



JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

The Sixteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Plus Australia (16th DGICM + Australia) Consultation



26 August 2021 via videoconference

- 1.** The DGICM and Australia resumed their Consultation on 26 August 2021 via videoconference after its postponement in 2020. The Consultation was co-chaired by H.E. Jaime H. Morente, Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration, the Philippines and Commander Lesley Dalton, Regional Director South East Asia, Department of Home Affairs, Australia.
- 2.** The Consultation was attended by the Heads of Immigration and Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States, Senior Officials from the Department of Home Affairs of Australia and representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat.
- 3.** The 16th DGICM + Australia Consultation was updated on the successful activities of the implementation of the 2019-2020 ASEAN-Australia Programme of Work. As Co-Chairs, Singapore and Australia shared with the Consultation on the fruitful convening of the ASEAN-Australia Advanced Document Examination Workshop, while Myanmar and Australia shared their views of the ASEAN-Australia Intelligence Analysis Workshop.
- 4.** The Consultation adopted the 2020-2021 ASEAN-Australia Programme of Work. The Consultation also noted briefings on the proposed Australian National University (ANU)-Home Affairs Webinar Series on Immigration and the Border Management and the Border Control Agency Management Program to be implemented under this Programme of Work.
- 5.** The Consultation discussed the future of DGICM Australia cooperation and the 2021-2022 ASEAN - Australia Programme of Work and adopted the draft amended Terms of Reference (ToR) of ASEAN-Australia Immigration Training Committee 2020-2022. The



Consultation was also briefed on the preparation for the 4th ASEAN-Australia Immigration Training Committee Meeting to be co-chaired by Lao PDR and Australia.

6. The Consultation expressed appreciation to the Department of Home Affairs of Australia for their support in delivering capacity-building activities and looked forward to the implementation of the 2020-2021 ASEAN-Australia Programme of Work.

7. The ASEAN Member States also exchanged views on their respective border management experiences, and shared updates on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic at their respective borders. The Consultation commended Australia for its continued commitment to sustain the momentum of cooperation with ASEAN in addressing border management-related issues despite the unprecedented challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. The Consultation looked forward to the convening of the 17th ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation that would be held in conjunction with the 25th Meeting of the ASEAN DGICM to be hosted by Singapore next year.

9. The Consultation expressed gratitude to the people and Government of the Philippines for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to all the delegates.

10. The Co-Chairs thanked all ASEAN Member States and Australia for their contributions to the success of the Consultation.

