



**THE FIFTH AEM-RUSSIA CONSULTATIONS
5 August 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and the Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation met on 5 August 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, for the Fifth AEM-Russia Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Mrs Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR, and H.E. Alexey V. Ulyukaev, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.
2. Russia commended the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 as a major milestone in regional economic integration. Russia also welcomed the new AEC Blueprint 2025, which envisages an AEC by 2025 that is highly integrated and cohesive; competitive, innovative and dynamic; with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation; a more resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented, people-centered community; and integrated with the global economy.
3. The Ministers noted the performance of ASEAN-Russia bilateral trade. According to ASEAN trade statistics, ASEAN's total trade with Russia reached USD 13.4 billion in 2015, accounting for 0.6 per cent of ASEAN's total trade, placing Russia as ASEAN's eighth largest trading partner.
4. The Ministers expressed satisfaction over the successful convening of the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit on 19-20 May 2016 in Sochi, Russia, to mark the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership. The Ministers noted that to move ASEAN-Russia relations towards a strategic partnership for mutual benefit, the Leaders had set out possible future directions for economic cooperation between ASEAN and Russia in the areas of trade and investment, finance, e-commerce, transport, energy, agriculture, maritime economy, including addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, science and technology, and business cooperation and promotion. The Ministers instructed senior economic officials of ASEAN and Russia to further discuss Russia's proposal to establish ASEAN-Russia Economic Partnership on Connectivity. The Ministers also noted Russia's proposal to launch a joint feasibility study of a possible free trade area between ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).
5. The Ministers were pleased with the implementation of various activities under the Post-2015 ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Work Programme, including the annual AEM-Russia Consultations, the SEOM-Russia Consultations, and various projects and cooperation on technology, agriculture products, energy, SMEs, education and tourism. The Ministers were also pleased to note that the ASEAN-Russia Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation Work Programme (2016-2020), the ASEAN-Russia Plan of Action on Science,

Technology and Innovation (2016-2020), and the ASEAN-Russia Energy Cooperation Work Plan (2016-2020) have been agreed by ASEAN and Russia. The Ministers expressed hope that the implementation of these Work Programmes/Work Plans will further enhance the economic relations between the two regions.

6. The Ministers welcomed the enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and Russia in the area of e-commerce and the Post-2015 ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Work Programme, and agreed that the joint implementation of various activities in this sphere will contribute to sustainable development of ASEAN member states and Russia and strengthen the economic ties. The Ministers tasked their senior economic officials to further discuss and explore feasible cooperation on activities of mutual interest.

7. The Ministers noted that Russia had already started exploring feasible cooperation with chambers of commerce and businesses in ASEAN Member States such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, arising from Russia's proposed list of 57 joint venture/business projects, which was presented at the 4th AEM-Russia Consultations. The Ministers also noted that a special workshop was organised for fifteen Russian companies to present their proposed projects to the Embassies of ASEAN Member States in Russia.

8. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the ASEAN-Russia Business Forum held in May 2016 in Sochi, Russia, and the Third Russian Business Mission to ASEAN held in April 2016 in Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, and Viet Nam. The Ministers underscored the importance of regular business exchanges in enhancing trade and economic relations between ASEAN and Russia.

LIST OF MINISTERS

1. **The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng**, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam;
2. **H.E. Pan Sorasak**, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;
3. **Mr. Iman Pambagyo**, Director General of International Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (representing H.E. Enggartiasto Lukita, Minister of Trade, Indonesia);
4. **H.E. Mrs Khemmani Pholsena**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR;
5. **H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed**, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;
6. **H.E. Kyaw Win**, Union Minister of Planning and Finance, Myanmar;
7. **H.E. Ramon M. Lopez**, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines;
8. **H.E. Alexey V. Ulyukaev**, Minister for Economic Development, the Russian Federation;
9. **H.E. Lim Hng Kiang**, Minister for Trade and Industry (Trade), Singapore;
10. **H.E. Apiradi Tantraporn**, Minister of Commerce, Thailand;
11. **H.E. Tran Tuan Anh**, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam;
12. **H.E. Le Luong Minh**, Secretary-General of ASEAN.