And as the Prime Minister discussed, we talked about the importance of civil society and issues not just in Malaysia, but in the region generally, and how we can promote those values that will encourage continued development and opportunity and prosperity. And so I very much appreciate this conversation. I think it was constructive. We thank Malaysia for the extraordinary job they've done not only as in

sharing ASEAN, but also hosting the EAS summit. The East Asia Summit has become one of the premier mechanisms by which countries can coordinate on a whole range of issues. And we look forward to the participation in the summit over the next several days.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for your hospitality again, and to the people of Malaysia. Thank you so much. It's good to be back.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:05 p.m. in Room 406 of the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. In his remarks, he referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization, also known as IS.

Remarks at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Business and Investment Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia *November 21, 2015*

Thank you so much. Please be seated. Well, good morning, and thank you for welcoming me here today.

Terrorist Attack in Bamako, Mali

Before I begin, I want to say a few words about the appalling terrorist attack in Mali. We're still learning the facts, but what we do know is that gunmen stormed a hotel in the capital of Bamako that was filled with citizens from a number of nations, many of whom were there to help the people of Mali build a lasting peace. The terrorists began ruthlessly killing people and taking hostages.

And so, on behalf of the American people, I want to extend our deepest condolences to the people of Mali and the victims' families, including at least one American. These were innocent people who had everything to live for, and they will be remembered for the joy and love that they brought to the world.

And we are grateful to all who responded and risked their own lives to save others. Malian security forces and all our own diplomatic security agents rushed in to pull people to safety. French troops and American forces who

were in the country for training missions provided support, as did United Nations forces. And thanks to the swift action and skill of all involved, many people escaped and lives were saved and the terrorists were prevented from causing even more bloodshed. But I want the American people to know that we're still working to account for Americans who may have been at the hotel and to ensure the safety of all of our citizens in Mali.

Like the heinous attacks we saw in Paris and attacks we see all too often elsewhere, this is another awful reminder that the scourge of terrorism threatens so many of our nations. And once again, this barbarity only stiffens our resolve to meet this challenge. We will stand with the people of Mali as they work to rid their country of terrorists and strengthen their democracy. With allies and partners, the United States will be relentless against those who target our citizens. We will continue to root out terrorist networks. We will not allow these killers to have a safe haven.

And as I've seen throughout my trip this week, nations around the world—including countries represented here today—are united