

## **JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

### **The 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) and Its Related Meetings**

**Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 19-21 August 2019**

1. The 23<sup>rd</sup> DGICM and Its Related Meetings were held on 19 – 21 August 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. It was chaired by U Htay Hlaing, Director General of Immigration Myanmar, and attended by all ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The Meeting was preceded by the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Heads of Major Immigration Checkpoints Forum (AMICF) and the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF) on 19 August 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The 3<sup>rd</sup> AMICF discussed on the mechanism to develop the foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) Movement Database among ASEAN Member States and the operationalisation of the AMICF communication channel, whereas the 15<sup>th</sup> AIIF reviewed the salient outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMICF and discussed the way forward for the Plan of Action (PoA) to Implement the Intelligence Data Sharing Protocol (IDSP) as well as the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the AIIM.
3. The ASEAN Member States shared the information regarding various challenges, successful experiences, best practice on border management, and future plan for immigration related matters.
4. The Meeting took note of the progress to operationalise the Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of Other ASEAN Member States and noted the need of ASEAN Member States to negotiate and conclude bilateral agreements on Consular Assistance to implement the Guidelines. The Meeting noted the outcomes of activities convened as a follow-up to the discussion at the 22<sup>nd</sup> DGICM last year, namely, (i) the Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting to Develop the New PoA for Cooperation on Immigration and Consular Matters and (ii) the Workshop on ASEAN Visa Portal, which were hosted by Malaysia in June and July 2019, respectively.
5. The Meeting noted Lao PDR's request for the ASEAN Member States to provide inputs on the template of the establishment of an ASEAN immigration focal points to facilitate the repatriation of illegal migrants to the country of origin and

Malaysia's update on the recommendation from the Emergency AMMTC on the possibility of establishing a Special Task Force or Heads of Specialist Unit (HSU) on People Smuggling.

6. The Meeting noted positively Indonesia's proposal on the Concept Note on the Establishment of the DGICM +3 Consultations.
7. The Meeting encouraged all ASEAN Member States to enhance the implementation of the ASEAN Lane in view of promoting awareness of People-Oriented and People-Centered ASEAN Community.
8. The Meeting agreed to defer the discussion on the Initiative 13 of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 to a later stage.
9. The Meeting took note of Thailand's Concept Paper on Regional Border Management Cooperation Roadmap, and encouraged ASEAN Member States to provide inputs to Thailand.
10. The Meeting welcomed the offer by the Philippines to host the 24<sup>th</sup> DGICM and Its Related Meetings in 2020.
11. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality and expressed gratitude to the warm hospitality offered by the Government and people of Myanmar.

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