

ASEAN Plus Three

DOCUMENTS SERIES 2005 - 2010



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one identity
one community

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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The cover features a vibrant, abstract background with a large, glowing sun-like circle in shades of orange, yellow, and light blue. At the bottom, there are three curved, overlapping bands in blue, yellow, and red. The text is centered in the upper half of the page.

ASEAN+3 DOCUMENTS SERIES

2005



POLITICAL AND SECURITY

Chairman's Press Statement of the 6th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 27 July 2005

1. The Sixth ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers Meeting was held on 27 July 2005 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Somsavat Lengsavad, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR.
2. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for the successful hosting of the Informal ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers Meeting and the 7th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers Meeting in May 2005 in Kyoto, Japan. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its initiative in convening the ASEAN+3 Ministerial Meeting on Creative Management for Government in May 2005 in Seoul.
3. The Ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest, particularly developments in the Korean Peninsula. They welcomed the recent resumption of the Six-Party Talks and hoped that the concerned parties would find solutions acceptable to all sides towards a nuclear weapon-free Korean Peninsula on the basis of the principle of mutual respect for sovereignty and equality for the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the wider Asia Pacific region. They also welcomed the recent resumption of the inter-Korean dialogue and the thaw in the inter-Korean relations, which will be a major step towards achieving peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.
4. The Ministers expressed their concern over the continued violence in Iraq and condemned the recent increase in terrorist attacks, including the attacks in London and Sharm el-Sheikh. They expressed their sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims of the terrorists' attacks.
5. They welcomed the recent positive developments in the Middle East and recognised the need to carry out the implementation of the Roadmap and the relevant UN Resolutions so as to realise the vision of two states of -Israel and Palestine- living side by side in peace within secure and recognised borders.

6. The Ministers reiterated their support for the UN reform and agreed that the reform should be comprehensive and consider the needs of the developing countries.
7. The Ministers attached importance to effective leadership of the United Nations (UN) to address the needs and aspirations of all people, particularly those in the developing world. They welcomed the understanding of the Asian-African Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta in April 2005 that it would be the turn of the Asian region to occupy the post of the UN Secretary-General which will become vacant upon expiry of the term of the current Secretary-General at the end of 2006. In this regard, ASEAN informed the Plus Three Countries of ASEAN's strong support for its candidate from Thailand, Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, for this important post.
8. The Ministers welcomed the accession of Mongolia and New Zealand to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia on 29 July 2005 in Vientiane. They also welcomed Australia's intention to accede to the Treaty in December 2005 upon due completion of its domestic procedures.
9. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the ASEAN+3 process and its continued relevance to the development of the East Asian region. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in ASEAN+3 cooperation over the past 8 years, which covers 17 sectors and has 49 mechanisms to facilitate and implement the cooperation. They welcomed the efforts made by the ASEAN+3 countries in the implementation of the short-term and medium and long-term measures of the East Asia Study Group (EASG), which was adopted by the ASEAN+3 Summit in 2002. They reiterated the need to accelerate and complete the implementation of all the 17 short-term measures of the EASG by the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN+3 cooperation in 2007. In this respect, they noted with appreciation the proposals being considered by their senior officials to rationalise and ensure the timely implementation of these measures. They also agreed that the implementation of the medium and long-term EASG measures should be speeded up to further consolidate ASEAN+3 cooperation.
10. The Ministers exchanged views on the modalities of and participation in the East Asia Summit (EAS). They noted that the first EAS, apart from ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, will be participated by Australia, India, and New Zealand. They welcomed the decision of ASEAN to keep the EAS open, outward-looking and inclusive and for the continued driving seat of ASEAN.

11. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Lao Government for the successful hosting of the regional workshop on poverty alleviation programme in July 2005 in Vientiane, which was one of the EASG short-term measures.
12. The Ministers welcomed the decision of the Leaders at the ASEAN+3 Summit in Vientiane in 2004 to issue a 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation on the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN+3 process in 2007 and agreed that the drafting process should begin as early as possible. In this regard, they agreed to review all activities under ASEAN+3 cooperation and to involve ASEAN+3 sectoral bodies in the elaboration of the document, taking into account recommendations made by ASEAN+3 mechanisms, such as the Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT), East Asia Forum (EAF) and others.
13. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN+3 Directors-General Working Group and the ASEAN+3 Contact Group, which will help in the coordination and implementation of ASEAN+3 cooperation, especially the implementation of various activities and projects as well as the EASG measures. They noted with satisfaction the work undertaken by the ASEAN+3 Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat in coordinating and implementing ASEAN+3 cooperation. They expressed appreciation to China for its contribution of US\$200,000 to the ASEAN+3 Unit in order to meet the Unit's capacity building needs. They also welcomed the offer of assistance by Japan and the ROK to the Unit.
14. The ASEAN Ministers noted with appreciation the commitment of the Plus Three Countries to further contribute to the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) as part of their efforts to support the process of ASEAN integration.
15. The Ministers discussed the preparations for the Ninth ASEAN+3 Summit and the First East Asia Summit, which will be held on 12 December 2005 and 14 December 2005 respectively in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Joint Communiqué
of the 2nd ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting
on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3)**

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 30 November 2005

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea overseeing the issues of transnational crime, convened the Second ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3) in Ha Noi on 30 November 2005. The Meeting was preceded by a Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for AMMTC+3 held in the morning of 30 November 2005.
2. We are pleased to note the statements made by the Ministers of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, which renewed their support for the efforts of the AMMTC in combating transnational crime and called for the strengthening of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in this area.
3. We reaffirm our unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal and unjustifiable. We are determined to strengthen our joint endeavour in the fight against international terrorism.
4. We recall the Eighth ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Vientiane on 30 November 2004, during which our Leaders reiterated their determination to further strengthen cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues, especially in intensifying our joint endeavour to fight international terrorism, and to support the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme, particularly programme areas and measures under the ASEAN Security Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.
5. We welcome the progress achieved in the cooperation in combating transnational crime among ASEAN Member Countries and between ASEAN and China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
6. We endorse in principle the ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan on Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime, and tasked the SOMTC+3 to work on the detailed activities and to finalise the Work Plan at the 4th SOMTC+3 to be held in Indonesia in 2006.

7. We welcome the progress achieved in other fora within and outside the ASEAN Framework, in relevant areas relating to combating transnational crime, which complements the efforts of the ASEAN Plus Three in combating transnational crime, and recognise the need to take into account these efforts in our work.
 8. We held a Retreat to exchange views on strengthening ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in combating transnational crime. We welcome the commitment made by the Ministers of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea in providing assistance and support, both in expertise and resources in combating transnational crime. We decided that the Lead Shepherds of the various components of the Work Plan should, in consultation with the Plus Three countries, come up with concrete projects. We called for the appointment of focal points of SOMTC+3 for closer cooperation in intelligence exchange and information sharing. We recognised the need to enhance the legal framework in combating transnational crime, and in this regard, support the development of a framework for ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in line with the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
 9. We welcome the kind offer of Brunei Darussalam to host the Third AMMTC+3 in 2007.
 10. We express our appreciation to the Government and the people of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for hosting the Second AMMTC+3 and for the warm hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations and to the ASEAN Secretariat for its contribution to the Meeting.
-

Chairman's Statement of the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 12 December 2005

1. The ASEAN Plus Three Summit was held successfully on 12 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and was attended by Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member Countries, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
2. We signed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit to reaffirm our commitment to ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, which has achieved substantial progress in the last eight years. We agreed to continue holding the ASEAN Plus Three Summit annually in conjunction with the ASEAN Summit to guide and provide political momentum to East Asian cooperation and community building efforts.
3. We agreed that the ASEAN Plus Three process will continue to be the main vehicle in achieving that goal, with ASEAN as the driving force, and with the active participation of the ASEAN Plus Three countries, in order to promote shared ownership. We reiterated our common resolve to realise an East Asian community as a long-term objective that would contribute to the maintenance of regional and global peace, security, progress and prosperity.
4. We noted with satisfaction the steady progress achieved in the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in the last eight years, which had brought about mutual benefits and closer linkages, thereby contributing to community building in East Asia. In this regard, we noted the progress made in the implementation of East Asia Study Group (EASG) short-term, and medium and long-term measures. We agreed to accelerate the implementation of all the short-term measures by 2007 as well as to expedite the carrying out of the medium and long-term measures. We noted the ongoing feasibility study by the Expert Group on the East Asia Free Trade Area. We reaffirmed the need to strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat to coordinate and implement cooperation. We welcomed concrete offers by the Plus Three Countries to promote substantive cooperation.

5. We noted the policy recommendations of the 3rd Meeting of Network of East Asia Think Tank (NEAT) in August 2005 entitled “Towards an East Asia Community” in August 2005 in Tokyo, and the outcomes of the 3rd East Asia Forum held in October 2005 in Beijing. We requested our Ministers and Senior Officials to study the recommendations and proposals of these meetings. We also noted the successful convening of the Joint Study Convention on East Asia Cooperation, which China convened on 30 October 2005.
6. We welcomed the developments in the Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI) and the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI), which are making important contribution to the monetary and financial stability of our region. We also welcomed Thailand’s proposal to host the First Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Finance Ministers’ Meeting in 2006 to promote ABMI in the ACD framework.
7. We welcomed the proposal to hold East Asia week annually to promote, among others, arts and culture, awareness about East Asia cooperation and foster people-to-people bonds.
8. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation to China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea for their assistance in narrowing the development gap in ASEAN and ASEAN integration through, among others, their support in implementing various projects under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan and sub-regional growth areas in ASEAN.
9. The Leaders of the Plus Three countries agreed to continue their support to ASEAN Community building efforts, including through the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), which would at the same time contribute to the building of an East Asian community in the long-term.
10. We further agreed to take stock of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation since 1997 and issue a second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and Work Plan at our Summit in 2007 to consolidate existing cooperation and set the future direction for the cooperation and East Asian community building on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in 2007.
11. We exchanged views on regional and international political and security, and economic issues of common interest and concern.
12. We shared our concerns on the challenges facing the region and the world as a whole, such as terrorism, maritime security and other transnational crime, the

outbreak of avian influenza, and natural disasters. We reiterated our commitment to cooperate within the ASEAN Plus Three framework and participate actively in other regional and global efforts in addressing these challenges. In this regard, we welcomed Malaysia's proposal to establish a regional WHO collaborating centre for influenza and a Regional Avian Influenza Research and Reference Centre in Malaysia, as contribution towards global health security.

13. We reaffirmed the urgent need to address energy security issues. We noted that policy dialogue as well as search for alternative or renewable sources of energy such as hydro power, solar and bio-fuel from palm oil, sugar cane and even coconut could be cooperative initiatives we could look into. We noted that we could exchange best practices and technologies on energy efficiency and conservation. We tasked our Ministers and Senior Officials to study cooperation in this sector.
 14. We recognised the need to address issues concerning the environment and sustainable development. We also acknowledged the importance to foster cooperation in the areas of transport and communication, including information communication technology in bridging the digital gap and promoting people-to-people linkages. We tasked our Ministers and Senior Officials to study possible areas for cooperation, including greater utilisation of IT in community building.
 15. We reaffirmed our commitment to the peaceful and comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula. In this connection, we welcomed the Joint Statement of the Fourth Round of the Six-Party Talks adopted on 19 September 2005.
 16. We welcomed the convening of the first East Asia Summit (EAS) on 14 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We shared the views that the EAS should be convened annually and that the EAS will play a significant role in this region. The EAS will be consistent with and reinforce ASEAN's efforts in building the ASEAN Community. We recognised that the EAS will contribute to the evolving regional architecture. We look forward to a fruitful deliberation of the EAS.
-

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 12 December 2005

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, on the occasion of the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Summit on 12 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

REAFFIRMING the need for a peaceful, stable and prosperous East Asian regional environment through mutual solidarity and concerted efforts;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and other universally recognised principles of international law which will serve as the basis of norms governing state-to-state relations;

RECALLING the 1999 Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation which sets out the principles and purposes of East Asia cooperation;

REITERATING our common resolve to realise an East Asian community as a long-term goal that would contribute to the maintenance of regional and global peace and security, prosperity and progress;

CONVINCED that the ASEAN Plus Three process will continue to be the main vehicle in achieving that goal, with ASEAN as the driving force and with the active participation of the ASEAN Plus Three countries in order to promote a sense of shared ownership;

RECOGNISING the importance of ASEAN integration and the ASEAN Community towards community building in the region and the continued support of the Plus Three countries for ASEAN's efforts;

FURTHER RECOGNISING the important role played by the ASEAN Plus One processes to the overall cooperation within the ASEAN Plus Three framework;

CONFIDENT that the growing interactions among the ASEAN Plus Three countries will help promote greater dialogue and collective efforts to both harness opportunities and meet the challenges posed by a fast-changing and globalising world;

ACKNOWLEDGING with satisfaction the steady progress achieved to date in the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in all areas has brought about mutual benefits and closer linkages, thus contributing to the community building in East Asia;

ENCOURAGED by the progress in the implementation of the short-term, and medium and long-term measures proposed in the East Asia Study Group (EASG) Final Report, which we endorsed in November 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia;

WELCOMING the convening of the First East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 14 December 2005;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

1. We will continue to hold the ASEAN Plus Three Summit annually in conjunction with the ASEAN Summit to guide and provide political momentum to East Asian community building under the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
2. We will commence collaborative efforts to prepare a second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation on the tenth anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three process in 2007 in order to consolidate existing cooperation and to set forth the future direction for the cooperation and East Asia community building, and task our Ministers to coordinate and undertake the necessary follow-up.
3. We will continue to encourage and support cooperation under the ASEAN Plus One processes to further contribute to the overall cooperation within the ASEAN Plus Three framework, which will form an integral part of the overall regional architecture in a complementary manner with other regional fora and processes.
4. We will speed up the implementation of the short-term, and medium and long-term measures of the EASG Final Report.
5. We will continue to support ASEAN integration, particularly in narrowing the development gap in order to realise the ASEAN Community and at the same time contributing to the building of an East Asian community as the long-term goal.
6. We will enhance people-to-people exchange aimed at developing a “we” feeling.

7. We will encourage the sharing of ideas through greater interaction between students, academicians, researchers, artists, media, and youths among countries in East Asia.
8. We will conduct regular exchange of intellectuals, members of think tanks, religious personalities and scholars, which will benefit East Asia and the world through deeper knowledge and understanding so as to fight intolerance and improve understanding among cultures and civilisations.
9. We will enhance and strengthen the various mechanisms crucial for the development of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, including the ASEAN Plus Three Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat.

SIGNED at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the Twelfth Day of December in the Year Two Thousand and Five.

For Brunei Darussalam:

HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH

Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:

SAMDECH HUN SEN

Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia:

DR. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO

President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

BOUNNHANG VORACHITH

Prime Minister

For Malaysia:

DATO' SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI

Prime Minister

For the Union of Myanmar:

GENERAL SOE WIN

Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Philippines:

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

President

For the Republic of Singapore:

LEE HSIEN LOONG

Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand:

DR. THAKSIN SHINAWATRA

Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

PHAN VAN KHAI

Prime Minister

For the People's Republic of China:

WEN JIABAO

Premier

For Japan:

JUNICHIRO KOIZUMI

Prime Minister

For the Republic of Korea:

ROH MOO-HYUN

President

ECONOMIC AND FINANCE

Joint Media Statement of the 4th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea Tourism Ministers

Langkawi, Malaysia, 25 January 2005

The Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea Tourism Ministers (M-ATM+3) was held on 25 January 2005 in conjunction with the Eighth Meeting of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers and the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2005 (ATF 2005). The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Datuk Dr. Leo Michael Toyad, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia.

The Ministers endorsed the outcome of the Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster held on 6 January 2005 in Jakarta, Indonesia and expressed their full support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting. In particular, the Ministers agreed to undertake concrete measures to encourage the travel into the affected areas and the region, including familiarisation trips from China, Japan and Korea to the region. The Ministers welcomed Japan's introduction of its comprehensive plan to increase the number of Japanese tourists to the disaster-hit areas.

The Ministers welcomed the decisions of the recent ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+1 Summits held 29-30 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR relating to tourism cooperation and development, in particular, (i) the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration of ASEAN and China on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity; (ii) the ASEAN-ROK Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership; and (iii) ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action to Implement the Tokyo Declaration for a Dynamic and Enduring ASEAN-Japan Partnership in the New Millennium. The Ministers expressed confidence that strengthening cooperation mechanisms between ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea offers greater tourism growth in East Asia.

The Ministers exchanged views on the global tourism situation and recent tourism developments in ASEAN and China, Japan and Korea. The Ministers were pleased to note recent trends in the tourist arrivals between ASEAN with China, Japan, and

Korea that the Plus Three Countries have contributed a share of almost 20 per cent of international tourist arrivals in ASEAN in 2004.

The Ministers reviewed the progress made and endorsed the recommendations of the ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) to intensify cooperation, among others, in Joint Promotion and Marketing; Tourism Investment; and Manpower Development. They expressed satisfaction with the fruitful cooperation in 2004, particularly the participation of China, Japan and Korea in ASEAN Tourism Training and Education Network. The Ministers welcomed the offer by China to host a workshop in May 2005 in Shanghai; effective cooperation programs through the ASEAN-Japan Centre in Tokyo and a strong commitment of the Republic of Korea to further enhance cooperation with ASEAN through the possibility of the establishment of the ASEAN-Tourism Centre. The Ministers took note of Japan's hosting of 'Expo 2005 Aichi Japan' and other events which will increase tourism exchange in the region.

The Ministers welcomed the offer of the Republic of Korea to host the Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea NTOs in 2005.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- H.E. Mr. Lay Prohas, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
- H.E. Mr. Jero Wacik, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Indonesia;
- H.E. Mr. Somphong Mongkhonvilay, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Chairman of Lao National Tourism Administration, Lao PDR;
- H.E. Datuk Dr. Leo Michael Toyad, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia;
- H.E. Brigadier General Thein Zaw, Minister for Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;
- H.E. Mr. Joseph "Ace" H. Durano, Secretary, Philippine Department of Tourism;
- H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- H.E. Mr. Krirk-Krai Jirapaet, Vice Minister of Tourism and Sports, Thailand;
- H.E. Dr. Pham Tu, Vice-Chairman of Vietnam National Administration of Tourism, Vietnam;
- H.E. Pengiran Dato Mashor Pengiran Ahmad, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN;
- H.E. Mr. Sun Gang, Vice Chairman of the National Tourism Administration, China;

- H.E. Mr. Hayao Hora, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan; and
 - H.E. Mr. Lim Byoung Soo, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism, Korea.
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Joint Ministerial Statement of the 8th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' Meeting

Istanbul, Turkey, 4 May 2005

Introduction

1. We, the Finance Ministers of ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ASEAN+3), convened our eighth meeting in Istanbul, Turkey under the chairmanship of H.E. Chansy Phosikham, Minister of Finance of Lao PDR.
2. We exchanged views on recent economic and financial developments and policies, and reviewed the progress of regional financial cooperation, including the Chiang Mai Initiative, the Asian Bond Markets Initiative, and the ASEAN+3 Research Group.

Recent Economic and Financial Developments in the Region

3. We were pleased to note the region's strong economic growth last year. Despite the softening of external demand, it was expected that the region would post still solid, though somewhat moderated, growth this year.
4. To sustain the economic growth of the region particularly against the potential risks of persistently high oil prices and global imbalances, we reiterated our commitment to implement structural reforms as well as to take appropriate macroeconomic policy measures including policies to promote domestic demand-driven growth.

Strengthening East Asian Financial Cooperation

5. On the **Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI)**, we reaffirmed our resolution to strengthen our self-help and support mechanism in East Asia by making the CMI a more effective and disciplined framework. As a basic principle for the review, we agreed to firmly maintain the CMI's two core objectives, namely, (1) to address short-term liquidity difficulties in the region and (2) to supplement the existing international financial arrangements.

6. Taking into account (i) the improvement in our economic and financial situations and (ii) the advancement in our various initiatives for regional financial cooperation, such as regional surveillance and the Asian Bond Markets Initiative, as well as reflecting the existing vulnerabilities in the global financial markets, we agreed upon the following measures to enhance the effectiveness of the CMI as a self-help and support mechanism:
- (I) **Integration and enhancement of ASEAN+3 economic surveillance** into the CMI framework to enable early detection of irregularities and swift remedial policy actions, with a view to developing effective regional surveillance capabilities that complements the current undertaking by the International Financial Institutions (IFIs);
 - (II) **Clear-defining of the swap activation process and the adoption of a collective decision-making mechanism** of the current network of bilateral swap arrangements (BSA) as a first step of multilateralisation so that the relevant BSAs would be activated collectively and promptly in case of emergency; and
 - (III) **Significant increase in the size of swaps.** The size of the BSAs should be increased by (i) increasing the amount of existing bilateral commitment, (ii) concluding new BSAs, for example, among ASEAN countries, and (iii) transforming one-way BSAs to two-way BSAs. Member countries favored an enhancement of up to 100% increase of the existing individual arrangements while noting that the size could be flexibly decided by bilateral negotiations. In this context, the ASEAN Swap Arrangement has been doubled from US\$1 billion to US\$2 billion.
 - (IV) **Improving the drawdown mechanism.** The size of swaps that could be withdrawn without the IMF-supported program would be increased from the current 10% to 20% in order to better cope with sudden market irregularities while the current framework to complement the international financial arrangements and other disciplined conditions would be firmly maintained.
7. To further enhance the CMI's effectiveness, we tasked the Deputies to study the various possible routes towards multilateralising the CMI.
8. On the **Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)**, we were pleased with the concrete progress made to date, in particular the positive measures implemented in line with the aspiration of this Initiative. The notable achievements since our last meeting are summarised in the ABMI progress report (to be uploaded to the Asian Bonds

¹¹ <http://asianbondsonline.adb.org>

Online Website (ABW^[1]). The East Asian local currency bond markets have grown rapidly, and some structural improvements have been observed such as stretching of the government bond yield curves and diversification of instruments and issuer base.

9. To further contribute to the development of deeper and more liquid regional bond markets that would assist in the efficient allocation of the large pool of savings in Asia to finance productive investment in the region, we will continue and expedite our efforts in undertaking a wide variety of studies and implementing various effective measures under the ABMI working groups.
10. Embracing the initial success, we will introduce a roadmap that proposes gathering and sharing information in an integrated manner on bond market development and on our related efforts with the regular self-assessment conducted by member countries. The possible issuance of Asian currency-basket bonds could be explored under the auspices of the roadmap. We also agreed to embark the study of Asian Bond Standards to explore the development of international bond markets in Asia through tailoring necessary infrastructure and setting the procedure entrusted by global issuers and investors. We acknowledged the merits of embracing the voluntary “practical alternatives” for withholding tax treatment on bond holdings in promoting liquidity and cross-border trading in the region.
11. On the **ASEAN+3 Research Group**, we acknowledged the usefulness of the findings and recommendations of the studies on economic surveillance, economic and financial integration in the region, regional financial architecture, and private sector development, which contributed to our better understanding of closer financial cooperation in the region.^[2] We also endorsed three research areas for 2005-06 that will collectively look at capital flow liberalisation and institutional arrangements; capital market development including fostering asset management industry; and policy coordination forward in the region.

Asia's Representation in the IMF

12. We called for an urgent review of the quota of the Asian countries in the IMF to properly reflect the current realities and their relative positions in the world economy. This would strengthen the mutual understanding between Asia and the IFIs.

^[2] To be disseminated through the websites of the ASEAN Secretariat, the ADB, and member countries where available.

Others

13. We thanked the ADB for its continued support for ASEAN+3 initiatives and welcomed the Bank's new focus on regional economic integration. We also expressed our appreciation to the governments of Lao PDR and Turkey for the excellent arrangements.

 14. We agreed to meet in Hyderabad, India in 2006.
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**Chairman's Statement
of the 2nd ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea
Ministers on Energy Meeting
(2nd AMEM+3)**

**“Promoting Greater Energy Stability, Security and Sustainability
through ASEAN+3 Energy Partnership”**

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 13 July 2005

1. The Second ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3) was held successfully on July 13, 2005 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines, and Energy of Cambodia, and was attended by Energy Ministers of ASEAN, Japan, the Republic of Korea and representative from China.
2. We had a comprehensive discussion on key energy concerns and agreed to strive towards achieving the goal of “Promoting Greater Energy Stability, Security, and Sustainability through ASEAN+3 Energy Partnership”. We took note of the progress of discussions in five (5) cooperation areas since the First AMEM+3 in 2004. We agreed to further enhance our energy cooperation, taking into account the persistent high oil price, growing energy demand and environmental concerns coming from energy consumption.
3. We shared concern about impact of high energy prices on our economy. We agreed to take necessary steps to respond to the high price including joint study on oil market and trading in the ASEAN+3 countries, diversifying the primary energy supply, and facilitating energy efficiency and conservation. In addition, we will strengthen our dialogue with the Middle East and other oil producing countries to foster mutual understanding.
4. Facing the growing energy demand and rising dependence on oil import, we reaffirmed the importance of oil stockpiling as one of the effective tools for energy security. We welcomed that ASEAN agreed at this time to develop oil stockpiling on a voluntary and commercial basis. We acknowledged the outcome of the feasibility studies for oil stockpiling in the Philippines and Thailand conducted by Japan, and looked forward for continued Japanese assistance for other ASEAN member countries to the study. We welcomed efforts of China to launch the national oil

stockpiling program. We also stressed that regional oil security measures as a part of emergency response measures should be implemented, taking into consideration the circumstances of each member country.

5. We recognised that energy efficiency and conservation are critical measures for enhancing energy security, tackling climate change and reducing our economic vulnerability to high energy prices. We agreed to strengthen our cooperation in this area.
6. We underscored the importance of natural gas as a cleaner energy and alternative source for our energy supply. We will further develop our discussion on mutually beneficial issues and concerns such as promoting investment in the exploration and production, developing gas transport infrastructure and other supply facilities, promoting responsive trading arrangement, and promoting utilisation through developed technologies.
7. We emphasised on the need to forge stronger partnership in new and renewable energy development, taking into account its environmental advantage, contribution to diversification of energy sources and to rural development.
8. We recognised that coal is abundant and agreed to promote efficient use of coal, utilising clean coal technologies, from the perspective of energy diversification and environmental protection.
9. We welcomed that the ASEAN+3 Energy Security Communication System is now being successfully developed. The system is expected to contribute to enhancing the regional capacity for timely emergency response.
10. We agreed to meet annually to discuss and facilitate our cooperation to achieve the common goal of promoting greater energy stability, security and sustainability in the ASEAN+3 region.

List of Attendees

- H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Energy of Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Mr. Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- H.E. Peng Anhai, Counsellor, Embassy of People's Republic of China

- H.E. Mr. Nurrachman Oerip, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to the Kingdom of Cambodia
 - H.E. Yamamoto Akihiko, Parliamentary Secretary for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
 - H.E. Cho Hwan Eik, Vice Minister of Commerce of Republic of Korea
 - H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Vice Minister of Industry and Handicrafts of Lao People's Democratic Republic
 - H.E. Dato' Shaziman Bin Abu Mansor, Deputy Minister of Energy, Water and Communications of Malaysia
 - H.E. Brig. Gen. Than Htay, Deputy Minister of Energy of Union of Myanmar
 - H.E. Dr. Guillermo R. Balce, Undersecretary of Energy of the Philippines
 - H.E. Mr. Heng Chee How, Minister of State for Trade and Industry of Singapore
 - H.E. Mr. Paichit Thienpaitoon, Vice Minister for Energy of Thailand
 - H.E. Dr. Do Huu Hao, Vice Minister of Industry of Viet Nam
 - H.E. Pengiran Dato Mashor Pengiran Ahmad, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN
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**Joint Media Statement
of the 8th ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Ministers of
People’s Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea
Consultation (AEM Plus Three)**

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 29 September 2005

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers and Ministers from the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their Eighth Consultation in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 29 September 2005. The consultation was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Commerce of Lao PDR; H.E. Mr. Yu Guang Zhou, Deputy Minister of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China; H.E. Mr. Hachiro Okonogi, Senior Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; and H.E. Mr. Kim Hyun-Chong, Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the global economic situation and recent economic developments in ASEAN and the Northeast Asian countries. They expressed satisfaction with the accelerated trend of economic integration in the region, and particularly noted that trade volume among ASEAN, China, Japan, and Korea expanded by 25 percent from US\$206.5 billion in 2003 to US\$258.2 billion in 2004. The Ministers reiterated the importance of continuing regional economic integration as a means to promote trade and investment flows.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROJECTS

3. The Ministers expressed satisfaction with the continuing progress of implementation of economic cooperation projects. The Ministers particularly noted that 17 projects were approved, 6 of which had been completed and 9 others are in various stages of implementation. These projects cover a wide range of areas, including information technology (IT), small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), standards and quality conformance, environment, entertainment, and logistics management. The Ministers are looking forward for the convening of “Asian Content Industry Seminar” in coming October, which was proposed by Japan at the last AEM+3 consultations.
4. The Ministers also approved the project entitled “A seminar for Senior International Engineering Project Management for ASEAN Member Countries”, proposed by China.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EAST ASIA STUDY GROUP (EASG)

5. The Ministers welcomed the implementation of the various short-term measures recommended by the EASG, particularly economic-related measures such as the East Asia Forum (EAF) by Korea, the East Asia Business Council (EABC) by Malaysia and the Network of East Asian Think-tanks (NEAT) by China, Thailand and Japan.

East Asia Business Council (EABC)

6. The Ministers had a productive discussion with the East Asia Business Council (EABC) at the occasion of the consultation. The Ministers are looking forward to the fruitful outcomes of the East Asia Business Summit which will be held in December 2005.

Enhancing ASEAN Plus 3 Economic Cooperation

7. The Ministers had extensive discussions on measures to move forward ASEAN Plus 3 economic cooperation. The Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the senior officials on measures to enhance management of economic cooperation projects and that all economic cooperation initiatives and projects shall have a common unifying vision towards an East Asian Community.

ENERGY SECURITY COOPERATION

8. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 2nd ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3). The Ministers, recognising the necessity of improved response capacity of the region to high oil price and oil supply disruption, and enhancing energy security, encouraged close cooperation in the following areas:
 - a) Energy efficiency and conservation measures
 - b) Diversification of energy supply and use of alternative and renewable energy
 - c) Effective and clean use of resources
 - d) Oil stockpiling system development
 - e) Energy-related statistics development
9. The Ministers shared a common concern on the soaring oil price on recovering Asian economy and its negative effects on economic growth and performance of the region. The Ministers noted Japan's proposal for a conduct a study on the impact of high oil price on each of ASEAN+3 country, jointly with the international organisations such as the IEA.

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO)

10. The Ministers exchanged views on the recent developments at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and reiterated their commitment to work together to ensure successful outcomes of the forthcoming Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December 2005.
11. The Ministers expressed continuing support for the early accession of Lao PDR and Viet Nam to the WTO.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION INITIATIVES**Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**

12. The Ministers welcomed the successful meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, held in Jeju, Korea on 2-3 June 2005 and reiterated their strong support for work being undertaken in APEC on trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation and economic cooperation in the region. The Ministers are looking forward to the successful organisation of the forthcoming APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting scheduled to be held in Busan, Korea on 18-19 November 2005 and the meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, scheduled to be held in Viet Nam in 2006.

Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM)

13. The Ministers took the opportunity to discuss the latest developments in ASEM. They noted the Hanoi Declaration on Closer ASEM Economic Partnership issued by Leaders and affirmed their commitments to further economic cooperation in ASEM.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

14. The Ministers recognised the growing importance of strengthening the protection of intellectual property rights by developing measures against counterfeiting and generating cooperation in this field for the purpose of attracting investment and stimulating market growth.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASEAN+3 AND ASEAN+1 SUMMITS

15. The Ministers were pleased with the preparations being undertaken by Malaysia for the ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+1 Summits, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam;
 - H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;
 - H.E. Mr. Yu Guang Zhou, Deputy Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China;
 - H.E. Ms. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia;
 - H.E. Mr. Hachiro Okonogi, Senior Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan;
 - H.E. Mr. Kim Hyun-Chong, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea;
 - H.E. Mr. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Commerce, Lao PDR;
 - Mr. Ooi Say Chuan, Deputy Secretary-General, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;
 - H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar;
 - H.E. Mr. Elmer C. Hernandez, Undersecretary for Trade and Industry, Philippines;
 - H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
 - H.E. Mr. Suvit Maesincee, Vice-Minister of Commerce, Thailand;
 - H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam; and
 - H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN
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**Joint Press Statement
of the 5th Meeting of the ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry
Ministers and the Ministers of the People's Republic of
China, Japan and Republic of Korea
(5th AMAF Plus Three)**

Tagaytay City, Philippines, 30 September 2005

1. The ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their fifth meeting in Tagaytay City, Philippines, 30 September 2005 under the chairmanship of H.E Mr. Domingo F. Panganiban, Secretary of Agriculture, the Philippines.
2. The Ministers expressed satisfaction on the steady progress and encouraged a speedy implementation of joint activities in agriculture, fisheries and forestry that have been carried out between China, Japan and the Republic of Korea and ASEAN in the various areas aiming to broadening and deepening Plus Three cooperation.
3. The Ministers of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea noted the activities of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and expressed their full support to the implementation of the VAP. They agreed to strengthen their efforts in assisting ASEAN to narrow the development gaps within ASEAN, and between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries, particularly in the areas of agriculture, fisheries and forestry.
4. The Ministers recognised the necessity for conserving the natural environment; preserving the social and cultural tradition of rural communities while promoting a sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors. Moreover, the Ministers recognised that agriculture, which is the foundation of each and every society, should be maintained and developed to secure a stable supply of safe foods to their own peoples.
5. The Ministers noted the good progress made in conducting the activities of the pilot project in the East Asian Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR). Following the Ministers' agreement in principle last year on the mobilisation of the existing national stock earmarked for the Asia Emergency Rice Reserve under the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Agreement, Countries are at various stages in their internal

consultation to determine their allocation for the reserve stocks for the EAERR. The Ministers also agreed to emphasise the importance of converting the EAERR into a permanent scheme on a voluntary basis following an evaluation of the pilot project. This will help in quick response to food needs following devastating disasters such as the tsunami affecting the Indian Ocean rim countries in 2004.

6. The Ministers also welcomed the Poverty Alleviation and Malnourishment Eradication Projects that have been initiated in an ASEAN Member Country. The objective of these projects is to provide food assistance to strengthen household food security, as well as to contribute to rice price stability in the region, or more specifically in a country. This is to be done through utilising the unused stockpiled emergency rice reserve for a particular year.
7. The Ministers recognised the contribution of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) with respect to promoting the concept of regional food security and the importance of continued improvement in the details of food security data and information among ASEAN Member Countries and in the region. Capacity building activities throughout the region has improved cooperation in this area. The Ministers also agreed with the necessity to continue the projects after the implementation period.
8. The Ministers deliberated on the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks which has become an important problem that requires an all out coordinated regional effort. In this regard the Ministers welcomed the Regional Framework for Control and Eradication of HPAI in ASEAN endorsed by the 27th AMAF. Towards this end the HPAI task force will work closely with the international organisations such as FAO, OIE and WHO.
9. The Ministers confirmed the deforestation and degradation of forests in Asian regions continues to be a critical problem. They affirmed the need for continuing cooperation and effective implementation of activities in the area of illegal logging, control of forest fires, and rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded lands to achieve sustainable forest management and to conserve forest ecosystems in collaboration with the international organisation and the regional initiatives such as the Asia Forest Partnership.
10. The Ministers agreed to have their sixth meeting in Singapore in 2006.
11. The Ministers noted that the Eighth ASEAN and People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea Summit will be held in 13 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur,

Malaysia, during which the highlights of the Fifth Meeting of AMAF Plus Three will be reported.

12. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Philippines for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

- H.E Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Dr. Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- H.E. Dr. Anton Apriyantono, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia
- H.E. Dr. Siene Saphangthong, Minister of Agriculture & Forestry, Lao PDR
- H.E. Dato' Seri Haji Mohd. Shariff bin Haji Omar, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia
- H.E. Major General Htay Oo, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar
- H.E. Mr. Domingo F. Panganiban, Secretary of Agriculture, the Philippines
- H.E. Mr. Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development, Singapore
- H.E. Mr. Charal Trinvuthipong, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
- H.E. Dr. Bui Ba Bong, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
- H.E. Mr. Niu Dun, Vice Minister of Agriculture, People's Republic of China
- H.E. Mr. Takayuki TSUNEDA, Senior Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
- H.E. Mr. Lee, Myung-soo, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Korea
- H.E. Dr. Wilfrido V. Villacorta, ASEAN Deputy Secretary – General

SOCIO-CULTURAL

Chairperson's Press Statement of the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) and the AMCA Plus Three

Bangkok, Thailand, 4 August 2005

The Second Meetings of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) and the AMCA Plus Three (People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) were held in Bangkok on 3-4 August 2005. The Meetings were preceded by a Senior Officials Meeting on 2 August 2005.

1. The AMCA Meeting was attended by H.H. Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General (Rtd) Dato Seri Phalawan Haji Mohammad bin Haji Daud, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam; H.H. Sisowath Panara Sirivuth, Minister of Culture and Fine Arts, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Sri Hastanto, Deputy Minister for Arts and Film, Department of Culture and Tourism, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Mounkeo Oraboun, Minister of Information and Culture, Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim, Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, Malaysia; H.E. Brigadier General Soe Win Maung, Deputy Minister of Culture, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Lamberto R. Ocampo, Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, The Philippines; H.E. Dr. Lee Boon Yang, Minister of Information, Communications and the Arts, Singapore; H.E. Mrs. Uraiwan Thienthong, Minister of Culture, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Pham Quang Nghi, Minister for Culture and Information, Vietnam; and H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN and their respective delegations. The AMCA Plus Three Meeting were also attended by H.E. Mr. Sun Jiazheng, Minister of Culture, the People's Republic of China, Mr. Kushida Toshimi, Director, Office for International Cultural Exchange, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and Mr. Park Sung-ki, Director, International Cultural Cooperation Division, Ministry of Culture and Tourism.
3. The Meeting was officially opened by H.E. Mr. Vishnu Khruangam, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand. In his Opening Speech, the Deputy Prime Minister welcomed all ministers and their delegations to the Meetings and to Thailand. He informed the audience that, since their inaugural meetings in Kuala Lumpur in 2003, the AMCA

and AMCA+3 processes have been progressively consolidated and have shown significant dynamism.

4. He underscored the importance of exploiting the experience gained over the past years to improve the efficiency of future cooperation activities. In this regard, he expressed that this ministerial meeting would consider and adopt a cooperation framework on human resource development and development of small and medium enterprises in the culture sector as the priority areas to further enhance ASEAN as well as ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
5. He informed the audience that the Thai Government had been undertaking great efforts and had great hope in the task of bringing the thirteen countries closer. In this regard, he believed that all member countries have the responsibility of working in a framework of mutual respect and equality in order to fulfill the wish of all their peoples living in peace and prosperity.
6. H.E. Mrs. Uraiwan Thienthong, Minister of Culture of Thailand and H.E. Brigadier General Soe Win Maung, Deputy Minister of Culture, Myanmar were elected as the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Meetings, respectively.

Human Resource Development in the Culture Sector and Small and Medium Sized Cultural Enterprises

7. The Ministers agreed that there can be an ASEAN-wide approach in pursuing human resource development in the culture sector and an ASEAN creative/cultural industry. In view of the broad scope of cultural products and services and the large number of programmes that could be initiated, a prioritised and practical approach should be taken during the initial stages in order to build up capacity at the regional level.
8. With regard to cooperation in the development of SMCE, the ASEAN Ministers agreed that ASEAN should consider coming up with its own collective or joint productions in the film and music industry and formulate programmes for business benefits in these sectors. In this regard, the Ministers recognised the achievements of Thailand, ROK, China and Japan from which other ASEAN Member Countries could benefit.
9. To achieve the above objective, special working groups, comprising of experts from the film and music industry, would be set up to conduct a study and provide practical

recommendations. To facilitate cooperation and enhance business and trade in the film and music industry, the Ministers also recognised that Member Countries may need to consider forging bilateral or multilateral ministerial-level mutual recognition agreements among them as well as the arrangements already existing between several Member Countries in ASEAN.

10. The Ministers also agreed that cooperation in the film and music should not only be confined to the commercial films and music sectors, but would also include exchange of non-commercial productions and telenovelas to promote and strengthen friendship and awareness of each others' cultures in developing the culture creative industry.
11. In view of the fact that culture could generate job opportunities and income for the people of ASEAN and that the Plus Three countries are already advanced in this respect, the Ministers agreed to explore the possibilities of cooperation and appropriate assistance from the Plus Three countries.

Liberalisation of Trade in the Culture Sector under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS)

12. As this was a relatively new area for ASEAN, the Ministers agreed that it needed to be discussed further with the ASEAN economic officials and would be kept informed of developments.

ASEAN Culture Week

13. The Ministers encouraged moves to bring the ASEAN Culture Week, an existing ASEAN project showcasing the region's cultural heritage encompassing performing and visual arts, overseas as this would promote awareness of ASEAN and further strengthen the mutual understanding and friendship between ASEAN and outside ASEAN.

AMCA Plus 3 (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea)

14. The Meeting realised the importance of cultural heritage as a potential asset for our next generations that has not been fully integrated in the regional management and therefore, the setting up of the task force for formulating the regional policy on selected masterpiece of cultural heritage is urgently needed.

15. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN could benefit from the knowledge and technical expertise of the Plus Three countries to enhance human resource development in the culture sector and to develop SMCEs especially at the national level. The assistance could come in the form of marketing and design of cultural products. The Plus Three countries expressed strong support for collaborations and joint activities with ASEAN in the area of culture and arts.
16. The ASEAN Ministers further encouraged the Plus Three countries to establish a policy to invite and involve more ASEAN cultural and arts communities and organisations to culture and arts events held in the Plus Three countries in order to encourage cultural exchange among ASEAN Plus Three countries.
17. The Ministers discussed the need to draw up an ASEAN criteria for the listing of national heritage sites. The UNESCO criteria should not be the only yardstick of recognising ASEAN's heritage sites. The Meeting noted that a similar initiative has been carried out in the setting up of the ASEAN Heritage Parks that now lists 24 sites in ASEAN Member Countries.
18. The Meeting further discussed the importance of public educating in the conservation and maintenance of cultural heritage including the need to protect cultural heritage against theft. In this respect, the Ministers agreed that cooperation of the ASEAN Plus Three framework in this area would be invaluable. The Plus Three countries were also ready to assist ASEAN Member Countries in protecting and maintaining their cultural heritage sites.

ASEAN and China Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation

19. A Memorandum of Understanding between the ASEAN and the People's Republic of China on Cultural Cooperation was signed at the sidelines of the AMCA Plus Three Meeting on 3 August 2005.
20. The MOU aims to promote exchanges and cooperation in the field of culture especially through artistic collaboration and exchange, joint research and study, exchange of information and people-to-people exchange and interaction. The MOU will also support the conservation, protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage through programmes in cultural heritage management, protection of intellectual property rights and networking and exchange among cultural heritage agencies and organisations.

21. ASEAN and China would also step up cooperation in cultural enterprise and creative industries through product development, promotion of the culture market, exchange of information and networking among experts. In addition, it would pave the way for both parties to assist each other in human resource development in the fields of archaeology and cultural heritage, traditional and contemporary arts, cultural enterprise and creative industries, the arts and cultural management.
22. A work programme, which identifies the basic project areas and activities to be developed and implemented on a short-term and long-term basis, is currently being finalised. The MOU would be in operation for five years and extended automatically for a three-year period.

Third Meeting of the AMCA and AMCA Plus Three

23. The Third Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) and the AMCA Plus Three would be held in Yangon in 2007.

Closing and Acknowledgement

The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Thailand for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements contributing to the success of the Meeting.

The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.

ASEAN+3 DOCUMENTS SERIES

2006



POLITICAL AND SECURITY

Chairman's Press Statement for the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 26 July 2006

1. The Seventh ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting was held on 26 July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.
2. The Ministers expressed their concern over the latest developments in the Korean Peninsula which could affect peace and stability in the region, including the test-firing by DPRK of its Taepodong-2 missiles on 5 July 2006. They noted the unanimous adoption of the UNSC resolution 1695. They also expressed their desire for the realisation of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and their continued support for the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks. They also expressed their hope that the on-going inter-Korean exchanges would continue to provide conditions which would be conducive to peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. They also believed that the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) can contribute to promoting peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and expressed the hope that members of the Six-Party Talks can utilise their presence during the ARF to promote the resumption of the Talks.
3. The Ministers were gravely concerned over the deteriorating situation and the escalation of violence in the Middle East, particularly the disproportionate, indiscriminate and excessive use of force by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in Lebanon, triggered by the capture of the two Israeli soldiers. It will gravely threaten any efforts towards reviving the Peace Process in the foreseeable future.
4. The Ministers were deeply shocked and distressed by the apparently deliberate targeting by the Israeli Defence Forces of the United Nations Observer post in southern Lebanon on 25 July 2006, which killed four United Nations military observers.
5. The Ministers condemned this coordinated attack and extended their deepest condolences to the families of those victims and expressed their sympathies to the Governments of Austria, Canada, China and Finland.

6. The Ministers called on the Government of Israel to conduct a full investigation into this very disturbing incident and demand that any further attack on the United Nations positions and personnel must stop. The Ministers further encouraged the United Nations to also conduct its own investigation.
7. They condemned all acts of terror, violence and destruction. They also condemned the attacks that have resulted in injury and death of innocent civilians and the destruction of civilian property and infrastructure. They further condemned the abduction and detention of Cabinet Ministers, government officials, and other individuals and we call for their immediate and unconditional release.
8. They urged all parties to exercise utmost restraint, in particular to avoid additional casualties among innocent civilians and damage to civilian property and infrastructure and to refrain from acts that could further exacerbate the situation.
9. They called for an immediate ceasefire and urged the international community and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to get all parties in the conflicts to adhere to the ceasefire and ultimately to work towards a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region.
10. The Ministers reaffirmed the call for the strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon as stipulated in UNSC Resolutions 1664 and 1680.
11. They also urged Israel and Palestine to return to the peace process and implementation of the Quartet Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict as outlined in UNSC Resolution 1515.
12. They welcomed all efforts taken to address the situation, including the visits to the region by the Special Advisor of the United Nations Secretary-General to the Middle East and the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, as well as the efforts undertaken by the Foreign Minister of France in that country's capacity as current President of the United Nations Security Council. They viewed the visit by the U.S. Secretary of State to the region and Italy's hosting of the international conference today, 26 July 2006 as encouraging steps and hope that these would bring about the immediate cessation of hostilities, opening the way for the unimpeded flow of humanitarian relief and assistance to the civilians affected by the conflict, the early return of

displaced persons and providing the conditions for a durable and lasting solution to the problems in the region. They also emphasised the need for speedy restoration of essential infrastructure facilities in Palestine and Lebanon to avoid further deterioration of humanitarian condition of the Palestine and Lebanese people.

13. The Ministers reiterated their consistent position that the next United Nations Secretary-General shall be selected from an Asian member state of the United Nations.
14. The Ministers were glad to note the decision by the French Government to accede to the TAC. In this regard, they hoped that France could accede to the Treaty at the earliest opportunity.
15. The Ministers welcomed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit signed by the Leaders at the Ninth ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in Kuala Lumpur on 12 December 2005 and lauded it as an important document which further strengthens and sets forth the future direction of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
16. The Ministers expressed continued commitment to the ASEAN Plus Three process and reaffirmed the decisions of the Eight ASEAN Plus Three Summit, held on 29 November 2004 to issue a Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and Work Plan in 2007. They noted that the ASEAN Plus Three Directors-General had begun the groundwork for the preparation of the Second Joint Statement during their Seventh Meeting held on 7-8 June 2006 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. They further noted that the Philippines, as the incoming Chair of the 40th ASEAN Standing Committee and Country Coordinator for the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, will work together with Singapore, as the Chair of the 41st ASEAN Standing Committee and Country Coordinator for the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in 2007, in preparing the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and Work Plan.
17. The Ministers welcomed the stocktaking exercise being undertaken on the progress of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation since 1997, which would take into account recommendations made by the various ASEAN Plus Three mechanisms, including those from the Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) and East Asia Forum (EAF).
18. The Ministers also welcomed the progress in the implementation of the short-term, medium and long-term measures of the East Asia Study Group (EASG), which was adopted by the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in 2002. They agreed that

the EASG measures were useful in their contribution towards East Asian community building and, where appropriate, should be absorbed into the Work Plan to be issued in 2007.

19. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation over the past 9 years, which covers 16 sectors and has 48 mechanisms to facilitate and implement the cooperation. In addition, the Ministers welcomed the establishment of cooperation in four new sectors under the ASEAN Plus Three framework, which are cooperation in rural development and poverty eradication, women issues, disaster risk management and emergency response, and minerals.
20. The Ministers were encouraged by the progress made in ASEAN Plus Three Finance Cooperation. They noted that the regional self-help and support mechanism of the Chiang Mai Initiative has made substantial progress and the Bilateral Swap Arrangements has amounted to over US\$75 billion. Notable progress has also been achieved in the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), with a number of local currency bonds issued by international and foreign institutions.
21. The Ministers welcomed the Second Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers, which was held on 22 June 2006 in Yangon, Myanmar, where the strategic framework for Phase 2 of the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme was adopted. The Ministers expressed hope that the programme would be able to achieve its goal to reduce the economic, social and medical burdens that result from emerging and resurging infectious diseases that threaten the region.
22. The Ministers also welcomed the convening of the East Asia Cultural Week. It would be organised by Thailand and the Republic of Korea separately, in 2007 to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. They noted that the ASEAN Plus Three countries would also participate in these events.
23. The Ministers reaffirmed the urgent need to address energy security issues. With the increase in oil prices, the Ministers stressed the need to search for alternative sources of energy. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the convening of the ASEAN Plus Three Energy Ministers Meeting, scheduled on 27 July 2006 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, which would follow up on the decisions made at the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, held on 12 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur. The Ministers also recommended that the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Summit and 2nd East Asia Summit in Cebu, Philippines on 12 and 13 December 2006 would discuss cooperation in bio-fuel and energy security.

24. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the work undertaken by the ASEAN Plus Three Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat in coordinating and implementing ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
 25. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the East Asia Summit as a forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia. In this respect, they recognised that the East Asia Summit could make a significant contribution to the achievement of the long-term goal of establishing an East Asian community.
 26. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation for the continued support and commitment of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for ASEAN's efforts at community building and integration including their contribution to the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI).
 27. The Ministers discussed the preparations for the Tenth ASEAN Plus Three Summit and the Second East Asia Summit, which will be held on 11 and 13 of December 2006 respectively in Cebu, the Philippines.
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ECONOMIC AND FINANCE

The 5th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea Tourism Ministers

Davao, Philippines, 17 January 2006

1. The Fifth Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Rep. of Korea Tourism Ministers was held on 17 January 2006 in Davao, Philippines in conjunction with the Ninth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers and ASEAN Tourism Forum 2006. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Joseph H. Durano, Secretary, Philippines' Department of Tourism. Co-chairing was H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
2. The Ministers welcomed the decisions of ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+1 Summits held on 12-13 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur and expressed their full support for the implementation of the recommendations in particular the signing of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea.
3. The Ministers agreed to move forward the implementation of those agreements and plans of action as they would positively contribute to the growth of tourism in East Asia, including the facilitation of travel to the Plus Three countries. The Ministers exchanged views on the progress made and endorsed the recommendations of the ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) to implement the agreements through, among others, joint tourism promotion campaigns; tourism training and education; promotion of the sustainable development of tourism; and exchange of information on relevant statistics, policies and laws. The Ministers welcomed and endorsed Japan's idea to further promote flower tourism, youth travel and tourism exchange among ASEAN+3 countries, including sister cities. The Ministers were pleased to note that China would provide ASEAN Member Countries free booths at CITM 2006 and 2007. The Ministers took note of the efforts of the Republic of Korea in tourism cooperation such as the production of the ASEAN Tourism map in the Korean language, training of ASEAN tour guides in Korean and exchange of tourism experts and professionals.

4. The Ministers were also pleased to note the convening of several ASEAN+3 events in 2005 such as: ASEAN-China Tourism Workshop held on 17-19 May 2005 in Shanghai; ASEAN+3 Tourism Conference on Strengthening Tourism Partnership among ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK held on 25 May 2005 in Sokcho City, Rep. of Korea; and ASEAN – Japan High Level Flower Tourism Seminar held on 10 December 2005 in Da Lat, Viet Nam.
5. The Ministers exchanged views on the global tourism situation, the recent tourism developments and common challenges to tourism among ASEAN and China, Japan and Rep. of Korea. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the mutual effort to enhance crisis communications and the exchange of timely and accurate information. The Ministers were pleased to note recent trends in the tourist arrivals between ASEAN and China, Japan, and Rep. of Korea that the Intra-ASEAN Plus Three Countries Travel contributed a significant share of 29 per cent of international tourist arrivals in ASEAN+3 in 2005.
6. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to advance tourism as it has enormous potential to empower their citizens through increased income and employment as well as poverty alleviation. In this respect, the Ministers stressed the need to promote entrepreneurial spirit and the role of SMEs. They also stressed the need to protect the environment and vulnerable groups such as children and women.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Dr. Awg Haji Ahmad Haji Jumat, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- H.E. Mr. Lay Prohas, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
- H.E. Mr. Jero Wacik, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Indonesia;
- H.E. Mr. Somphong Mongkhonvilay, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Chairman of Lao National Tourism Administration, Lao PDR;
- H.E. Datuk Dr. Leo Michael Toyad, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia;
- H.E. Brigadier General Aye Myint Kyu, Vice Minister for Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;
- H.E. Mr. Joseph H. Durano, Secretary, Department of Tourism, Philippines;
- H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- H.E. Mr. Thavatchai Sajakul, Vice Minister of Tourism and Sports, Thailand;

- H.E. Dr. Pham Tu, Vice-Chairman of Vietnam National Administration of Tourism, Vietnam;
 - H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN;
 - H.E. Mr. Gu Zhaoxi, Vice Chairman of the National Tourism Administration, China;
 - H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Maruyama, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan; and
 - H.E. Mr. Lim Byoung Soo, Assistant Minister of Culture and Tourism, Rep. of Korea.
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Joint Ministerial Statement of the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' Meeting

Hyderabad, India, 4 May 2006

Introduction

1. We, the Finance Ministers of the ASEAN, China, Japan, and Korea (ASEAN+3), convened our ninth meeting in Hyderabad, India, under the chairmanship of Senior Minister Keat Chhon, Minister of Economy and Finance of the Kingdom of Cambodia.
2. We exchanged views on regional economic and financial developments and policies. We also reviewed the progress of regional financial cooperation processes, including the Chiang Mai Initiative, the Asian Bond Markets Initiative, and the ASEAN+3 Research Group, and explored ways to further enhance regional cooperation.

Recent Economic and Financial Developments in the Region

3. We were pleased to note that East Asia had maintained a strong growth momentum and that the overall economic outlook remained bright in 2006, as assessed by our own peer review mechanism, "Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERPD)," as well as International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Nevertheless, we shared a view that there were a number of potential downside risks such as persistently high oil prices, widening global imbalances, upward global interest rates trend, and potentially adverse effect of avian flu pandemics.
4. We acknowledged the deepening economic interdependence and increasing financial market openness in the region. In order to achieve sustainable economic growth in East Asia, we underscored the importance of implementing appropriate macroeconomic policy mix and accelerating economic structural reforms. We also agreed to further strengthen the cooperation in policy development to cope with such potential risks. In particular, given the recent spike of oil prices, we strongly urged for swift actions both on the demand and supply side to stabilise the oil market and underscored the need for enhancing dialogue between oil producing and consuming countries to improve market information and transparency.

Strengthening East Asian Financial Cooperation

5. On the **Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI)**, substantial progress has continued to be made. In particular, the strengthening of the regional liquidity support network (also known as “the Second Phase of the CMI Review”), which was initiated at the Jeju ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers’ Meeting 2004, had been successfully completed, as explained below. Here, we reaffirmed to firmly maintain the CMI’s two core objectives, namely, (1) to address short-term liquidity difficulties in the region and (2) to supplement the existing international financial arrangements.
 - (i) **Collective decision-making procedure for the swap activation was adopted.** All Swap Providing Countries can simultaneously and promptly provide liquidity support to any parties involved in bilateral swap arrangements (BSA) at times of emergency;
 - (ii) **To explore the ways for further strengthening surveillance capacity in East Asia, the Group of Experts (GOE) and the Technical Working Group on Economic and Financial Monitoring (ETWG) would be launched.** The GOE, composed of several regional professional experts, would serve as an independent economic assessment vehicle for this region. The ETWG would play an important role in developing and spreading the Early Warning System to facilitate early detection of irregularities.
 - (iii) **The total swap size has now reached US\$75.0 billion**, almost doubled from a year ago. Nine BSAs have been revised since last year to enhance the effectiveness of CMI reflecting the Istanbul Agreement.

6. Looking ahead, we tasked the Deputies to set up a “new task force” to further study various possible options towards an advanced framework of the regional liquidity support arrangement (CMI multilateralisation or Post-CMI), based upon their exploration during the past year. Moreover, we instructed the Deputies to enhance the regional surveillance capacities.

7. On the **Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)**, we noted that concrete progress had been made as indicated by the fact the size of the local currency bond market in the region has more than quadrupled since 1997. Following the issuance of Pan-Asia Bond in 2004, the achievements included (i) local currency-denominated bonds issued by various international and foreign institutions such as Baht-denominated bonds, Peso-denominated bonds, Renminbi-denominated bonds (Panda Bond), and Ringgit-denominated bonds; and (ii) local currency-denominated bonds issued through securitisation. We believed that the study on the issuance of the asset-backed Asian currency-basket bonds and cross-border local currency bonds would contribute to further development.

8. We recognised a noticeable progress made in discussions on the market infrastructure, including regional credit guarantee and investment mechanism, settlement system, credit ratings, and the Asian Bond Standards. We agreed that the on-going discussions should be further expedited to promote development of an international bond market in the region. We concurred that technical assistance should be continued to overcome weaknesses identified in the regular self-assessment and information sharing exercises.
9. On the **ASEAN+3 Research Group**, we acknowledged the usefulness of the input from researchers and research institutes in the region. The research reports for 2005-2006 will be disseminated through the websites of the ASEAN Secretariat, the ADB, and member countries where available. We endorsed two research topics for 2006-07: "Toward greater financial stability in the Asian region: Exploring steps to create regional monetary units" (led by a Japanese research institute) and "Financial conglomeration in the East Asian region: Recent trends and implications for regional financial market development" (led by a Korean research institute).

ASEAN+3 and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

10. In order to ensure the credibility and legitimacy of the Bretton Woods Institutions in the rapidly changing global economy, we emphasised the importance of an ad hoc quota increase for significantly under-represented countries in the IMF. We called upon its Managing Director to work with the IMFC and Executive Board to come forward with concrete proposals for agreement at the upcoming IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings in Singapore. We agreed that we would play active roles in the IMF policy-making and support its activities.
11. We appreciated the IFIs such as the ADB and IMF for their continued efforts to support ASEAN+3 initiatives related to the regional surveillance activities. We heard the presentation by the ADB President, Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, on the economic outlook for the region. We also welcomed the ADB's ongoing works on the regional bond market development.

Others

12. We expressed our appreciation to governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea for the excellent arrangements as the co-chairs of the

ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Process. We also thanked government of the Republic of India for its hospitality and kind cooperation.

13. We agreed to meet in Kyoto, Japan, in 2007. The Kingdom of Thailand and the People's Republic of China would co-chair the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Process in 2007.

**Joint Media Statement
of the 9th Consultations between the ASEAN Economic
Ministers and the Ministers of People's Republic of China,
Japan and Republic of Korea
(AEM Plus Three)**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24 August 2006

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers and Ministers from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their Ninth Consultations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 24 August 2006. The consultations was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Mr. Yi Xiaozhun, Deputy Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China; H.E. Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, Minister of Economic, Trade and Industry, Japan; and H.E. Mr. Kim Hyun-Chong, Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the global economic situation and recent economic developments in ASEAN and the Northeast Asian countries. They expressed satisfaction with progress in economic integration in the region, and particularly noted that trade volume among ASEAN, China, Japan, and Korea expanded by 16 percent from US\$273.1 billion in 2004 to US\$317.0 billion in 2005. They reiterated the importance of continuing regional economic integration as a means to promote trade and investment flows.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROJECTS

3. The Ministers noted the progress of the implementation of economic cooperation projects. These projects cover a wide range of areas, including information technology (IT), small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), standards and quality conformance, environment, and logistics management.
4. They approved the following new cooperation projects:
 - i. ICT Cooperation towards Co-Prosperity in East Asia (2007-2011), proposed by Korea;
 - ii. ASEAN Plus Three Website for Customs Information Exchange, proposed by Korea;

- iii. ASEAN Plus Three Logistics Cooperation for Future Trade Facilitation, proposed by Japan;
- iv. ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation for Internationally Comparable Statistics, proposed by Japan; and
- v. Agricultural Technology and Management Training Program for ASEAN Countries, proposed by China.

ENHANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION

5. The Ministers welcomed the implementation of the various short-term and medium- and long-term measures recommended by the EASG, particularly economic-related measures such as the East Asia Forum (EAF), the East Asia Business Council (EABC), and the Network of East Asian Think-tanks (NEAT) by China, Thailand and Japan, respectively.
6. The Ministers had extensive discussions on measures to move forward ASEAN Plus Three economic cooperation. The Ministers of ASEAN, China, and Korea took note of Japan's proposal to establish an Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). They requested Japan to discuss this proposal further with the ASEAN Secretariat. The Ministers also took note of the proposal of Japan for a Track II study on a possible Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) comprising ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand.

FEASIBILITY OF EAST ASIA FREE TRADE AREA (EAFTA)

7. The Ministers were briefed by the Chairman of the Joint Expert Group for Feasibility Study on East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) on the outcomes of their study and thanked them for the study. The ASEAN Ministers reiterated the need to expeditiously conclude ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Areas (FTAs) and Comprehensive Economic Partnership (CEP) as the foundation for deeper regional integration. At the same time, the Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to study further the recommendations of the Joint Expert Group.

EAST ASIA BUSINESS COUNCIL (EABC)

8. The Ministers had a productive discussion with the East Asia Business Council (EABC) at the occasion of the consultations. The Ministers looked forward to the fruitful outcomes of the East Asia Business and Investment Summit which will be held in December 2006.

ENERGY SECURITY COOPERATION

9. The Ministers took note of Japan's initiatives on cooperation on energy efficiency and conservation.

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO)

10. The Ministers exchanged views on the recent developments at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), particularly the outcomes of the General Council Meeting on 27-28 July 2006 in Geneva. They reiterated their commitment to work together to ensure successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). They agreed to resume the process in the coming months with the necessary resolve.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION INITIATIVES

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

11. The Ministers welcomed the successful meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam on 1-2 June 2006. They look forward to the successful organisation of the forthcoming APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting scheduled to be held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 18-19 November 2006.

Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM)

12. The Ministers took note of the latest developments in ASEM. They looked forward to a successful 6th ASEM Summit scheduled to be held in Helsinki, Finland, on 10-11 September 2006.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASEAN+3, ASEAN+1, AND EAST ASIA SUMMITS

13. The Ministers noted the preparations being undertaken by the Philippines for the ASEAN+3, ASEAN+1, and East Asia Summits, which will be held in Cebu in December 2006.

LIST OF MINISTERS

- H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia, Chairperson
- H.E. Mr. Yi Xiao Zhun, Vice Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China, Co-Chairperson
- H.E. Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan, Co-Chairperson
- H.E. Mr. Kim Hyun Chong, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea, Co-Chairperson
- Mr. Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
- H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia
- H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
- H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
- H.E. Mr. Elmer C. Hernandez, Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines
- H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
- H.E. Dr. Uttama Savanayana, Vice Minister for Commerce, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand
- H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen, Minister of Trade, Viet Nam
- H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN

**Joint Press Statement
of the 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry
Ministers and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's
Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea
(6th AMAF Plus Three)**

Singapore, 17 November 2006

1. The ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their sixth meeting in Singapore on 17 November 2006, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development of Singapore.
2. The Ministers were pleased with the substantive accomplishments under the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, particularly in cooperation on alleviating poverty and strengthening food security, research and development as well as human development activities.
3. The Ministers from the Plus Three Countries (People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea) reiterated their support in the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), as well as in providing technical assistance in narrowing development gaps and accelerating integration of agriculture as a sustainable sector for economic growth and social development.
4. The Ministers recognised the necessity for conserving the natural environment; preserving the social and cultural tradition of rural communities while promoting a sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors. Moreover, the Ministers recognised the importance of agriculture in securing a stable supply of safe food in the region.
5. The Ministers noted the implementation of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) pilot project activities including stockpiled emergency rice reserve projects in Indonesia, Lao PDR and in the Philippines, which provided valuable experiences in meeting the humanitarian needs during periods of emergencies and natural disasters. The Ministers agreed to the EAERR Pilot Project's extension for another year. The Ministers also noted the achievements made so far and welcomed a possibility of conversion of the pilot project into a permanent scheme.

6. Noting the successful implementation of Phase I of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project, the Ministers endorsed the proposal for the second-phase of the project. This AFSIS Project has contributed to greater understanding, dissemination and analysis of regional food security data and information among ASEAN Plus Three Countries.
7. The Ministers reaffirmed continuing efforts by the ASEAN Plus Three Countries to control and eradicate Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) that remains a serious threat to the region. The Ministers recognised the need for ASEAN Plus Three Countries to further strengthen collaboration with international agencies such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) so as to improve transparency, coordination and synergy to control and eradicate HPAI.
8. Recognising the need for cooperative actions in promoting sustainable forest management, and effective implementation of forestry laws in combating illegal logging and its associated trade, the Ministers expressed their appreciation on the offer by the Philippines to host the 2nd Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Ministerial Meeting in 2007 to ensure continual progress with national, regional and global actions.
9. The Ministers stressed the importance of sustainable, effective and diversified utilisation of bio-mass resources and technologies in view of improving global environment, ensuring energy security, and enhancing local economies and called for further cooperation in this field.
10. The Ministers agreed to have their seventh meeting in Thailand in 2007. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Singapore for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Ahmad Haji Jumat, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Dr. Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- H.E. Dr. Anton Apriyantono, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia
- H.E. Mr. Sitaheng Rasphone, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- H.E. Dato Mah Siew Keong, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia
- H.E. Major General Htay Oo, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar

- H.E. Dr. Segfredo R. Serrano, Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture, the Philippines
 - H.E. Mr. Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development, Singapore
 - H.E. Ms Grace Fu, Minister of State for National Development, Singapore
 - H.E. Professor Dr. Thira Sutabutra, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
 - H.E. Dr. Bui Ba Bong, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
 - H.E. Fan Xiaojian, Vice Minister of Agriculture, People's Republic of China
 - H.E. Mr. Taku Yamamoto, Senior Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
 - H.E. Dr. Park Hae-Sang, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Korea; and
 - H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN
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SOCIO-CULTURAL

Joint Statement of the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting

Singapore, 6 May 2006

Introduction

1. ASEAN Labour Ministers gathered in Singapore on 6 May 2006 to discuss joint labour initiatives with their counterparts from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. This is the fifth ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting, and was preceded by a preparatory senior officials meeting on 4 May 2006.
2. The Meeting was attended by Ministers responsible for labour from ASEAN Member Countries, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and their respective delegations. The ASEAN Secretariat was also in attendance. The list of the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers is attached.

Partnerships in Labour

4. The ASEAN Plus Three Ministers discussed occupational safety and health (OSH) as a central theme of their meeting. The Ministers also discussed current and planned joint initiatives to support sustained economic growth in their respective countries and the region through Human Resource Development and employment creation. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to collaborate in addressing key priorities for labour and employment, with a view to alleviating poverty within the region and ensuring economic growth with equity. The ASEAN Ministers thanked their Plus Three counterparts for continued support and assistance in promoting closer cooperation among their respective labour ministries.
5. The ASEAN Plus Three Ministers reiterated the importance of occupational safety and health (OSH) in pursuing economic development and growth. The Plus Three Ministers welcomed the addition of a new priority area on OSH to the ASEAN Labour Ministers Work Programme, and looked forward to future cooperation with

ASEAN in this area. The ASEAN Ministers invited the Plus Three to explore areas for closer collaboration among ASEAN Plus Three, including sharing of experience and expertise in support of the work of the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET)¹. In this regard, the ASEAN Ministers invited the Plus Three to participate in the ASEAN Policy Dialogue on National OSH Frameworks and Management Systems, in early 2007. The experience of the Plus Three is relevant especially in raising OSH standards in small and medium enterprises.

6. Future joint labour initiatives to be undertaken by the ASEAN Plus Three include:
 - a. Continuation of the High-Level Social Security Seminars, jointly coordinated by China and ASEAN, to contribute to the strengthening of social security and protection, as well as addressing the impact of the global economy on workers in East Asia. China will convene the Seminar for 2006 in Qingdao, on the topic of employment injury insurance.
 - b. Addressing industrial relations in the context of economic integration and trade liberalisation under the ASEAN-Japan Programme on Industrial Relations (AJPIR) – Phase II. The Ministers thanked Singapore for serving as the lead country for the AJPIR for 2005/06. A Regional Industrial Relations website had also been launched on 4 May 2006 as a joint initiative of Singapore and Japan. Malaysia and Thailand, in partnership with Japan, will lead regional capacity-building and knowledge-sharing programmes among ASEAN Plus Three countries, to address issues in wages and productivity, globalisation, labour management and response to workplace changes.
 - c. Continued dialogue among ASEAN Plus Three labour ministries to realise the ASEAN Labour Ministers' vision of providing productive employment and adequate social protection for the region's workers through innovative and culturally appropriate programmes. The Republic of Korea will assist ASEAN Member Countries in addressing this through the Human Resource Development Programmes for Officials of ASEAN Countries and cooperative programmes on occupational safety and health.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation with ILO

7. The ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers exchanged views on matters to be discussed at the 95th International Labour Conference (ILC), including the proposed new ILO Convention and Recommendation on Occupational Safety and Health.

¹The ASEAN-OSHNET was established in 2000 and has carried out collaborative activities on information-sharing, standards, inspection, training, and research among the ASEAN Member Countries.

8. The Ministers supported the principles of prevention and protection embodied in the ILO's Global OSH Strategy, and acknowledged that the new ILO instruments proposed under the Strategy would be helpful in enhancing OSH standards for safer, healthier and more productive workplaces. The Ministers urged the ILO to provide more resources to help ASEAN Plus Three countries in addressing these priorities.
9. The ASEAN Plus Three Ministers also noted that the Republic of Korea will be hosting the 14th ILO Asian Regional Meeting in Busan from 29 August to 1 September 2006. The Ministers expressed their support for the event, and agreed to ensure the active participation of their countries at the Regional Meeting.

Next ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting

10. The Ministers looked forward to further exchange of views on joint labour initiatives at the next ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting in 2008 in Thailand.

List of ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers or Their Representatives attending the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting, 6 May 2006, Singapore:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Adanan Yusof Minister of Home Affairs Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Sok San Secretary of State of Labour and Vocational Training Cambodia
- H.E. Erman Suparno Minister of Manpower and Transmigration Indonesia
- H.E. Le Kakanya Acting Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Lao PDR
- H.E. Datuk Seri Dr. Fong Chan Onn Minister of Human Resources Malaysia
- H.E. Brigadier General Win Sein Minister of Labour Myanmar
- H.E. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas Secretary of Department of Labour and Employment The Philippines
- H.E. Dr. Ng Eng Hen Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Defence Singapore
- H.E. Chalernpol Thanchitt Thai Ambassador to Singapore Thailand
- H.E. Le Bach Hong Vice Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Viet Nam
- H.E. Xin Changxing Under Secretary General, Ministry of Labour and Social Security China
- H.E. Hiroshi Okada Parliamentary Secretary of Health, Labour and Welfare Japan
- H.E. Kim Sung Joong Vice Minister of Labour Korea

**Joint Statement
of the 2nd ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting
“Unity in Health Emergencies”**

Yangon, Myanmar, 22 June 2006

Introduction

1. ASEAN Health Ministers gathered in Yangon on 22 June 2006 to discuss joint initiatives with their counterparts from the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. This is the second ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting, and was preceded by a preparatory senior officials meeting on 20 June 2006.
2. The Meeting was attended by Ministers for health from ASEAN Member Countries, the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and their respective delegations. The ASEAN Secretariat and observers from the WHO were also in attendance. The list of the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers is attached.

Unity in Health Emergencies

3. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers discussed unity in health emergencies as a central theme of their meeting. The Ministers also discussed current and planned joint initiatives on health human resources development in addressing challenges and opportunities arising from closer regional integration in ASEAN, especially the impact of economic integration and trade liberalisation on health development.
4. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers welcomed the preparation of a Strategic Framework for a second phase of the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme. The Ministers congratulated the ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD) and their Plus Three counterparts for their dedicated efforts in implementing the EID Programme’s Phase I Work Plan over August 2004 to October 2005, which had laid firm foundations in the ASEAN Plus Three countries for effective regional surveillance capacities and early warning and rapid response mechanisms for emerging infectious diseases in the region.

5. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers provided their endorsement for the EID Programme's second phase activities, which would provide the ASEAN Plus Three countries with greater opportunities to share and exchange information, experience and expertise in combating threats to the health and security of their peoples. The EID Programme Phase II activities would bring the ASEAN Plus Three countries even closer in preparing for future threats of disease outbreaks, including those related to natural disasters, bio-terrorism, and pandemic influenza, as well as facilitate partnerships among existing networks and experts in the region on public and animal health.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Health

6. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers reaffirmed their commitment for closer collaboration in addressing key priorities for health development policy coordination, especially in meeting commitments made with regard to the International Health Regulations. The ASEAN Health Ministers also thanked their Plus Three counterparts for continued support and assistance in promoting closer cooperation among their respective health ministries.
7. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers acknowledged the importance of coordinating trade and health policies in pursuing economic growth with equity. The Plus Three Ministers welcomed the planned work by ASEAN Health Ministers to mount a regional initiative that would bring together health, trade and other relevant policy-makers and stakeholders in the region to discuss and develop consultative and inclusive multi-sectoral approaches for integration of healthcare into development agendas. The Plus Three Health Ministers expressed their interest for future cooperation with ASEAN in this area.
8. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers noted progress made in areas of focus since they first met in 2004, prioritising joint activities in areas such as health promotion; capacity building for health professionals; HIV and AIDS; traditional medicine/complementary and alternative medicine, and policy coherence for health and social welfare development concerns.
9. The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers agreed to continue the momentum of cooperation through following joint initiatives in 2006-07. The ASEAN Ministers also invited their Plus Three counterparts to join hands with ASEAN in addressing health and nutrition promotion in the context of meeting health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and implementation of the International Health

Regulations adopted in 2005, with particular focus on responding to public health emergencies of international concern.

- a. communicable diseases especially HIV and AIDS, and emerging infectious diseases;
- b. health human resources capacity-building in addressing emerging concerns for health and social welfare;
- c. human security and safety in health;
- d. integrated approaches, policies and programmes to address the health care needs of older persons; and
- e. traditional medicine.

Next ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting

10. The Ministers looked forward to further exchanges of views on joint collaboration in health development at their next meeting in 2008 in the Philippines.
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The cover features a vibrant, abstract background with a large, glowing sun-like circle in shades of orange, yellow, and light blue. At the bottom, there are three curved, overlapping bands in blue, yellow, and red. The text is centered in the upper half of the page.

ASEAN+3 DOCUMENTS SERIES

2007



POLITICAL AND SECURITY

Chairman's Statement of the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Cebu, Philippines, 14 January 2007

1. The ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit chaired by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines, was held successfully on 14 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member Countries had a productive meeting with the Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
2. We recalled the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in December 2005, which reaffirmed our commitment to ASEAN Plus Three cooperation as the main vehicle in achieving a long-term goal of realising an East Asia community, with ASEAN as the driving force, and with the active participation of the Plus Three countries.
3. We also noted the scheduled adoption of the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation at the 11th APT Summit in 2007 in Singapore, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of APT cooperation. We affirmed that, in addition to reviewing a decade of accomplishments, the Second Joint Statement should identify opportunities and challenges, and offer strategic guidance for the future direction of APT, with the aim of building an open regionalism connected to the world.
4. We noted with satisfaction the steady progress achieved in APT cooperation in the last nine years, including the implementation of East Asia Study Group's (EASG) short, and medium and long-term measures.
5. We noted the recent expansion of APT cooperation to the following areas: women, poverty alleviation, disaster management and minerals. We thus welcomed the offer of China and Japan to host training seminars and workshops in poverty alleviation, women and disaster management.

6. We also welcomed Japan's proposal to support disaster reduction/preparedness education and other related projects through the Asia Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).
7. We acknowledge the importance of the Chinese proposal to set up a regional monitoring center on infectious diseases. We also acknowledge with appreciation Japan's new pledge of US\$67 million for battling avian and pandemic influenza in the region.
8. We acknowledge that the recent expansion and deepening of APT cooperation to socio-cultural areas does not detract from the consistent positive gains made in financial and monetary cooperation. We note with satisfaction that the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) of bilateral swap arrangements has expanded to US\$75 billion. We acknowledge that the Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI) also promotes the development of efficient bond markets in Asia, which can be the engine for long-term financial growth in the region.
9. We welcomed the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) as a fruitful avenue of integration. At the same time, we noted that we should continue to examine other possible FTA configurations such as the East Asia Summit (EAS). In this connection, we welcomed the outcome of the feasibility study by the Expert Group on the EAFTA, which was spearheaded by China. As a subsequent measure, we also welcomed the proposal of the ROK to conduct the Phase II study involving the in-depth sector-by-sector analysis of the EAFTA.
10. We welcomed the proposal of Japan to establish an Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).
11. We reaffirmed the urgent need to address energy security and to strengthen existing cooperation on alternative or renewable sources of energy.
12. We welcomed the ROK's proposal to establish an APT Center for the Gifted in Science.
13. The ASEAN Leaders expressed support for the collective leadership of China, Japan and ROK towards a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. We reaffirmed the need for the full implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1695 and 1718. We called for concrete and effective steps toward the full implementation of the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and the denuclearisation of the Peninsula. We also urged North

Korea to respond to the humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abduction issue.

14. We welcomed the convening of the Seventh China, Japan and Republic of Korea Summit which was also held today in Cebu.
 15. We also noted the Memorandum No. 3 on Policy Recommendations on Strengthening the Pillars of East Asian Community Building, prepared by the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT), which may form part of the stocktaking of APT cooperation.
 16. We agreed that ultimately, we should sustain those fora and cooperative frameworks that have the greatest positive impact on the peoples of East Asia. This means putting ASEAN community-building at the center, according priority to the successful implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), narrowing the development gap and facilitating ASEAN integration. We thanked the Plus Three countries for their firm support for the VAP, Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan, BIMP-EAGA, Mekong Region Development, ACMECS and other sub-regional growth areas in ASEAN.
 17. We recognised that with the ASEAN Community at the center of our long-term pursuit of an East Asia community, the APT process could make positive contributions to the maintenance of regional and global peace, security, progress and prosperity.
 18. We reiterated that the APT is an essential part of the evolving regional architecture, complementary to the East Asia Summit and other regional fora.
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Chairman's Press Statement of the 8th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting

Manila, Philippines, 31 July 2007

1. The 8th Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the Foreign Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea was held in Manila, Philippines on 31 July 2007. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Alberto G. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines.
2. The ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues and noted that the overall security environment in the region remains stable despite existing challenges. The Foreign Ministers renewed their commitment to work together to meet those challenges, especially in promoting peace, stability, and economic progress in the region.
3. The ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan and expressed deep concern over the recent sad turn of events concerning the abduction of innocent citizens of the Republic of Korea. They expressed their deepest sympathy to the bereaved families, people, and government of the Republic of Korea for the unjustifiable killing of two Korean citizens. For humanitarian reasons, they issued an appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of the remaining hostages to enable them to reunite with their loved ones.
4. The ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Six-Party Talks process as the most viable mechanism for peacefully resolving the North Korean nuclear issue. They stressed that the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula is essential in maintaining peace and security in the region, and expressed support for the resolution of the nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation. They welcomed the agreements reached at the resumption of the latest round of talks from 18-20 July 2007 in Beijing, China, that Parties will fulfill their commitments in the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005 and the agreement of 13 February 2007. In particular, they welcomed the action by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in shutting down the Yongbyon nuclear facility on 15 July 2007 and noted the report of the IAEA verifying the shutdown of the facility. They also welcomed the announcement of the DPRK that it shall earnestly implement its commitment to a complete declaration of all nuclear programs and disablement of all

existing nuclear facilities. They also emphasised the importance of addressing the issue of humanitarian and people concerns of the international community.

5. The ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the APT partnership and its contributions in helping establish an ASEAN Community by 2015. They reviewed the progress in the drafting of the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and its Work Plan. They agreed to strive for adopting the two documents during the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Singapore.
6. The ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers reviewed the progress achieved in the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation and the follow-up actions to implement the decisions of the ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in Cebu, Philippines on 14 January 2007. The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction that the cooperation between ASEAN and the three Northeast Asian countries has been progressing very well in the economic and financial areas. The Foreign Ministers were also pleased with the recent expansion of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in the areas of women, poverty alleviation, disaster management and minerals.
7. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation to China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for their initiatives on the proposed East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA), including the outcomes of the study of the Expert Group on EAFTA, the proposal of Japan to establish an Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and the proposal of ROK to conduct Phase II of study involving an in-depth sector-by-sector analysis of EAFTA.
8. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation to China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for the support they were extending to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration, particularly, in the areas of combating infectious and other pandemic diseases, media cooperation, human resource development, disaster preparedness education, gender and equality education, and science and technology.
9. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers welcomed the initiative of President Roh Moo-Hyun to establish an ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science in Gyeongnam Province, ROK, aimed at enhancing capabilities of students of science and applied sciences among ASEAN Plus Three countries.

**Joint Communiqué
of the 3rd ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on
Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3)**

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 7 November 2007

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member Countries, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea responsible for transnational crime cooperation convened the Third ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3) in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 7 November 2007. The Meeting was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting for AMMTC+3 held in the morning of 7 November 2007.
2. We noted the strong commitment and determination reflected in the statements made by the Ministers of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, which further reaffirmed the need for close cooperation in our efforts to combat transnational crime.
3. We recalled the ASEAN+3 Leaders' commitment at the 10th ASEAN+3 Summit in Cebu, the Philippines, in January 2007, in accelerating the establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015 and the importance of continued interaction and engagement with Dialogue Partners and other parties in implementing the programme measures in the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) for the ASEAN Security Community.
4. We were pleased to note the significant progress of ASEAN's efforts in combating transnational crime through the consolidated cooperation and provision of assistance to ASEAN by Dialogue Partners, in particular the Plus Three Countries.
5. We held a Retreat to exchange views on strengthening ASEAN+3 cooperation in combating transnational crime focusing on the emerging challenges of cyber-crime and its strong linkages to other transnational crime for example terrorism and trafficking-in persons. We agreed that ASEAN Member Countries could leverage on the vast experience and expertise of the Plus Three countries in this area particularly in state-of-the art technology transfer and human capacity development.

6. We agreed that to ensure effective implementation of the ASEAN+3 Work Plan to Combat Transnational Crime, a study needs to be undertaken to identify clear modalities of implementation and priority projects.
 7. We welcomed the kind offer of the Royal Government of Cambodia to host the Fourth AMMTC+3 in 2009.
 8. We expressed our appreciations to the Government and the people of Brunei Darussalam for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting and for the warm hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations. We also expressed our appreciations to the ASEAN Secretariat for its invaluable assistance to the Meeting.
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Chairman's Statement of the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Singapore, 20 November 2007

1. The ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit chaired by H.E. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, was held on 20 November 2007 in Singapore. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member Countries had a substantive meeting with the Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
2. We were happy to gather in Singapore to celebrate the 10th anniversary of APT cooperation. We reviewed the APT's significant achievements in the past decade, and discussed its future direction. We reiterated that APT cooperation would continue to support ASEAN integration with the objective to realise the ASEAN community, and play a key role in regional community building efforts for the long-term goal of realising an East Asia community with ASEAN as the driving force.
3. We reiterated that the APT is an integral part of the evolving regional architecture, mutually reinforcing and complementary to the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and other regional fora. We also shared the view that the EAS, which evolved from an East Asia Study Group (EASG) long-term measure, will continue to play a key role in this region and promote community building in the region.
4. We adopted the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and APT Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). The Second Joint Statement would provide strategic and practical guidance for the future development of the APT process.
5. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the Plus Three countries' continued contribution to ASEAN integration in order to realise the ASEAN Community, and their commitment to an open and inclusive approach to regional community building efforts. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation to the Plus Three countries for their assistance in narrowing the development gap in ASEAN through, among others, support in implementing projects under the Vientiane Action Programme, Initiative for ASEAN Integration and sub-regional growth initiatives in ASEAN.

6. We exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern and agreed to work together to tackle transboundary challenges such as climate change, terrorism, traditional and non-traditional security issues, pandemic diseases and natural disasters.
7. The ASEAN Leaders expressed support for the efforts of China, Japan and ROK, as well as the Six-Party Talks, in pursuit of a peaceful and comprehensive resolution to the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. In this respect, we welcomed the DPRK's agreement to disable all existing nuclear facilities subject to abandonment under the September 2005 Joint Statement and the February 13 agreement, as well as the Inter-Korean Summit in October 2007. We look forward to the Six-Party Ministerial Meeting to be held in Beijing. We also emphasised the importance of addressing the issue of humanitarian concerns of the international community.
8. We looked forward to further progress in the multilateralisation of the Chiang Mai Initiative and the Asian Bond Market Initiative, and the establishment of the APT Regional Foreign Exchange Reserve Pool at an early date to enhance financial stability and promote regional financing facility. We were also gratified by recent developments in APT energy cooperation
9. We noted that the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) highlighted key measures to deepen cooperation over the next decade. The Work Plan set out four new areas of APT cooperation, amongst others - namely rural development and poverty eradication, disaster management, minerals and women issues. We endorsed the proposal to establish an APT Cooperation Fund expeditiously to facilitate the implementation of the Work Plan.
10. We welcomed Singapore's proposal to hold the 3rd East Asia Week in 2008 to promote, among others, cooperation among our youths, arts and culture, awareness about East Asia cooperation and people-to-people bonds. We also welcomed Thailand's proposal to organise an APT Forum on Nuclear Energy Safety in 2008 in order to tap on the region's expertise on nuclear energy safety.
11. We noted the concrete projects raised by the Plus Three Leaders at the meeting to further APT cooperation.
 - a. China proposed to organise a seminar on life sciences; ICT training programme; workshop on international disaster relief by armed forces; APT armed forces forum on non-traditional security issues; seminar on international law enforcement training institute; and seminar on media cooperation. We tasked our officials to

consider and if feasible to follow up on the proposals. China also announced that it would further contribute \$15 million to its Special Fund for Asia Regional Cooperation.

- b. Japan updated the Leaders on the preliminary meeting of the APT Committee on Women and its proposal to host the “APT Human Security Symposium on Women and Poverty Eradication” again next year, following the first successful Symposium that was held in Japan in July 2007. Japan also highlighted its initiative to host an APT Digital Art Forum next year.
 - c. The ROK informed the Leaders of the progress made this year in the Phase 2 Study of the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) that focused on a sector-by-sector analysis. The ROK also referred to its proposal for an APT Centre for the Gifted in Science, and stressed that it would be happy to share its experiences in information technology development to help narrow the development gap in ASEAN.
12. We reviewed with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the EASG’s measures. We noted that there was a proposal to establish a secretariat for the East Asia Business Council which was under consideration. We also noted the policy recommendations of the 5th Meeting of Network of East Asia Think Tank in August 2007 entitled “Memorandum No. 4 - Policy Recommendations on East Asia Cooperation: Towards Sustainable Development and Prosperity” in August 2007 in Singapore, and the outcomes of the 5th East Asia Forum held in November 2007 in Tokyo.
13. We were happy to note that the 8th China, Japan and Republic of Korea Summit was held on 20 November 2007 in Singapore.
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**2nd Joint Statement
on East Asia Cooperation
“Building on the Foundations of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation”**

Singapore, 20 November 2007

I. Introduction

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, gathered on 20 November 2007 in Singapore on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
2. We noted that the rapidly changing international environment and globalisation brought forth both opportunities and challenges. We agreed that driven by converging interests, aspirations and commitment to peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity, the prospects for a resilient, open, innovative and competitive East Asia are bright.
3. In this context, we underscored our commitment to handling our mutual relations in accordance with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia and the universally recognised principles of international laws.
4. We reviewed our achievements of the past ten years, consolidated existing cooperation and set forth the future direction for ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, which will continue to support ASEAN integration in order to realise the ASEAN Community, and at the same time, contributing to the building of an East Asian community as a long-term goal.

II. Looking Back at a Decade of Growth and Expansion (1997-2007)

1. We recalled the 1999 Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation, the 2001 Report of the East Asia Vision Group, the 2002 Report of the East Asia Study Group, the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Plus Three Summit, and all other relevant documents that have been signed, adopted, noted and issued by the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.

2. We noted with satisfaction the significant progress in the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, which have broadened and deepened into twenty areas of cooperation in the last ten years. We also recognised the important contribution of sectoral bodies, the East Asia Study Group and the ASEAN Plus Three Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat towards achieving this progress.
3. We recalled that the ASEAN Plus Three process began in the wake of the Asian financial crises of 1997-1998. We were gratified that the ASEAN Plus Three process had brought about mutual benefits and closer linkages among the ASEAN Plus Three countries.

III. Looking Forward to a Decade of Consolidation and Closer Integration (2007-2017)

A. Defining the Objectives and Roles of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in the Emerging Regional Architecture

1. We reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three Process would remain as the main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community, with ASEAN as the driving force.
2. We appreciated the significant contributions made by the ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Japan and ASEAN-ROK processes to the overall cooperation within the ASEAN Plus Three framework. We recognised and welcomed the continued commitment and contributions of the Plus Three countries in supporting ASEAN's goals of building an ASEAN Community.
3. We recognised and supported the mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the ASEAN Plus Three process and such regional fora as EAS, ARF, APEC and ASEM to promote East Asian community building.
4. We reiterated that East Asian integration is an open, transparent, inclusive, and forward-looking process for mutual benefits and support internationally shared values to achieve peace, stability, democracy and prosperity in the region. Guided by the vision for durable peace and shared prosperity in East Asia and beyond, we will stand guided by new economic flows, evolving strategic interactions and the belief to continue to engage all interested countries and organisations towards the

realisation of an open regional architecture capable of adapting to changes and new dynamism.

5. We reaffirmed our support to ASEAN's goals of building an open, dynamic and resilient ASEAN Community by 2015, in the security, economic and socio-cultural pillars, and narrowing the development gap within the ASEAN Member Countries. We welcomed the signing of the ASEAN Charter and shared the view that a united and resilient ASEAN is essential to ensuring regional stability and prosperity.

B. Rationalising and Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

We agreed that the future scope of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation would include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

1. That in **Political and Security Cooperation**, we will expand and strengthen dialogue and cooperation through the development of human resources, conduct of regular security dialogue and exchanges and other capacity-building measures to ensure that our countries live at peace with one another and with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment.
2. That in **Economic and Financial Cooperation**, we agreed to push ahead to promote economic growth and sustainable development towards a more prosperous East Asia with a free flow of goods and services and easier movement of capital and labour by promoting economic liberalisation, economic integration, transparency and free trade consistent with WTO agreements, pursuing structural reforms, encouraging investment, promoting transfer and upgrading of technology, protecting intellectual property rights, improving research and policy-making capacity, multilateralising the Chiang Mai Initiative and strengthening the Asian Bond Markets Initiative.
3. That in **Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Cooperation**, we reaffirmed the need to take an effective approach to the interrelated issues of climate change, energy security and the environment. On energy security, we will put particular emphasis on improving energy efficiency, diversification of energy supply and development of new and renewable sources of energy. On sustainable development cooperation, we will put particular emphasis on mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, as well as compatibility between environmental protection, and sustained economic growth and social development.

We reaffirmed our commitment to the common goal of stabilising atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations in the long run, at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and agreed to participate actively in the process of developing an effective, comprehensive, and equitable post-2012 international climate change arrangement, in line with the principles of equity, flexibility, effectiveness, and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

4. That in **Socio-cultural and Development Cooperation**, we agreed to work towards increasing efforts in eradicating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals in East Asia, narrowing the development gap through supporting the Vientiane Action Programme and Initiative for ASEAN Integration, supporting sub-regional development initiatives, enhancing cultural cooperation, education collaboration, deepening mutual understanding and forging a sense of an East Asian identity and consciousness, people-to-people exchanges, addressing social issues such as gender, children, prevention of infectious diseases and natural disaster risk reduction, and encouraging policy consultation and coordination with NGOs to foster civic participation and state-civil society partnerships in addressing social problems.
5. That in **Institutional Support and Relations with Wider Cooperative Frameworks**, we agreed to further expand our cooperation and refocus our resources on the cooperative sectors in order to fully utilise the advantage deriving from the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. To this end, we will establish an ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund, and agreed to strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat and enhance cooperation projects through rationalisation and pursuing synergy. We further agreed to promote East Asian regional cooperation in collaboration with those conducted under regional and global frameworks.

IV. Closing

The purpose of this Joint Statement will be realised through the implementation of concrete priority activities and flagship projects as indicated in the attached Work Plan. Relevant sectoral bodies shall implement the Work Plan and incorporate it in their respective programs and plans of action. Progress in the implementation of the Work Plan will be monitored by the ASEAN Plus Three Directors-General and reported to

the annual ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting and ASEAN Plus Three Summit. The Work Plan will be subject to a mid-term review and may be revised for purposes of more efficiently and effectively accomplishing the purposes of this Joint Statement.

Adopted this 20th day of November 2007 in Singapore.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017)

To realise the goals and objectives set forth in the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation: *“Building on the Foundations of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation”*, adopted by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Plus Three countries on 20 November 2007, this Work Plan is formulated to serve as the master plan to enhance ASEAN Plus Three relations and cooperation in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial manner for the next ten years (2007-2017). This Work Plan shall also support the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

In light of the above, the ASEAN Plus Three countries shall pursue the following joint actions and measures as well as capacity building activities, through closer consultation and coordination with sectoral bodies, in accordance with their respective laws and regulations:

SECTION A: POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

1 Deepen Political and Security Cooperation

- 1.1 Utilise the ASEAN Plus Three process as the framework for building mutual understanding, confidence and solidarity. The ASEAN Plus Three countries are encouraged to constructively undertake, with increasing candor and transparency, exchanges on their strategic outlooks, assessments of national and regional developments and briefings on their respective strategies and plans on vital issues.
- 1.2 Continue to hold the ASEAN Plus Three Summit annually in conjunction with the ASEAN Summit.
- 1.3 Continue high-level consultations and increase exchanges between officials of the ASEAN Plus Three countries in the political and security areas.
- 1.4 Cooperate to strengthen the multilateral system as well as expand and deepen interaction and coordination, within multilateral frameworks, including the United Nations.
- 1.5 Cooperate to promote good governance, including strengthening the rule of law, promoting human rights, enhancing administrative effectiveness, efficiency, transparency through policy dialogue and capacity building activities and participation by relevant segments of society in policy-making process.

- 1.6 In the framework of applicable national and international law, intensify cooperation to combat corruption, including denying a safe haven to those guilty of public corruption.
- 1.7 Make efforts to progressively increase exchanges and cooperation between defence officials and exchange visits between military training institutions to promote trust and mutual understanding.
- 1.8 Strengthen cooperation through exchanges of experts, joint research projects and joint seminars in order to strengthen the linkages between ASEAN Plus Three government-affiliated policy and strategic research institutes.
- 1.9 Enhance technical assistance and capacity building in support of efforts to address traditional and non-traditional security issues.

2 Peace and Stability Cooperation in the Region

- 2.1 Strengthen cooperation and increase consultations through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Plus Three process with the view to ensuring peace, security and stability in the region.
- 2.2 Promote peace building through, *inter alia*, sharing of experiences on peace building operations and exchanges of experts and academics on peace studies.
- 2.3 Enhance multilateral and regional cooperation in disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and related materials.
- 2.4 Cooperate closely on action-oriented measures including participation of civil society and industrial sectors in opposing the proliferation of WMD by adopting and enforcing effective export controls, and on disarmament issues with the objective of total elimination of all WMD including nuclear weapons, in accordance with their national legislation and consistent with international law.

3 Counter-Terrorism

- 3.1 Strengthen cooperation in the field of border management to jointly address matters of common concern, including forgeries of identification and travel documents, by enhancing the use of relevant technologies to effectively stem the flow of terrorists and criminals, to monitor and curb their means of operations as well as enhancing cooperation to prevent the organisation, instigation and support for groups that carry out acts detrimental to the security and stability of ASEAN Plus Three countries.
- 3.2 Enhance cooperation in information sharing on terrorists and transnational criminal organisations, including their leaders and members, operational methods and supporting infrastructures, linkages, as well as criminal activities.
- 3.3 Implement measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

- 3.4 Work towards the elimination of smuggling of small arms and light weapons, as a major contribution to the national and international efforts of counter terrorism.
- 3.5 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism.
- 3.6 Support the implementation of and the accession to relevant international conventions and protocols on counter terrorism and the finalisation of a UN comprehensive convention on international terrorism.
- 3.7 Ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism are implemented in accordance with international laws, in particular, regarding human rights, displaced persons and humanitarian concerns.
- 3.8 Cooperate to support development initiatives aimed at enhancing quality of life, rule of law, good governance and community awareness in order to reduce the conditions that terrorists seek to exploit.

4 Maritime Cooperation

- 4.1 Enhance maritime cooperation on safety of navigation, such as through implementation of relevant international and regional treaties and agreements and through, *inter alia*, the promotion of information sharing, and technology cooperation projects such as through exchanges of visits of authorities concerned, training of personnel in search and rescue and other areas, where applicable.
- 4.2 Forge closer cooperation in fighting against sea piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking and smuggling, in accordance with international laws and without impinging on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of ASEAN Plus Three countries.

5 Other Non-Traditional Security Issues

- 5.1 Support ASEAN in attaining the Drug Free ASEAN 2015 goals.
- 5.2 Strengthen cooperation among law enforcement agencies in relation to extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the domestic laws of ASEAN Plus Three countries and other relevant treaties.
- 5.3 Strengthen cooperation in combating trafficking in persons and actively support the comprehensive implementation of the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children including cooperation among law enforcement agencies.
- 5.4 Strengthen cooperation and render mutual assistance in combating and suppressing cyber crimes including cooperation among law enforcement agencies, taking into account the need of each country to develop laws to address cyber crimes.

SECTION B: ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

1 Trade and Investment

- 1.1 Conclude the ASEAN+1 FTAs negotiations according to their schedules and to ensure their smooth implementation in order to enhance overall economic growth and development conducive to businesses.
- 1.2 Continue efforts towards promoting and strengthening economic cooperation in the East Asian region, including an idea of region-wide FTAs, taking into account the recommendations of various studies that have been completed or are currently being undertaken.
- 1.3 Phase out tariffs and non-tariff barriers to ensure free flow of goods in ASEAN Plus Three countries, in accordance with the results of WTO negotiations and relevant FTA/EPA negotiations and continue to accord Generalised System of Preference (GSP) status and preferential treatment for Developing and Least Developed Countries.
- 1.4 Encourage discussion on mobility of labor and its influence on economies and other related issues, taking into account the respective circumstances of each country.
- 1.5 Strengthen cooperation in the multilateral trading system, especially in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and support the early accession of Lao PDR to the WTO.
- 1.6 Jointly pursue the successful conclusion of the negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and endeavour to ensure that the development dimension of the DDA is embodied in a comprehensive package that would deliver tangible, fair and effective development benefits to all developing member countries.
- 1.7 Strengthen efforts to facilitate trade through improving customs procedures such as promotion of pre-arrival customs processing/clearance of goods, audit-based practices of customs control, standardisation of practices to assess customs value and origin determination.
- 1.8 Work towards expediting customs clearance and release, using ASEAN Single Window as a basis.
- 1.9 Promote the application of information and communication technology (ICT) in the field of customs for better management and service.
- 1.10 Promote the transparency of policies to facilitate trade and investment expansion, including those enhancing conducive business environment, business mobility and trade financing.
- 1.11 Encourage free flow of services and progressively liberalise trade in services in accordance with the results of WTO negotiations and relevant FTA/EPA negotiations consistent with the WTO rules and principles.

- 1.12 Strengthen the role of the East Asia Business Council (EABC) in pushing forward economic cooperation in East Asia and to encourage appropriate activities aimed at promoting business interaction in the region.
- 1.13 Provide regional support to foster an attractive investment climate through sharing best practices, giving mutual encouragement, responding to the requirements of investors, extending technical assistance and exchanging statistical information.
- 1.14 Consider conducting comprehensive studies on the possible establishment of an East Asia Investment Area by expanding the ASEAN Investment Area.
- 1.15 Promote cooperation between investment promotion agencies and facilitate mutual investment promotion missions by respective business communities.
- 1.16 Promote understanding of each other's policies, regulations and legislations pertaining or related to trade, competition policy, services, investment and industry as well as the sharing of experiences and best practices among ASEAN Plus Three countries.

2 Financial Cooperation

- 2.1 Develop a regional liquidity support mechanism through the multilateralisation of the Chiang Mai Initiative.
- 2.2 Develop further the Asian Bond Markets Initiative.
- 2.3 Strengthen surveillance mechanisms, enhance domestic financial systems and facilitate the development and orderly integration of financial markets.

3 Standards and Conformance

- 3.1 Cooperate to support ASEAN's efforts to adopt and use international standards as the basis for technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) standards, as appropriate and consistent with WTO principles.
- 3.2 Promote information exchange with ASEAN regarding development of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, including the domestic implementation of WTO TBT agreements.
- 3.3 Undertake appropriate measures to ensure greater participation and contribution of ASEAN Member Countries in the international and regional bodies related to standards and conformance.

4 Intellectual Property Rights

- 4.1 Promote the exchange of views, experiences and information in the creation, utilisation, protection, commercialisation and enforcement of intellectual property rights and related issues of mutual concern.
- 4.2 Undertake appropriate measures to strengthen IP systems and promote greater public awareness of IP and IPR issues in the field of education and industries, the commercialisation of IP, the utilisation of IP information, and technology transfer, in accordance with the relevant provisions in the WTO TRIPS Agreement.
- 4.3 Promote the harmonisation of IP laws and systems, where possible, to enhance trade and investment in the region and facilitate intellectual property rights registration.
- 4.4 Promote cooperative activities to increase the level of knowledge among a broader section of government officials and IP professionals so that they may contribute to business growth and development.
- 4.5 Endeavour to encourage technology-transfer policies on the part of multinational corporations operating in the region.

5 Transport

- 5.1 Forge closer cooperation to enhance transport infrastructure, networks and operations, including air, maritime, road, rail, and multi-modal transport, for fast, efficient and safe movement of people and goods, as well as for clean urban transport, in and among ASEAN Member Countries and between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries.
- 5.2 Enhance cooperation in the development of new transportation systems, such as “Intelligent Transportation Systems-ITS,” promotion of public transport, road networks and structures, environment-friendly maintenance, technological development and regulations, road safety management.
- 5.3 Enhance cooperation in capacity-building and human resources development, in the areas of transport policy, planning and regulation and in transferring and sharing of technology as mutually agreed.
- 5.4 Enhance cooperation in observing international rules on safety and security in air, land, and maritime transport, taking into account relevant international laws and in accordance with the domestic laws of the ASEAN Plus Three countries.
- 5.5 Enhance cooperation to promote transport linkages, focusing on air connectivity, among ASEAN Plus Three Countries, as appropriate.
- 5.6 Expedite the completion of the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) project.

6 Tourism

- 6.1 Promote the development of quality tourism through, where appropriate, the promotion of ASEAN's environmental management standards and certification programmes for sustainable tourism, and forge concrete collaboration in cultural and eco-tourism, cruise tourism, youth exchange, manpower development, joint tourism marketing and promotion, and quality assurance, as well as safety measures for tourists.
- 6.2 Promote linkages and strengthen cooperation among national tourism organisations and training institutions, covering areas such as tourism information exchange, human resource development and crisis communications, and encourage the involvement of the private sector in such cooperation.

7 Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

- 7.1 Forge closer cooperation in agriculture in key areas of mutual interests, including research and development, technology transfer, crops, horticultural plants cultivation, biotechnology application, fertiliser, agricultural infrastructure, post-harvest technology, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, organic farming, as well as agricultural cooperatives.
- 7.2 Promote networking in areas of key mutual interest between government authorities concerned, as well as between agricultural and food-related research institutions of ASEAN Plus Three Countries.
- 7.3 Cooperate in strengthening agricultural markets and promoting linkages and cooperation between relevant agriculture authorities to enhance accessibility of ASEAN agricultural products into global markets.
- 7.4 Promote cooperation in rural financial institutions, such as agricultural banks and micro-financing arrangements.
- 7.5 Provide opportunities for ASEAN farmers, including young farmers, and those engaged in agribusiness to learn and develop more efficient farming practices and management skills through training and information sharing with Plus Three Countries farmers.
- 7.6 Enhance capacity-building and human resources development in areas of agriculture where there is key mutual interest through training courses, seminars, workshops, job attachment and scholarship schemes.
- 7.7 Promote closer cooperation in food security, including exchange of information on major food commodities, food handling and food safety.
- 7.8 Enhance cooperation in sustainable forest management, and deepen cooperation in the Asian Forest Partnership (AFP) as an effective way to tackle the challenges of forest management in Asia through collaborative efforts, especially law

enforcement mechanisms of illegal logging and its associated trade, prevention of forest fires, reforestation of degraded lands, and a phased approach to certification.

7.9 Cooperate on fisheries and forest products development and promotion schemes.

7.10 Promote regionalisation of the code of conduct for responsible fisheries.

8 Minerals

8.1 Facilitate trade and investment in the mineral sector for mutual benefits, as well as forge closer cooperation in capacity building in the mineral sector.

8.2 Enhance collaboration in research and development activities for the sustainable development of the mineral sector.

8.3 Encourage private sector participation and public-private sector collaboration in the development and/or implementation of joint cooperation in programmes and activities related to the sustainable development of mineral resources in the region.

8.4 Promote technical information exchange, experience and best practices on, among others, the development of the ASEAN Mineral Database, scientific and technological research and development of geosciences, the sustainable development of mineral resources.

9 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

9.1 Foster a conducive business environment through encouraging information linkages to share and exchange knowledge and experience in both public and private sectors on policies and support programmes relating to SMEs, general management, finance, marketing, business development services and production technology, including but not limited to research and best practices.

9.2 Promote cooperation among SMEs in the region through mutually agreed technology transfer, mentoring, market research, management skill training, meetings and exchanges between potential SMEs, and training programmes in Plus Three countries.

9.3 Promote e-commerce cooperation to enhance the collaboration, partnership, and internationalisation of SMEs within ASEAN Plus Three countries.

9.4 Jointly identify and overcome barriers in SME business partnerships, including in market development and access to common markets.

9.5 Promote SME investments in ASEAN countries, as well as alert SMEs to market opportunities in those countries.

10 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

- 10.1 Promote cooperation activities, particularly in the areas of bridging the digital divide, telemedicine, e-government, e-commerce, distance education, cyber security and network monitoring, and for mutual recognition of electronic signatures for cross-border transactions.
- 10.2 Enhance cooperation and development of interconnected, high-capacity and resilient information infrastructure between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries through various measures, e.g. policies and regulations for next generation network (NGN), Ipv6, wireless broadband, and applications of the suitable, new and emerging technologies.
- 10.3 Facilitate cooperation in regulatory framework to support trade, investment and business activities in ICT sector, harmonisation of frequency, standards and interoperability of products/services, and consumer protection.

11 Development Cooperation

- 11.1 Support the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and other sub-regional endeavours such as the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), the Cambodia-Lao PDR-Viet Nam (CLV) Development Triangle, the Greater Mekong Sub Region (GMS), the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) and the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) to narrow the development gaps in ASEAN in order to expedite regional integration.
- 11.2 Continue to develop resources and infrastructure jointly for growth areas and to continue mobilising and exploring the expansion of financial resources for development with active participation of the private sector.
- 11.3 Promote development cooperation in accordance with international norms, rules and disciplines.

SECTION C: ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

1 Energy Cooperation

- 1.1 Pursue energy security, sustainable development and economic growth in an integrated approach taking into account specific and diverse national circumstances.

- 1.2 Promote energy diversification through information exchanges and researches on alternative, new and renewable energy development such as solar, wind, sea tides and waves, hydro, geothermal, clean coal technology, biofuels, biomass, gas and marsh gas, and others, taking into consideration each country's specific national circumstances; and for those Member countries which choose to do so, the use of civilian nuclear energy, while giving careful and due regards to the security, environmental, health and internationally-recognised safety standards of the energy source.
- 1.3 Promote energy conservation and energy efficiency as well as the use of clean and environment-friendly technologies such as new vehicle technologies.
- 1.4 Endeavour to create a more favourable market environment with a view to creating efficient energy market, facilitating regional energy production and trade, promoting investment in energy infrastructure and facilities.
- 1.5 Improve energy efficiency, where possible, in all sectors, such as the industrial, transport, residential/commercial and power sectors, through setting individual goals and formulating action plans.
- 1.6 Enhance cooperation on emergency preparedness by making full use of the ASEAN Plus Three Energy Security Communication System.
- 1.7 Promote greater cooperation and market transparency, including through the Joint Oil Data Initiative, and intensify the exchange of energy data, where possible, and the sharing of national energy policies on a voluntary basis.
- 1.8 Explore means of supporting the national rural electrification programmes of concerned ASEAN member countries.
- 1.9 Support the work of the ASEAN Centre for Energy.
- 1.10 Consider specific projects and proposals on energy issues raised within various regional processes such as the EAS and APEC.
- 1.11 Promote dialogue with Middle East oil and gas producing countries to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between oil-producing and oil-consuming countries.
- 1.12 Promote cooperation for diversification of energy transportation routes to enhance energy security.

2 Environment and Sustainable Development

- 2.1 Forge closer cooperation in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable use of natural resources.
- 2.2 Forge closer cooperation among ASEAN Plus Three countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- 2.3 Strengthen cooperation, among others, in the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies to raise the capacity of ASEAN Plus Three countries to respond to climate change.

- 2.4 Forge closer cooperation in the following areas:
- (a) transboundary environmental pollution reduction, particularly transboundary haze pollution,
 - (b) biological diversity and natural heritage conservation,
 - (c) application of advanced and environment-friendly technologies and best practices,
 - (d) sustainable water resource management, including groundwater,
 - (e) coastal and marine environment,
 - (f) sustainable forest management, including combating activities associated with illegal encroachment and destruction of forest resources,
 - (g) urban environmental management and governance, especially the ASEAN Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Cities,
 - (h) responsible mining and minerals development,
 - (i) public awareness and environmental education,
 - (j) multilateral environmental agreements, in particular climate change and chemical and chemical waste related conventions and partnerships, and
 - (k) air quality management.
- 2.5 Enhance cooperation in capacity building in the area of environment through the following:
- (a) exchanges of information and experiences between and among government authorities, institutions and experts,
 - (b) provision of training courses and scholarships,
 - (c) undertaking joint research and development and networking among research/academic institutions, and
 - (d) technology transfer.
- 2.6 Promote 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and environmental sound management of waste.
- 2.7 Promote sustainable development as a means to reduce negative aspects of development on the environment.

SECTION D: SOCIO-CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

- 1 Develop cooperative activities towards realising the UN Millennium Development Goals.
- 2 Strengthen the Networking of East Asian Cultural Heritage (NEACH), the East Asia Forum (EAF), the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) and the Network of East Asian Studies (NEAS), and consider their recommendations as supplementary source of inputs for policy formulation that is based on research and inter-sectoral consultations.

3 Poverty Alleviation

- 3.1 Open ASEAN Plus Three countries' markets to the products of their poorer citizens, including assistance in marketing their products, in accordance with multilateral or bilateral agreements and arrangements, and provide assistance to education, skills training, public health, the protection of their work environment and the building of effective national and community institutions.
- 3.2 Establish benchmarks and monitoring mechanisms to measure progress toward the Millennium Development Goals, extending assistance to enable such progress to be made, such as networks among "poverty alleviation facilitators", poverty-related data collection systems and monitoring systems for poverty alleviation programmes.
- 3.3 Forge closer cooperation in capacity building in the area of rural development and poverty eradication for government officials, experts, practitioners through information and experience sharing activities, people-exchange programme, training courses.
- 3.4 Monitor the effects of trade liberalisation and economic integration on rural development and poverty alleviation programme, including social protection systems and ICT as a tool for rural development and poverty alleviation.

4 Promoting Development of Vulnerable Groups

- 4.1 Support efforts to provide care to and promote empowerment of vulnerable groups, such as children, youth, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- 4.2 Support efforts to ensure access of persons with disabilities to opportunities and protection against all forms of discrimination, including the promotion of their human rights.
- 4.3 Support efforts to promote equitable participation of and equitable distribution of benefits for women in the development process by eliminating all forms of discrimination against them.
- 4.4 Strengthen cooperation in addressing violence against women and children.

5 Culture and People-to-People Contact

- 5.1 Cooperate in the promotion of people-to-people contacts involving, *inter alia*, parliamentarians, government officials, academia, youth, media, cultural experts, sports persons and representatives of business, industries, and think tank institutions.
- 5.2 Promote education, access to justice, and the empowerment of moderates in various religions as well as promote inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue to

- enhance mutual understanding among different cultures and religions, as well as promote universal ideals of religious moderation and tolerance.
- 5.3 Support efforts to engage civil society in developing a people-centered ASEAN Community.
 - 5.4 Promote cultural understanding and greater awareness of each other's culture, through regularly held cultural festivals, film festivals, art exhibitions, workshops and other events, such as the East Asia Week.
 - 5.5 Promote interaction, networking, and exchange of visits between government authorities involved in cultural affairs, as well as between cultural institutions, museums, archives and libraries, as well as artists, experts, practitioners in theatre, music, acrobatics, dance, folk art, and cinematography.
 - 5.6 Render mutual assistance and cooperation for the protection, preservation, and restoration of cultural and historical heritage, both tangible and intangible, according to the laws and regulations of each country, enhance cooperation to combat pillage, illicit trafficking and smuggling of moveable cultural property.
 - 5.7 Promote closer cooperation and collaboration between cultural, creative and design industries including joint venture and co-production.
 - 5.8 Promote exchanges and cooperation in the area of journalism, including press, radio, and television.
 - 5.9 Promote research and policy dialogue on the impact of globalisation, modernisation and ICT revolution on youth with a view to exchanging lessons learned and best practices.
 - 5.10 Intensify youth exchanges, for deeper mutual understanding and forging a sense of commonality, as well as continue to hold the ASEAN Plus Three Young Leaders Forum.

6 Education

- 6.1 Encourage investments in education and training to accelerate learning opportunities for out-of-school children and youth and to upgrade the quality of educational institutions, including human resources development for teachers, lecturers and administrative personnel.
- 6.2 Promote collaboration, networking, and research and development among institutions and authorities involved in education.
- 6.3 Promote higher education cooperation, increase linkages between universities through the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and encourage credit transfers between universities in ASEAN Plus Three countries.
- 6.4 Support research activities and exchanges of ASEAN Plus Three scholars and professionals interested in the ASEAN Plus Three relationship.

- 6.5 Continue to make efforts to expedite visa application procedures for students and intellectuals of ASEAN Member Countries who travel to the Plus Three countries for academic purposes, in accordance with existing national regulations.
- 6.6 Cultivate an East Asian identity through promotion of ASEAN Studies and East Asian Studies in the region.

7 Science and Technology

- 7.1 Broaden and expand exchanges and cooperation between the scientific and technological communities in ASEAN Plus Three countries.
- 7.2 Cooperate in the fields of technology transfer and technology management on issues covering R&D and IPR management, technology commercialisation, public-private sector collaboration, and science, technology and innovation indicators.
- 7.3 Promote research and technology development in areas of having potential for commercial applications such as biotechnology, food technology, new materials, microelectronics and information technology, marine resources, new and renewable energy, and space technology.
- 7.4 Strengthen cooperation in meteorology addressing climate information and prediction services, weather observations and climate change.
- 7.5 Promote the awareness of specific elements of community such as private sector and youth in science and technology through the participation in various activities such as ASEAN Food Conference, ASEAN Science and Technology Week, S&T Youth Camp and other relevant events.

8 Public Health

- 8.1 Strengthen cooperation in capacity building and enhance cooperation and technical assistance for government authorities and members of the private sector, civil society institutions, laboratories, and experts in the area of public and environmental health.
- 8.2 Strengthen cooperation in capacity building of government staffs in public health emergency disaster management.
- 8.3 Promote networking among government authorities and members of the private sectors of ASEAN Plus Three countries, including between laboratories, research institutions and experts.
- 8.4 Promote research and development and human resources development in the areas related to public health, including joint research and development, seminars, workshops, training courses and study tours as well as exchange of visits and scholarships for officials, health professionals and experts.

- 8.5 Enhance cooperation, research and technical assistance at the global and regional levels to prevent, control and reduce the impact of communicable and pandemic diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, SARS, avian influenza, tuberculosis and dengue hemorrhagic fever, and also to increase health and well-being of mother, children and newborns.
- 8.6 Effectively implement the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme and continue supporting the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- 8.7 Continue to improve ASEAN's emergency preparedness against the outbreak of pandemic influenza, including information sharing and early warning systems, immediate transfer from the existing ASEAN stockpile of antiviral and personal protection equipment to the sites of pandemic influenza outbreak, and establish a network of antiviral drug stockpiles.
- 8.8 Increase accessibility to safe, non-counterfeit, affordable and effective medication.

9 Disaster Management and Emergency Response

- 9.1 Strengthen cooperation in the fields of floods, landslides, earthquakes and other disasters such as assistance to support national and regional network of early warning systems for tsunamis and other disasters, including through real-time information sharing and public awareness campaigns.
- 9.2 Render assistance to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.
- 9.3 Enhance civil-military cooperation in disaster relief.

SECTION E: INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

- 1 Develop the modalities of an ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund.
- 2 Continue to strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat to improve consultation and coordination among the ASEAN Plus Three countries.
- 3 Conduct joint projects to advance the objectives of this Plan, and, where appropriate, sub-regional activities and cooperative efforts that further the goals and objectives set forth in this Work Plan will be encouraged.

- 4 The ASEAN Secretariat to develop a schedule and time frame for implementation of the Work Plan to be endorsed by the ASEAN Plus Three countries.
 - 5 Regularly review this Work Plan through the existing mechanisms, with the ASEAN Plus Three Directors-General Meeting as the monitoring mechanism.
 - 6 Submit concise progress reports on the implementation of the Work Plan to the annual ASEAN Plus Three Summit.
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ECONOMIC AND FINANCE

Joint Media Statement of the 6th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea Tourism Ministers

Singapore, 30 January 2007

1. The Sixth Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Rep. of Korea Tourism Ministers (MATM Plus Three) was held on 30 January 2007 in Singapore in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2007 and the Tenth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Singapore and H.E. Dr. Suvit Yodmani, Minister of Tourism and Sports, Thailand as co-chair.
2. The Ministers were pleased to note the tourist arrivals of ASEAN Plus Three in 2006 that recorded more than 89.3 million arrivals with 6.8 per cent growth compared to 2005. China, Japan and ROK are important source markets for ASEAN as more than 8.26 million arrivals arrived in ASEAN Member Countries in 2006, while ASEAN contributed to more than 4.4 million arrivals to plus three countries. Intra-ASEAN Plus Three travel accounted for 58 per cent of total arrivals in ASEAN Plus Three countries.
3. The Ministers welcomed the decisions of ASEAN Plus Three and the respective ASEAN Plus 1 Summits held on 14 January 2007 in Cebu, the Philippines and expressed their full support to the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation as the main vehicle in achieving a long-term goal of realising an East Asia community. ASEAN will drive this cooperation, with active participation of the Plus Three countries.
4. The Ministers appreciated the concrete steps taken by China to establish the ASEAN-China Centre for promoting trade, investment and tourism. The Ministers noted that the booths provided by China at China International Travel Mart 2006 were utilised to support the establishment of ASEAN Common Area. China has made similar offer for CITM 2007 and would also organise a workshop on China's outbound tourism.

5. The Ministers were pleased to note Japan's initiatives to further promote youth travel and tourism exchange which would include the invitation to young people from East Asia Summit participating countries to visit Japan, and the "East Asia Youth Ship" project to commemorate the ASEAN's 40th anniversary. The Ministers were satisfied with the progress of the ASEAN-Japan Cruise Promotion Project under the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership.
6. The Ministers welcomed the decision of the ASEAN-ROK Leaders to pursue the establishment of an ASEAN-ROK Centre to promote trade, investment, tourism and socio-cultural cooperation. The Ministers were pleased to note a solid commitment of the Republic of Korea through by implementing concrete work-programmes such as a ten-week residence program of Korean language and culture for 26 ASEAN tour guides and a training program for ASEAN NTOs Officials to boost tourism cooperation between ROK and ASEAN countries: programs that will be continued this year as well.
7. The Ministers supported cruise tourism, youth exchange, manpower development, joint tourism marketing and promotion, quality assurance and safety measures for tourists as the main areas of concrete collaboration among ASEAN Plus Three. The Ministers discussed common challenges to tourism and agreed to strengthen the crisis communications and the exchange of timely and accurate information.
8. The Ministers expressed appreciation of Cambodia's offer to establish ASEAN Plus Three common area complimentary booths at Angkor International Tourism Exchange to be held in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia on 6-9 October 2007.
9. The Ministers looked forward to the early establishment of the ASEAN-China Centre for Trade, Investment and Tourism Promotion, and the ASEAN-ROK Centre for promoting trade, investment, tourism and socio-cultural cooperation, and the participation of their representatives at the ATF 2008 in Bangkok.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Dr. Awg Haji Ahmad Haji Jumat, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- H.E. Mr. Lay Prohas, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
- H.E. Mr. Gu Zhaoxi, Vice Chairman of the National Tourism Administration, China;
- H.E. Mr. Jero Wacik, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Indonesia;

- H.E. Mr. Shigetaru Yamamoto, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan;
 - H.E. Mr. Somphong Mongkhonvilay, Minister, Chairman of Lao National Tourism Administration, Lao PDR;
 - H.E. Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia;
 - H.E. Major General Soe Naing, Minister for Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;
 - H.E. Mr. Oscar P. Palabyab, Undersecretary, Department of Tourism, Philippines;
 - H.E. Mr. Lee Bokyoung, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism, Republic of Korea;
 - H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
 - H.E. Dr. Suvit Yodmani, Minister of Tourism and Sports, Thailand;
 - H.E. Mr. Hoang Tuan Anh, Chairman of Viet Nam National Administration of Tourism, Viet Nam; and
 - H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN.
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Joint Ministerial Statement of the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' Meeting

Kyoto, Japan, 5 May 2007

Introduction

1. We, the Finance Ministers of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea (ASEAN+3), convened our tenth meeting in Kyoto, Japan, under the co-chairmanship of H.E. Chalongphob Sussangkarn, Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Thailand and H.E. Jin Renqing, Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China.
2. We exchanged views on regional economic and financial developments and policies. We also reviewed the progress of regional financial cooperation processes, including the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) Multilateralisation, the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), and the ASEAN+3 Research Group. We also explored ways to further enhance these initiatives.

Recent Economic and Financial Developments in the Region

3. We welcomed continued strong growth of the regional economy. The growth outlook for 2007 remains favourable and the external environment is broadly supportive of regional economic expansion. We also noted challenges posed by main downside risk factors, including possible spillover effects from potential slowdown in major world economies, large global imbalances, greater financial market volatilities, growing signs of a rise in protectionist sentiment and a recurrent rise in oil prices.
4. We recognised the increased globalisation of economies and agreed on the importance of policies that strengthen the region's resilience. In this context, we reiterated our commitment to accelerate and deepen structural reforms and implement appropriate macroeconomic policies including domestic demand-driven measures to support sustainable economic growth of the region.

Strengthening East Asian Financial Cooperation

5. On the **Chiang Mai Initiative**, we were pleased to note that the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) network has increased to US\$80 billion, consisting of 16 BSAs among 8 countries.
6. We noted the substantial progress made in the activities of the new Taskforce on CMI Multilateralisation. Proceeding with a step-by-step approach, we unanimously agreed in principle that a self-managed reserve pooling arrangement governed by a single contractual agreement is an appropriate form of multilateralisation. We recognised the consensus reached as a significant achievement towards an advanced framework of regional liquidity support mechanism. We instructed the Deputies to carry out further in-depth studies on the key elements of the multilateralisation of the CMI including surveillance, reserve eligibility, size of commitment, borrowing quota and activation mechanism. Meanwhile, we reiterated our commitment to maintain the two core objectives of the CMI, i.e., (i) to address short-term liquidity difficulties in the region and (ii) to supplement the existing international financial arrangements.
7. We reaffirmed the importance and necessity of strengthening cooperation on regional surveillance alongside the CMI multilateralisation process based on the **Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERPD)**. We welcomed the initial progress made by the **Group of Experts (GOE)** and the **Technical Working Group on Economic and Financial Monitoring (ETWG)** on ways to strengthen regional surveillance capacity since their launches after our last meeting in Hyderabad. Further, we agreed to explore ways on how to link these activities with strengthened surveillance within the region.
8. On the **Asian Bond Markets Initiative**, we encouraged collective efforts of ABMI Working Groups in prioritising the work plans and setting clear deliverables to move forward. We welcomed the diversification of issuers and types of local currency denominated bonds, and endorsed undertaking of the following new studies: Exploring New Debt Instruments for Infrastructure Financing, Promotion of Securitisation of Loan Credits and Receivables, and Promotion of Asian Medium Term Note (MTN) Programme. We also recognised noticeable progress of studies on regional credit guarantee and investment mechanism, settlement system, credit rating harmonisation as well as technical assistance coordination. Furthermore, we were also pleased to see the strengthened public and private sector cooperation under the ABMI.

9. On the **ASEAN+3 Research Group**, we acknowledged the depth and significance of the research studies related to the region's effort to promote greater economic and financial cooperation. We endorsed two new study topics for 2007/08 Research Group activities: (1) "Development of Database on Corporate Credit Information" and (2) "Development of Capital Market to Widen and Diversify SME Financing".

Conclusion

10. We expressed our appreciation to the governments of the Kingdom of Thailand and the People's Republic of China for their excellent arrangements as co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Process in 2007. We also thanked the government of Japan for its hospitality and kind cooperation on hosting the venue.
 11. We agreed to meet in Madrid, Spain, in 2008. Viet Nam and Japan will be co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Process in 2008.
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Joint Ministerial Statement of the 4th ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting

Singapore, 23 August 2007

1. The 4th ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3) was held in Singapore on 23 August 2007. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. S Iswaran, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Singapore and co-chaired by the Ministers from China, Mr. Zhao Xiaoping, Director General of the Energy Bureau, National Development and Reform Commission; Japan, H.E. Akira Amari, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry; and Korea, H.E. Koh Jung-Sik, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers on Energy from ASEAN Member Countries.
2. On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN+3 cooperation this year, the Ministers noted with appreciation the significant achievements gained so far in strengthening and furthering the cooperation of ASEAN+3 Countries on energy under the five program areas identified – energy security, oil market, oil stockpiling, natural gas and renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation.
3. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensure energy security in the region, realising the prevailing situation of instability of energy prices, limited reserves of fossil fuels and growing concern on the environment.
4. As an oil-importing region, the Ministers expressed their concern about the increasing dependence on oil as well as the high and volatile oil prices. The Ministers recognised the need to strengthen the emergency preparedness and participate in measures to manage the risks and consequences of short-term energy supply disruptions. In this context, the Ministers welcomed the progress towards the development of oil stockpiles among ASEAN+3 countries as a possible approach to mitigate the adverse impact of a supply disruption. The Ministers expressed hope that ASEAN+3 Countries would, where possible, share information on the progress of their respective oil stockpiling policies and methods/systems to enhance regional security.
5. The Ministers agreed to continue discussions between ASEAN+3 and the oil producing countries, to promote mutual understanding of the oil markets in a bid to

encourage freer trade of oil. In this context, the Ministers welcomed the outcome of the 2nd Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable Meeting in Riyadh on 2 May 2007. Noting the importance of market transparency, the Ministers recognised the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI) as an international initiative that addresses investor uncertainty, contributes towards global harmonisation of energy data, and strengthens producer and consumer dialogue by demonstrating concrete action.

6. The Ministers recognised that improving energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective ways to enhance energy security and address climate change in the region. They agreed to improve energy efficiency, where possible, in all sectors, such as the industrial, transport, residential/commercial and power sectors, through setting individual goals and formulating action plans for improving energy efficiency. The Ministers recognised that these goals and action plans would be voluntary, acknowledging the varying levels of development among ASEAN+3 countries. They also acknowledged that the ASEAN Energy Awards Competition was well received and encouraged the ASEAN Centre for Energy to further expand and promote the competition. They welcomed the launch of the Asia Energy Conservation Collaboration Centre in Japan.
7. The Ministers recognised that with increasing economic growth, the region's demand for oil will continue to increase, especially in the transport sector. To meet the growth in the transportation sector while taking into account environmental considerations, the Ministers agreed to pursue efforts to encourage investments in the upgrade of refineries so that sufficient supplies of clean liquid fuels would be made available both in domestic and regional markets.
8. The Ministers welcomed the positive developments in the use of renewable energy. In particular, the Ministers acknowledged the initiatives of countries to develop, produce and utilise biofuels in a sustainable manner, addressing issues such as competition between biofuel feedstock with food crop, environmental impact, investments, downstream market development as well as social awareness.
9. As a region where there are both major gas producers and consumers, the Ministers acknowledged their mutual dependence with regard to natural gas. The Ministers agreed that discussions on natural gas issues should be in an atmosphere of transparency and on a win-win basis, mutual trust and respect so as to ensure an open, efficient and transparent investment climate. This would ensure that the ASEAN+3 as a region would be able to enjoy the benefits of regional gas trade while providing for domestic requirements.

10. The Ministers encouraged gas producing countries to further exploit resources and develop the gas infrastructure and gas supply industry. The Ministers also encouraged countries with huge capital to explore possibilities of joint ventures with the gas producing countries to carry out exploration and production activities both in small and large scale reserves.
11. The Ministers requested the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and the ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE) with assistance from ASEAN+3 countries to prepare a compendium of the natural gas (Coal Bed Methane) industry which will provide vital information on doing business in the natural gas (Coal Bed Methane) industry in the ASEAN+3 region, including among others, incentives, policies, business processes and detailed map of resources.
12. The Ministers recognised that coal will play an important role in the regional energy supply and that the clean use of coal is essential for achieving both energy security and environmental protection. The Ministers supported the activities of the ASEAN Forum on Coal to discuss coal-related issues, efficient use of coal including clean coal technologies, coal trade and regulation and environmental concern in coal use. The Ministers also welcomed the Japan's initiative to establish Coal Liquefaction Assistance Centre in Indonesia for promoting the early commercialisation.
13. The Ministers acknowledged the efforts of countries to explore civilian nuclear energy as an alternative energy source to address the energy needs and to also mitigate greenhouse effects in the longer term. The Ministers encouraged to open more dialogues and discuss the more viable nuclear technologies and exchange information on the development of nuclear energy as a sustainable and safe option.

LIST OF MINISTERS

- H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Yahya, Minister of Energy, Prime Minister's Office for Brunei Darussalam;
- H.E. Mr. Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy for Cambodia;
- Mr. Zhao Xiaoping, Director General of the Energy Bureau, National Development and Reform Commission, representing H. E Chen Deming, Vice Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission, for China;
- H.E. Dr. Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources for Indonesia;
- H.E. Akira Amari, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry for Japan;
- H.E. Koh Jung-Sik, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy for Korea;

- H.E. Dr. Bosaykham Vongdara, Minister of Energy and Mines for Lao PDR;
 - H.E. Dato' Sri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik, Minister of Energy, Water and Communications for Malaysia;
 - H.E. Brig. Gen. Lun Thi, Minister of Energy for Myanmar;
 - H.E. Mr. Angelo T. Reyes, Secretary of Energy for the Philippines;
 - H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister of State for Trade and Industry for Singapore;
 - H.E. Dr. Piyasvasti Amranand, Minister of Energy for Thailand;
 - H.E. Mr. Le Duong Quang, Vice Minister of Industry for Viet Nam; and
 - H.E. Mr. Nicholas T. Dammen, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN;
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**Joint Media Statement
of the 10th Consultations between the ASEAN Economic
Ministers and the Ministers of People's Republic of China,
Japan and Republic of Korea
(AEM Plus Three)**

Makati City, Philippines, 25 August 2007

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers and Ministers from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their Tenth Consultations in Makati City, the Philippines on 26 August 2007. The consultations was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Peter B. Favila, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Bo Xilai, Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China; H.E. Mr. Akira Amari, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan; and H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-yul, Deputy Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the global economic situation and recent economic developments in ASEAN and the Northeast Asian countries. They noted the progress in economic integration in the region, and particularly noted that trade volume among ASEAN, China, Japan, and Korea expanded by 12.39 percent from US\$315 billion in 2005 to US\$354 billion in 2005. They reiterated the importance of continuing regional economic integration as a means to promote trade and investment flows.

Economic Cooperation Projects

3. The Ministers noted the progress of the implementation of economic cooperation projects. These projects cover a wide range of areas, including information technology (IT), small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), standards and quality conformance, environment, and logistics management. The Ministers endorsed the two new projects proposed by China on e-commerce and SME development.

Enhancing Regional Cooperation

4. The Ministers took note of the steady progress achieved in the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in the last nine years, including the implementation of the various short, medium and long-term measures recommended by the East Asia Study Group (EASG), particularly the Network of East-Asian Think-Thank (NEAT) and East Asia Business Council (EABC).
5. The Ministers noted the follow-up work undertaken on the Phase II study on EAFTA since the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Summit. The ASEAN Ministers reiterated the need to prioritise the conclusion of the FTA plus One for further expansion covering East Asia. At the same time, the Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to study the recommendations of the Joint Expert Group.

Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation

6. The Ministers noted the progress in the drafting of the Second Joint Statement on East Asia cooperation and its work plan to consolidate existing cooperation since 1997 and for future cooperation to be issued by 11th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in November 2007 in Singapore.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

7. The Ministers exchanged views on the status of the Doha Round negotiations, particularly in light of the recent development in the negotiations in Geneva in July.
8. The Ministers shared a sense of urgency with regard to accelerating the multilateral negotiation process in Geneva beginning 3 September 2007, in order to conclude the Doha Round negotiations this year. In this context, the Ministers reiterated ASEAN Plus Three's firm support for the efforts of the Chairs of the Negotiating Groups, especially, Agriculture and NAMA, and the WTO Director-General to build consensus on an ambitious and balanced outcome in the crucial months ahead. We will therefore work closely with other WTO Members and actively engage in the intensive negotiations scheduled for September 2007.
9. On our part, the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers remain prepared to make our own contribution to ensure a meaningful and successful outcome of the negotiations. They agreed to further accelerate discussion based on the Chair's texts of draft

modalities for Agriculture and NAMA issued on 17 July so that the Chairs can develop the revised texts promptly.

10. The Ministers reaffirmed their support to Lao PDR in its effort to accede to the WTO.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

11. The Ministers noted the outcomes of the meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, held in Cairns, Australia, on 2-6 July 2007.

Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM)

12. The Ministers took note of the latest developments in ASEM. They welcomed the forthcoming ASEM Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting, and Trade and Investment Fair to be held in Qingdao, China on 29 October – 1 November 2007. The Ministers took note that Indonesia will be hosting the Economic Ministers' Meeting in 2008.

Preparations for the ASEAN Plus Three Summit

13. The Ministers noted the preparations being undertaken by Singapore for the ASEAN Plus Three, which will be held in Singapore in November 2007.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The 10th AEM Plus Three Consultations was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
- H.E. Mr. Bo Xilai, Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China
- H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia
- H.E. Mr. Akira Amari, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan
- H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-yul, Deputy Minister for Trade, Korea
- H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
- H.E. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia

- H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
 - H.E. Mr. Peter B. Favila, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines
 - H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
 - H.E. Mr. Krirk-Krai Jirapaet, Minister of Commerce, Thailand
 - H.E. Dr. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam
 - H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN
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**Joint Press Statement
of the 7th Meeting of the ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry
Ministers and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's
Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea
(7th AMAF Plus Three)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 2 November 2007

1. The ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their seventh meeting in Bangkok on 2 November 2007, under the chairmanship of H.E. Professor Dr. Thira Sutabutra, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand.
2. The Ministers were pleased with the substantive accomplishments under the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, particularly in cooperation on alleviating poverty and strengthening food security as well as human development activities. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction on the project activities as well as the solid progress made in evaluation of those activities as instructed by the 6th AMAF Plus Three Meeting.
3. The Ministers from the Plus Three Countries (People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea) reiterated their support in the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), as well as in providing technical assistance in narrowing development gaps and accelerating integration of agriculture as a sustainable sector for economic and social development.
4. The Ministers recognised the necessity for conserving the natural environment and preserving the social and cultural tradition of rural communities while promoting a sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors. Moreover, the Ministers recognised that agriculture, which is the foundation of each and every society, should be maintained and developed to secure a stable supply of safe foods to their own peoples.
5. The Ministers noted the implementation of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) Pilot Project activities, which provided valuable experiences in meeting the humanitarian needs during periods of emergencies and natural disasters. The

Ministers approved the recommendation of the Project Steering Committee of EAERR to extend the EAERR Pilot Project to one more year.

6. The Ministers agreed to the proposed Project Implementation Plan for the second-phase of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project. The Ministers welcomed the financial contribution for the second-phase of the AFSIS project from Japan.
7. The Ministers reaffirmed continuing efforts by the ASEAN Plus Three Countries to control and eradicate Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) that remains a serious threat to the region. The Ministers recognised regional collaboration effort with international agencies such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) to control and eradicate HPAI.
8. The Ministers endorsed 9 new project proposals from the Plus Three Countries, which aim to build capacity in various aspects such as agricultural statistical analysis, food standards, post-harvest management, agricultural extension, HPAI control, and plant quarantine, as well as to establish regular forum for plant variety protection systems and biomass energy.
9. The Ministers agreed to have their eighth meeting in Viet Nam in 2008. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Thailand for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Ahmad Haji Jumat, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Mr. Chan Tong Yves, Secretary of State of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- H.E. Mr. M.S Kaban, Minister of Forestry, Indonesia
- H.E. Mr. Sitaheng Rasphone, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- H.E. Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohd Yassin, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia
- H.E. Major General Htay Oo, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar
- H.E. Dr. Segfredo R. Serrano, Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture, Philippines
- H.E. Dr. Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Parliamentary Secretary for National Development, Singapore

- H.E. Professor Dr. Thira Sutabutra, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
 - H.E. Dr. Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
 - H.E. Mr. Wei Chao'an, Vice Minister of Agriculture, People's Republic of China
 - H.E. Mr. Hiromi Iwanaga, Senior Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
 - H.E. Dr. Park, Hae-Sang, Vice Minister of Agriculture & Forestry, Republic of Korea
 - H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN
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SOCIO-CULTURAL

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 1st ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth (1st AMMY+3)

“Youth: Creating Our Future Together”

Singapore, 27 April 2007

1. Pursuant to the 7th ASEAN+3 Summit in Bali, Indonesia on 7 October 2003, during which the Leaders of ASEAN+3 countries agreed to promote active involvement of all sectors of society, in particular women, youth, and community groups, the Ministers of ASEAN, the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea responsible for youth convened the First ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth (1st AMMY+3) in Singapore on 27 April 2007. The Meeting was held in conjunction with the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY V) and was preceded by a Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting on Youth on 25 April 2007.
2. The Ministers noted that at the 10th ASEAN+3 Summit on 14 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines, the Leaders of ASEAN+3 countries reaffirmed their commitment to ASEAN+3 cooperation as the main vehicle in achieving the long-term goal of realising an East Asia community.
3. At this inaugural meeting, the Ministers had a productive exchange of views on developing paths for ASEAN+3 collaboration in the area of youth cooperation.
4. The Ministers were pleased to note the statements made by the Ministers of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK), which expressed support for the efforts of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) in forging youth cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries in the priority areas of i) ASEAN awareness; ii) civic responsibilities/leadership development; and iii) promoting youth employability. The Ministers agreed to develop ASEAN+3 cooperation in support of these three key priority areas.

5. The Ministers noted and welcomed the ideas by China, Japan and the ROK to complement the existing activities of ASEAN+3 countries in providing opportunities to develop new collaborative initiatives in youth cooperation.
6. The Ministers noted the significance of this inaugural AMMY+3 and expressed their commitment towards youth in ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK. In particular, the Ministers agreed to the following:
 - (i) to provide youth with opportunities, resources and support to develop self-confident, educated, resourceful and compassionate youth who are able to achieve their full potential and make contributions to their communities;
 - (ii) to promote youth engagement by encouraging youth voice at policy- and decision-making platforms and youth initiation of, participation in and leadership of youth programmes and initiatives;
 - (iii) to underscore the importance of peace, understanding and solidarity in the region and to promote greater understanding, idea exchange and unity through active participation in youth exchange and youth development programmes.
7. The Ministers agreed to meet in Thailand in 2009 and they look forward to making further progress on the ASEAN+3 initiatives.
8. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Singapore for its hospitality as host of the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting of the 1st AMMY+3 and the 1st AMMY+3.

List of Ministers or their representatives

The Meeting was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Mohammad bin Haji Daud Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Brunei Darussalam
- H.E Dr Kol Pheng Senior Minister and Minister of Education, Youth and Sports Cambodia
- H.E Mdm Zhang Xiaolan Vice-President of All-China Youth Federation China
- H.E Prof. Dr. Toho Cholik Mutohir, PhD Secretary to the Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Indonesia
- H.E. Mr Tanimoto Tatsuya Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office Japan
- H.E Mdm Choi Young-Hee Chairperson of National Youth Commission, Office of the Prime Minister Republic of Korea
- H.E Mr Vilayvong Bouddakham Deputy Secretary General of Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union Lao PDR
- H.E. Dato' Liow Tiong Lai Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports Malaysia

- H.E. Brigadier-General Thura Aye Myint Minister for Sports and President of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Myanmar
 - H.E Mr Richard Alvin M. Nalupta Chairman and CEO of National Youth Commission Philippines
 - H.E Dr Vivian Balakrishnan Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, Second Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, and Chairman of National Youth Council Singapore
 - H.E. Dr Poldej Pinprateep MD. Deputy Minister of Social Development and Human Security Thailand
 - H.E Mr Vo Van Thuong Chairman of National Committee on Youth Viet Nam
 - Mr. M.C. Abad Jr. Director of Bureau for Resources Development ASEAN Secretariat
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10th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, 3rd Conference of Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, 6th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand, 5-7 September 2007

1. Ministers responsible for environment from ASEAN Member Countries held their 10th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, and also met as the 3rd Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution in Bangkok, Thailand on 5-6 September 2007. The Ministers also met their counterparts from the Peoples' Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea at the 6th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting on 7 September 2007.
2. The Ministers noted that ASEAN Member Countries are experiencing extreme weather events that could be due to the impacts of climate change. The Ministers noted that there is on-going work by ASEAN Member Countries on climate change issues and the need to further cooperate in this area. The Ministers further noted the need to establish the vulnerability of the ASEAN Member Countries to the impact of climate change on the environment, biodiversity and water resources, and agreed to cooperate by sharing findings of national studies.
3. The Ministers expressed their commitment to support the ASEAN's decision to declare "Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development" as the theme for the 13th ASEAN Summit to be held in Singapore in November 2007. The Ministers exchanged views on the draft declarations to be issued at the Summit. The 3rd East Asia Summit also to be held in Singapore in November 2007 is expected to issue a declaration on climate change, energy and the environment.
4. The Ministers also agreed to fully support Indonesia in the successful hosting of the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 3rd Meeting of the Parties (MOP) of the Kyoto Protocol in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007.
5. The Ministers reviewed national, sub-regional and regional activities to address land and forest fires in the region and its associated transboundary haze pollution. The Ministers welcomed the substantive progress in the implementation of concrete

on-the-ground activities, especially in the implementation of Indonesia's Plan of Action. The Ministers welcomed the efforts of Malaysia and Singapore to assist Indonesia in undertaking activities at the provincial level.

6. The Ministers pledged to remain vigilant and continuously implement preventive activities even though the efforts undertaken so far and the favourable weather conditions during the current dry season have reduced the occurrence of land and forest fires. The Ministers noted that ASEAN Member Countries have started contributing to the ASEAN Transboundary Haze Pollution Control Fund to realise their pledge of providing an initial seed contribution of US\$500,000. The Ministers discussed strategies to mobilise additional resources to the Haze Fund, and identified high priority/urgent activities to be implemented to address land and forest fires. The Ministers also agreed to establish a sub-regional Technical Working Group to focus attention on addressing land and forest fires in the northern part of the region.
7. The Ministers adopted the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2008-2012 with the theme "Environmental Education for Sustainable Development" to realise the ASEAN Vision of a clean and green ASEAN through environmental education and public participation.
8. The Ministers agreed to showcase environmentally sustainable cities in ASEAN, among others, by recognising exemplary national efforts through an ASEAN ESC Award to be conferred annually beginning 2008 on the occasion of their ministerial meetings.
9. The Ministers expressed their full support and commitment to the effective operations of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, hosted by the Philippines. The Ministers also agreed to consider expediting the signing of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on access and benefit sharing.
10. The Ministers noted the progress made in the protection of the common seas of the region through harmonised implementation of the ASEAN Marine Water Quality Criteria, particularly in preparing a manual for marine water quality monitoring, and guidelines for marine water quality policy and management.
11. The Ministers welcomed the efforts to address water demand management in the urban and agriculture sector, and also risks and impacts from severe floods and droughts which the region has encountered recently.

12. The ASEAN Ministers and their counterparts from the Peoples' Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea exchanged views on global environmental issues and agreed to implement activities in specific areas such as biodiversity, climate change, environmental education, water resources management, promotion of environmentally sound technology and cleaner production, and solid waste and hazardous waste management.
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Joint Statement of the 2nd ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 7 December 2007

1. We, the Ministers responsible for Social Welfare and Development of ASEAN, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) convened this Second ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD+3) on 7 December 2007 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.
2. With the aim of enhancing ASEAN Plus Three collaboration in social welfare and development, we shared views and ideas and had a valuable exchange of experiences on "the role of social welfare and development in the establishment of the East Asia community".
3. We noted that one of the Purposes of ASEAN as set out in the ASEAN Charter is to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice and hoped to see enhanced ASEAN Plus Three collaboration in the social welfare and development sector.

Mainstreaming Persons with Disabilities in Development

4. We discussed the theme "Mainstreaming persons with disabilities in development: lessons and actions for the future" and emphasised the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of promoting sustainable development, particularly with regard to the Millennium Development Goals.
5. We reaffirmed the priorities set out in the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Plan of Action on building a community of caring societies in ASEAN, with attention to measures that would reduce the social risks faced by the elderly and persons with disabilities, increase the effective participation of women, family, civil society and the private sector in eradicating poverty and social welfare issues, and raise the standard of living of marginalised and disadvantaged groups.

6. We appreciated that this calls for consolidated efforts in cooperation between ASEAN Member Countries and the Plus Three Countries in all aspects of social welfare and development, stressing the importance of removing all barriers that had previously hindered the full participation of persons with disabilities in society.

Strategic Framework and Plan of Action for Social Welfare, Family and Children (2007-2010)

7. We commended the development of the ASEAN Strategic Framework and Plan of Action for Social Welfare, Family and Children (2007-2010) which succeeds and builds upon the previous framework, prioritising the scope of cooperation in social welfare, family and children, and focusing on social development activities with sustained impact both nationally and regionally.

Care for the Elderly

8. In line with the measures of the Vientiane Action Programme to ensure that social risks faced by persons with disabilities, women, children and older persons are minimised, we noted with satisfaction the completion of the 'ASEAN Plus Three Symposium on Older Persons' as well as the first phase of the ASEAN-ROK Project on 'Homecare for Older Persons'.
9. We welcomed the proposal to continue the ASEAN Plus Three Symposium on Older Persons, following the first Symposium held in Bangkok in September 2005, and the future establishment of a network addressing ageing issues in ASEAN Plus Three countries as well as the proposed convening of ASEAN Plus Three meetings on ageing to address the potential contribution and vulnerabilities of older persons.
10. We also noted the current phase of the 'Home Care for Older People in the ASEAN Countries' project, which proposed the development of national policy and agenda to support home care and community-based care for older people among ASEAN Member countries.
11. We noted the convening of the ASEAN Plus Three Forum on Ageing in Beijing in December 2006, organised under the theme "home-care and community service".

Other efforts and developments in ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Social Welfare and Development

12. We acknowledged with appreciation the great efforts and successful developments achieved in the field of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Social Welfare and Development since the 1st AMMSWD+3 held on 17 December 2004 in Bangkok.
13. We noted the convening of the 5th ASEAN-Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies in Tokyo in August 2007 under the theme: “Community Services for the Elderly” and welcomed the decision to continue convening the Meeting annually in future.
14. We also noted the organisation of the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development in Bangkok on 8 – 9 September 2006, which for the first time, convened GO and NGO representatives from the ASEAN and Plus Three countries to discuss important regional priorities on social welfare and development. We commended the organisation of the second ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development in Ha Noi on 3 December 2007.
15. We expressed our great appreciation to the relentless and continued support and cooperation by the Plus Three Countries in building ASEAN’s social welfare and development sectors and stressed the importance of mainstreaming disability concerns in all efforts and endeavours.

Second ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development

16. We thanked the Government and the people of Viet Nam for their generous hospitality accorded to us and to our respective delegations and for the excellent arrangements for the Second ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development. We also thanked the ASEAN Secretariat for their assistance to the success of the Meeting.

Third ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development

17. We welcomed the kind offer of Brunei Darussalam to host the Third ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development in 2010.

18. The Second ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.

H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Mohammad
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports
Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Say Siphonn
Secretary of State for Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
Cambodia

H.E. Liu Guanghe
Vice Minister of Civil Affairs
China

H.E. Bachtiar Chamsyah
Minister of Social Affairs
Indonesia

H.E. Wataru Ito
Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Labour and Welfare
Japan

H.E. Lee, Sang Yong, PhD
Deputy Minister for Health and Welfare
Korea

H.E. Laoly Faiphengyoa
Vice Minister of Labour and Social Welfare
Lao PDR

H.E. Shahrizat binti Abdul Jalil
Minister of Women, Family and Community Development
Malaysia

H.E. Major General Muang Muang Swe
Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
Myanmar

H.E. Dr. Esperanza I. Cabral
Secretary for Social Welfare and Development
The Philippines

H.E. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon
Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports
Singapore

H.E. Poldej Pinprateep
Deputy Minister of Social Development and Human Security
Thailand

H.E. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan
Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
Viet Nam

H.E. Ong Keng Yong
Secretary-General of ASEAN

ASEAN+3 DOCUMENTS SERIES

2008



POLITICAL AND SECURITY

Chairman's Statement of the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting

Singapore , 22 July 2008

1. The 9th Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea was held in Singapore on 22 July 2008. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. George Yeo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore.
2. Recalling the Ministers' decisions at the 40th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and the 8th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting on 31 July 2007, in Manila, which recognised that relations among ASEAN Plus Three countries had reached a high level of comfort, the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting in Singapore was held in retreat format for the first time, to facilitate a frank, open and interactive discussion.
3. The Ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues and welcomed recent developments that have contributed to regional peace and security in East Asia. They reiterated their support for the Six-Party Talks toward the verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and the eventual normalisation of relations between the relevant Six-Party members through the full implementation of the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005, including the resolution of outstanding issues of concern such as security and humanitarian concerns. In this regard, the Ministers emphasised the importance of the early establishment of an effective verification mechanism. The Ministers welcomed the upcoming first informal meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Six-Party Talks on 23 July 2008 in Singapore.
4. The Ministers welcomed the Myanmar government's decision to invite UNSG Special Advisor Professor Ibrahim Gambari to visit Myanmar again in August 2008, and noted that it was important for Professor Gambari to continue his work in helping Myanmar's efforts towards national reconciliation. They expressed their support for the Secretary-General's Good Offices mission and Professor Gambari's visits to Myanmar. They called on the Myanmar authorities to extend their fullest

cooperation to Professor Gambari by giving him access to the highest levels of the SPDC and the government, and by facilitating meetings for him with the widest possible range of other contacts, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

5. The Ministers discussed developments in the Middle East, in particular the situation in Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran, and the continuing efforts in the Middle East Peace Process. The Ministers took note of the Ministerial Meeting of the New Asian African Strategic Partnership on Capacity-building for Palestine organised by Indonesia, and Japan's Corridor of Peace and Prosperity in the Middle East.
6. The Ministers were briefed by both Cambodia and Thailand on the situation in the area around the Temple of Preah Vihear and noted this with concern. They urged both sides to exercise utmost restraint and resolve this issue amicably.
7. The Ministers discussed the growing challenges of rising oil and food prices, as well as climate change, which posed serious challenges to our peoples' welfare and our countries' continued economic development. They called for greater information sharing and collaboration among member countries.
8. The Ministers also expressed their concerns over the global financial situation. On enhancing regional financial stability, they welcomed the progress made at the ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers Meeting in Madrid. In particular, they looked forward to further progress in the multilateralisation of the Chiang Mai Initiative and the Asian Bond Markets Initiative.
9. The Ministers reviewed the implementation of the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007 – 2017). They noted with satisfaction the progress made, and discussed priorities for the future direction of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, which will continue to support ASEAN's efforts to realise the ASEAN Community. They reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three process would continue to be the main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community, with ASEAN as the driving force. At the same time, they recognised and supported the mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the ASEAN Plus Three process and such regional fora as EAS, ARF, APEC and ASEM to promote East Asian community building.
10. They noted that ASEAN Plus Three cooperation had grown from strength to strength over the past 11 years to encompass 14 Ministerial processes covering cooperation in 20 fields. In this context, they took note of the many cooperation

initiatives in areas such as disaster management, food and energy security, finance, ICT, free trade arrangements, health and youth.

11. ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation for the Plus Three countries' contributions and support for the ASEAN-led mechanism on humanitarian assistance for the victims of Cyclone Nargis. The Ministers called for the enhancement of information sharing and collaboration among the national disaster relief focal points. Drawing from the lessons learnt from recent disasters, they directed officials to improve disaster relief coordination and management through training, capacity building and improved systems and procedures. The Ministers expressed their sympathy to Myanmar and China in view of the massive and tragic loss of life in the Cyclone Nargis and the Sichuan earthquake disasters.
 12. The Ministers launched the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund with an initial contribution of US\$3 million. China, Japan and Korea would each contribute US\$900,000, and ASEAN would contribute US\$300,000. This would provide the needed resources to implement more projects as envisaged by the Second Joint Statement and the Work Plan.
 13. The Ministers expressed their best wishes to China for a successful Olympic Games in Beijing.
 14. The Ministers looked forward to their next meeting in Thailand in 2009.
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ECONOMIC AND FINANCE

Joint Media Statement of the 7th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea Tourism Ministers

Bangkok, Thailand, 22 January 2008

1. The Tourism Ministers from ASEAN, China, Japan and Rep. of Korea (ROK) Tourism Ministers held their Seventh Meeting (MATM Plus Three) on 22 January 2008 in Bangkok in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2008 and the Eleventh Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Suvit Yodmani, Minister of Tourism and Sports, Thailand and co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Hoang Tuan Anh, Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Viet Nam.
2. The preliminary figures of international tourist arrivals in ASEAN Plus Three (APT) countries in 2007 recorded more than 99 million arrivals with 14.6 per cent growth compared to 2006. Intra-APT travel accounted for 61 per cent of total arrivals in APT countries. China, Japan and ROK are important source markets for ASEAN as more than 10 million arrivals arrived in ASEAN Member Countries in 2007, while ASEAN sent more than 4.8 million visitors to China, Japan and ROK.
3. The Ministers welcomed the decisions of APT and the respective ASEAN Plus 1 Summits held on 20 November 2007 in Singapore and expressed their full support to the implementation APT Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) highlighted key measures to deepen cooperation over the next decade. Particularly on tourism, the APT shall pursue the promotion of the development of quality tourism and forging concrete collaboration in cultural and eco-tourism, cruise tourism, youth exchange, manpower development, joint tourism marketing and promotion, and quality assurance, as well as safety measures for tourists. The Ministers were pleased to note that the Leaders endorsed the proposal to establish an APT Cooperation Fund expeditiously to facilitate the implementation of the Work Plan.
4. The Ministers noted the decision of the recent ASEAN-China Summit to examine ways to promote tourism between ASEAN and China and encouraged ASEAN Member States and China to speed up discussions on the proposed MOU on Establishing the ASEAN-China Centre. The Ministers appreciated China for provision

booths to ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat at China International Travel Mart (CITM) 2007 which were utilised to support the establishment of ASEAN Common Area and promotion of ASEAN Cruise Tourism. The Ministers welcomed the decision of China in providing booths to ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat at CITM 2008 in Shanghai and the convening of the Workshop on Chinese Outbound Tourists.

5. The Ministers strongly supported the statement issued by the ASEAN and China Heads of Government on 20 November 2007 in Singapore, which tasked their Ministers and officials to expeditiously work towards a fully liberalised air services regime between ASEAN and China. The Ministers tasked the tourism officials to support their counterparts in the Transport Ministry to realise the goal of air liberalisation. In this regard, the Ministers encouraged the respective Transport Ministers to work on the expansion of the air liberalisation regime to include Japan and ROK.
6. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress in youth exchange under such programmes as the “Japan East-Asia Network of Exchange for students and Youths” (JENESYS) Programme. The Ministers further noted that the visit of the first batch of ASEAN students to Japan has been made in November 2007. The Ministers appreciated the effort made by Japan in the implementation of various projects, such as organising training programme for tourism industries, promotion activities in Japan of ASEAN-Japan Centre.
7. The Ministers were pleased to note the conclusion of the MOU on the establishment of an ASEAN-ROK Centre to promote trade, investment, tourism and socio-cultural cooperation to further promote tourism and cultural exchanges between both sides. The Ministers thanked ROK for the implementation of concrete work-programmes such as production of the ASEAN Map in Korean Language, Korean Language Course for ASEAN tour guides and ASEAN-Korea Tourism Night on 6 July 2007 in Seoul as well as Training Programme for ASEAN NTOs officials.
8. The Ministers discussed the progress of the concrete collaboration among APT, particularly on cruise tourism, youth exchange, manpower development, joint tourism marketing and promotion, quality assurance and safety measures for tourists. The Ministers tasked their senior officials to prepare the detailed tourism APT plan to further progress the APT Work Plan 2007-2017.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Dr. Awg Haji Ahmad Haji Jumat, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
 - H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
 - H.E. Dr. Du Jiang, Vice Chairman of the National Tourism Administration, China;
 - H.E. Mr. Jero Wacik, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Indonesia;
 - H.E. Mr. Kosuke Shibata, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan;
 - H.E. Mr. Somphong Mongkhonvilay, Minister, Chairman of Lao National Tourism Administration, Lao PDR;
 - H.E. Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia;
 - H.E. Brig. Gen. Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;
 - H.E. Mr. Oscar P. Palabyab, Undersecretary, Department of Tourism, Philippines;
 - H.E. Mr. Chul-Min Mo, Director General, Office for Tourism Industry, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Republic of Korea;
 - H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
 - H.E. Dr. Suvit Yodmani, Minister of Tourism and Sports, Thailand;
 - H.E. Mr. Hoang Tuan Anh, Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Viet Nam; and
 - H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN.
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Joint Ministerial Statement of the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' Meeting

Madrid, Spain, 4 May 2008

Introduction

1. We, the Finance Ministers of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea (ASEAN+3), convened our eleventh meeting in Madrid, Spain, under the co-chairmanship of H.E. Vu Van Ninh, Minister of Finance of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and H.E. Fukushiro Nukaga, Minister of Finance of Japan.
2. We exchanged views on regional economic and financial developments and policies and reviewed the progress of regional financial cooperation initiatives, including the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation, the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) and the ASEAN+3 Research Group. We also explored ways to further enhance these initiatives.

Recent Economic and Financial Developments in the Region

3. The global economy faces a challenging period. While we remain positive about the long-term resilience of the global economy, the short-term economic prospects have weakened. Risks to the outlook come from the still unfolding events in financial markets, the potential worsening of housing and credit cycles, and inflationary pressures driven by high energy and food prices.
4. The regional economy has continued its strong growth and is forecasted to remain robust although somewhat weaker. Nonetheless, several risks remain such as further worsening of the growth prospects, vulnerability of financial markets, and continued inflationary pressures from rising oil and non-oil commodity prices. We confirmed the importance of taking appropriate actions to ensure that economic activity continues at a sustained pace by balancing policies to deal with these risks. We are also committed to accelerating and deepening structural reforms to support sustainable economic growth in the region. We highly appreciate the ADB initiatives to contribute to the stabilisation of the food prices. In addition, we agreed to work closely with the ADB on regional and national initiatives to provide food security and stability of food prices for the regional economies.

5. Such recent economic developments remind us of the strong interaction between vulnerability of financial markets and the macro-economic situation. The countries in the Asian region have recorded strong growth by deepening intraregional trade of goods and services. The financial markets in Asia have become more interdependent with increasing cross-border financial transactions. In this context, we recognised the importance of continuing to enhance communication among authorities responsible for macroeconomic policies and financial supervision in the region.

Strengthening East Asian Financial Cooperation

-Chiang Mai Initiative-

6. On the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI), we have been carrying out work on the key elements of the multilateralisation of the CMI since our last Meeting in Kyoto, following the principle agreement that a self-managed reserved pooling arrangement governed by a single contractual agreement is an appropriate form of multilateralisation. We reiterated our commitment to maintain the two core objectives of the CMI: (i) to address short-term liquidity difficulties in the region and (ii) to supplement the existing international financial arrangements. We agreed that CMI Multilateralisation will be underpinned by rigorous principles to govern its key aspects, including economic surveillance, borrowing accessibility, activation mechanism, decision making rules and lending covenants, while keeping to timely disbursement.
7. We agreed that it is indispensable to build a credible system in ASEAN+3 to monitor the economic and financial situation of the member countries. As a start, we agreed to implement measures to strengthen the current Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERPD), such as increasing the frequency of the dialogues and developing a standardised format for the provision of necessary information and data. Such strengthened regional surveillance system will contribute to smooth and efficient decision making. We will further explore the International Financial Institutions' (IFIs') role in providing useful information when necessary as reference.
8. We also agreed that the total size of the multilateralised CMI would be at least US\$80 billion, and that the proportion of the amount of contribution between the ASEAN and the Plus Three countries would be "20:80". We further agreed on key concepts of the borrowing accessibility, the activation mechanism and other elements. Based on the progress made thus far on some of the key elements of the multilateralisation of the CMI, we are committed to further accelerate our work

in order to reach consensus on all of the elements which include concrete conditions eligible for borrowing and contents of covenants specified in borrowing agreements.

-Asian Bond Markets Initiative-

9. Along with the effort and progress made under the ABMI since 2003, the Asian bond markets have recorded remarkable growth in terms of size and diversity of issuers. We also took note of other progress and effort under the current ABMI such as studies on new securitised debt instruments, credit guarantee and investment mechanism, the study on Asian Bond Standard and enhancing the credibility of the domestic credit rating agencies.
10. To further develop the Asian bond markets, we endorsed the New ABMI Roadmap. This New Roadmap shows our renewed strong commitment to the concrete progress of ABMI, on the occasion of its fifth anniversary.
11. First, the new ABMI Roadmap focuses on the four key areas: (1) promoting issuance of local currency-denominated bonds, (2) facilitating the demand of local currency-denominated bonds, (3) improving regulatory framework, and (4) improving related infrastructure for the bond markets. The Steering Group will be established to monitor and coordinate the activities of the four Task Forces in charge of those areas.
12. Second, we agreed to make further voluntary efforts to contribute to more accessible regional bond market development in a concerted manner. In this regard, each country will make periodic self-assessments of its progress in line with the objectives of ABMI. The reference will be introduced for this purpose.
13. Third, we recognised that the private sector plays an important role in the development of bond markets. In this regard, we welcomed the launch of a group consisting of private sector participants to discuss the cross-border bond transactions and settlement issues.

-Others-

14. On the ASEAN+3 Research Group, we appreciated the various studies made by the Research Group on relevant topics including financial integration and capital market development in the region. We endorsed three study topics for 2008/09 Research Group activities: (i) "Development of Corporate Credit Information Database and Credit Guarantee System", (ii) "The Trend of Trade, Foreign Direct Investment,

and Monetary Flows in East Asia, and its Policy Implication”, and (iii) “New Financial Products and their Impact on the Asian Financial Markets”.

15. We also welcomed the various efforts made by the Technical Working Group on Economic and Financial Monitoring (ETWG) and the Group of Experts (GOE) to strengthen regional surveillance capacity.

Conclusion

16. We expressed our appreciation to the governments of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Japan for their excellent arrangements as co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers’ Process in 2008. We also thanked the government of Spain for its hospitality and kind cooperation.
 17. We agreed to meet in Bali, Indonesia, in 2009. The Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Korea will be co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers’ Process in 2009.
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Joint Ministerial Statement of the 5th ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand, 7 August 2008

Introduction

1. The 5th ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 7 August 2008. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Lieut. Gen. Poonpirom Liptapanlop, Minister of Energy for Thailand, and co-chaired by the Ministers from China, H.E. Mr. Sun Qin, Vice Administrator of the National Energy Administration; Japan, H.E. Mr. Takamori Yoshikawa, Senior Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry; and Korea, H.E. Dr. Lee Jae Hoon, Vice Minister of Knowledge Economy. The Meeting was also attended by the Ministers on Energy from ASEAN Member Countries.

2. The Ministers exchanged views on recent national, regional and international developments on energy and reviewed the progress of regional cooperation initiatives. The Ministers acknowledged and reaffirmed the 10-year ASEAN+3 Work Plan adopted by the Leaders during the 11th ASEAN+3 Summit on 20 November 2007 to enhance ASEAN+3 relations and cooperation. Section C of the ASEAN+3 Work Plan (2007-2017) is dedicated to Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Cooperation where it listed down 12 areas on energy cooperation. The Ministers explored ways to pursue the 10-year Work Plan.

Recent Energy Developments in the Region

3. The global energy sector is increasingly facing enormous challenges that are impacting the socio-economic, political, and environment landscape of the region. While the global economy is considered to be more resilient than before, the still unrelenting escalation in oil prices poses a major challenge to economic growth momentum and long-term energy security. Meanwhile, the region's energy needs will continue to grow in the short to long-term, necessitating that all available supplies be considered to satisfy requirements while effectively managing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

4. The Ministers called for greater cooperation and integration to address the challenges. The Ministers also stressed the importance of appropriate regional actions to build a sustainable energy future.

Call for Deeper and Closer Regional Energy Cooperation and Integration

5. The Ministers commended the on-going activities and progress achieved under the ASEAN Senior Officials on Energy Meeting+3 (SOME+3) Energy Cooperation. Amidst growing challenges, the Ministers agreed to strengthen the ASEAN SOME+3 Energy Cooperation in the present five fora – energy security, oil market, oil stockpiling, natural gas, and new renewable energy (NRE) and energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C).

Energy Security

6. The Ministers affirmed that the scale of response and urgency of action are critical to address energy security of the region. To meet the anticipated doubling of energy demand, the Ministers also affirmed that concerted efforts are needed to building up sufficient and reliable supplies while also addressing social and environmental aspects. The Ministers, therefore, agreed to step up efforts collectively and urgently towards energy security and sustainable development.
7. The Ministers commended continuous conduct of studies on Energy Demand Outlook in the region as a guide in identifying policy options to ensure energy security. The Ministers particularly noted the on-going “2nd ASEAN+3 Energy Outlook” by the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ) and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) to be completed by end 2008. The Ministers also noted and welcomed other studies presented and discussed during the annual ASEAN+3 Energy Security Forum to widen discussions on energy security.
8. Realising the growing importance and reliance of coal in the region’s energy mix, the Ministers expressed satisfaction on the progress of coal cooperation as an integral part of the ASEAN+3 Energy Security Forum. The Ministers noted the conduct of the 6th ASEAN Forum on Coal (AFOC) Council Meeting and International Clean Coal Conference in Viet Nam on 18-21 August 2008 and encouraged ASEAN+3 to participate in the said events.

9. The Ministers also noted the progress of re-activating the ASEAN+3 Energy Communication System to enhance emergency preparedness mechanism and the continued collection of Oil Price and Energy Data housed under ACE.

Oil Market

10. The Ministers expressed serious concerns about the unprecedented current high oil prices which pose a downward risk to global economy and are against the interest of both consuming and producing countries. The Ministers emphasised the need to strengthen cooperation among those responsible for energy policy. The Ministers, therefore, called for enhanced oil market dialogue and cooperation between producers and consumers. They also emphasised the need for increase in investment, both upstream and downstream, to ensure adequate level of spare capacity as well as market transparency through the enhancement of the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI) covering capacity expansion plans. They encouraged the relevant international organisations such as the IEA, IEF, OPEC and the IMF to work together to analyse the real and financial factors behind the recent surge in oil prices. They also called relevant national authorities to examine the functioning of commodity futures market and to take appropriate measures if needed.
11. The Ministers affirmed to vigorously enhance their actions in such areas as enhancing emergency preparedness, promoting energy efficiency and alternative energy sources. In this context, they also recognised that moving towards phased and gradual withdrawal of price subsidies for conventional energies is desirable because market-based energy pricing helps markets send the appropriate signals to enhance energy efficiency and increase investment in alternative energy sources. They commended some countries for their recent moves in this direction and encouraged further progress in this area.

Oil Stockpiling

12. In light of persistent risks of supply disruptions and highly volatile oil market, the Ministers recognised the necessity of oil stockpiling initiatives. The Ministers welcomed the activities for the development of the Oil Stockpiling Roadmap which will be based on four (4) principles: i) voluntary and non-binding, ii) mutual benefits, iii) mutual respect and respect for bilateral and regional cooperation, and iv) step-by-step approach with long-term perspectives. The preparation and development of the detailed concept of the Oil Stockpiling Roadmap will be subject to exhaustive deliberations and discussions among ASEAN+3 Countries.

13. The Ministers welcomed the Philippine Department of Energy as lead coordinator for ASEAN and the National Energy Administration of China; Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan; and Ministry of Knowledge Economy (MKE) of Korea as lead coordinators for +3 countries for the Oil Stockpiling Roadmap. The Ministers also acknowledged the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) with the assistance of the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) to serve as temporary secretariats of the Working Group. The Ministers requested the Working Group to start the work at the 1st Working Group Meeting to be held in the Philippines late November 2008 and to report any progress to the 8th SOME+3 and 6th AMEM+3 in 2009.

NRE and EE&C

14. The Ministers recognised the urgent need to address energy demand side in a rational way, noting that prolonged high prices have not obviously curb consumption contrary to earlier expectations. The Ministers affirmed that widespread promotion of highly efficient energy technologies and best practices and adoption of policies to improve energy efficiency will effectively restrain demand without sacrificing productivity and growth. The Ministers agreed to further cooperation on EE&C through increased dialogues, networking and information sharing.

15. The Ministers acknowledged the gains on the development and promotion of renewable energy. Realising the growing supply-demand gap, the Ministers confirmed the need to accelerate the development of renewable energy (RE) sources to meet the demand. The Ministers agreed to work closely to explore ways to encourage more investments in innovative RE technologies to move past the laboratory to full-scale commercial production. The Ministers also agreed to promote technology transfer and beef up local skills in the development and manufacturing of RE technologies. (China, Thailand and Japan)

16. The Ministers welcomed Republic of Korea's offer for cooperation on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) to widen opportunities for CDM projects to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and promote sustainable development through activities enhancing capacity building. The Ministers also noted that the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) has been tasked to review the proposal for further action.

Natural Gas

17. The Ministers acknowledged increasing significance of natural gas in the region. The Ministers also noted that an open market mutually benefits both importers and exporters of gas. In this context, the Ministers agreed to enhance gas trade through greater bilateral and regional coordination and cooperation to ensure sufficient supply for the international and domestic markets.
18. The Ministers also welcomed China's hosting of the 5th ASEAN+3 Natural Gas Forum and 4th ASEAN+3 Natural Gas Business Dialogue in the Fall Quarter of 2008. The Ministers expressed hope that the two meetings will help facilitate new investments and partnerships.

Nuclear

19. Recognising the Leaders' adoption of the ASEAN+3 Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) on 20 November 2007 which includes the use of civilian nuclear energy, the Ministers agreed to move forward the initiative to develop civilian nuclear energy as an option to meet the future energy demand in the region while ensuring safety, security and non-proliferation.
20. The Ministers appreciated Thailand's initiative to organise an ASEAN+3 Forum on Nuclear Energy Safety on 16-17 June 2008 in Bangkok as the first step to promote dialogue on safety use of civilian nuclear energy in the region. The Minister noted the Report of the Forum and encouraged ASEAN+3 countries to continue to convene such a Forum annually.
21. The Ministers welcomed Republic of Korea's proposal for cooperation on civilian nuclear energy, consistent with the ASEAN+3 Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). Korea proposes that the cooperation programme could begin with capacity building such as training staff/personnel for civilian nuclear power development in the region. The Ministers also noted that the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) along with interested ASEAN Member States will be tasked to review the proposal for further action.

Others

22. The Ministers commended the on-going activities and preparations for future activities under the SOME+3 Energy Cooperation and look forward to review further updates

and recommendations at the next ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting in Myanmar in 2009.

LIST OF MINISTERS

- H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Yahya, Minister of Energy, Prime Minister's Office for Brunei Darussalam;
 - H.E. Mr. Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy for Cambodia;
 - H.E. Mr. Sun Qin, Vice Administrator of the National Energy Administration for China;
 - Dr. Luluk Sumiarso, on behalf of H.E. Dr. Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources for Indonesia;
 - H.E. Mr. Takamori Yoshikawa, Senior Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry for Japan;
 - H.E. Dr. Lee Jae Hoon, Vice Minister of Knowledge Economy for Korea;
 - H.E. Mr. Somboun Rasasombath, Vice Minister of Energy and Mines for Lao PDR;
 - H.E. Dato' Joseph Salang, Deputy Minister of Energy, Water and Communications for Malaysia;
 - H.E. Brig. Gen. Than Htay, Deputy Minister of Energy for Myanmar;
 - H.E. Mr. Angelo T. Reyes, Secretary of Energy for the Philippines;
 - H.E. Mr. S Iswaran, Senior Minister of State (Trade & Industry), Ministry of Trade and Industry for Singapore;
 - H.E. Lieut. Gen. Poonpirom Liptapanlop, Minister of Energy for Thailand;
 - H.E. Dr. Do Huu Hao, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade for Viet Nam; and
 - H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN
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Joint Media Statement of the 11th AEM Plus Three Consultations

Singapore, 28 August 2008

1. The Eleventh Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and Ministers from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea was held in Singapore on 28 August 2007. The Consultations was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Chen Jian, Vice Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China; H.E. Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan; and H.E. Mr. Kim Jong-Hoon, Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the global economic situation and recent economic developments in ASEAN and the Northeast Asian countries. They also noted the status of ASEAN plus One Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the Plus Three Countries (i.e. ASEAN-China FTA, ASEAN-Korea FTA and ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership). They remained confident that these Plus One arrangements contribute to the realisation of the overall objective of integrating the economies in Southeast and Northeast Asia.
3. The Ministers noted that total ASEAN exports of goods to the Plus Three Countries increased to US\$192.5 billion in 2007 from US\$173.5 billion in 2006, with a slower growth of 10.9 percent as compared to 2006 when ASEAN exports to these countries grew by 16.1 percent. ASEAN imports of goods from the three countries grew by 15.7 percent in 2007 compared to 11.1 percent growth in 2006. Total ASEAN imports from these countries stood at US\$213.1 billion in 2007, up from US\$184.2 billion in 2006. The increased ASEAN imports from the Plus Three Countries cushioned the slowdown in total exports to the same countries and sustained the growth of total trade between the two regions at 13.4 percent. ASEAN Plus Three Countries' total trade was valued at US\$405.5 billion in 2007, up from US\$357.7 billion in 2006, with its share at 25.1 percent of total ASEAN trade, a slight decline from 25.5 percent in 2006.
4. The Ministers also noted that, in 2007, the Plus Three Countries committed US\$12.6 billion worth of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into ASEAN, which is 6.7 percent less than the total value of their FDI in 2006 (US\$13.6 billion). Cumulative FDI from the Plus Three Countries during the period 2005-2007 now stands at US\$33.3

billion, accounting for around 21.0 percent of total FDI inflows to ASEAN in the same period.

Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation

5. The Ministers welcomed the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation which was adopted at the ASEAN Plus Three Summit on 20 November 2007 in Singapore to mark the tenth anniversary of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation. They also welcomed the Second Joint Statement issued by the East Asian Leaders which reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three process remained a vehicle for the realisation of the long-term goal of building an East Asian community. The Ministers re-emphasised ASEAN's role as the driving force in this process.
6. The Ministers called on all sectoral bodies and business sectors involved in the economic aspects of the ASEAN Plus Three process to be pro-active in their participation in APT activities and in the promotion of economic growth and sustainable development in East Asia. The Ministers welcomed the endorsement of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the APT Cooperation Fund (APTCF) by the APT Foreign Ministers Meeting held on 22 July 2008 in Singapore. The AEM thanked the Plus Three Countries for their initial contribution and called for the efficient utilisation of the Fund in order to achieve the intended economic and social effects.

Economic Cooperation Projects

7. The Ministers noted the progress in the implementation of economic cooperation projects, which covered a wide range of areas including information technology (IT), small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), standards and quality conformance, environment, and logistics management.

Enhancing Regional Cooperation

8. The Ministers noted the progress report of the Experts Group on the East Asian FTA (EAFTA) Study: Phase II. The Study, which conducts an in-depth sector-by-sector analysis and related researches in trade facilitation and rules of origin of the proposed EAFTA, aims to examine the key elements of market access for goods, services and investment as well as trade facilitation cooperation with a view to identifying some possible options for such an FTA. The Ministers expressed their

appreciation to the Experts Group for their continued contribution to the ASEAN Plus Three process. The Ministers looked forward to receiving their final report at the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Consultations in 2009.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

9. The Ministers exchanged views on the status of the Doha Round negotiations in light of the developments at the WTO Ministerial meeting held in Geneva in July 2008.
10. The Ministers committed themselves to actively participate in constructive discussion to bridge existing gaps and bring the negotiations to an early and successful conclusion. The Ministers expressed their firm support for the efforts of the Director-General of the WTO and the Chairs of the Negotiating Groups, especially Agriculture and NAMA, to build a consensus on an ambitious and balanced outcome in the crucial months ahead.
11. The Ministers also reaffirmed their support to Lao PDR in its effort to accede to the WTO.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

12. The Ministers exchanged views on the outcomes of the Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade which was held in Arequipa, Peru on 31 May to 1 June 2008. They also noted that the APEC Leaders' Week has been scheduled on 16-23 November 2008 in Lima, Peru.

Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM)

13. The Ministers noted the latest developments on the activities under ASEM. They looked forward to the Seventh ASEM Summit which will be held in Beijing on 24-25 October 2008. Consistent with the theme "Vision and Action – Towards a Win-Win Solution," the Leaders, at the ASEM 7, would be having in-depth discussions on major global and regional issues, strengthening dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation between Asia and Europe to benefit people in both regions.

14. The Ministers also noted that ASEM 7 would be preceded by the Eleventh Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF 11) on 21-24 October 2008. It would have “Seize the Trend, Time for Action and Public-Private Partnership” as its theme and would include financial security, energy cooperation, SME development and, trade and investment facilitation as the main topics for discussion.

Preparations for the ASEAN Plus Three Summit

15. The Ministers noted that preparations are underway for the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2008.

LIST OF MINISTERS

- H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
 - H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
 - H.E. Chen Jian, Vice Minister of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China.
 - H.E. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia
 - H.E. Toshihiro Nikai, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan
 - H.E. Mr. Kim Jong-Hoon, Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea
 - H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
 - H.E. Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia
 - H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
 - H.E. Peter B. Favila, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines
 - H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
 - H.E. Pichet Tanchareon, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Chaiya Sasomsub, Minister of Commerce, Thailand)
 - H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Vice Minister, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam)
 - H.E. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN
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**Joint Press Statement
of the 8th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture
and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of
the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of
Korea (8th AMAF Plus Three)**

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 24 October 2008

1. The ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their Eight Meeting in Hanoi on 24 October 2008, under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam.
2. The Ministers from the Plus Three Countries (People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea) expressed their firm support in further strengthening cooperation in food, agriculture, and forestry towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community. The Ministers also agreed to address the need for technical assistance in narrowing development gaps in particular to accelerating integration of agriculture. The Ministers also encouraged continued cooperation in alleviating poverty and promoting human development activities and in implementing AMAF Plus Three activities.
3. In light of recent volatility in food and energy prices, the Ministers expressed their support to further strengthen food security under the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. The Ministers recognised that food security as a key factor for sustained economic and social development in the region while each country needs to maximise the use of its own potential resources and achieve greater agricultural production.
4. The Ministers reaffirmed the need for conserving the natural environment and preserving the social and cultural tradition of rural communities while promoting a sustainable development in the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors and the stability of food supply.
5. The Ministers agreed to strengthen and accelerate the implementation of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) Pilot Project activities, which is designed to respond to the humanitarian needs for such emergencies due to disasters. The

Ministers agreed to extend the EAERR Pilot Project for one more year until 28 February 2010.

6. The Ministers welcomed the steady progress of new activities in the second-phase of ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project.
7. The Ministers endorsed new project proposals from the Plus Three Countries, which aim to build capacity in various aspects such as food security, agricultural statistical analysis, food safety and standards, post-harvest management, plant quarantine, and agricultural extension, as well as to promote sustainable biomass utilisation.
8. The Ministers agreed to have their Ninth Meeting in Brunei Darussalam in 2009. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Viet Nam for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Mr. Chan Tong Yves, Secretary of State of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- H.E. Dr. Anton Apriyantono, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia
- H.E. Mr. Sitaheng Rasphone, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- H.E. Dato' Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia
- H.E. Major General Htay Oo, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar
- H.E. Dr. Segfredo R. Serrano, Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture, Philippines
- H.E. Dr. Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Parliamentary Secretary for National Development, Singapore
- H.E. Mr. Somphat Kaewpjit, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
- H.E. Dr. Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
- H.E. Mr. Niu Dun, Vice Minister of Agriculture, People's Republic of China
- H.E. Mr. Tetsuro Nomura, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
- H.E. Mr. Park, Deok Bae, Vice Minister of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Republic of Korea

- Mr. S. Pushpanathan, Principal Director, Bureau for Economic Integration and Finance, ASEAN Secretariat, representing H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN

SOCIO-CULTURAL

7th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 8-9 October 2008

1. Ministers responsible for environment from ASEAN Member States met in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on the 8th October 2008 on the occasion of the 11th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, and the 4th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution. The Ministers also met their counterparts from the Peoples' Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea at the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting on 9 October 2008. The Ministers reviewed on-going programs on environment and discussed future cooperation to promote regional cooperation on environment.
2. The Ministers reviewed national, sub-regional and regional activities to address land and forest fires in the region and its associated transboundary haze pollution. The Ministers welcomed the substantive progress in the implementation of concrete on-the-ground activities, especially in the implementation of Indonesia's Plan of Action, including bilateral collaboration between Malaysia and Indonesia in Riau Province and between Singapore and Indonesia in Jambi Province. The Ministers noted that the efforts by ASEAN Member States in preventing and controlling land and forest fires have helped to reduce transboundary haze pollution.
3. In the northern ASEAN region, with the transition to the Northeast Monsoon, the rainy season is expected to gradually ease and this may lead to escalation of hotspot activities towards the end of the year. For the southern ASEAN region, occasional hotspot activities can be expected in October 2008, however this might be subdued towards the end of the year with the onset of the rainy season. The ASEAN Member States pledged to remain vigilant and continuously monitor and implement preventive activities.
4. The Ministers noted that several ASEAN Member States have contributed to the ASEAN Transboundary Haze Pollution Control Fund towards realising the pledge of providing an initial seed contribution of US\$500,000 for the Fund. The Ministers discussed strategies to mobilise additional resources to the Haze Fund.

5. The Ministers welcomed the endorsement of the project on the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia, by the Global Environment Facility. The Project which is expected to commence in 2009 will promote sustainable management and use of the fire-prone peatlands through capacity building, creating alternative livelihood activities, rehabilitation and conservation of important peatland sites, and public awareness and community participation, among others. The Ministers urged international and regional collaborative partnerships to support ASEAN's initiatives in addressing land and forest fires, in particular the fire-prone peatlands.
6. The Ministers welcomed the efforts made to develop the ASEAN Climate Change Initiative as encouraged by the ASEAN Leaders at the 13th ASEAN Summit in Singapore in 2007 and the proposed establishment of ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change to foster greater regional cooperation on climate change.
7. The Ministers presented for the first time the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City Award in Ha Noi, Viet Nam to ten cities/townships/districts in ASEAN that have made exemplary efforts towards environmental sustainability. The Ministers hoped that the Award will motivate other cities to share best practices and make greater efforts to achieve high standards of environmental sustainability.
8. The Ministers supported the "Cool ASEAN, Green Capitals Initiative" proposed by the Secretary-General of ASEAN to encourage efforts by the ASEAN capital cities and other major cities to mitigate climate change through addressing the everyday urban issues faced such as waste management, transportation, creating more green areas and conservation of energy. This initiative would be synergised and run in line with other related programmes such as the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities programme and other ASEAN working groups' activities.
9. The Ministers noted the achievements made by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the substantial support of the European Commission for the Centre and urged continued support by the European Commission, and welcomed other partners to collaborate with the Centre.
10. The Ministers noted the publication of the "ASEAN Marine Water Quality Management Guidelines and Monitoring Manual" which would assist the relevant institutions in ASEAN to build their capacity for monitoring, measurement and analysis and work towards the long term goal of harmonising marine water quality standards in ASEAN.

11. The Ministers also noted Viet Nam's concept paper for setting up a centre for environmental education. The Ministers agreed that this is a useful initiative and tasked the Senior Officials to study the proposal further.

 12. The ASEAN Ministers and their counterparts from the Peoples' Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea exchanged views on global environmental issues and agreed to implement activities in specific areas such as biodiversity, climate change, environmental education, water resources management, promotion of environmentally sound technology and cleaner production, and solid waste and hazardous waste management.
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Joint Statement of the 3rd ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting

Manila, Philippines, 10 October 2008

We, the Ministers of Health of the ASEAN Member States and People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea, convened the Third ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting on 10 October 2008 in Manila, Philippines.

United by the common aim of improving the health situation in the region, we discussed progress in implementing joint activities in the health sector and we explored areas for future collaboration.

“Trade Liberalisation: Its Adverse Impact on our Borderless Health Problems”

We are of the view that in the era of globalisation and trade liberalisation, HIV and AIDS, avian and pandemic influenza, and other emerging infectious diseases continue to threaten the lives of people in the region, especially the vulnerable populations, with socio-economic consequences that pose a formidable challenge to ASEAN community building.

We have agreed to address the potential challenges that trade and trade agreements may pose to the health sector. We have tasked the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials to gather information on the possible implications of international and regional trade and trade agreements for health and health policy at the national and regional levels, especially trade agreements between ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries, in order to strengthen regional cooperation, as appropriate, through liberalisation and facilitation measures in the area of trade in goods, services and investments.

ASEAN Plus Three partnership in combating communicable diseases and pandemic preparedness and response

We welcome the achievements made in implementing the Year 1 Action Plan (July 2007- June 2008) of the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme, which aims to enhance regional preparedness and capacity through integrated approaches to prevention, surveillance and timely response to emerging infectious diseases, including SARS, avian and pandemic influenza.

We commend the key activities of the ASEAN Plus Three EID programme, namely the launch of the improved website “<http://www.aseanplus3-eid.info>”; strengthening collaboration between animal and public health networks; conducting research to support mainstreaming of gender and social issues in the prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases; initiating healthy tourism; developing, disseminating and operationalising of minimum standards on multi-sectoral joint outbreak investigation and response; developing minimum standards on logistical and administrative arrangements required in times of an outbreak; establishing a Laboratory Based Surveillance of 13 pathogens and the ASEAN Plus Three Laboratory Partnership; and strengthening collaboration with partners organisations, such as WHO, OIE, FAO, AusAID, USAID, UNSIC, and UNOCHA.

We endorse the Year 2 Action Plan of the ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme (July 2008 - June 2009) and hope that the activities would bring the ASEAN Plus Three countries even closer together in preparing for future threats of disease outbreaks, including those related to natural disasters, bio-terrorism, and pandemic influenza, as well as facilitate partnerships among existing networks and experts in the region on public and animal health.

We support the Call for Action towards the Elimination of Rabies in the ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries by year 2020. They requested the ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme to develop a regional strategic framework for the prevention and control of rabies in the ASEAN and the Plus Three countries in accordance with and in support of guidelines of the WHO and international standards for animal disease control and surveillance of World Organisation for Animal Health.

We support the Plan of the ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme to develop and implement medium-term and long-term plans to sustain regional cooperation for prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases through multi-sectoral and integrated approaches in support of International Health Regulation (2005) and Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Infectious Diseases (APSED). The Health Ministers agreed that future collaboration will include initiatives to address treatment of emerging infectious diseases.

We support the work of the ASEAN Technical Working Group on Pandemic Preparedness and Response. Comprising focal points from the health, agriculture and disaster management sectors, the Working Group was established earlier this year to enhance and promote multi-sectoral coordination in pandemic preparedness and response at the regional and national levels. We recommended that the Working Group

expand its focal points to include representatives of other key relevant service sectors and work closely with their counterparts from the Plus Three countries.

We express strong support for the Vientiane Statement of Commitment on the Greater Involvement and Empowerment of People Living with HIV. The Statement of Commitment, which was initiated in May this year, calls for the elimination of all forms of stigmatisation and discrimination against people living with HIV, and their families.

We thank the Government of Australia for supporting the efforts to develop and implement the ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme and the Government of the United States of America for supporting the initiatives on ASEAN Multi-sectoral Pandemic Preparedness and Response and on HIV/ AIDS prevention and control. We also thank the Plus Three countries, WHO, OIE, FAO, UNAIDS, UNDP and other partner organisations for their contributions and support. We look forward to stronger collaboration and cooperation.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Health

We have noted the progress made in ASEAN Plus Three collaboration in health since we first met in 2004. The areas of collaboration include health promotion; capacity building for health professionals; human resource development, infectious diseases; traditional, complementary and alternative medicine; and policy coherence for health and social welfare development.

We thank the Government of the People's Republic of China for supporting regional activities and building capacity of ASEAN in the prevention and control of communicable diseases, such as HIV and AIDS and avian and pandemic Influenza, of traditional medicinal resources, laboratory diagnosis and food safety. Further cooperation in the future is geared for capacity-building, information sharing and quality control on traditional medicine and on advocacy, surveillance, prevention and control of infectious diseases.

We thank the Government of Japan for supporting the ASEAN-Japan Project on Regional Stockpiling of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against potential influenza pandemic, through which 500,000 courses of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and PPE for 700,000 people have been stockpiled for early containment of an outbreak of pandemic influenza. We also thank the Government of Japan for providing additional 500,000 courses of antivirals for stockpiling at country level for rapid response and rapid containment purposes.

We commend the achievements made in implementing Phase 2 of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea on Home Care for Older Persons, utilising untapped resources, such as older people themselves and communities, to provide care to older people. The Ministers support the proposal submitted by HelpAge Korea to continue Phase 3 of the project for 2009-2012.

We welcome the plan to mount a regional initiative that would bring together health, trade and other relevant policy-makers and stakeholders in the region to discuss and develop consultative and inclusive multi-sectoral approaches for integration of healthcare into development agendas.

We have agreed to sustain the momentum of cooperation through joint initiatives in addressing the following health issues:

- Prevention and control of communicable diseases, including HIV and AIDS and emerging infectious diseases
- Health human resource development and capacity building in addressing globalisation and trade liberalisation, promoting healthy lifestyles, pandemic preparedness and response, and ONE Health approach for prevention and control of EIDs
- Health systems strengthening, including primary health care and social safety nets
- Traditional, alternative and complementary medicine
- Integrated approaches, policies and programmes to addressing the special needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of people, including children, women, people with disability and older persons
- Health effects of climate change and the environment
- Food safety

Next ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting

We look forward to further exchanges of views on joint collaboration in health development at our next meeting in Singapore in 2010.

Joint Statement of the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand, 8 May 2008

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Labour Ministers gathered in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 May 2008 to discuss joint labour initiatives with their counterparts from People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. This sixth ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting was preceded by the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Labour Officials Meeting on 7 May 2008.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers responsible for labour from ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, and their respective delegations. The ASEAN Deputy Secretary General was also in attendance. The list of the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers is attached.

Promotion and Enhancement of Decent Work for the Vulnerable Categories of Labour

3. The ASEAN Plus Three Ministers discussed on Promotion and Enhancement of Decent Work for the Vulnerable Categories of Labour as a central theme of their meeting.
4. Recognising the importance of sustainable development and quality job creation, the Ministers agreed on the need for concerted and sustained efforts to realise "decent work", taking into consideration the special needs of vulnerable groups.

Partnership in Labour Initiatives

5. The Ministers noted the hosting of the sixth seminar in the ASEAN-China High Level Seminar Series on Social Security, on the topic of employment injury insurance on 21–23 June 2006. The Ministers also noted with appreciation the hosting of the China-ASEAN High-Level Seminar on Human Resource Development in Kunming, Peoples' Republic of China, in September 2007, which sought to establish a 'China-

ASEAN Information Exchange on Human Resource Development' as a platform for future collaboration between China and ASEAN in a broad spectrum of areas including skills training, labour migration and social protection.

6. The Ministers noted that the China-ASEAN Capacity Building Workshop in the field of labour and social security held on 14 – 29 May 2007 was very useful, and expressed appreciation to China for making this an ongoing programme.
7. The Ministers noted the hosting of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Policy Dialogue on “National OSH Framework” by Singapore in early 2007 and the follow-up Policy Dialogue on the “OSH Management System” in late 2007, supported by Japan which convened experts from all ASEAN Member States, the Peoples’ Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.
8. The Ministers were pleased with the completion of the second phase of the “ASEAN Programme on Industrial Relations”, which was implemented with technical assistance and funding from Japan, in January 2008, and welcomed the new phase of the Programme which will commence in 2008 until 2010 in cooperation with ILO and Japan.
9. The Ministers commended the successful completion of Phase I of the ASEAN-Japan Collaboration Programme for Strengthening the Basis of Human Resources Development in CLMV Countries and welcomed the second phase of the programme which will involve four ASEAN Member States as “partnering states” of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan and the Overseas Vocational Training Association of Japan in delivering the training programme to CLMV countries.
10. The Ministers acknowledged the organising of the 10th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Human Resource Development (HRD) Programme for Officials of ASEAN Countries in November 2006. The programme, which has the theme “Issues in social protection systems”, sought an enhanced understanding of social protection systems and stressed the importance of establishing early warning systems for the labour market. The 11th HRD Programme will be held from 25 November to 4 December 2008 under the theme of “Challenges and experiences on mainstreaming labour and employment issues into the national agendas.”
11. In line with the measures of the Vientiane Action Programme to increase the participation of youth in the workforce, the Ministers lauded the hosting of the ASEAN Plus Three Workshop on Youth Entrepreneurship in Jakarta, 19–20 November 2007, which discussed the inclusion of decent work principles and sought

to enhance regional collaboration among ASEAN and the “Plus Three” countries on youth entrepreneurship.

Next ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting

12. The Ministers looked forward to further exchanges of views on joint labour initiatives at the next ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting in the second week of May 2010 in Viet Nam.

Concluding Remarks

13. The Ministers expressed their profound sympathies and deepest concerns to the people and Government of the Union of Myanmar on the recent devastating cyclone which has affected so many lives.

List of ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers or Their Representatives Attending the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting, 8 May 2008, Bangkok, Thailand

- H.E. Pehin Dato Adanan Yusof, Minister of Home Affairs, Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Vong Sauth, Minister of State of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia
- H.E. Besar Setyoko, Secretary General of Manpower and Transmigration, Indonesia
- H.E. Laoly Faiphengyoo, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR
- H.E. Datuk Dr. S. Subramaniam, Minister of Human Resources, Malaysia
- H.E. Tin Htun Aung, Deputy Minister of Labour, Myanmar
- H.E. Marianito D. Roque, Secretary of Department of Labour and Employment, The Philippines
- H.E. Gan Kim Yong, Acting Minister for Manpower, Singapore
- H.E. Uraiwan Thienthong, Minister of Labour, Thailand
- H.E. Nguyen Thanh Hoa, Deputy Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam
- H.E. Sun Baoshu, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, China
- H.E. Wataru Ito, Parliamentary Secretary of Health, Labour, and Welfare, Japan
- H.E. Chong Soo Chung, Vice Minister of Labour, Korea
- H.E. Nicholas Tandj Dammen, Deputy Secretary General, ASEAN Secretariat

**Joint Press Statement
of the 6th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural
Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) and
1st ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Rural
Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE+3)**

Singapore, 13-15 October 2008

Singapore hosted the 6th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) and the 1st SOMRDPE+3 from 13 – 15 October 2008, at the Carlton Hotel, Singapore. The 6th SOMRDPE was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Union of Myanmar, Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the ASEAN Secretariat, on 13 – 14 October 2008. They were joined by delegates from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for the First SOMRDPE+3 on 15 October 2008.

The Meeting was opened by Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports, Singapore. In her opening address, the Minister of State noted that the Meeting was important and relevant in meeting the pressing needs of rural development and poverty eradication in the region. She noted that narrowing the development gap remains an important task which will ensure that the benefits of ASEAN's integration efforts are fully realised. She emphasised that narrowing development gaps within and between Member States must be done in tandem with larger ASEAN goals of community-building.

At the 6th SOMRDPE, ASEAN Member States took the opportunity to re-affirm their commitment to alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable rural development. The meeting reviewed the completed, ongoing and planned activities undertaken by member countries since the 5th meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, held in Thailand in January 2007. The meeting also discussed further activities to be implemented under the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2004 – 2010).

The meeting discussed and endorsed the sections of the draft ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint related to poverty alleviation. In addition, the meeting

discussed the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The First SOMRDPE+3 meeting was held on 15 October 2008 to facilitate closer collaboration between ASEAN Plus Three countries in matters relating to sustainable rural development and poverty reduction. The ASEAN Plus Three countries reaffirmed the importance of the exchange of information, ideas and expertise between our countries to the process of narrowing development gaps and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The meeting exchanged ideas on furthering the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on rural development and poverty eradication. The meeting noted the joint actions and measures set out under the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007 – 2017) adopted by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Plus Three countries in Singapore in November 2007 at the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, and also the priorities set out under the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2004 – 2010). The meeting also discussed joint projects and activities that were proposed in these areas which included micro-financing; narrowing the development gap; climate change adaptation in the context of rural development and poverty alleviation; addressing poverty among the socially vulnerable groups; engaging community leaders; rising food prices, natural disasters and poverty reduction; and the feminisation of poverty. The meeting agreed that details of these proposed joint projects and activities should be developed for further discussion and brought before the Second SOMRDPE+3 for consideration. The ASEAN Secretariat will assist in compiling the details of the proposed projects and activities and working towards matching them under the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2004 – 2010) and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017).

The 6th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication is scheduled to be held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, whilst the 7th SOMRDPE is scheduled for 2010 in Thailand. The 2nd SOMRDPE+3 will be hosted by Thailand in 2010, immediately following the 7th SOMRDPE.

The cover features a vibrant, abstract background with a central yellow and white circular glow that transitions into soft gradients of orange, blue, and green. At the bottom, three thick, curved lines in blue, yellow, and red sweep across the page. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

ASEAN+3 DOCUMENTS SERIES

2009



POLITICAL AND SECURITY

Joint Press Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Response to the Global Economic and Financial Crisis

Bangkok, 3 June 2009

H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, as the ASEAN Chair and the ASEAN+3 coordinator, has been mandated by the ASEAN+3 Leaders to issue Joint Press Statement on ASEAN+3 Cooperation in Response to the Global Economic and Financial Crisis on behalf of the ASEAN+3 Leaders.

The ASEAN+3 Leaders recalled the ASEAN+3 Leaders' Special Meeting in Beijing on 24 October 2008 and, in this regard, continued their discussion on the impact and development of the current global economic and financial crisis.

They welcomed the Press Statement on the Global Economic and Financial Crisis which was issued by the ASEAN Leaders in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, on 1 March 2009. They were of the view that Asian economic fundamentals had improved significantly as a result of significant structural reforms undertaken since the 1997-1998 Asian Financial Crisis. However, the deepening global economic downturn, coupled with heightened risk aversion in financial markets, adversely impacted trade and investment in the region, thereby necessitating the intensification of concerted efforts to enhance confidence, maintain financial stability, and prevent a decline in economic growth.

They welcomed the results of the 12th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, on 3 May 2009 where the substantial progress of regional financial cooperation initiatives has been made.

They welcomed proactive policy measures including monetary and fiscal stimulus packages undertaken by each member country in the collective efforts to sustain financial market stability and promote economic growth.

In order to strengthen the regional cooperation to respond effectively to the global economic and financial crisis, the ASEAN+3 Leaders:

- **endorsed** the decision made at the Special ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Meeting in Phuket, Thailand, on 22 February 2009, to increase the size of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) from US\$80 billion to US\$120 billion, and the outcome of the 12th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, on 3 May 2009, where agreement on all main components of the CMIM was reached.
- **stressed** the importance of an early operationalisation of the CMIM and to this end welcomed the agreement reached by the 12th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Meeting to implement the CMIM before the end of 2009.
- **supported** the Finance Ministers' recommendation that, as an interim measure, the existing bilateral swap arrangements network should play its full role as a regional self-help mechanism that would enable the ASEAN+3 countries to assist one another if need be in the event of liquidity shortfalls and short-term balance of payment difficulties.
- **supported** the strengthening of the regional surveillance mechanism by establishing an independent regional surveillance unit as soon as possible to efficiently facilitate the implementation of the CMIM and monitor the regional and global economic situation.
- **commended** the ongoing efforts under the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) to promote the development of local currency-denominated bond markets and facilitate greater accessibility to the regional bond markets, and welcomed the endorsement to establish the Credit Guarantee and Investment Mechanism (CGIM) with an initial capital of US\$500 million to support the issuance of local currency-denominated corporate bond in the region.
- **recognised** the important roles that Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) play in addressing development agenda and supporting infrastructure and trade finance and in this regard reiterated a call for a prompt implementation of the Fifth General Capital Increase of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to ensure that the ADB has an adequate capital base to fulfill its role in Asia, especially during this global economic slowdown.
- **tasked** their Finance Ministers to closely monitor the risks to the regional and global economic and financial stability, assess the impact of the current crisis and further recommend pre-emptive measures to fully and quickly deal with the crisis.
- **shared** a common view that decisive, coordinated and comprehensive macroeconomic policies are needed to counter the global economic slowdown and tasked the Finance and relevant Ministers to continue to work closely by implementing policies to support economic growth and maintain financial stability.

- **tasked** the relevant Ministers to explore ways and means to increase regional trade through measures, such as trade facilitation and trade financing, as well as to develop concrete measures to alleviate the impact of the crisis, including social safety net programmes and assistance to small and medium enterprises.
 - **noted** that the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) Initiative could further enhance intra-regional trade and, in this regard, they tasked the Economic Ministers to submit the final report of the 2nd Phase feasibility study of the EAFTA at the 12th ASEAN+3 Summit in October 2009.
 - **reaffirmed** their strong commitment to free and fair trade by standing firmly against protectionist measures, refraining from raising new barriers and working with other partners to ensure an early conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda.
 - **agreed** that ASEAN-led consultations among other organisations and fora in Asia and Asia-Pacific would contribute to safeguarding the region from future regional and global economic and financial crisis.
 - **resolved** that the ASEAN+3 countries would do their utmost to stimulate growth and investment in the region, thereby contributing to the global economic recovery in partnership with other cooperation frameworks, such as EAS, APEC and G20.
 - **supported** the agreement at the London Summit on 2 April 2009 to restore confidence, growth and jobs, reject protectionism and promote global trade and investment, strengthen financial regulations to rebuild trust, reform international financial institutions, and inject an additional US\$1.1 trillion to enhance global financial liquidity; and resolved to take necessary actions individually and collectively to achieve the goals envisioned by G20.
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Chairman's Statement of the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting

Phuket, Thailand, 22 July 2009

1. The 10th Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea was held in Phuket, Thailand, on 22 July 2009. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.
2. The Foreign Ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest and concern. The Foreign Ministers stressed the importance of the Joint Press Statement on ASEAN+3 Cooperation in Response to the Global Economic and Financial Crisis issued by Thailand, as the ASEAN Chair and the ASEAN Plus Three Coordinator, on behalf of the ASEAN Plus Three countries, on 3 June 2009. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to work together to support the implementation of the Joint Press Statement and turn the crisis into an opportunity for development, cooperation, and win-win progress.
3. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the agreement of the Special ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' Meeting on 22 February 2009 in Phuket to increase the total size of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) from the initially agreed level of US\$80 billion to US\$120 billion and the agreement of the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' Meeting on 3 May 2009 in Bali to implement the CMIM before the end of 2009 and to establish the Credit Guarantee and Investment Mechanism (CGIM) with an initial capital of US\$500 million under the Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI) to support the local currency-denominated corporate bond in the region. They encouraged the Finance Ministers to expedite the launching of the CMIM at the 12th ASEAN+3 Summit in October 2009.
4. The Foreign Ministers expressed their grave concern over the recent underground nuclear test and missile launches undertaken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) which constituted a violation of the relevant UNSC resolutions. They urged the DPRK to fully comply with its obligations and the relevant UNSC resolutions. They expressed their full support for the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks. They also emphasised the importance of addressing outstanding issues including the humanitarian concerns. The Foreign Ministers also reaffirmed their support for possible contribution of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), as the

premier regional security forum that includes all participants of the Six-Party Talks, towards an enduring peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

5. The Foreign Ministers welcomed a visit to Myanmar by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 3-4 July 2009. They reaffirmed their view that the UN has a special role to play in the process of national reconciliation in Myanmar. They encouraged the continuing role of the UN in the democratisation process in Myanmar which must be inclusive, credible and transparent. They encouraged the Myanmar Government to hold free, fair and inclusive election in 2010, thereby laying down a good foundation for future social and economic development. They also welcomed close cooperation between the Myanmar Government and the UN in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis.
6. The Foreign Ministers strongly condemned the acts of terrorism in Jakarta on 17 July 2009 that caused loss of lives as unjustifiable by whomsoever committed such acts. They extended our condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims, and to the people and the Government of Indonesia. They reaffirmed their confidence in the Government of Indonesia's efforts to bring the perpetrators, organisers, financiers, and sponsors of these reprehensive acts of terrorism to justice. They are committed to strengthen their cooperation in combating terrorism/extremist as reflected in the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). They stressed the need, among others, to empower the moderate sectors of society and promote inter-faith dialogue.
7. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers welcomed the Trilateral Cooperation among the Plus Three countries and their commitment to support ASEAN's role as the driving force for East Asia cooperation. They noted the upcoming China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Summit this year in the People's Republic of China as a positive contribution to East Asia cooperation.
8. In light of the recent outbreak of a new Influenza A(H1N1), the Foreign Ministers welcomed a number of collective measures and joint actions agreed at the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Special Meeting on Influenza A(H1N1) on 8 May 2009 in Bangkok. They called for timely implementation of such measures and actions, particularly consideration on the establishment of a system to facilitate the sharing of essential medical supplies in the region in case of emergency needs and the promotion of technology transfer related to the production of anti-viral medicines and pandemic influenza vaccines.

9. The Foreign Ministers noted the progress on the implementation of the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). They noted the completion of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund in April 2009 with an initial amount of US\$3 million and the Guidelines for the Implementation of the 2nd Joint Statement and the Work Plan approved by the ASEAN Plus Three Directors-General on 3 July 2009.
10. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensure food and energy security in the region. In this regard, they looked forward to the adoption of a Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Food Security and Bio-Energy Development at the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in October 2009 in Thailand.
11. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the progress on the implementation of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) Pilot Project. They noted the decision of the 8th Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry on 24 October 2008 in Viet Nam to extend the EAERR Pilot Project until 28 February 2010 and the on-going effort to explore the possibility of developing the EAERR into a permanent mechanism under an ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR). The Foreign Ministers welcomed the People's Republic of China's pledge to earmark 300,000 tons of rice for the EAERR on top of which Japan has earmarked 250,000 tons of rice.
12. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the progress of ASEAN Plus Three energy cooperation, especially in the five priority areas: energy security, oil markets, oil stockpiling, natural gas, new and renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation. They expressed their appreciation to the People's Republic of China for hosting the 2nd ASEAN Plus Three Forum on Nuclear Energy Safety in Shenzhen on 29 June-1 July 2009, which provides a valuable platform for regional cooperation to share experience and knowledge on nuclear energy. They encouraged other ASEAN Plus Three countries to consider hosting the next Forum in response to an increasing importance of nuclear energy development in the region. They also welcomed the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Energy Cooperation in Civilian Nuclear Energy and the ASEAN Plus Three Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Cooperation Program in 2009.
13. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the on-going efforts to explore the formation of the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA). In this connection, they noted the progress of the Phase II feasibility study of the EAFTA and looked forward to the submission of the final report to the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in October 2009 in Thailand.

14. The Foreign Ministers noted with appreciation projects and activities proposed or undertaken by the ASEAN Plus Three countries as follows:
- China organised an East Asia Roundtable on Food Security Cooperation Strategy in April 2009, 1st ASEAN Plus Three Forum on Non-traditional Issues by Armed Forces in June 2009, and plans to host the International Symposium on ASEAN Plus Three Trade and Facilitation, Workshop on Promoting EAFTA Process and Seminar on ASEAN Plus Three SMEs and Intellectual Property Right in September 2009.
 - The ROK informed of Progress in establishing the “ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science” as well as preparations for hosting the ASEAN Plus Three Science and Leadership Camp for the Gifted in Science in August 2009 in Seoul and the 7th East Asia Forum (EAF) on 1-2 September 2009 in Seoul.
 - Indonesia organised the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Diplomatic Course in April 2009 and will organise the Promotion of Indonesia Language for ASEAN Plus Three Diplomatic Course in September-October 2009.
 - Thailand hosted the ASEAN Plus Three Higher Education Policy Dialogue on 20-22 March 2009 in Phuket and will organise the East Asia Cultural Festival and Cultural EXPO 2009 in Bangkok on 8-12 August 2009.
15. The Plus Three Foreign Ministers reiterated their firm support for ASEAN community building and welcomed the development in implementing the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on a Roadmap to an ASEAN Community signed by the ASEAN Leaders at the 14th ASEAN Summit at Cha-am Hua Hun, Thailand, on 1 March 2009. They reaffirmed their commitment to the ASEAN Plus Three process and its contribution to the realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015 and the strengthening of East Asia cooperation.
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Chairman's Statement of the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, 24 October 2009

1. The 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit chaired by H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, was convened on 24 October 2009 in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand. The Summit was attended by Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
2. We reaffirmed our support for a peaceful and comprehensive solution on the issues of the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and the humanitarian concerns of the international community through diplomatic channels and cooperation among all the parties concerned. We reiterated our full support for an early resumption of the Six-Party Talks to facilitate long-term peace and stability in the region. We also reaffirmed our commitment to implement the provisions of the relevant UNSC resolutions and urged the DPRK to fully comply with them.
3. We encouraged the Myanmar Government to ensure the implementation of the Seven-Step Roadmap to Democracy. We also continued to support the on-going good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General in the democratisation process in Myanmar. We welcomed the affirmation by the Prime Minister of Myanmar that the General Elections to be held in 2010 would be conducted in a free, fair and inclusive manner.
4. We noted the convening of the 2nd China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Summit in Beijing on 10 October 2009 as a positive development for East Asia cooperation. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the Plus Three countries' firm commitment to enhance their cooperation with ASEAN and to support ASEAN as the driving force for cooperation in East Asia.
5. We welcomed the outcome of the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh on 24-25 September 2009. We reiterated our support to the efforts to enhance macroeconomic coordination, restore growth and jobs, resist protectionism, and reform the international financial system and institutions. We also supported the need to reach an ambitious and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda.

6. We reiterated our commitment to work together to implement the Joint Press Statement on ASEAN+3 Cooperation in Response to the Global Economic and Financial Crisis issued by Thailand, as the ASEAN Chair and the ASEAN Plus Three Coordinator, on behalf of the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders, on 3 June 2009.
7. We supported boosting tourism in the East Asian region that would increase our economic growth by 1-2%. We also committed ourselves to provide a conducive environment for the participation of our private sectors in the revitalisation of our economies.
8. We noted the Action Plan to Restore Economic and Financial Stability of the Asian Region submitted by the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers who met at their Special Meeting in Phuket in February 2009. We endorsed the agreement reached at the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' Meeting on 3 May 2009 in Bali to implement the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) with the total size of US\$120 billion by the end of 2009 and to set up an independent regional surveillance unit. We welcomed Thailand's offer to temporarily host such unit. We also welcomed the agreement to establish the Credit Guarantee and Investment Mechanism (CGIM) with an initial capital of US\$500 million under the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) to support the local currency-denominated corporate bond in our region. We welcomed China's contribution of US\$200 million to the CGIM.
9. We reiterated our commitment to ensure food and energy security for our people as a matter of high priority in accordance with Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Food Security and Bio- Energy Development adopted at this Summit. We urged all relevant ASEAN Plus Three sectoral bodies to implement this Statement.
10. We expressed our commitment to work closely together to ensure a successful outcome of the Copenhagen Conference in December 2009 that should incorporate long-term cooperative actions to address climate change in accordance with the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC and the Bali Action Plan.
11. We expressed our condolences for the tragic loss of life and suffering caused by recent natural disasters in the region. With the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters, we recognised that there is a need to develop a permanent regional emergency rice reserve. We noted progress in the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) Pilot Project, which will expire on 28 February 2010. We welcomed the efforts to transform the EAERR into a permanent mechanism under the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR). We urged our

Agriculture and Forestry Ministers who will meet in Brunei Darussalam in November 2009 to work towards the early realisation of APTERR in order to ensure the continuation of regional food security mechanism after the expiration of the EAERR Pilot Project.

12. We noted the progress of ASEAN Plus Three energy cooperation, especially the development of the Oil Stockpiling Roadmap, the finalisation of the 2nd ASEAN+3 Energy Outlook, the reactivation of the ASEAN+3 Energy Communication System, and the enhancement of the Joint Oil Data Initiative. We also welcomed initiatives and activities to promote cooperation on civilian nuclear energy. We noted the convening of the 2nd ASEAN Plus Three Forum on Nuclear Energy Safety in China in June 2009 and the ROK's proposal for cooperation on civilian nuclear energy.
13. We noted the final report of the Phase II feasibility study of the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and welcomed the decision of 12th AEM Plus Three Consultations in Bangkok on 15 August 2009 to task the Senior Economic Officials to discuss and consider the recommendations in the Phase I and II reports. EAFTA and Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) could be examined and considered in parallel.
14. We urged our Public Health Ministers to redouble their efforts to implement collective measures and joint actions agreed at the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Special Meeting on Influenza A(H1N1) on 8 May 2009 in Bangkok. We noted the progress of ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme Phase II, which helps strengthen closer cooperation in preparing for future threats of disease outbreaks.
15. We noted the policy recommendations of the 6th Meeting of the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) in Bali on 24-25 August 2008 contained in Memorandum No. 5 and those of the 7th Meeting of NEAT in Seoul on 31 August-1 September 2009 contained in Memorandum No. 6. We appreciated the contribution of NEAT as a Track II body of the ASEAN Plus Three process to East Asia community-building and encouraged relevant ASEAN Plus Three sectoral bodies to look into NEAT's policy recommendations. We noted the convening of the 7th East Asia Forum (EAF) in Seoul on 2 September 2009 and its policy recommendations.
16. We noted the progress report on the implementation of the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). We urged all relevant ASEAN Plus Three sectoral bodies to accelerate the implementation of the Work Plan and encouraged the ASEAN Plus Three countries

to volunteer to be a lead shepherd in areas of cooperation in which they are interested or have the capacity to contribute to.

17. We welcomed Thailand's initiative to be a lead shepherd on education. We tasked our relevant Ministers and officials to consider the Plan of Action for Education prepared by Thailand and welcomed Thailand's offer to hold an ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Education in November 2009 in Bangkok. We also welcomed China's initiative to be the lead shepherd on economic and trade cooperation, Japan's initiative to be the lead shepherd on disaster management and the ROK's initiative to be the lead shepherd on financial cooperation. We tasked our relevant officials to discuss ways to implement those initiatives in line with the ASEAN Charter.
18. We noted that the role and responsibility of the ASEAN Directors-General related to external relations would be transferred to ASEAN's Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR). As a result, the role and responsibility of the ASEAN Plus Three Directors-General Meeting as a monitoring and coordinating body of the ASEAN Plus Three Process will also be transferred to the CPR and the Ambassadors of China, Japan, and the ROK to ASEAN.
19. We welcomed the concrete proposals and progresses raised by the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders as follows:
 - 3rd ASEAN Plus Three Media Cooperation Forum in Beijing in April 2010, ASEAN Plus Three Workshop on Urban Disaster Response Management in China in May 2010, and ASEAN Plus Three Seminar on Promoting Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Beijing in June 2010.
 - Japan's new initiative to hold international conferences on disaster management and on university exchange in the East Asian region.
 - ASEAN Plus Three Senior Diplomatic Course in Indonesia in October 2009 and proposal to organise the Promotion of Indonesian Language for ASEAN Plus Three Diplomats in October-November 2009.
 - Preparation for establishing the ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science in the ROK in 2011 and the continuation of projects for ICT Cooperation towards co-prosperity in the East Asia conducted by the ROK.
 - ASEAN Plus Three Higher Education Policy Dialogue in March 2009 in Phuket with a recommendation to establish an ASEAN Plus Three University Network and the East Asia Youth Leadership Forum in 2008 in Bangkok with the Voice of Youths on East Asia Community Building.

20. We reaffirmed our commitment to the ASEAN Plus Three process as a main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community with ASEAN as the driving force. We noted Japan's aspiration to reinvigorate the discussion towards building an East Asian community based on the principle of openness, transparency and inclusiveness and functional cooperation.
 21. The Leaders of the Plus Three countries reiterated their firm support for ASEAN community-building and welcomed the signing of the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on a Roadmap to an ASEAN Community at the 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009. They also welcomed the progress made in implementing the ASEAN Charter at the 15th ASEAN Summit on 23 October 2009 in Cha-am Hua Hin, in particular, the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.
 22. We supported the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Connectivity issued on 24 October 2009, and shared a common view that enhanced ASEAN connectivity would benefit the East Asian region as a whole. Recognising that connectivity would help catalyze regional integration, we supported enhanced linkages both within ASEAN, and between ASEAN and its Plus Three partners. In this regard, we welcomed ASEAN's effort to develop an ASEAN Master Plan on regional connectivity and an infrastructure development fund for ASEAN and expressed our support in these efforts.
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Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Food Security and Bio-Energy Development

Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, 24 October 2009

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, on the occasion of the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, on 24 October 2009;

Sharing common concerns over food security and the need to develop sustainable bio-energy in the light of ongoing volatility in food and energy prices which have affected the livelihood of our people and our economic growth;

Recognising correlation between food and energy security which needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner, and with a view to balancing food and fuel crop production so as to ensure the sustainable food security;

Reiterating our commitment to ensure food and energy security for our people and the need to promote sustainable development as a matter of high priority of the regional community-building process;

Recognising that each country needs to maximise the use of its own potential resources and to achieve greater agricultural production in a sustainable manner;

Further recognising that securing a reliable supply of energy while addressing social and environmental aspects is crucial to support economic and industrial activities and therefore the research and development of alternative energy sources should be promoted;

Recalling the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) adopted at the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Singapore in November 2007 that called for wide-ranging areas of cooperation, including food and energy security;

Reaffirming our commitment to the Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security on 15 January 2007 to improve energy efficiency and conservation, promote fuel

diversification, and enhance cooperation on research and development for new and renewable energy sources and technologies, including bio-fuels;

Welcoming the adoption of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action at the World Food Summit in 1996 and the Declaration adopted at the FAO High-level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bio-energy held in June 2008 and the Comprehensive Framework for Action for the High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis;

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. **Enhance** food production capability for the well-being of our peoples as an integral part of the Millennium Development Goals;
2. **Support** ASEAN's efforts in implementing the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN region with active participation from all stakeholders;
3. **Strengthen** ASEAN Plus Three partnership in developing the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) to ensure long-term adequacy of staple food supply through the regional mechanism of the ASEAN Plus Three agricultural cooperation framework;
4. **Support** the continuation of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) pilot project and explore the possibility of establishing an ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) based on the experience of the EAERR, in close coordination with relevant international organisations, and taking into account each member country's commitment and consistency with international rules;
5. **Task** our Agriculture and Forestry Ministers in consultations with relevant Ministers and international institutions to develop a comprehensive strategy on sustainable and integrated food and biofuels production and consumption that will promote a better allocation of resources for the production of both food and bio-fuels, which will ensure the compatibility with food production, and report to the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in 2010;
6. **Promote** the sharing of best practices and exchanges of information on policies, experiences, and enhance capacity building and technical cooperation to promote the harmonisation of food safety and bio-energy production standards in the region;

7. **Encourage** investment in forestry, agricultural infrastructure, and contract farming guided by environmental protection principles to mitigate the possible disadvantages of large scale contract farming activities to ensure sustainable and enhanced food supply, and the well-being of farmers and the farmer empowerment;
8. **Enhance** trade in agriculture in the manner that will reduce trade and market distortions and ensure food availability;
9. **Promote** bio-energy trade and technology innovation to ensure long-term viability of bio-energy, including exploring the possibility of formulating regional policies on bio-energy trade that addresses the issues of the environment, land utilisation and food security;
10. **Enhance** the partnership with regional and international organisations to promote collaborative research and development, and technology transfer in food security and bio-energy, especially second-generation bio-fuels, and the new technologies for the use of alternative energy;
11. **Promote** cooperation on addressing climate change related issues, such as droughts, floods, and epidemics with a view to enhancing food security;

Adopted in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, on the Twenty Fourth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Nine.

**Joint Statement
of the 4th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on
Transnational Crime (4th AMMTC+3)**

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 18th November 2009

1. The Ministers of ASEAN Member States, China, Japan and Republic of Korea responsible for combating transnational crimes convened the Fourth AMMTC+3 in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, on 18 November 2009. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crimes for the Fourth AMMTC+3.
2. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment in consolidating and further strengthening ASEAN's effort in combating transnational crime in collaboration with the People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea (Plus Three Countries).
3. The Ministers commended the progressive achievements attained thus far in ASEAN's countering of transnational crimes aided by assistance and technical expertise from the Plus Three Countries.
4. Conscious that reinforcing measures contained in the ASEAN Security Plan of Action would attribute to the fulfillment of the establishment of the ASEAN Political-Security Community in 2015, the Ministers called for greater commitment and more expeditious implementation of existing cooperative mechanisms between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries in response to transnational crime issues. Furthermore, the ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan to Combat Transnational Crimes should be followed-up to implement the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation building on the foundations of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
5. The Ministers agreed in principle on the utilisation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund for conducting a Study on Effective Implementation of ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan to Combat Transnational Crime, which was endorsed by the Third ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting held in November 2007.
6. The Ministers also agreed to continue exploring the possible cooperative activities under the framework of ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan to Combat Transnational Crime.

7. The Ministers welcomed the kind offer of the Republic of Indonesia to host the 5th AMMTC+3 in Bali in November 2011.

 8. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Royal Government and the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to them and their respective delegations, as well as for excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.
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ECONOMIC AND FINANCE

Joint Media Statement of the 8th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea Tourism Ministers (M-ATM Plus Three)

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 8 January 2009

1. The Eighth Meeting of the Tourism Ministers from ASEAN, China, Japan and Rep. of Korea (ROK) was held on 8 January 2009 in Ha Noi in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2009 and the Twelfth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Tran Chien Thang, Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Viet Nam and co-chaired by H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam.
2. As the global economy started to deteriorate in 2008, caused by the global financial crisis, the initial figures of international tourist arrivals in ASEAN Plus Three (APT) countries still recorded growth of 7.49 per cent increase compared to 2007 or 93 million arrivals. China, Japan and ROK continued as the important source markets for ASEAN region with more than 9.1 total million arrivals or 19.01 per cent of total international tourist arrivals in ASEAN. In anticipating the impact to tourism, the Ministers shared a common view to strengthen the tourism cooperation among APT countries to effectively deal with the challenges.
3. ASEAN Tourism Ministers also briefed their Plus Three Partners on the tourism tactical programme to address the impact of global downturn on the tourism sector and sought the support of the Plus Three Partners. The campaign, with a focus on Youth, will see the development of new cost-competitive, multi-destination tour packages and a synergised calendar of youth events leveraging on air, land and sea connectivity within ASEAN and with the Plus Three Partners.
4. The Ministers were pleased with the progress of APT Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) particularly on the implementation of tourism measures, namely: Train-the-Trainer on Crisis Communications held on 18-19 June 2008 in Bangkok; the Workshop on Characteristics of Chinese Outbound Market held on 25-29 June 2008 in Beijing; the ASEAN Plus Three Youth Festival held in Singapore on 29 July – 3 August

2008; and ASEAN Plus Three Workshop on Healthy Tourism from 17-18 September 2008 in Bangkok. The Ministers welcomed the initiative on Healthy Tourism conducted by the APT Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme Phase II that would enhance collaboration and communication between health and tourism sector and promote health and safety of travellers and host communities in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries.

5. ASEAN Tourism Ministers invited the Plus Three Countries to participate in the formulation of the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and tasked officials to work closely in this undertaking.
6. The Ministers appreciated China for provision of booths to ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat at China International Travel Mart (CITM) 2008 which were utilised to support the establishment of ASEAN Common Area and promotion of ASEAN Cruise Tourism. The Ministers encouraged ASEAN Member States to participate in the forthcoming World Expo which will be held in Shanghai in 2010. The Ministers welcomed China to participate in developing tourism connectivity corridors to facilitate land travel between ASEAN and China. The Ministers thanked China for the support in progressing the ASEAN and China Tourism Cooperation such as through the convening of the Workshop on Characteristics of Chinese Outbound Market and other training programmes.
7. The Ministers welcomed the effort of Japan on the reactivation of the cooperation on ASEAN-Japan Cruise Promotion Strategy under the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership. The Ministers also appreciated the effort made by Japan in the implementation of various projects, such as organising training programme for tourism industries, promotion activities in Japan of ASEAN-Japan Centre including the convening of the “ASEAN Tourism Fair” from 20 to 26 August 2008 in Kita-Kyushu City in Fukuoka prefecture, training programmes for tourism industry’s front-liners in the ASEAN and a Tour Planning Competition for students, which was started in 2007.
8. The Ministers were pleased with the establishment of the ASEAN-Korea Centre in early 2009 to promote trade, investment, tourism and socio-cultural cooperation. The Ministers noted that Culture & Tourism Division of AKC is mandated to provide the following services: organise cultural events, provide information on regional ASEAN tourism resources and organise events promoting tourism between the ASEAN Member States and ROK. The Ministers also thanked ROK for the implementation of concrete work-programmes such as Korean Language Course

and Korean Culture Experiences for ASEAN Tour Guides & Officials on the period of 7 July 2008 – 29 August 2008.

9. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Viet Nam for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
 - H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
 - H.E. Mr. Zhu Shanzhong, Director-General of Marketing and Communications of National Tourism Administration, China;
 - H.E. Mr. Jero Wacik, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Indonesia;
 - H.E. Mr. Noboru Nishisaka, Assistant Commissioner for International Affairs, Japan Tourism Agency;
 - H.E. Mr. Somphong Mongkhonvilay, Minister, Chairman of Lao National Tourism Administration, Lao PDR;
 - H.E. Dato' Sri Azalina Dato' Othman Said, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia;
 - H.E. Brig. Gen. Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;
 - H.E. Mr. Oscar P. Palabyab, Undersecretary of Tourism, Philippines;
 - H.E. Mr. Jang-Sil Kim, Vice-Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Rep. of Korea.
 - H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
 - H.E. Mr. Chumpol Silapa-archa, Minister of Tourism and Sports, Thailand;
 - H.E. Mr. Tran Chien Thang, Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Viet Nam;
 - and
 - H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN.
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**Joint Media Statement
of the Action Plan to Restore Economic and Financial
Stability of the Asian Region
(Report from the Finance Ministers of the ASEAN+3
to Heads of States/Governments)**

Phuket, Thailand, 22 February 2009

We, the Finance Ministers of the ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea (ASEAN+3) met in Phuket, Thailand on 22 February 2009 on this special occasion in response to the current global economic turmoil. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Korn Chatikavanij, Minister of Finance of Thailand and H.E. Jeung-hyun Yoon, Minister of Strategy and Finance of Republic of Korea. We were also joined by the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the President of the Asian Development Bank.

While we note that the Asian economies are in a better position to face challenges due to the structural reforms undertaken since the Asian financial crisis, we recognise that the regional economy is now facing great challenges. The current severe economic downturn of the global economy coupled with heightened risk aversion in financial markets has adversely affected the region. The regional financial markets have observed large and sometimes disruptive fluctuations. Capital flows into the region have decreased due to global de-leveraging and a large reversal of capital flow, which have affected the financial markets and could undermine growth prospects. This can be a significant downside risk to regional growth, which has already been dragged by the global economic downturn.

We welcome the Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy and support the common principles that will guide its Action Plan. We urge that a meaningful progress be made at the London Summit 2009 in April to enhance macroeconomic policy coordination and reform of international financial institutions and markets. The current global situation requires a coordinated global response to restore economic growth and financial stability, including financial sector capacity building work.

We believe that proactive and decisive policy actions are required in order to restore confidence, financial stability and promote a sustainable economic growth in the region. In the short-term, the actions should be able to mitigate risk-averse sentiments and bolster market confidence in the region. In the medium and long term, the actions

should be able to help provide necessary capital to achieve stable and robust regional growth.

In this regard, we welcome policy measures taken by each member country and reiterate our strong commitment to implementing necessary macroeconomic policies and financial stabilisation measures as appropriate. We also reaffirm our determination to dedicate ourselves to increasing free flow of trade and investment, to standing firmly against protectionist measures which would worsen the economic downturn, and to refraining from raising new barriers.

The ASEAN+3 countries have thus embarked on various initiatives to further strengthen regional collaboration in developing a more robust and integrated surveillance mechanism, crisis management and liquidity support system.

In order to ensure regional market stability and to foster confidence in the markets, we stress the importance of operationalising the Multilateralisation of the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI), and agree on the following key elements:

- The total size of Multilateralised Chiang Mai Initiative (CMIM) will be increased from the initially agreed level of US\$80 billion to US\$120 billion, the proportion of the amount of contribution between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries will be maintained at 20:80 respectively.
- The regional surveillance mechanism should be further strengthened into a robust and credible system which will facilitate prompt activation of the CMIM. An independent regional surveillance unit will be established to promote objective economic monitoring.
- After the above surveillance mechanism becomes fully effective in its function, the IMF de-linked portion may be increased above the current limit of 20 percent.

Building on the basis of the progress made thus far, with a view to making our financial cooperation more responsive and effective, we strive to reach agreement on the main components of CMIM by our next meeting in 2009, in Bali, Indonesia.

As an interim measure, the existing bilateral swap arrangement network should play its full role and be strengthened in terms of size and participants as necessary.

We reiterate the importance of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) and express our determination to strengthen our cooperation in line with the new ABMI Roadmap. The new roadmap focuses on the promotion of the issuance of local currency-denominated bonds, facilitation of demand of local currency-denominated bonds, improvement of legal framework and strengthening of infrastructure for bond markets

in the region. The implementation of the new roadmap is expected to contribute to the broad-based development of local currency denominated bond markets and greater accessibility to the regional bond markets. We also recognise the important role of the private sector in the development of bond markets, particularly in cross-border bond transactions and settlement issues.

We will explore ideas for new arrangements which would provide development assistance to the region while addressing unexpected liquidity constraints.

We recognise the important roles that Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) play in addressing development agenda and supporting in the areas of infrastructure and trade finance. We attach importance to ensure that MDBs have sufficient resources to continue playing their roles in overcoming crisis. In particular, we share the significant role of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in mitigating the impacts of the global financial turmoil and providing necessary capital to regional growth. To fulfill its role in Asia, ADB should have an immediate and substantial capital increase. In view thereof, we call for an early agreement on the Fifth General Capital Increase of ADB by its next Annual Meeting in May 2009.

Joint Media Statement of the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' Meeting

Bali, Indonesia, 3 May 2009

Introduction

1. We, the Finance Ministers of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea (ASEAN+3), convened our twelfth meeting in Bali, Indonesia, under the co-chairmanship of H.E. Korn Chatikavanij, Minister of Finance of Thailand and H.E. Jeung-hyun Yoon, Minister of Strategy and Finance of the Republic of Korea. The President of the Asian Development Bank and the Secretary General of ASEAN were also present at our meeting.
2. We exchanged views on regional economic and financial development and policies. We also reviewed the progress of regional financial cooperation initiatives, including the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) and the ASEAN+3 Research Group. Furthermore, we explored ways to further enhance these initiatives for higher efficiency and more positive impact.
3. In particular, we are pleased to announce that we have reached agreement on all main components of the CMIM, and decided to implement the scheme before the end of this year.

Recent Economic and Financial Development in the Region

4. We noted that the Asian economies, which have registered solid growth since the 1997 financial crisis, have faced significant challenges arising from the sharp contraction of the global economy. The deepening global economic downturn, coupled with heightened risk aversion in financial markets, adversely impacted trade and investment in the region. We also noted challenges posed by the downside risk factors, including further financial stress and emerging protectionism. Therefore, the current global situation requires more concerted efforts to enhance confidence, maintain financial stability, and prevent further decline in economic growth. In addition, the spread of the new health threat of influenza A(H1N1) requires us to stay vigilant on the possible impact.

5. We welcomed the outcomes of the London Summit on 2nd April 2009, which intends to restore growth and jobs, to strengthen financial supervision and regulation, to strengthen our global financial institutions, to resist protectionism and promote global trade and investment, and ensure a sound and sustainable recovery for all. We stressed the importance of the roles played by Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) in restoring growth through supporting the areas of infrastructure and trade balance and addressing development agenda. We reiterated our call for prompt implementation of the Fifth General Capital Increase of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and expected the augmented ADB capital base be appropriately utilised to fulfill its role in Asia, especially during this global economic slowdown.
6. We also welcomed the proactive policy measures including economic stimulus undertaken by each member country in the concerted efforts to sustain financial stability and restore economic growth and development. In addition, we recognised the importance of conducting economic policies cooperatively and responsibly to ensure sustainable economic recovery of our region given the current volatile global economic situation. We agreed to strengthen the financial system of each country and promote the flow of capital in our region. Furthermore, we agreed to further strengthen our regional financial cooperation in order to ensure financial stability and foster market confidence in our region.

Strengthen Regional Financial Cooperation

7. On the **Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI)**, we have reached agreement on all the main components of the CMIM, including the individual country's contribution, borrowing accessibility, and the surveillance mechanism. The agreed components of the CMIM, which is a framework of mutual assistance among ASEAN+3 countries, are consistent with its two core objectives: (i) to address short-term liquidity difficulties in the region and (ii) to supplement the existing international financial arrangements.
8. We agreed to implement the CMIM before the end of this year. In this regard, we tasked our Deputies to work out the operation details and implementation plan, particularly the legal documents that will govern the CMIM.
9. We agreed that an independent surveillance unit will be established as soon as possible to monitor and analyse regional economies and support CMIM decision-making. As a start, we agreed to establish an advisory panel of experts to work closely with the ADB and the ASEAN Secretariat to enhance the current

surveillance mechanism in order to lay the surveillance groundwork for the CMIM. In addition, we welcomed Hong Kong, China, to participate in the CMIM.

10. On the **Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)**, we stressed the importance of the ABMI in promoting the local currency bond markets. We agreed to enhance the ABMI Roadmap taking into account the outcome of the London Summit.
11. We endorsed the establishment of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Mechanism (CGIM) as a trust fund of the ADB with an initial capital of US\$500 million which could be increased once the demand is fully met. The objective of CGIM is to support the issuance of local currency-denominated corporate bond in our region. This initiative would contribute developing regional bond markets. Issues regarding the establishment of CGIM such as business scope, leverage ratio and country limit are to be further discussed at the working level in order to make the mechanism to be effective by 2010 AFMM+3.
12. In addition, we agreed on the proposed provision of the Technical Assistance from ADB with regard to the pilot project on cross-border infrastructure bond issuance by the Lao government in Thailand. We also agreed to explore the possible measures to enable mutual access to securities market in the region. We took note of the active efforts and progress made in discussions by the Group of Experts composed of private sector participants, especially on cross-border bond transactions and settlement issues.
13. On the ASEAN+3 Research Group, we acknowledged the usefulness of the various studies conducted by the Research Group on financial market development in the region. We endorsed two topics for the 2009/2010 Research Group activities as follows: (1) Ways to Promote Trade Settlement Denominated in Local Currencies in East Asia, and (2) Regulation and Supervision for Sound Liquidity Risk Management for Banks.

Conclusion

14. We expressed our appreciation to the government of Thailand and Republic of Korea for their excellent arrangements as co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Process in 2009. We also thanked the government of Indonesia for its hospitality and kind cooperation.

15. We agreed to meet in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 2010. China and Vietnam will be the co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Process in 2010.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 6th ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting

Mandalay, Myanmar, 29 July 2009

Introduction

1. The 6th ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3) was held in Mandalay, Myanmar on 29 July 2009. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Brig. Gen. Lun Thi, Minister for Energy of Myanmar, and co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Liu Qi, Deputy Administrator of the National Energy Administration of China; H.E. Mr. Takayuki Ueda, Director General of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; and H.E. Mr. Junggwon Kim, Deputy Minister of Knowledge Economy of the Republic of Korea. The Meeting was also attended by the Ministers of Energy from the ASEAN Member States.
2. The Ministers had an extensive exchange of views on recent national, regional and international developments on energy and reviewed the progress and plans of regional cooperation initiatives. The Ministers acknowledged the progress and relevant recommendations of the 10-year ASEAN+3 Work Plan adopted by the Leaders during the 11th ASEAN+3 Summit on 20 November 2007 to enhance ASEAN+3 relations and cooperation. Section C of the ASEAN+3 Work Plan (2007-2017) is dedicated to Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Cooperation where it listed down 12 areas on energy cooperation.

Recent Energy Developments in the Region

3. The global financial recession and volatile oil prices, and outbreak of influenza A(H1N1) pandemic have greatly affected the economy of the ASEAN+3 region, even as efforts to enhance the region's long-term energy security continues. Meanwhile, the region's energy requirements are expected to grow rapidly in the medium to long-term, necessitating the need to adopt comprehensive policies to diversify energy supplies.
4. The Ministers called for greater cooperation and integration to address the key issues and challenges in the energy sector. The Ministers also reiterated the

importance of enhancing regional cooperation and appropriate regional actions to build a secure, stable, safe and sustainable energy future.

Call for Deeper and Closer Regional Energy Cooperation and Integration

5. The Ministers commended the on-going activities and progress achieved under the ASEAN Senior Officials on Energy Meeting+3 (SOME+3) Energy Cooperation. Amidst growing challenges, the Ministers agreed to strengthen the ASEAN SOME+3 Energy Cooperation in the present five (5) fora on energy security, oil market, oil stockpiling, natural gas, and new and renewable energy (NRE) and energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C).

Energy Security

6. The Ministers affirmed that the scale of response and urgency of action were critical to address energy security concerns of the region. To meet the anticipated growth of energy demand, the Ministers also affirmed that concerted efforts are needed in building up sufficient and reliable supplies while also addressing social and environmental aspects. The Ministers, therefore, agreed to step up efforts urgently towards energy security and sustainable development.
7. The Ministers commended the continuous conduct of studies on Energy Demand Outlook in the region as a guide in identifying policy options to ensure energy security. The Ministers requested the Senior Officials to look into the policy recommendations of the “2nd ASEAN Energy Demand Outlook”. They noted the progress of re-activating the ASEAN+3 Energy Communication System to enhance emergency preparedness mechanism, market transparency and the continued collection of Oil Price and Energy Data housed under ACE.
8. Realising the growing importance and reliance of coal in the region’s energy mix, the Ministers expressed satisfaction on the progress of coal cooperation as an integral part of the ASEAN+3 Energy Security Forum. In this regard, the Ministers noted the MOU in May 2009 between ACE and Japan Coal Energy Centre (JCOAL) for information sharing and closer cooperation to promote clean coal technology. The Ministers noted the conduct of the 7th ASEAN Forum on Coal (AFOC) Council Meeting held in Indonesia on 24-25 June 2009 and encouraged the +3 Countries to participate in the AFOC Meeting.

9. The Ministers noted the report of the 7th SOME+3 Energy Security Forum held on 29 November 2008 in Manila, Philippines and welcomed other studies presented and discussed in the Forum to widen discussions on energy security.

Oil Market

10. The Ministers expressed serious concerns that the highly volatile oil prices which pose a great challenge to the global economy and are against the interest of both consuming and producing countries. The Ministers emphasised the need to strengthen cooperation among those responsible for energy policy, energy supplies, markets and transport routes. The Ministers reiterated their earlier call for enhanced oil market dialogue and cooperation between producers and consumers. They emphasised the need for an increase in investment, both upstream and downstream, to ensure adequate level of spare capacity as well as market transparency through the enhancement of the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI) covering capacity expansion plans.
11. The Ministers affirmed to vigorously enhance their actions in such areas as emergency preparedness, and promoting energy efficiency and alternative energy sources. In this context, they also recognised that moving towards phased and gradual withdrawal of price subsidies for conventional energy sources is desirable because market-based energy pricing helps markets to send the appropriate signals and increase investment in energy efficiency and accelerate the deployment of alternative energy sources. They commended some countries for their recent moves in this direction and encouraged further progress in this area.
12. The Ministers noted the outcomes and relevant recommendations of the 6th ASEAN+3 Oil Market Forum held on 29 November 2008 in Manila, Philippines.

Oil Stockpiling

13. The Ministers welcomed the intensive discussion and progress in the three (3) meetings in the ASEAN+3 Working Group preparing the Oil Stockpiling Roadmap (OSRM) hosted by the ASEAN Centre for Energy with the support by the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) of Japan.

14. The Ministers commended the members of the Working Group on OSRM for sharing basic concepts of the OSRM and encouraged member countries to continue this work to develop the OSRM based on the four (4) principles: 1) voluntary and non-binding, 2) mutual benefits, 3) mutual respect and respect for bilateral and regional cooperation, and 4) step-by-step approach with long-term perspective.
15. The Ministers noted the outcomes and relevant recommendations of the 7th ASEAN+3 Oil Stockpiling Forum held on 28 November 2008 in Philippines.

NRE and EE&C

16. The Ministers called for coordinated response and regional actions to address energy demand side in a rational way, noting that prolonged high prices have not obviously curb consumption contrary to earlier expectations. The Ministers affirmed that widespread promotion of highly efficient energy technologies and best practices and adoption of policies to improve energy efficiency will effectively restrain demand without sacrificing productivity and growth. The Ministers agreed to further cooperation on EE&C through increased dialogues, capacity building, and networking and information sharing. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the proposal to hold joint policy oriented workshop with the ASEAN Secretariat and ACE to deepen understanding on each other's EE&C policies and to learn from them.
17. The Ministers noted the rising trends in the deployment, development and promotion of renewable energy in the ASEAN+3 countries. Aware of the growing conventional energy supply-demand gap, the Ministers confirmed the need to accelerate the development of renewable energy (RE) sources to meet the demand. The Ministers agreed to work closely to explore ways to encourage more investments in innovative RE technologies to move past the laboratory to full-scale commercial production.
18. The Ministers also agreed to promote public-private partnership for technology transfer through advice from experts and beef up local skills in the development and manufacturing of RE technologies.
19. The Ministers noted the Report of the 5th ASEAN+3 New and Renewable Energy (NRE) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) Forum held on 23 March 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Natural Gas

20. The Ministers acknowledged the increasing significance of natural gas in the region. The Ministers also noted that an open market mutually benefits both importers and exporters of gas. In this context, the Ministers agreed to enhance gas trade through greater bilateral and regional coordination and cooperation to ensure sufficient supply for the domestic, regional and international markets.
21. The Ministers also welcomed China's hosting of the 5th ASEAN+3 Natural Gas Forum and 4th ASEAN+3 Natural Gas Business Dialogue on 29-30 October 2008 in China. The Ministers expressed hope that the two meetings will help facilitate new investments and partnerships.
22. The Ministers noted the Report of the Fifth ASEAN+3 Natural Gas Forum held on 30 October 2008 in Beijing, the People's Republic of China.

CDM

23. The Ministers welcomed the effort of the ASEAN Centre for Energy jointly with Korea Energy Management Corporation (KEMCO) in further advancing the progress and cooperation on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) which has widened opportunity for CDM to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development through activity enhancing capacity building.

Nuclear

24. The Ministers acknowledged growing expectations on nuclear energy programmes as a means to address climate change and energy security concerns. Recognising the Leaders' adoption of the ASEAN+3 Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) on 20 November 2007 which includes the use of civilian nuclear energy, the Ministers agreed to move forward the initiative to develop civilian nuclear energy as an option to meet the future energy demand in the region while ensuring nuclear non-proliferation/safeguards, safety and security, in accordance to their respective international obligations. In this context, the Ministers welcomed international cooperation in areas including human resources, regulatory systems and financial mechanisms.

25. The Ministers endorsed the Republic of Korea's proposal for cooperation on civilian nuclear energy capacity building program.

Others

26. The Ministers commended the on-going activities and preparations for future activities under the SOME+3 Energy Cooperation and look forward to review further updates and recommendations at the next ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting in Vietnam in 2010.

LIST OF MINISTERS

- H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Mohammad, Minister of Energy, at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam;
- H.E. Dr. Ith Praing, Secretary of State, on behalf of the Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy of Cambodia;
- H.E. Mr. Liu Qi, Deputy Administrator, National Energy Administration of China;
- H.E. Mr. Novian Moezahar Thaib, Secretary General of National Energy Council on behalf of Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia;
- H.E. Mr. Takayuki Ueda, Director General Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan;
- H.E. Mr. Junggwan Kim, Deputy Minister of Knowledge Economy of Korea;
- H.E. Mr. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR;
- H.E. Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui, Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water of Malaysia;
- H.E. Brig. Gen. Lun Thi, Minister for Energy, Ministry of Energy of Myanmar;
- H.E. Joselito Chad N. Jacinto, Jr. Charge D'Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, on behalf of Secretary of Energy of the Philippines;
- H.E. Mr. Wong Siew Kwong, Director, External Relations, on behalf of the Senior Minister of State (Trade and Industry), Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore;
- H.E. Mr. Wannarat Channukul, Minister of Energy of Thailand;
- H.E. Mr. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam; and
- H.E. Mr. S. Pushpanathan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community, on behalf of Secretary-General of ASEAN

Joint Media Statement of the 12th AEM Plus Three Consultation

Bangkok, Thailand, 15 August 2009

1. The Twelfth Consultation between the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and Ministers from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 15 August 2009. The Consultation was co-chaired by H.E. Ms. Porntiva Nakasai, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Chen Deming, Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China; H.E. Hiroyuki Ishige, Vice Minister, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan; and H.E. Mr. Kim Jong-Hoon, Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the global economic situation and recent economic developments in ASEAN and the Northeast Asian countries. They also noted the latest development of ASEAN plus One Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the Plus Three Countries (i.e. ASEAN-China FTA, ASEAN-Korea FTA and ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership). They reaffirmed the importance of these Plus One arrangements' contribution to the realisation of the overall objective of integrating the economies in Southeast and Northeast Asia.
3. The Ministers noted that total ASEAN exports to the Plus Three Countries increased from US\$192.5 billion in 2007 to US\$225.4 billion in 2008 registering a 17.1 percent growth. This growth is faster than that in 2007 when ASEAN exports to these countries grew by only 10.9 percent. ASEAN imports of goods from the same countries continued to accelerate with a 19.5 percent growth in 2008, from 15.7 percent in 2007. Total ASEAN imports from these countries stood at US\$254.7 billion, up from US\$213.1 billion in 2007.
4. The Ministers were pleased that total ASEAN trade with the Plus Three Countries remained robust despite the global economic slowdown. Trade with these countries reached US\$480.1 billion in 2008, up by 18.4 percent compared to US\$405.5 billion reported in 2007 registering a 28.1 percent share of total ASEAN trade.
5. The Ministers on the other hand noted the sharp decrease in foreign direct investments from the Plus Three countries, from US\$12.7 billion in 2007 to US\$10.3 billion in 2008. Cumulative FDIs from the Plus Three Countries during the period

2006-2008 were valued at US\$35.5 billion comprising 19.3 percent of total FDI inflows to ASEAN in the same period.

East Asia Free Trade Area

6. The Ministers welcomed the final report of the EAFTA Phase II Study and agreed to submit this to the Leaders at the forthcoming ASEAN Plus Three Summit in October 2009. The Ministers agreed to recommend to the Leaders that Senior Officials discuss and consider the recommendations in the EAFTA Study. The Ministers therefore tasked the Senior Economic Officials of the ASEAN Plus Three countries to discuss and consider the recommendations in the two EAFTA reports (i.e. the Phase I and Phase II reports) and to submit their recommendation on when and how to establish working groups on rules of origin, tariff nomenclature, customs-related issues, and economic cooperation.

Economic Cooperation Projects

7. The Ministers agreed that the crisis should be turned into an opportunity for expanding intra-regional trade and investment, by promoting trade facilitation and liberalisation among ASEAN Plus Three Countries, raising the competitiveness of the region as a whole, and providing strong support for the development of SMEs to instil vigour into the regional economy. The Ministers noted the continuing progress in the implementation of economic cooperation projects, which covered a wide range of areas including standards and quality conformance, information and communication technology (ICT), and customs cooperation.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

8. The Ministers exchanged views on the status of the Doha Round negotiations in light of the developments such as the Bali Communiqué issued by Ministers of the Cairns Group on 9 June 2009 in Bali, Indonesia and the Joint Statement of the G8 Plus 5 Summit on “Promoting the Global Agenda” held in L’Aquila, Italy on 9 July 2009.
9. The Ministers committed themselves to cooperate in constructive discussion to bring the negotiations to an early and successful conclusion in 2010.

10. The Ministers also reaffirmed their support to Lao PDR in its effort to accede to the WTO.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

11. The Ministers exchanged views on the outcomes of the Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade which was held in Singapore on 21 – 22 July 2009. They also noted that the APEC Leaders' Week has been scheduled on 14-15 November 2009 in Singapore.

Preparations for the ASEAN Plus Three Summit

12. The Ministers noted the status of the preparations for the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2009.

LIST OF MINISTERS

- H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
- H.E. Chen Deming, Minister of Commerce, China
- H.E. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia
- H.E. Hiroyuki Ishige, Vice Minister, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan
- H.E. Mr. Kim Jong-Hoon, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea
- H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
- H.E. Dato' Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia
- H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
- H.E. Peter B. Favila, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines
- H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
- H.E. Pornniva Nakasai, Minister of Commerce, Thailand
- H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam
- H.E. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN

**Joint Press Statement
of the 9th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture
and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the
People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of
Korea (9th AMAF Plus Three)**

**Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam,
11 November 2009**

1. The ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their Ninth Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan on 11 November 2009, under the chairmanship of H.E Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam.
2. The Ministers from the Plus Three Countries (People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea) expressed their firm support in advancing cooperation in food, agriculture, and forestry sectors under the purview of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) declared by the 14th ASEAN Summit in March 2009. The Ministers also agreed to address in narrowing development gap in ASEAN and strengthen cooperation in alleviating poverty and promoting human development activities through implementation of AMAF Plus Three activities and provision of technical assistance.
3. The Ministers welcomed Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Food Security and Bio-Energy Development declared by the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit. The Ministers expressed their commitment to develop a comprehensive strategy on sustainable and integrated food and bio-fuels production and consumption that will promote better allocation of resources for the production of both food and bio-fuels. The Ministers reiterated that food security is a major contributing factor for sustained economic and social development and stability in the region. The Ministers recognised the necessity for each country, particularly developing countries, to achieve food security through utilising all available resources for food production as much as possible and increasing agricultural productivity.
4. Responding to climate change, the Ministers noted the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 5th Session of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and expressed their commitment to work closely together to ensure a successful outcome of the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. In this direction, the Ministers agreed to support in addressing adaptation and mitigation issues to ensure the stability of food supply in the region.

5. The Ministers agreed to strengthen and accelerate the implementation of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) Pilot Project activities, which is designed to respond to the humanitarian needs in the case of natural disasters and emergency situation. As tasked by the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit on 24 October 2009, the Ministers agreed to work towards the transformation of EAERR into a permanent mechanism under the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) and early realisation of APTERR in order to ensure the continuation of regional food security mechanism immediately after the expiration of the EAERR Pilot Project.
6. The Ministers welcomed the further progress made in the 2nd phase of ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project on its activities including Early Warning Information and Agricultural Commodity Outlook.
7. The Ministers appreciated the ASEAN+3 biomass energy forum and project for Biomass Town programs in East Asia, and recognised the importance of promoting sustainable biomass utilisation.
8. The Ministers appreciated the First Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Roundtable on Food Security Cooperation Strategy in China, and expressed the consensus of the roundtable is of particular importance in terms of upgrading the region's food productivity, furthering regional cooperation, and ultimately guaranteeing food security. The Ministers welcomed Japan's proposal for the 2nd Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Roundtable on Food Security Cooperation Strategy to be held in Japan in 2010.
9. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction on the project activities as well as the solid progress of the evaluation of those activities as instructed by the 8th AMAF Plus Three Meeting. The Ministers endorsed nine new project proposals from the Plus Three Countries, which aim to build capacity in agricultural development and sustainable aquaculture.

10. The Ministers agreed to have their Tenth Meeting in Cambodia in 2010. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Brunei Darussalam for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Mr. Chan Tong Yves, Secretary of State of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- H.E. Mr. Suswono, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia
- H.E. Mr. Sitaheng Rasphone, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- H.E. Dato' Wira Mohd. Johari Baharum, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia
- H.E. Major General Htay Oo, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar
- H.E. Atty. Arthur C Yap, Secretary of Agriculture, Philippines
- H.E. Dr. Mohamad Maliki Osman, Parliamentary Secretary for National Development, Singapore
- H.E. Mr. Theera Wongsamut, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
- H.E. Dr. Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
- H.E. Mr. Zhang Taolin, Vice Minister of Agriculture, People's Republic of China
- H.E. Mr. Hidenori Murakami, Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
- H.E. Mr. Byungrin Yoo, Deputy Minister for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Republic of Korea
- H.E. Mr. S. Pushpanathan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community

SOCIO-CULTURAL

Chairman's Press Statement of the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers' Special Meeting on Influenza A(H1N1)

Bangkok, Thailand, 8 May 2009

1. The ASEAN+3 Health Ministers Special Meeting on Influenza A (H1N1) was held on 8 May 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Special Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Francisco T. Duque III, the Secretary of Health, Department of Health of the Philippines and the Chair of the ASEAN Health Ministers.
2. The Meeting was the outcome of the initiative of Samdech Decho HUN SEN, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia to which H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand graciously agreed to host.
3. Prime Minister Abhisit delivered his Opening Address at the Opening Ceremony this morning. The Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Margaret Chan delivered a recorded address by video. The Minister of Public Health of Thailand and the ASEAN Secretary-General also delivered their respective remarks.
4. The Meeting represents the shared recognition for collective action in addressing the threat of Influenza A(H1N1). It was further recognised that united and harmonised actions would ensure that the health care systems in the region is fully prepared to contain any potential disease outbreaks.
5. In a Live Video Conference during the morning session, Dr. Richard Besser, Acting Director, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provided an update on effective responses in the US against Influenza A(H1N1).
6. Updates on the disease in the region were provided by Dr. Shin Young-soo, the Regional Director of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific.
7. Before the Ministers convened the Meeting today, the Senior Officials had on 7 May deliberated extensively on the issue. In live video conference discussions with

experts from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the WHO and the World Bank, it was noted that although the outbreak has been mild so far, the situation continues to evolve, thus constant monitoring needs to be done. It was emphasised that the 1918 pandemic started with mild outbreaks in springtime but became severe during winter, thus there is a need for the region to review and strengthen their pandemic preparedness plans and to maintain its guard.

8. Based on the discussions yesterday, the countries in the region are carrying out activities related to strengthening preparedness and response, with focus on the following areas:
 - a. Planning and coordination;
 - b. Situation monitoring and assessment;
 - c. Reducing spread of disease;
 - d. Health care intervention; and
 - e. Public Awareness / Risk Communication
9. The Senior Officials also worked on the draft Joint Ministerial Statement which has just now been adopted by the Ministers.
10. The Ministers in their Joint Ministerial Statement have hereby agreed to, among others, the following measures:
 - To continuously implement their respective national pandemic preparedness plan;
 - To strengthen surveillance and effective responses;
 - Ensure effective communication especially within the public realm to avoid panic and social disruption;
 - To consider implementing exit screening as one of the cross border disease control strategies;
 - To consider establishing a system within the ASEAN Plus Three countries to facilitate sharing of essential supplies in an emergency
11. The Ministers also encouraged the transfer of technology in relation to the production of antiviral medicines and vaccines.
12. Regional cooperation measures such as establishing hotlines among national health authorities, joint investigation and response teams, and strengthening research were also stressed by the Ministers in their Joint Statement.
13. Collaboration with international and regional health bodies was also emphasised. In this regard, the Meeting recognised with appreciation the valuable assistance and

support provided by partners such as the World Health Organisation, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Bank. The assistance of ASEAN's partners such as AusAID and USAID was also similarly recognised.

14. The WHO, in particular, has been called upon to continue providing timely and accurate information and guidance on responses. The WHO was also asked to ensure that all WHO Member States have fair and equitable access to pandemic vaccines and to facilitate the increase in influenza vaccine manufacturing capacities in the region.
 15. Logistical exercises in ASEAN has also been proposed by the Ministers in order to ensure effective and timely deployment of stockpiles of medicines, medical supplies in the event of a future pandemic.
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**Joint Ministerial Statement
of the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers'
Special Meeting on Influenza A(H1N1)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 8 May 2009

We, the Health Ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, China, Japan and Republic of Korea met on 8 May 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand, to deliberate on effective measures to prevent and control Influenza A(H1N1) in Asia;

Recalling the Joint Ministerial Statement on the current Poultry Disease Situation made on 28 January 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand, the Joint Ministerial Statement on Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza made on 26 November 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand;

Alarmed by the rapid spread of human-to-human of the Influenza A(H1N1) virus in various countries and various regions of the World; for which a pandemic is imminent and requires global, regional and national solidarity efforts for mitigation and immediate appropriate responses;

Valuing the contributions and leadership of the World Health Organisation (WHO), other United Nations systems and international agencies, transparency and rapid responses by WHO Member States which are affected by the emergence of Influenza A(H1N1) virus;

Concerned that the Avian Influenza (H5N1) is still a major threat in this region, whereby continued political commitment and effective surveillance and responses are required;

Recalling Resolutions WHA58.5 and WHA59.2, which expressed concern about the potential spread of H5N1 strain of Influenza A to cause a pandemic and urged Member States to disseminate to WHO collaborating centre information and relevant biological materials, including clinical specimens and viruses;

Emphasising the need to conclude the Inter-Governmental Meeting mandated by WHA60.28, on sharing of H5N1 and other influenza viruses with human pandemic potential and fair and equitable sharing of benefits;

Recognising the dynamics of the spread of Influenza A(H1N1) virus from human to human and human-animal interface, and the transforming capacity of virus, for which it requires full alert and effective prevention, detection, and timely response;

Recognising the responsibility of WHO Member States to abide by the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005), under which the public health emergency of international concern has been declared and the importance of strengthened national core capacities in the effective implementation of the IHR;

Recognising the measures that have already been put in place and continuing efforts under the Asia-Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED); the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme supported by AusAID, the stockpiles of antivirals and personal protective equipment by Japan and the multisectoral pandemic preparedness and response by USAID;

Recognising public health measures taken by individuals and communities, such as social distancing, respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene and household ventilation are at present the most feasible measures available to reduce or delay disease caused by pandemic influenza;

Recognising that as international travel moves rapidly, with large numbers of people visiting various parts of the world, evidence indicates that in the current pandemic situation limiting travel and imposing travel restrictions would have very little effect on stopping the virus from spreading, but would be highly disruptive to the global and regional communities and pose major negative impacts on the current global economic downturn;

Recognising that it is prudent for people who are ill with fever and influenza-like symptoms to delay international travel, and those who are ill after international travel to seek appropriate medical treatment, according to guidelines from national authorities;

Concerned that pandemic influenza significantly increases demands for medical services on the current constrained health resources for which it requires clear national protocols of case management at home with rigorous respiratory etiquette and hygiene measures; referral to and triage of patients for treatment in healthcare facilities; protection of health staffs including infection control in health facilities; prioritisation of use of antiviral medicines and personal protective equipment according to risk of exposure in order to focus efforts on the most effective interventions to reduce mortality and any further morbidity;

Concerned that most of the global vaccine production capacity is located in Europe and North America, and it is inadequate to respond to global pandemic; and despite other regions have begun to acquire the technology to produce influenza vaccines, access to effective pandemic vaccines is a major problem in this region;

Recognising the urgency of taking concrete actions in preventing and controlling the Influenza A(H1N1), we commit ourselves at the national level on the following:

1. To continuously implement the national pandemic preparedness plan and intensify the performance of surveillance in human and animals, and effective response system;
2. To strengthen the national core capacities in the effective implementation of IHR (2005), in particular on surveillance and effective responses;
3. To exercise the national protocols by concerned authorities, ensure effective intersectoral communication and actions, effective public message to guide appropriate public responses in order to prevent panic and social disruption;
4. To consider implementing exit screening, as one of the cross-border disease control strategies by affected countries with the application of agreed criteria to classify “affected areas” instead of “affected country” and to minimise the impact on travelling and trade;
5. To consider establishment, in ASEAN Plus Three countries, a system to facilitate the sharing of essential supplies in the region in case of emergency needs;
6. To assess the potential need and increase national stockpiling of antivirals and essential medicines, medical supplies and personal protective equipment to the level necessary for effective responses in view of the dynamics of H1N1 spread;

Recognising the needs for common and collective efforts by countries in the region for effective responses to influenza A(H1N1) pandemic, we further commit ourselves on the following:

7. To comply with recommendations of WHO on international travels in order to prevent social and economic disruption to the global and regional communities;
8. Referring to WHA resolution 61.21, “to encourage the transfer of technology related to the production of antiviral medicines and pandemic influenza vaccines”;

9. Fostering collaborations in the region by:
 - Ensuring sufficient and prompt sharing of data and information on epidemic situation, establishing hotlines among national health authorities for effective responses among countries;
 - Establishing joint outbreak investigation and joint response teams across countries, where appropriate and upon request;
 - Enhancing laboratory support for the investigation and confirmation of Influenza A(H1N1) and researches;
 - Strengthening collaborative researches on influenza including biomedical, clinical, health systems and policy researches in order to generate evidence for effective policy intervention in responses to the epidemics, through active participation in the current regional collaborative research networks such as the ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme of the ASEAN Secretariat, the Mekong Basin Diseases Surveillance network (MBDS) and the Asian Partnership on Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (APAIR/APEIR);

Recognising the importance of international solidarities in effective responses to influenza pandemic, we request WHO, other United Nations Agencies and international development agencies and ASEAN on the following:

10. Director-General of WHO to continue to provide accurate, transparent and timely evidence on the global epidemic updates and guidance on effective responses;
11. Director-General of WHO, in consultation with experts and Member States, consider the possibility of optimising the criteria for pandemic alert level determination. The new criteria will not only apply transmissibility/epidemiologic determinant (number of cases in two Member States of a WHO region), but shall also include: clinical determinant (morbidity and mortality) and virological/gene sequence determinant (high or low pathogenicity);
12. To conclude the ongoing Inter-Governmental Meeting on sharing of H5N1 and other influenza viruses with human pandemic potential and fair and equitable sharing of benefits;
13. Director-General of WHO to support the goal of ensuring fair and equitable access to pandemic vaccines by all WHO Member States; and facilitate the increase in influenza vaccine manufacturing capacities in the region and other developing countries;

14. International development partners to provide technical and financial support based on need assessment in order to increase the level of ASEAN stockpiling of essential medicines and personal protective equipment; and
15. Secretary-General of ASEAN to conduct logistical exercises to ensure effective and timely deployment of stockpiles of medicines, medical supplies and other personal protective equipment to the affected areas.

Mindful of the fact that the 62nd Session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) will take place on 18-22 May 2009 in Geneva, the ASEAN+3 Health Ministers will make concerted efforts in bringing the outcome of this Meeting to the attention of the participants of the Assembly with the aim to solicit their cooperation and support.

Appreciating the support given by WHO, the World Bank, the US-CDC for making possible the dialogues through live video conferences at this Meeting,

We, ASEAN Plus three Health Ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, China, Japan and Republic of Korea, hereby pledge our commitment to fully implement these measures for the well-being of our people and for the peace, prosperity and stability of our region.

**Joint Media Statement
of the 1st Conference of the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers
Responsible for Information (AMRI+3)**

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 6 November 2009

The Ministers Responsible for Information in ASEAN and the Plus 3 countries, namely, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK), held their first meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 6 November 2009. The meeting, known as the First Conference of AMRI+3, was preceded by the ASEAN+3 Senior Officials Meeting for the First Conference of AMRI+3 on 4 November 2009.

Chairing the Conference, H.E. Mounkeo ORABOUN, Minister of Information and Culture of Lao PDR, warmly welcomed China, Japan and ROK to the meeting on behalf of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information. In his opening remarks, he expressed thanks to the Plus 3 countries for their acknowledgement of the importance of and participation in this Conference. Through AMRI+3, he looks forward to fruitful cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus 3 countries, benefiting ASEAN Member States as well as China, Japan, ROK in order to maintain peace, friendship, security and prosperity.

The Ministers of the Plus 3 countries expressed their appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to them and their delegations. While individual Plus 3 countries have good relations with ASEAN Member States in information and media cooperation, they agreed that the AMRI+3 is a useful platform to expand cooperation with the region. China's Minister of the State Council Information Office, H.E. Mr Wang Chen made several proposals, including giving full play to the role of government departments in advancing information exchange and cooperation, and raising the level of information exchange and media cooperation. Through this Conference, the State Council Information Office of China is willing to mobilise media resources, enrich cooperation content, expand cooperation fields and improve the quality and level of cooperation. Japan's Vice Minister for Policy Coordination, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, H.E. Mr Akira Terasaki, stated that Japan hopes the ASEAN Member States will refer to its experience in digitalising TV, and that Japan would like to contribute to Asian countries in the circulation of good quality programmes. He expressed his expectations to build a good relationship among the ASEAN+3 countries by utilising the outcomes of the Conference. ROK's Vice-Minister, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, H.E. Mr Kim Dae Ki, proposed ways to diversify and intensify media cooperation in the region, including joint international production of broadcast content,

exchange programmes of journalists, joint translation and publication projects. He said this first Conference of AMRI+3 will be a sturdy cornerstone in the endeavor to bring about prosperity to ASEAN and all the East Asian countries, including Korea.

The Conference was attended by H.E. Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General (RTD) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Hj Mohammad Bin Hj Daud, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr Khieu Kanharith, Minister of Information, Kingdom of Cambodia; H.E. Sutjipthardjo Donokusumo, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Lao PDR, Indonesia; H.E. Mounkeo ORABOUN, Minister of Information and Culture, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim, Minister of Information, Communications and Culture, Malaysia; H.E. Brigadier General Kyaw Hsan, Minister of Information, Myanmar; H.E. Mr Conrado A. Limcaoco, Jr, Secretary, Philippine Information Agency and Government Mass Media Group, Philippines; Mr Chan Yeng Kit, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, Singapore; H.E. Mr Satit Wongnongtaey, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Thailand; H.E. Mr Le Doan Hop, Minister of Information and Communications, Viet Nam, H.E. Mr Wang Chen, Minister of the State Council Information Office, China; H.E. Mr Akira Terasaki, Vice Minister for Policy Coordination, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan; H.E. Mr Kim Dae Ki, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Republic of Korea; and H.E. Mr Sayakane Sisouvong, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Political-Security Community.

The Conference marks the formal start of cooperation in the information sector at the ASEAN+3 level. The Ministers were of the view that information and media cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus 3 countries would reach new heights with the convening of the AMRI+3. They noted that such cooperation would promote greater understanding among the ASEAN+3 countries and strengthen community building in the region.

At the meeting, the Ministers explored ways in which ASEAN and the Plus 3 countries could collaborate in the information sector, including in digital broadcasting, co-productions in digital content and media exchanges. They tasked their Senior Officials to draw up a work plan on ASEAN+3 cooperation in information.

Following the Conference, the Ministers visited the Southeast Asian Games Stadium and Sea Games Village ahead of the 25th SEA Games on 9-18 December 2009 in Vientiane. The Ministers wished Lao PDR a successful staging of the Games.

The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Lao PDR for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements contributing to the

success of the Conference. The Conference was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.

The 2nd AMRI+3 is tentatively scheduled to be held in Malaysia in 2011.

ASEAN+3 DOCUMENTS SERIES

2010



POLITICAL AND SECURITY

Chairman's Statement of the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting

Ha Noi, 21 July 2010

1. The 11th Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea was held in Ha Noi on 21 July 2010. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Pham Gia Khiem, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.
2. The Ministers noted with pleasure the significant progress achieved so far in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and in the implementation of the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). They stressed the need for further strengthening policy coordination and sustaining economic growth in the region.
3. The Ministers noted with appreciation the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Sustained Recovery and Development issued at the 16th ASEAN Summit in Ha Noi on 9 April 2010, ASEAN's initiative to develop a Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, and ASEAN's continuous effort to explore effective financing instruments and policies, including a possible ASEAN Infrastructure Development Fund, which would contribute to developing East Asia into a region of enhanced connectivity and dynamic growth.
4. The Ministers noted with satisfaction recent developments in the ASEAN Plus Three financial cooperation. They welcomed the realisation of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) on 24 March 2010 and noted the on-going preparation for the ASEAN Plus Three Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO). They also welcomed the agreement of the 13th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' Meeting on 2 May 2010 to endorse the establishment of ASEAN Plus Three Bond Market Forum (ABMF) and the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) and hoped for the CGIF's operationalisation before the end of 2010.
5. The Ministers welcomed the contribution of US\$3 million by the ASEAN Plus Three countries in the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund (APTCF) and looked forward

to the increasing number of projects to be proposed by the ASEAN Plus Three countries for funding by the APTCF.

6. The Ministers recognised the rapidly expanding ASEAN Plus Three economic cooperation activities, particularly the realisation of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) on 17 May 2010, the establishment of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area on 1 January 2010 and other efforts to liberalise trade among ASEAN Plus Three countries, including studies on the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership for East Asia (CEPEA).
7. The Ministers were pleased at the achievements recorded in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on other areas, particularly labour, culture and arts, tourism. They noted that two new areas, namely, information and education, have been added to ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. They welcomed the Inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI+3) on 6 November 2009 in Vientiane, Lao PDR which explored ways and discussed mechanisms of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in information .
8. They also appreciated Thailand's efforts to initiate the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on education and looked forward to the convening of the 1st ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials' Meeting on Education (SOM-ED+3) in November 2010 in Thailand to consider a draft ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education.
9. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of ensuring food and energy security in the region. In this regard, they welcomed the efforts to create the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) as a permanent mechanism to ensure food security in the region and the intention to develop a comprehensive strategy on sustainable and integrated food and bio-fuels production and consumption.
10. The Ministers expressed their commitment to work closely together towards a positive outcome at COP-16/CMP-6 to be held in Mexico in December 2010. In this regard, they welcomed the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change on 9 April 2010 as well as Viet Nam's initiative to convene an East Asia Forum on Climate Change. They encouraged enhanced regional and sub-regional cooperation including in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and the Mekong River Commission (MRC).
11. The Ministers reaffirmed the need to strengthen cooperation in addressing threats of disease outbreaks and were satisfied with the successful completion of the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme Phase II and

looked forward to the commencement of the next phase of cooperation with active participation of ASEAN Plus Three countries. The Ministers welcomed ASEAN's efforts to develop an ASEAN Roadmap on Control of Avian Influenza to ensure the attainment of HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza)-free ASEAN by 2020.

12. The Ministers noted new proposals for cooperation in the ASEAN Plus Three framework which, among others, includes cooperation in food safety and standards, water management, deforestation prevention and reforestation, disaster management, including the "ASEAN Plus Three International Conference on Disaster Management" to be held in August 2010 in Tokyo.
13. The Ministers reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three process would continue as one of the main vehicles towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community with ASEAN as the driving force. At the same time, the Ministers reaffirmed their support for ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture and recognised the mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the ASEAN Plus Three process and such regional fora as EAS, ARF and APEC to promote East Asian community building.
14. On regional and international issues of common concern, the Ministers noted that despite downside risks to the global recovery from an unprecedented international financial crisis, the East Asian economies are among the first to rebound soundly, and have become one of the key drivers of the global economic recovery. They reiterated the commitment to accelerating and deepening economic structural reforms, promoting domestic demand and employment, resisting protectionism and further promoting trade and investment for the recovery and long-term prosperity of the world economy.
15. The Ministers recognised the importance of issues discussed in the G-20 process in pursuit of strong, sustainable and balanced growth. In this regard, they welcomed the chairmanship of the Republic of Korea in the G-20 Summit in Seoul this November and reiterated their support for the ASEAN Chairman to participate at the forthcoming Seoul G-20 Summit and for the continued participation of the ASEAN Chairman in the future G-20 Summits on regular basis.
16. The Ministers deplored the sinking of the Cheonan ship of the Republic of Korea on 26 March 2010, resulting in the tragic loss of lives. They extended their deep sympathy and condolences to the people and Government of the ROK and welcomed the restraint shown by the ROK. In this connection, they expressed support for the 9 July 2010 United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement,

which included the Council's condemnation of the attack which led to the sinking of the Cheonan ship.

17. The Ministers stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the region, and called on the concerned parties to resolve all disputes by peaceful means. They reaffirmed their support for the complete and verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and encouraged the parties to return to the Six Party Talks in due course. They stressed the need to fully implement the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. They also emphasised the importance of addressing the issue of humanitarian concerns of the international community.

 18. The Ministers looked forward to their next meeting in Indonesia in 2011.
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Chairman's Statement of the 13th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Ha noi, Viet Nam, 29 October 2010

1. The 13th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, chaired by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, was held in Ha Noi on 29 October 2010. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member Countries, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea attended the Meeting.
2. We reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three process with ASEAN as the driving force would continue to be a main vehicle to achieve the long-term goal of building an East Asian community and contribute to the sustainable development in the region. We reaffirmed our strong support for ASEAN's central role in the existing regional mechanisms and in the evolving regional architecture. We recognised the mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the ASEAN Plus Three process and such regional fora as EAS and ARF to promote East Asian community building.
3. We reviewed with pleasure the progress in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and the implementation of the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). We were pleased that, given the global economic slowdown, ASEAN Plus Three economic cooperation remained robust with significant trade of US\$413.8 billion and US\$8.2 billion in investment in 2009. We stressed the need for further strengthening policy coordination and sustaining economic growth in the region.
4. We encouraged efforts toward trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation among ASEAN Plus Three countries. We welcomed the progress made by the four ASEAN Plus Working Groups that were tasked to look into the recommendations of the studies on the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) in parallel. We tasked relevant officials to recommend specific targets and timelines within which to complete consolidation work, relevant to their respective Terms of Reference. In this connection, we welcomed China's concept paper on the Roadmap on Trade Facilitation among ASEAN Plus Three and noted the decision by ASEAN's Economic Ministers to refer this proposal, together with Japan's concept paper on the Initial Steps towards Regional Economic Integration in East Asia: A Gradual Approach, to the ASEAN Plus Working Groups for their consideration. We also welcomed China's continued

commitment to be the lead shepherd on trade and economic cooperation and US\$1 million special donation from China to the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund focusing on EAFTA related activities.

5. We underlined that strengthening financial cooperation is important for financial stability and sustainable economic development in the region and noted with satisfaction recent developments in the ASEAN Plus Three financial cooperation. We welcomed the realisation of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) on 24 March 2010 and the operationalisation of the ASEAN Plus Three Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) in early 2011. We also welcomed the establishment of ASEAN Plus Three Bond Market Forum (ABMF) and the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) and expected the CGIF's operationalisation before the end of 2010.
6. We were committed to enhancing transport connectivity within ASEAN as well as between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. In this regard, we looked forward to the realisation of the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on Full Liberalisation of Passenger Air Services (MAFLPAS) and the ASEAN Strategic Transport Plan (ASTP) 2011-2015, which enhance intra-ASEAN transport connectivity as well as intensify and accelerate works on transport facilitation, and transport connectivity with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, especially the Plus Three countries.
7. We welcomed the adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and looked forward to contributing to the implementation of the Master Plan. In this connection, we encouraged the Transport Ministers to explore a possibility of establishing an ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Meeting on Transport to enhance ASEAN Plus Three connectivity as stated in the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan.
8. We reaffirmed the importance of promoting regional economic competitiveness and equitable economic development. In this regard, we welcomed the launching of the "ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Competition Policy", the "Handbook on Competition Policy and Law in ASEAN for Business", and the development of the Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Development 2010-2015 to replace the ASEAN Policy Blueprint for SME Development 2004-2014.
9. We reaffirmed the importance of ensuring food security in the region and noted with pleasure the implementation of the Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Food Security and Bio-energy Development, such as efforts towards the realisation of the ASEAN Plus Three Comprehensive Strategy on Food Security and Bio-energy Development and the ASEAN Food Security

Information System (AFSIS) as well as the early conclusion and signing of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement, which will help establish a permanent mechanism to ensure food security in the region.

10. We welcomed the successful convening of the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Energy Ministers Meeting on 22 July 2010 in Viet Nam and tasked relevant Ministers to strengthen energy cooperation. In this connection, we supported the ongoing efforts to develop the “3rd ASEAN Energy Demand Outlook” and welcomed initiatives in ASEAN Plus Three energy fora, such as the Energy Security and Oil Stockpiling, Natural Gas and Oil Market, New and Renewable Energy, and Energy Efficiency and Conservation, including the ASEAN Plus Three Oil Stockpiling Roadmap and ASEAN Plus Three Joint Workshop on Effective Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy Guidelines in June 2010. We also welcomed the intention to develop a comprehensive strategy on sustainable and integrated food and bio-fuels production and consumption as well as programmes to promote the effective use of civilian nuclear energy, coal, oil, natural gas and the development of renewable energy in the region.
11. We noted with appreciation the ASEAN Leaders’ Statement on Sustained Recovery and Development issued at the 16th ASEAN Summit in Ha Noi on 9 April 2010, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity adopted at the 17th Summit, and ASEAN’s effort to explore effective financing instruments and policies which would contribute to developing East Asia into a region of enhanced connectivity and dynamic growth.
12. We supported the ASEAN Leaders’ Joint Statement on Human Resources and Skills Development for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Growth adopted at the 17th ASEAN Summit and ASEAN’s measures to improve the quality and capacity of human resources in the region. In this regard, we took note of the Luang Prabang Joint Declaration on ASEAN Plus Three Civil Service Cooperation adopted by the Heads of the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) Plus Three on 29 October 2010 and looked forward to intensifying cooperation among ASEAN Plus Three countries in the area of human resources.
13. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the rights of Women and Children (ACWC) on 7 April 2010 and expressed our support to Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted at the 17th Summit in Ha Noi.
14. We reaffirmed the importance of resolving the climate change issues and committed to working closely together towards a positive outcome at COP16/CMP-6 to be

held in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010. In this regard, we noted with appreciation the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change on 9 April 2010 and Viet Nam's initiative to convene an East Asia Forum on Climate Change. We welcomed China for hosting the Tianjing climate negotiation meeting which contributed to the outcome of the Cancun conference. We also welcomed all efforts to address climate change as well as biodiversity issues discussed at the Ministerial Meeting of the REDD+ Partnership in Nagoya, Aichi on 26 October 2010 and the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya on 18-29 October 2010. We encouraged enhanced regional and sub-regional cooperation including in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and the Mekong River Commission (MRC).

15. We reaffirmed the need to strengthen cooperation to prevent disease outbreaks and were satisfied with the successful completion of the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme Phase II. We looked forward to the early start of the next phase of cooperation with active participation of ASEAN Plus Three countries. We supported ASEAN's efforts to develop an ASEAN Roadmap on Control of Avian Influenza to ensure the attainment of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)-free ASEAN by 2020.
16. We welcomed all efforts to promote ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on disaster management, including the ASEAN Plus Three International Conference on Disaster Management in Tokyo in August 2010, the proposal to utilise information and communication technology in disaster management. In this regard, we welcomed Japan's continued commitment to lead cooperation in this field.
17. We noted with pleasure that two new areas, namely, information and education had been added to ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. We welcomed the Inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI+3) on 6 November 2009 in Vientiane to explore effective ways and mechanisms of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in information. We appreciated Thailand's efforts to initiate the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on education and looked forward to the adoption of an ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education at the 1st ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials' Meeting on Education on 25 November 2010 in Bangkok. We welcomed the proposal to convene an ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers' Meeting in due course.
18. We welcomed the contribution of US\$3 million by the ASEAN Plus Three countries in the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund (APTCF) and looked forward to the

increasing number of projects to be proposed by the ASEAN Plus Three countries for funding by the APTCF.

19. We were pleased at the achievements recorded in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in other areas, including tourism, science and technology, culture and people-to-people contact. We noted new proposals for cooperation in the ASEAN Plus Three framework which, among others, includes cooperation in food safety and standards, deforestation prevention and reforestation.
20. We had broad exchange of views on regional and international issues of common concern. Noting that despite slow and fragile global recovery from the worst international financial crisis, the East Asian economies were among the first to rebound soundly and became one of the key drivers of the global economic recovery. We reiterated our commitment to enhancing macroeconomic coordination, promote growth and jobs, resist protectionism, reach an ambitious and balanced conclusion of Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and reform of the international financial system and institutions. We shared a common concern over the short-term capital inflow into the region and its pressure on local currencies. We tasked our Finance Ministers to consider possible measures to deal with this problem.
21. We expressed our support for the framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth of the world's economy as pursued by the G-20 process. In this regard, we expressed our appreciation to the Republic of Korea for her able chairmanship in preparing for the G-20 Summit in Seoul this November. We also reiterated our support for the ASEAN Chairs at G-20 Summits on regular basis. We looked forward to the successful outcome of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Yokohama on 13-14 November 2010.
22. We stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the region. We reaffirmed our support for the complete and verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. We encouraged all concerned parties to fully implement the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005 and create a conducive environment for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks with a view to achieving long-lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. We underscored the importance of relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and their implementation, and of addressing the issue of humanitarian concerns of the international community.
23. We appreciated the proposal by the President of the Republic of Korea to establish an East Asia Vision Group II (EAVG II) to do stock-taking and recommend future

direction for ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, and tasked our relevant officials to implement this initiative.

24. We also noted the Memorandum No.7 on Policy Recommendations on Strengthening the Pillars of East Asian Community Building, prepared by the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) in Manila on 23-24 August 2010. We appreciated the contribution of NEAT and encouraged relevant ASEAN Plus Three sectoral bodies to look into NEAT's policy recommendations.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCE

Joint Media Statement of the 9th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea Tourism Ministers (9th M-ATM Plus Three)

Bandar Seri Begawan, 25 January 2010

1. The Ninth Meeting of the Tourism Ministers of ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) was held on 25 January 2010 in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2010 and the Thirteenth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers. The Meeting was preceded by the ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK NTOs held on 23 January 2010. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources of Brunei Darussalam and co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism of Cambodia.
2. The Ministers noted that tourism performance in the ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK region has been recovering from the impact of the global economic crisis. The initial figures of international visitor arrivals from China, Japan and ROK indicated that these Countries continued to be the important source market for ASEAN Member States, with more than 15 million arrivals or 23.3 per cent of total international tourist arrivals in ASEAN.
3. The Ministers were pleased with the progress of APT joint activities that have contributed to the progress of the Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017), namely ASEAN Plus Three Youth Summit organised by Indonesia on 16-19 June 2009 in Bali, and the completion of the initiative on the promotion of the well being of tourist conducted by the APT Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme Phase II to promote health and safety of travellers and host communities in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries.
4. The Ministers appreciated China for the holding of the “China-ASEAN Tourism Cooperation Forum” on 19-20 November 2009 in Kunming to discuss possible ways to further strengthen inter-government cooperation to facilitate seamless travel, promote tourism investment opportunities, joint tourism marketing and promotion, and enhance human resource development. The Meeting also thanked China for

provision of complimentary booths to ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat at China International Travel Mart (CITM) 2009 which were utilised to support the establishment of ASEAN Common Area and promotion of ASEAN Cruise Tourism.

5. The Ministers welcomed the efforts of Japan in implementing various ASEAN-Japan tourism projects/activities in 2009, including organising a training programme for tourism industries, the convening of “ASEAN Tourism Fair” inviting artists/artisans and dance/music performers from ASEAN held on 26-31 August 2009 in Niigata City, the ASEAN Tourism Seminar and Tourism Night on 31 August 2009 at Hotel Okura, Niigata City, and Public Relations.
6. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for their continued support in ASEAN’s cruise tourism development. The Ministers look forward to Japan’s support to the proposed ASEAN cruise Infrastructure Development Study which will provide a baseline study of ASEAN’s available cruise infrastructure. The study will also propose new itineraries and the necessary infrastructure upgrading that will ensure the region is able to fully capture the benefits of cruise tourism.
7. The Ministers were pleased to note the activities carried out by ROK in further progressing tourism cooperation with ASEAN, such as enhancing regional cooperation through marketing partnership and promotion of multi-destination itineraries, publishing ASEAN pamphlets in Korean language in order to increase tourist flow between ASEAN and Korea, and ASEAN Tourism HRD Program. The Ministers thanked ROK for its active contribution in enhancing ASEAN-ROK tourism cooperation.
8. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Brunei Darussalam for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The meeting was attended by:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
- H.E. Mr. Zhu Shanzhong, Vice Chairman of China National Tourism Administration, China;

- H.E. Mr. Jero Wacik, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Indonesia;
 - H.E. Mr. Yuji Fujimoto, Parliamentary Secretary for Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan;
 - H.E. Mr. Somphong Mongkhonvilay, Minister, Chairman of Lao National Tourism Administration, Lao PDR;
 - H.E. Dato' Sri Dr. Ng Yen Yen , Minister of Tourism, Malaysia;
 - H.E. Major. Gen. Soe Naing, Minister, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;
 - H.E. Mr. Oscar P. Palabyab, Undersecretary of Tourism, Philippines;
 - H.E. Mr. Jae Min Shin, Vice-Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Rep. of Korea;
 - H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
 - Mr. Vichai Srikwan, Chairman, Tourism Authority of Thailand, Thailand;
 - H.E. Mr. Huynh Vinh Ai, Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Viet Nam; and
 - H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN.
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Joint Ministerial Statement of the 13th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' Meeting

Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 2 May 2010

Introduction

1. We, the Finance Ministers of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea (ASEAN+3), convened our thirteenth meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, under the co-chairmanship of H.E. Vu Van Ninh, Minister of Finance of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and H.E. Xie Xuren, Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China. The President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for the ASEAN Economic Community were also present at our meeting.
2. We exchanged views on regional economic and financial development and policies. We also reviewed the progress of regional financial cooperation, including the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) and the ASEAN+3 Research Group. Furthermore, we explored ways to further enhance these initiatives for higher efficiency and more positive impact.
3. In particular, we are pleased to announce that the CMIM agreement came into effect on 24 March 2010. Consensus has been reached on all the key elements of the regional macroeconomic surveillance unit of the CMIM, called the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO). We are also pleased to announce the establishment of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) as a trust fund of ADB with an initial capital of US\$700 million.

Recent Economic and Financial Developments in the Region

4. Against the backdrop of an unprecedented international financial crisis, we are pleased that member countries have undertaken proactive policy measures including economic stimulus packages in a decisive and timely manner to sustain financial stability and restore economic growth. The East Asian economies are among the first to rebound soundly, and have become one of the key drivers of the global economy recovery.

5. However, we recognise that downside risks to the overall global recovery remain: the ample liquidity in the global market driving up asset prices and increasing inflationary pressures; sovereign debt risks precipitating renewed global risk aversion and destabilising international capital flows into Asian economies; the slow recovery of the labor markets in developed economies hindering the recovery of global private consumption. Furthermore, the East Asian economies now face the challenge of promoting sound economic structural reform in preparation for the next phase of growth.
6. In this context, we are determined to remain vigilant on the market developments, to maintain the consistency and stability of macroeconomic policies, and to adopt appropriate exit strategies, in accordance with our respective economic fundamentals, to promote medium and long term fiscal sustainability and financial stability. We reiterated our commitment to accelerate and deepen economic structural reforms, promote domestic demand and employment, resist protectionism and further promote trade and investment. We believe that these efforts will significantly contribute to the recovery and long-term prosperity of the world economy.
7. In this regard, we recognise the importance of issues discussed in the G-20 process in pursuit of strong, sustainable and balanced growth. To this end, we welcome the chairmanship of Korea in the G-20 Seoul Summit this November.

Strengthen Regional Financial Cooperation

8. On the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), the CMIM agreement came into effect on 24 March 2010. (Annex 1: Key Points of CMIM Agreement) We also agreed to the adjustment in the contributions of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand for them to contribute equally to the CMIM. Having developed from the existing CMI bilateral swap network, the CMIM is in nature a multilateral currency swap arrangement which covers all ASEAN+3 members. With the core objectives (i) to address balance of payment and short-term liquidity difficulties in the region, and (ii) to supplement the existing international financial arrangements, the CMIM will further enhance regional capacity to safeguard against downside risks and challenges in the global economy. We instructed our deputies to further enhance the effectiveness of CMIM.
9. We have reached agreement on all the key elements of the AMRO. The AMRO will be located in Singapore to monitor and analyze regional economies, which contributes to the early detection of risks, swift implementation of remedial actions, and effective

decision-making of the CMIM. We instructed that technical details necessary for actual establishment of AMRO be worked out for the start of the AMRO operations early next year. To further enhance surveillance, we also agreed to improve the Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERP) process.

10. On the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), we stressed the importance of the ABMI in promoting development of local currency-denominated bond markets and enhancing macroeconomic and financial stability. We appreciated the fact that in the midst of the recent economic crisis, many countries in the region successfully issued government bonds to finance their economic stimulus packages. We also recognised the increasing importance of mobilising regional savings for regional investments, in order to sustain sound economic growth for ASEAN+3 countries. In this regard, we instructed our Deputies to explore ways to further promote cross-border bond transactions in the region along with the development of local currency-denominated bond markets.
11. We are pleased to announce the establishment of the CGIF as a trust fund of ADB with an initial capital of US\$700 million. The main objective of the CGIF is to support the issuance of corporate bonds in our region, and thus contribute to the development of regional bond markets. We along with ADB will soon subscribe for the financial contribution and finalise necessary technical details including the Operational Policies and the business plan for the CGIF to start operations before the end of 2010.
12. We took note of the Group of Experts' findings and suggestions on facilitating cross-border bond transactions and settlement, and welcomed the establishment of the technical working group on Regional Settlement Intermediary (RSI) to further evaluate the policy recommendations. We endorsed the establishment of ASEAN+3 Bond Market Forum (ABMF) as a common platform to foster standardisation of market practices and harmonisation of regulations relating to cross-border bond transactions in the region. We expect tangible results from the forum in a timely manner so that the process evolves into a continuous exercise. We also welcomed the pilot project on cross-border infrastructure bond issuance by the Lao government, which is expected to be implemented in Thailand by the end of this year.
13. On further enhancing the regional financial cooperation, we recognised that in face of new challenges posed by the need to preserve global financial stability and promote sustainable economic development, we agreed to bring the regional financial cooperation to a higher and more strategic level. In this respect, we have tasked our deputies to conduct an immediate assessment of our previous achievements in

regional financial cooperation and suggest the strategic direction of ASEAN+3 financial cooperation. We have also agreed to set up a “Taskforce on the Future Priorities of ASEAN+3 Financial Cooperation,” which will provide important support to our deputies on this endeavor.

14. On the ASEAN+3 Research Group, we acknowledged the efforts of the Research Group on studies regarding the local currencies-denominated trade settlement and the liquidity risk management in the region. We endorsed three topics for the 2010/2011 Research Group activities as follows: (1) Possible Use of Regional Monetary Units - identification of issues for practical use; (2) Lessons from Asia’s Experiences with Sudden Capital Flows; and (3) Fiscal and Financial Impacts of the Climate Change and Policy Challenges in East Asia.

Conclusion

15. We expressed our appreciation to the government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People’s Republic of China for their excellent arrangements as co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers’ Process in 2010. We also thanked the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan for its warm hospitality.
16. We agreed to meet in Viet Nam in 2011. Indonesia and Japan will be the co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers’ Process in 2011.

Annex 1 Key Points of CMI Multilateralisation Agreement

Basic Objective

1. The CMIM Agreement contains 24 Articles and 9 schedules. The basic objectives of this CMIM Agreement are (i) to address short-term liquidity difficulties in the region and (ii) to supplement the existing international financial arrangements.

CMIM Contract Parties and Effective Date

2. CMIM Contract parties comprise the 26 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of ASEAN+3 and the Monetary Authority of Hong Kong, China. This CMIM Agreement became effective on 24 March 2010.

Total Size and Contribution (Attachment)

3. The total size of CMIM is US\$120,000,000,000 (one hundred twenty billion). Individual country's contribution, borrowing multiples and voting power are as agreed in the AFMM+3 in Bali in May 2009 and as amended in the AFMM+3 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 2 May 2010. The contribution to CMIM is agreed to be made through the exchange of Commitment Letter that commits to provide financial support within the amount of contribution.

Drawing

4. The Central Bank of ASEAN+3 countries as well as Monetary Authority of Hong Kong, China are to swap their local currencies with the US dollar for an amount up to their contribution multiplied by their respective purchasing multiples.

Maturity

5. Each drawing of liquidity support in the form of bilateral currency swap shall mature basically 90 days after the date of drawing, and can be rolled over for 7 times at the maximum (approximately 2 years).

Coordinating Countries

6. Two countries will be appointed to coordinate the swap activation process when a request for drawing is made. Two Coordinating Countries shall be the two co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Minister Process, one Coordinating Country from ASEAN member countries and the other from China, Japan and Korea.

Decision-making

7. Fundamental issues (total size of CMIM, contribution of each CMIM party etc) for the CMIM would be determined by a consensus approval at Ministerial Level Decision Making Body, which consists of ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers. Executive level issues (initial execution of drawing, renewal of drawing, events of default) would be determined by 2/3 majority at Executive Level Decision Making Body (ELDMB), which comprises the deputy-level representatives of ASEAN+3 Finance Ministries and Central Banks and Monetary Authority of Hong Kong, China.

Conditions Precedent and Covenants

8. A CMIM party which requests for drawing has to meet conditions before the voting for a swap request; such as completion of review of the economic and financial situation and no events of default. As well, each CMIM party is requested to comply with covenants such as submission of the periodic surveillance report and participation in the ASEAN+3 Economic Review and Policy Dialogue.

Escape

9. In principle, each of the CMIM parties may only escape from contributing to a swap request by obtaining an approval of Executive Level Decision Making Body. In exceptional cases such as an extraordinary event or instance of force majors and domestic legal limitations, escape is possible without obtaining ELDMB approval.

Periodic Review of CMIM Arrangement

10. The CMIM parties shall jointly carry out a basic review of the CMIM Arrangement and the key terms and conditions of the CMIM every 5 years. Also, ad-hoc reviews may be conducted when necessary.

CMIM Contributions, Purchasing Multiples and Voting-Power Distribution

	Financial contribution		Purchasing Multiple	Basic votes (no. of vote)	Votes based on contribution (no. of vote)	Total voting power	
	USD (billion)	(%)				(no. of vote)	(%)
China	38.40	32.0					
China excl. Hong Kong	34.2	28.50	0.5	1.60	34.20	35.8	25.43
Hong Kong	4.2	3.50	2.5	0	4.20	4.2	2.98
Japan	38.40	32.00	0.5	1.60	38.40	40.00	28.41
Korea	19.20	16.00	1	1.60	19.20	20.80	14.77
Plus 3	96.00	80.00		4.80	96.00	100.80	71.59
Indonesia	4.552	3.793	2.5	1.60	4.552	6.152	4.369
Thailand	4.552	3.793	2.5	1.60	4.552	6.152	4.369
Malaysia	4.552	3.793	2.5	1.60	4.552	6.152	4.369
Singapore	4.552	3.793	2.5	1.60	4.552	6.152	4.369
Philippines	4.552	3.793	2.5	1.60	4.552	6.152	4.369
Vietnam	1.00	0.833	5	1.60	1.00	2.60	1.847
Cambodia	0.12	0.100	5	1.60	0.12	1.72	1.222
Myanmar	0.06	0.050	5	1.60	0.06	1.66	1.179
Brunei	0.03	0.025	5	1.60	0.03	1.63	1.158
Lao PDR	0.03	0.025	5	1.60	0.03	1.63	1.158
ASEAN	24.00	20.00		16.00	24.00	40.00	28.41
Total	120.00	100.00		20.80	120.00	140.80	100.0

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 7th ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting

Da Lat, Viet Nam, 22 July 2010

Introduction

1. The 7th ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3) was held in Da Lat, Viet Nam on 22 July 2010. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam, and co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Qian Zhimin, Deputy Administrator of the National Energy Administration of China; H.E. Mr. Chiaki Takahashi, Vice Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; and H.E. Mr. Junggwan Kim, Deputy Minister of Knowledge Economy of the Republic of Korea. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers of Energy from the ASEAN Member States.

Towards Stronger Regional Energy Cooperation and Integration

2. The Ministers exchanged views on recent developments in energy and emphasised that the common objective of economic growth, energy security and environmental sustainability call for closer regional cooperation and unified action amongst ASEAN+3 countries. With this in mind, the Ministers expressed appreciation for the progress achieved by the ASEAN Senior Officials on Energy Meeting+3 (SOME+3) Energy Cooperation and commended their efforts in rationalising and streamlining the work plan along the key themes of energy security and oil stockpiling; natural gas and oil market; and new and renewable energy (NRE) and energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) for a more practical and most effective response to energy issues in the region. To this end, the Ministers endorsed the proposed work plan 2010-2011 for ASEAN SOME+3 Energy Cooperation.

Energy Security

3. Acknowledging the progress made by the ASEAN+3 Energy Security Forum, the Ministers noted that civilian nuclear energy plays an important role in mitigating the twin challenges of energy security and climate change concerns. In this regard,

they reaffirmed their support for the contributions made by the Republic of Korea in conducting capacity building programmes in civilian nuclear energy for the region. They instructed the Forum to further build on the capacity building programmes to promote the development of civilian nuclear energy in the region to enhance the energy security.

4. Commending the continuous conduct of studies on regional energy demand outlook as a guide in identifying policy options to ensure energy security, the Ministers supported the on-going efforts to develop the “3rd ASEAN Energy Demand Outlook”. To this end, they encouraged ASEAN+3 countries to continue their valued contributions to the collection of Oil Price and Energy Data under the auspices of the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) to bolster the robustness of the regional report.
5. Realising the growing importance and reliance in coal among the region’s energy mix, the Ministers noted the importance of clean coal utilisation as an integral thrust of the ASEAN+3 Energy Security Forum. The Ministers encouraged the Forum to work in synergy with the ASEAN Forum on Coal (AFOC) to chart the future development and contribution of coal in enhancing regional energy security.

Oil Stockpiling

6. The Ministers noted the progress achieved by the ASEAN+3 Oil Stockpiling Forum, with particular appreciation for the ASEAN+3 Oil Stockpiling Road Map (OSRM) Working Group co-hosted by the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) of Japan. They welcomed the ASEAN+3 OSRM report as a dynamic document that will be updated as ASEAN+3 countries revise and update their OSRMS, and looked forward to its implementation, where appropriate in accordance with the four principles and methodology which were endorsed. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed its follow-up activities for 2010-2011 namely, (i) continued studies and development of the OSRM in accordance with the four principles and methodology, and report its progress at the next AMEM+3; (ii) review of OSRM development in ASEAN+3 countries by collecting annual information on the progress of ASEAN+3 countries’ oil stockpiling activities; and (iii) organise workshops to promote the implementation of each ASEAN country’s OSRM, while the +3 countries will provide support and assistance as appropriate.
7. The Ministers also appreciated IEA’s invitation for ASEAN to join its Emergency Response Training in September 2010 and the Emergency Response Exercise in

2011, and noted that through such joint programs with the IEA, ASEAN countries can further build up their expertise in such issues.

Natural Gas

8. The Ministers commended the regional dialogue on natural gas, acknowledging its contribution in facilitating a robust information exchange and closer cooperation in the areas of gas trade, market development, research and development, and technical cooperation across the region. The Ministers supported the initiatives proposed by the ASEAN+3 Natural Gas Forum namely: (i) develop a compendium of natural gas policies, development, projects and plans of the ASEAN+3 countries; and (ii) initiate preparatory activities for conducting a study on natural gas market in the ASEAN+3 region. They further noted that ASEAN+3 countries will continue to chart the appropriate direction for the natural gas industry in the region.

Oil Market

9. Noting that oil prices may remain highly volatile in the uncertain global economic outlook ahead, the Ministers recognised the need to promote greater stability in the international oil market through greater market transparency. In this regard, they expressed continued support for the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI), and encouraged building stronger relationships and strengthening cooperation between oil producing and oil consuming countries. They lauded the efforts made by the ASEAN+3 countries towards this direction, and looked forward to greater steps in establishing pro-active policy measures to address oil market stability in the region.

NRE and EE&C

10. The Ministers acknowledged the progress achieved by the ASEAN+3 New and Renewable Energy (NRE) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) Forum. Noting that energy efficiency and conservation is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce the region's energy intensity and address climate change concerns, the Ministers directed the Forum to give greater impetus to the sharing of best practices in energy efficiency; building institutional capacities, and involving the business sector in the promotion and dissemination of energy efficient technologies in the ASEAN+3 countries.

11. The Ministers thanked the Republic of Korea for her support of the ASEAN+3 Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) programme, which was jointly coordinated by Korea Energy Management Corporation (KEMCO) and ACE. The Ministers noted that the CDM programme would contribute to increasing opportunities in the region to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and promote sustainable development. They supported the follow-up activities proposed by KEMCO and ACE to undertake feasibility studies in select ASEAN Member States using its identification, pre-evaluation (IPE) scheme for candidate CDM projects.
12. The Ministers also recognised the importance of development and deployment of renewable energy in the ASEAN+3 countries. They noted that strong policy and regulatory frameworks are needed to accelerate the deployment of RE technologies throughout the region.
13. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to METI of Japan for organising the ASEAN+3 Joint Workshop on Effective Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy Guidelines held in Tokyo, Japan on 23-24 June 2010. The Ministers noted the Report of the joint Workshop and encouraged further collaboration in order to formulate specific policy guidelines on Energy Efficiency and Conservation.

Others

14. The Ministers welcomed the new structure of the SOME+3 Fora consisting of: 1) Natural Gas and Oil Market Forum; 2) Energy Security Forum which includes Oil Stockpiling, Coal and Civilian Nuclear Energy; and 3) NRE and EE&C Forum including CDM.
15. The Ministers expressed great support for the on-going activities of the SOME+3 Energy Cooperation and look forward to review further developments and recommendations at the next ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting to be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2011.

LIST OF MINISTERS

- a. H.E. Pehin Dato Mohammad Yasmin Umar, Minister of Energy, at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam;
- b. H.E. Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy of Cambodia;
- c. H.E. Qian Zhimin, Deputy Administrator, National Energy Administration of China;

- d. Ms. Maritje Hutapea, Head of Bureau of Energy Policy and Assembly Facilitation, Secretariat General of National Energy Council, on behalf of the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia;
 - e. H.E. Chiaki Takahashi, Vice Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan;
 - f. H.E. Junggwan Kim, Deputy Minister of Knowledge Economy of the Republic of Korea;
 - g. H.E. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR;
 - h. Y. Bhg. Dato' Dr. Halim Bin Man, Secretary-General of Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water on behalf of the Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water of Malaysia;
 - i. H.E. Lun Thi, Minister of Energy of Myanmar;
 - j. H.E. Jose Rene D. Almendras, Secretary, Department of Energy of the Republic of the Philippines;
 - k. H.E. S. Iswaran, Senior Minister of State (Trade and Industry), Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore;
 - l. H.E. Wannarat Channukul MD., MP, Minister of Energy of Thailand;
 - m. H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam; and
 - n. H.E. S. Pushpanathan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community, on behalf of Secretary-General of ASEAN.
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Joint Media Statement of the 13th AEM+3 Consultations

Da Nang, Viet Nam, 26 August 2010

1. The Thirteenth Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and Economic Ministers from the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea was held in Da Nang, Viet Nam on 26 August 2010. The Consultations was co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Chen Deming, Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China; H.E. Mr. Masayuki Naoshima, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; and H.E. Mr. Kim Jong-Hoon, Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on regional and global economic developments particularly the current global crisis, which has significantly affected ASEAN trade with the Plus Three countries. The Ministers were pleased that, despite the global economic slowdown, ASEAN trade with the Plus Three Countries remained robust. Trade with these countries reached US\$413.8 billion in 2009, declining by only 15.5 percent compared to US\$489.5 billion reported in 2008, registering a 27 percent share of total ASEAN trade last year. The Ministers noted that despite the decline, the 2009 value of total trade between ASEAN and its Plus Three Dialogue Partners was still higher than its pre-crisis level of US\$405.4 billion in 2007.
3. The Ministers noted that, despite the global crisis and the decline of global foreign investment flows, total flows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from the Plus Three Countries into ASEAN were still strong with a slight decline of 1.3 percent from US\$8.4 billion in 2008 to US\$8.2 billion in 2009.
4. The Ministers recalled the Leaders' commitment to the ASEAN Plus Three process as a main vehicle towards the long term goal of building an East Asia community with ASEAN as the driving force.

East Asia Free Trade Area

5. The Ministers welcomed the progress report on the work of the four ASEAN Plus Working Groups that were tasked to look into the recommendations in the studies on the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) in parallel. The Ministers were encouraged that

two Working Groups (i.e. Rules of Origin and Tariff Nomenclature) were ready to engage ASEAN's FTA partners in September 2010. The Ministers urged the other Working Groups (i.e. Customs Procedures and Economic Cooperation) to intensify internal discussions with the view to opening up discussions to ASEAN's FTA partners as soon as possible. The Ministers underscored the importance of ASEAN centrality in the process of regional economic integration in East Asia. The Ministers agreed to submit a progress report of the ASEAN Plus Working Groups to the Leaders at the 13th ASEAN Plus Three Summit.

6. The Ministers welcomed and exchanged views on China's concept paper on trade facilitation, i.e. the Roadmap on Trade Facilitation among ASEAN Plus Three. The Ministers noted that most of the measures in the proposed Roadmap came from the Workshop on Trade Facilitation among ASEAN Plus China, Japan and Korea that was held in Changchun, China on 24-25 November 2009. The Ministers expressed appreciation to China for hosting the Workshop and encouraged countries to continue this effort.
7. The Ministers re-affirmed the importance of improving trade facilitation among the ASEAN Plus Three countries. The Ministers noted the decision of the ASEAN Economic Ministers to refer China's proposal to the ASEAN Plus Working Groups for assessment and consideration in the context of their ongoing consolidation work.

ASEAN+3 Cooperation in Response to the Global Economic and Financial Crisis

8. The Ministers noted the progress in the implementation of economic cooperation projects and welcomed China's proposal to organise the "Workshop on the Effects of the Global Financial Crisis on Trade and Investment in ASEAN Plus Three Countries and Countermeasures" in Kunming, Yunnan Province in November 2010. The workshop will study measures in response to the financial crisis and focus on how to strengthen regional cooperation and improve the stability of national economies, etc.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

9. The Ministers exchanged views on recent developments in the Doha Development Round in the WTO. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance they attach to the

multilateral trading system in sustaining economic growth and development, and promoting economic stability. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment for active contribution to the conclusion of the WTO Doha Development Round, with balanced and ambitious outcomes as soon as possible. The Ministers also reiterated their support to the accession of Lao PDR to the WTO at the earliest possible time.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

10. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade held in Sapporo on 5-6 June 2010, and APEC Growth Strategy High Level Round Table held in Beppu on 7-8 August, 2010. They looked forward to the fruitful outcomes at the APEC Leaders' and Ministerial Meetings on 10-14 November 2010 in Yokohama.

LIST OF MINISTERS

1. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
2. H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
3. H.E. Chen Deming, Minister of Commerce, China
4. H.E. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia
5. H.E. Masayuki Naoshima, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan
6. H.E. Mr. Kim Jong-Hoon, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea
7. H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
8. H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia
9. H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
10. H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines
11. H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
12. H.E. Porntiva Nakasai, Minister of Commerce, Thailand
13. H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam
14. H.E. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN

**Joint Press Statement
of the 10th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture
and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the
People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of
Korea (10th AMAF Plus Three)**

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 24 October 2010

1. The ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their Tenth Meeting in Phnom Penh on 24 October 2010, under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia.
2. The Ministers reaffirmed their strong support in advancing cooperation in food, agriculture, and forestry sectors as guided by the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation, including the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017), which was adopted at the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in November 2007 in Singapore.
3. The Ministers welcomed and supported the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy on Food, Agriculture and Forestry with the goal to ensure long-term food security and to improve the livelihoods of farmers in the ASEAN and Plus Three Countries. The Cooperation Strategy provides a comprehensive framework to foster cooperation among the ASEAN Plus Three countries in the areas of Strengthening Food Security, Biomass Energy Development, Sustainable Forest Management, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Animal Health and Disease Control, and Cross-Cutting Issues (i.e. enhancement of capacity-building and human resource development; strengthening of information and knowledge networking and exchange; enhancement of productivity, quality and marketability of agriculture and agricultural products; and strengthening collaboration on research and development)
4. The Ministers noted the on-going progress in the development of ASEAN Plus Three Comprehensive Strategy on Food Security and Bioenergy Development as tasked by the Leaders at the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in October 2009 in Thailand. The Ministers reiterated that food security is a major contributing factor for sustained economic and social development and stability in the region.

5. The Ministers agreed to formalise the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) as a permanent scheme for meeting emergency requirements and achieving humanitarian purposes. The Ministers urged all ASEAN Plus Three Countries for early signing of the Agreement and affirmed their support for implementation of the scheme.
6. The Ministers commended good progress made in the 2nd phase of ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project on its activities including capacity building on food security information, Early Warning Information and Agricultural Commodity Outlook.
7. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction on the project activities as well as the solid progress of the evaluation of those activities as instructed by the 9th AMAF Plus Three Meeting. The Ministers endorsed three new project proposals from the Plus Three Countries, which aim to build capacity in food security, rural household biogas technology and management, and regional mangrove conservation cooperation.
8. The Ministers welcomed the Niigata Declaration on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Food Security, which was announced at the First APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security held on 16-17 October 2010 in Niigata, Japan. The Ministers recognised that the Niigata Declaration shared similar inspiration with the on-going efforts of AMAF Plus Three cooperation towards regional food security through sustainable development of the agriculture sector and facilitation of food investment, trade and markets.
9. The Ministers agreed to have their Eleventh Meeting in Indonesia in 2011. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Cambodia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

List of Ministers:

- H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Dr. Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia
- H.E. Dr. Suswono, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia
- H.E. Dr. Ty Phommasack Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- H.E. Datuk Seri Noh Bin Omar, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia

- H.E. Mr. Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar
- H.E. Dr. Segfredo R. Serrano, Undersecretary of Department of Agriculture, Philippines
- H.E. Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Parliamentary Secretary for National Development, Singapore
- H.E. Mr. Theera Wongsamut, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
- H.E. Mr. Ho Xuan Hung, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
- H.E. Mr. Gao Hongbin, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, People's Republic of China
- H.E. Ms. Masayo Tanabu, Vice-Minister Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
- H.E. Mr. Chung Seung, Vice-Minister for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Republic of Korea
- H.E. Mr. S. Pushpanathan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community

SOCIO-CULTURAL

Joint Media Statement of the 4th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts and ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts

Pampanga, Philippines, 26 March 2010

The ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) and the AMCA Plus Three (AMCA+3) held their Fourth Meeting on 25-26 March 2010 in the Philippines at Clark, Angeles, Pampanga.

The AMCA Meeting was attended by H.E. Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad Bin Haji Jumat, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Samraing Kamsan, Secretary of State, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Cambodia; Mr. Hari Untoro Dradjat, Director-General for History and Archaeology, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Indonesia; H.E. Bouangeun Xaphouvong, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim, Minister of Information, Communication and Culture, Malaysia; H.E. Major General Khin Aung Myint, Minister of Culture, Myanmar; H.E. Dr. Vilma L. Labrador, Chairman of the National Commission, for Culture and the Arts (Minister Responsible for Culture and Arts) of the Philippines; H.E. Sam Tan Chin Siong, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communication and the Arts, Singapore; H.E. Teera Slukpetch, Minister of Culture, Thailand; H.E. Tran Chien Thang, Deputy Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Viet Nam; and H.E. Dato Misran Karmain, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

The AMCA Plus Three Meeting was attended by the above Ministers and the Plus Three Leaders; Mr. Xiang Xiaowei, Assistant Director-General, Ministry of Culture , PRC; Mr. Yoshinori Katori, Representative of the Government of Japan for ASEAN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan; Mr. Kim Yong Ho, Minister, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Manila.

The Meeting was officially opened by Dr. Vilma L. Labrador, Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts of the Philippines. In her opening address, she

welcomed all ministers and their delegations to the Meeting and to the Philippines. She noted their commitment to forge a strong regional identity for ASEAN, and pledged that the Philippines will think and act ASEAN, placing the well being, livelihood and welfare of the people at the center of the ASEAN Community building process, including underscoring the importance of incorporating the cultural ingredient in disaster management and emergency response, as well as dynamically applying our wealth of cultural diversity to help achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals, reaching out to vulnerable groups with cultural caregiving and free arts education.

The Ministers noted the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter on 15 December 2008, and the ongoing implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint, ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint and Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan 2, which would be important enablers towards the building of an ASEAN Community (2009-2015).

In support of this, the Ministers agreed to enhance ASEAN cooperation in the areas of culture and arts focusing on human resources development; the protection, preservation and promotion of ASEAN cultural heritage; and, the development of small and medium-sized cultural enterprises.

Towards this end, the Ministers endorsed the Work Plans of the Working Groups set up by SOMCA for the three aforementioned areas. The Ministers also noted the projects that the three working groups have prioritised in support of the ASCC Blueprint for 2009-2015.

The Ministers noted that the Best of ASEAN Performing Arts series, proposed by the Secretary-General of ASEAN at the Third Meeting of AMCA aimed to generate awareness about ASEAN cultural heritage is at its half point through the series. The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN expressed hope that the series could be further enhanced by the full cooperation of the ASEAN Member States.

The Ministers further noted the Best of ASEAN Performing Arts series had been a resounding success and was an excellent example of promoting and inculcating appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of the ASEAN Community. The Ministers recommended that the Best of ASEAN Performing Arts series be developed as a programme for bridging cultures among ASEAN Member States. To this end, the Ministers suggested that this series be expanded to include other aspects of cultures such as theatre, music, art and crafts and be organised as an annual event by Member

States on a rotational basis. The Ministers also suggested that the Best of Performing Arts will be extended to include the participation of Plus Three countries.

At the Fourth Meeting of AMCA+3, the Ministers noted the steady progress achieved in the ASEAN Plus Three collaboration in cultural related areas. They also noted the decision from the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit and the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan along with establishment of the ASEAN Plus Three Fund (APTF). China emphasised the need to promote cooperation between ASEAN Plus Three in cultural industries, the development of cultural human resources, and in expediting the formulation of China-ASEAN cultural cooperation programme. In the perspective of realising a peaceful and prosperous East Asian Community, Japan emphasised three essential areas: people to people exchanges, human resource development, and protection of cultural heritage, in order to promote cooperation on culture and arts in ASEAN Plus Three.

The Ministers recognised culture as being closely linked with ICT, and acknowledged the significance of developing ASEAN local content, preferably in collaboration with the Dialogue Partners.

The Ministers encouraged further involvement of Plus Three countries with ASEAN Member States through collaborative projects and activities. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed the prospect of an ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan, containing concrete programmes and projects to steer cultural cooperation between the ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three countries.

Held in conjunction with the Fourth Meeting of AMCA was the Fourth ASEAN Festival of Arts, organised under the patronage of H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the President of the Philippines, witnessed by the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers, the Grand ASEAN Gala Show was aimed at promoting the ASEAN common identity and its visibility as well as celebrating cultural diversity in ASEAN. With the theme “The Best of ASEAN”, the festival embarked on an interesting exchange of ideas between the artists of the ten Member States. Each country showcased what they perceived as their country’s best: plays, exhibits, dance performances, musical shows, films or books. The show involved more than 2,000 artists and performers, school groups, dance troupes, and paintings that manifested the fusion of social concern in their varied artistic presentations.

As we face the global crisis of economic downturn and climate change disasters, arts for all that connects the masses through cultural symbols they understand must be dynamically applied as a learning tool for capacity and confidence building to protect

our bio-cultural diversity, strengthen the spirit and nourish the memory of kinship among ASEAN peoples to triumph over adversity.

To maintain and preserve our unique and diverse culture amidst the forces of globalisation and to fast track our goal to forge one caring, sharing ASEAN Community, the Ministers commits to project, disseminate and develop our unique cultural identity as a creative policy for sustainable tourism by harnessing youth, the resources and expertise of artists in the wise use of media content with the latest forms of communication technology (digital, cinema, broadcast, webcast, podcast, linked portals) to encourage new routes of artistic expression from ancestral roots that communicates in cultural symbols people understand.

The Philippines, as the Chair of AMCA, launched Clark, Angeles, Pampanga, the host venue for the 4th AMCA meeting, as the inaugural ASEAN City of Culture. The ASEAN City of Culture concept was first discussed and adopted at the Third Meeting of AMCA on 12 January 2008 at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The broad objective of the ASEAN City of Culture initiative is to strengthen the ASEAN identity and raise the profile of ASEAN in the region and internationally, to celebrate ASEAN arts and culture and promote the growth of the region's creative industries, and to promote People to People Engagement e.g. among practitioners, next generation artists, and public, cultivating long-lasting friendship among the people of ASEAN.

The next AMCA and AMCA+3 Meetings are scheduled to be held in 2012 in Singapore.

Joint Statement of the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 24 May 2010

1. The ASEAN Labour Ministers and their counterparts from the Plus Three countries (China, Japan and ROK) convened their seventh Meeting in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, on 24 May 2010 under the chairmanship of H.E. Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) of Viet Nam. The Meeting was also attended by the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN.
2. The Ministers reviewed the progress of the cooperation under the framework of ASEAN+3 cooperation, and exchanged views on a wide-ranging issues relating to efforts to promote and enhance decent work for all.

Impact of Global and Financial Crisis on Labour Market in the Region

3. The Ministers noted that the recent global economic and financial crisis has adversely impacted the labour markets in the region. The impact may differ by country, but there were significant job losses registered particularly in countries whose economy relies heavily on exports industries.
4. Although the economy in the region is showing signs of recovery from the crisis, the recovery is expected to be slow. In this regard, Ministers agreed to step up concerted efforts among the ASEAN+3 countries which could play a key role in helping the region to sustain its recovery.
5. The Ministers noted that the 2nd ASEAN Human Resource Conference will be convened in Ha Noi on 25 May 2010 under the theme of “Human Resources for Economic Recovery and Development”.

Strengthening Labour Cooperation in the Region

6. The Ministers expressed their firm support in advancing cooperation in labour under the purview of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) declared by the 14th ASEAN Summit in March 2009 and the new ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme 2010-2015. The Ministers also agreed to address challenges in narrowing development gap in ASEAN and strengthen cooperation in promoting human development activities.
7. The Ministers noted the successful hosting of the China-ASEAN High Level Seminar on Social Insurance on 9-11 September 2009 providing a platform for ASEAN and China to exchange views on policies and best practices on social insurance systems and also challenges faced in their effective implementation.
8. The Ministers welcomed the new initiative of China to organise a High Level Seminar on Vocational Training to be held in China in November 2010.
9. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress of the second phase of the "ASEAN-Japan HRD Collaboration Programme for CLMV" which was launched on 9 May 2008 back-to-back with the 20th ALMM. Activities implemented in the 2nd year under the Programme include the Training Course on "Skills Evaluation System in Cooperation with the Private Sector" on 27 July - 7 August 2009 both in Japan and Indonesia. Following the Training Course, national seminars were also held in each CLMV countries from November 2009 - January 2010.
10. The Ministers noted that two regional seminars were successfully organised under the "ASEAN-ILO/Japan Programme on Industrial Relations" (AIJPIR). The 1st seminar was held in February 2009 with the theme "Towards ASEAN Integration: Promoting Good Practices for Sound and Harmonious Industrial Relations". The 2nd Seminar was held in February 2010 with the theme "Emerging Industrial Relations Issues and trends in the ASEAN Countries in the time of Financial/Economic Crisis." Both seminars provided platforms for tripartite partners to discuss various best practices to promote industrial relations, including labour dispute settlements, collective bargaining, social dialogue and responses to the current financial crisis. The Ministers also welcomed the 3rd Seminar of AIJPIR in the Philippines under the theme "Legal Framework and Practice for Labour Dispute and Settlement in November 2010.
11. The Ministers noted with appreciation that Japan is considering the extension of the AIJPIR to the next phase.

12. The Meeting noted the successful convening of the 3rd ASEAN Plus Three Policy Dialogue on Occupational Safety and Health Management System (OSH-MS) on 12 to 13 February 2010 in Luangprabang, Lao PDR, addressing OSH-MS for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME).
13. The Ministers welcomed the new initiative of Japan to implement a project “Promoting Employment Safety-Net Building in Asia” addressing the region’s needs in transferring the experience and expertise of employment safety-net, in particular, unemployment insurance systems, and building the capacity of employment service agencies which can implement the system in fair and effective manner.
14. The Minister lauded the successful holding of the 11th HRD Programme held in ROK from 25 November to 4 December 2008 which carried the theme “Challenges and experiences on mainstreaming labour and employment issues in the national agendas”. The Ministers noted that the event was very useful in sharing ideas and challenges in translating labour and employment issues in national agendas.

Next ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting

15. The Ministers agreed that the next ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting would be held in Cambodia in 2012 back-to-back with the 22nd ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting.

List of Ministers or Their Representative Attending the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting, 24 May 2010, Ha Noi

1. H.E. Pehin Dato Adanan Yusof, Minister of Home Affairs of Brunei Darussalam
2. H.E. Vong Sauth, Minister of Labour and Vocational Training of Cambodia
3. H.E. Sun Guoxiang, Ambassador of China to Viet Nam
4. H.E. Muhaimin Iskandar, Minister of Manpower and Transmigration of Indonesia
5. H.E. Tashiaki Ota, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan
6. H.E. Onechanh Thammavong, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR
7. Y.B Datuk Dr. S. Subramaniam, Minister of Human Resources of Malaysia
8. H.E. U Aung Kyi, Minister for Labour of Myanmar
9. H.E. Marianito Roque, Secretary of Labour and Employment of the Philippines
10. H.E. Chae Pil Lee, Deputy Minister of Planning and Coordination, Ministry of Labour of the ROK
11. H.E. Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Manpower of Singapore

12. H.E. Phaithoon Kaeothong, Minister of Labour
 13. H.E. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
 14. H.E. Dato' Misran Karmain, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Social-Cultural Community, on behalf of the Secretary General of ASEAN
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Joint Statement of the 4th ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting

Singapore, 23 July 2010

We, the Health Ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea met on 23 July 2010, in Singapore.

United by the common aim of improving the health situation in the region, we discussed progress in implementing joint activities in the health sector and we explored areas for future collaboration.

“Healthy People, Healthy Region”

We recognised that in this era of globalisation and industrialisation, health systems in the region are faced with the “dual burden” of infectious diseases (such as HIV and AIDS, avian and pandemic influenza, and other emerging infectious diseases); and chronic and lifestyle-related diseases (such as obesity, cancer, diabetes, heart diseases and mental illnesses).

We have agreed to address the potential challenges that the health sector is facing, through increased regional cooperation and collaboration. We have tasked the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials to review existing cooperation activities and develop a framework of cooperation and cooperation plan in order to strengthen our collaboration.

Healthcare Reform

We noted the disparities of health services accessibility among different groups and changing population demographics. We acknowledged a need to have continuous healthcare reform to deliver good quality, affordable, equitable and sustainable healthcare services for our people.

We expressed strong interest for greater collaboration on healthcare reform in areas such as healthcare financing development, human resources development, and healthcare technology. We task our senior officials to consider avenues for realising

such collaboration, through policy dialogues or even cross attachments through fellowships programme.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Health

We realised the urgency of meeting the MDGs by 2015. The ASEAN Plus Three cooperation provides a valuable platform for helping the countries in the region speed up the timetable of realising this important target.

We have noted the progress made in ASEAN Plus Three collaboration in health since we first met in 2004. We support the development of collaborative networks in the areas of health promotion; capacity building for health professionals; human resource development; addressing infectious diseases; developing traditional, complementary and alternative medicine; and formulating policy coherence for health and social welfare development in ASEAN and Plus Three countries.

We welcome the achievements made by the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme, which was concluded on 30 June 2010. We express appreciation to the Government of Australia for supporting the programme during its first and second phase, which aimed to enhance regional preparedness and capacity through integrated approaches to prevention, surveillance and timely response to emerging infectious diseases, including avian and pandemic influenza.

We endorse the establishment of the ASEAN Plus Three Partnership Laboratories (APL) to further strengthen the laboratory surveillance and networking within the region. We thank the National Institute of Infectious Diseases of Japan (NIID) for the support of the ASEAN Plus Three Partnership Laboratories, by providing capacity building in laboratory diagnosis and for providing laboratory test kits.

We noted that most of the emerging infectious diseases are of animal origin and acknowledged the need for greater collaboration between the animal health and the public health sectors on zoonoses. We therefore support the closer collaboration between animal and human health sectors.

We support the development of networking among field epidemiology training programmes in ASEAN and Plus Three countries.

Next ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting

We look forward to further exchanges of views on joint collaboration in health development at our next meeting in Thailand in 2012.

Chair's Summary of the ASEAN Plus Three International Conference on Disaster Management

Tokyo, Japan, 30 August-1 September 2010

1. ASEAN Plus Three International Conference on Disaster Management, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in close cooperation with the Cabinet Office of Japan, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), with participation of officials and academic experts from the ASEAN Plus Three countries and observer countries such as Australia and India as well as other international organisations, was convened on 30 August-1 September 2010 in Tokyo, Japan.
2. The Meeting reviewed the progresses and challenges in the first half decade of the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015 (HFA) in the region and discussed to identify new challenges in the next half decade of the HFA with a view to contributing to the Mid-Term Review of the HFA. Participants of the Meeting shared the view that progresses have been made at both national and regional levels. It was also pointed out that adaptation to climate change should be linked with disaster risk reduction policy in each country and facilitated through the regional cooperation in view of the disaster management.
3. The Meeting shared the view that support to local government and community-based approach through enhancing people's ownership and responsibilities can be effective mechanisms for disaster management.
4. The Meeting welcomed China's initiative of the ASEAN Plus Three Seminar on Urban Disaster Emergency Management which was held on 5-7 May 2010 in Beijing,

Note

ASEAN Plus Three; ASEAN Member States (Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam) and People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea

China and recalled its recommendations especially to establish an expert pool for ASEAN Plus Three members.

5. The Meeting was informed of the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held on 25-28 October 2010 in Incheon, Korea and expressed its hope that successful and fruitful outcomes will be achieved.
6. The Meeting acknowledged the important role of ADRC to the regional cooperation in Asia on disaster management and recognised valuable and significant activities of JICA in bilateral cooperation on disaster management through the Official Development Assistance of Japanese government.
7. The Meeting welcomed Japan's contribution to regional cooperation on disaster management in the region and initiatives including the proposal to utilise Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in disaster management.
8. The Meeting welcomed progress of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) which entered into force on 24 December 2009 and appreciated recent initiatives of ASEAN countries to strengthen its capacity for disaster management.
9. The Meeting also welcomed the ISDR global campaign on "Making Cities Resilient" and encouraged all ASEAN Member States to actively participate in the campaign as well as to nominate participating cities and role model cities in their respective countries to join this campaign.
10. The Meeting, taking into consideration all these efforts and initiatives by ASEAN Plus Three countries, recalling that the cooperation area of disaster management has been put on top priority in the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation under the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the Work Plan (2007-2017) adopted at the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in November 2007 in Singapore, having in mind that the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on disaster management should be consistent with the "Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity" and respecting ASEAN's centrality as well as its this year's slogan "From Vision to Action" initiated by Vietnam, chair country of ASEAN, shared the view that ASEAN Plus Three countries should further enhance and deepen cooperation in the area of disaster management especially disaster prevention in urban cities and communities in close

cooperation with partner countries and international organisations and therefore recommended;

- a) to encourage each ASEAN Plus Three country to accelerate implementation of disaster management projects considering bottom up approach and centring on people;
 - b) to encourage each ASEAN Plus Three country to further strengthen regional cooperation on disaster management by sharing information, expertise and technologies as well as allocating necessary resources with appropriate priorities;
 - c) to consider conducting a project with a theme of disaster management focusing on prevention in urban cities and communities with financial assistance by the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund;
 - d) to utilise existing ASEAN Plus Three cooperation framework such as the Network of East Asia Think Tanks to follow-up the suggestions made at this conference;
 - e) to encourage members to carry out the research and development with regard to the linkage of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; and
 - f) also to encourage other partners countries for further cooperation and international organisations for further assistance to efforts by ASEAN Plus Three countries in the area of disaster management.
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Luang Prabang Joint Declaration on ASEAN Plus Three Civil Service Cooperation

Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, 29 October 2010

WE, the Heads of Civil Service of Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (the Plus Three Countries), on the occasion of our ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) Plus Three Meeting in Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 29 October 2010;

RECALLING the initial agreement reached at the inaugural ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) Plus Three Meeting in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 30 October 2009 to pursue cooperation on civil service matters;

RECOGNISING the direct responsibility of the ACCSM Plus Three to take an active part in implementing the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007 – 2017), particularly in promoting good governance, enhancing administrative effectiveness, efficiency and transparency through policy dialogue and capacity building activities;

REAFFIRMING our common belief that civil service cooperation will contribute significantly to strengthening the foundations of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, facilitate economic and institutional connectivity, and promote people-to-people contacts in East Asia;

REAFFIRMING ALSO that civil service cooperation is a key to narrowing the development gaps among ASEAN Member States and between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries;

BELIEVING that we have the precious experiences, modern know-how and best practices in civil service matters that should be shared to benefit all in ASEAN Plus Three Countries;

AND CONVINCED that our civil service cooperation will contribute to strengthening peace and security, as well as promoting prosperity and social well-being in East Asia and beyond;

THEREFORE WE HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. We will meet once every two years to discuss civil service policy issues of common interest;
2. We will explore practical areas of cooperation in line with the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017), starting with the following:
 - a. Strengthening E-governance
 - b. Improving effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and productivity in public sector, and
 - c. Strengthening human resource management and human resource development
3. We will endeavour to implement civil service cooperation projects and undertake relevant cooperative activities that will develop best practices in civil service matters to benefit all in ASEAN Plus Three Countries;
4. We will endeavour to mobilise necessary resources and expertise to support timely and efficient implementation of this Joint Declaration;
5. We will report our progress to the ASEAN Plus Three Summit through ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting;
6. We will establish the ACCSM Plus Three Joint Technical Working Group to carry out appropriate follow-up measures, including formulating a work plan, under our policy guidance;
7. The ACCSM Plus Three Joint Technical Working Group will operate under the rules of procedure to be determined by the ACCSM Plus Three, and
8. The ASEAN Secretariat will be requested to provide necessary support for the ACCSM Plus Three Joint Technical Working Group.

ADOPTED by the Heads of Civil Service of Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (the Plus Three Countries) on this Twenty-Ninth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Ten in Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

**Joint Statement
of the 3rd ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social
Welfare and Development (3rd AMMSWD+3)
“Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly”**

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam 26 November 2010

- 1 We, the Ministers/Representatives responsible for social welfare and development of ASEAN Member States, the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea convened the Third ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (3rd AMMSWD+3) on 26 November 2010 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, which carried the theme “Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly”.
- 2 We noted that one of the purposes of ASEAN as set out in the ASEAN Charter is to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice.
- 3 We reaffirmed the priorities set out in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint in building a people-oriented ASEAN with special emphasis on measures that would safeguard the interests and rights, provide equal opportunities as well as raise the quality of life and standard of living for women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.
- 4 We supported the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted at the 17th ASEAN Summit on 28 October 2010. The Declaration recognises the role of women and children in the ASEAN Community building.
5. With the aim of enhancing the ASEAN Plus Three collaboration in social welfare and development, we had valuable information sharing and exchanged of views on “Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly”. We recognised the growing trend of ageing populations in ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries as life expectancies are rising steadily and the need to address the challenges in providing adequate care and support for the elderly who are in need of social assistance. In this regard, we stressed the importance of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in

providing care and support as well as promoting the quality of life and well-being of the elderly. The role of family, being the basic unit of society, should be strengthened in promoting active and healthy elderly.

6. We commended the development of the ASEAN Strategic Framework for Social Welfare, Family and Development for the period of 2011-2015 which is built on the priorities of the previous framework and commitment to realise the ASEAN Community of caring societies by 2015 as well as focusing on the scope of cooperation in social welfare and development of children, persons with disabilities and the elderly with sustained impact both nationally and regionally.
7. We acknowledged the achievements of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in social welfare and development and were committed to fostering concerted efforts for the benefits of the peoples of ASEAN. We expressed our high appreciation to the continued support of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea in enhancing the social welfare and social cohesiveness of ASEAN.
8. We noted the convening of the ASEAN+3 Seminar on Urban Disaster Emergency Management in Beijing on 5-7 May 2010, the ASEAN+3 Workshop on Social Welfare for Persons with Disabilities in Beijing on 20-21 September 2010 and the China-ASEAN Workshop on Policies for Social Assistance in Beijing on 19-21 October 2010.
9. We also noted the convening of the Eighth ASEAN-Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies on 30 August – 2 September 2010 in Tokyo, Japan, under the theme "Poverty alleviation with a focus on vulnerable people through strengthening collaboration between the social welfare and health services".
10. We further noted the progress of Phase III (2009-2012) of the ASEAN-ROK Home Care for Older People in the ASEAN Member States Project.
11. We thanked the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam for their warm and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations and the excellent arrangements for the Meeting.
12. We welcomed the generous offer of Cambodia to host the Eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development and the Fourth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development in 2013.

13. The Third ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.

- H.E. Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerna Laila Diraja Dato Paduka Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam
- H.E. Ahmad Yahya Secretary of State for Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Cambodia
- H.E. Jiang Li Vice, Minister of Civil Affairs, People's Republic of China
- H.E. Adang Setiana, Deputy Senior Minister for Public Welfare, Republic of Indonesia
- Mr. Taro Muraki Assistant, Minister for International Affairs Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan
- H.E. Laoly Faiphengyoo Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Lao PDR
- H.E. Heng Seai Kie Deputy, Minister Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia
- U Soe Kyi, Director General Department of Social Welfare Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar
- H.E. Alicia R. Bala, Undersecretary for Social Welfare and Development, Philippines
- H.E. Choi Won-young, Vice-Minister of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea
- H.E. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports, Singapore
- Mrs. Sirirat Ayuathana Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand
- H.E. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam
- H.E. Dato' Misran Karmain, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)

