



**THE 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MINERALS (AMMin)  
8 October 2021, Virtual Meeting**

**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**

1. The 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin) was held virtually on 8 October 2021. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Tran Quy Kien, Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Viet Nam and H.E. Sok Khavan, Secretary of State Ministry of Mines and Energy of Cambodia was the vice chair. The 8<sup>th</sup> AMMin was preceded by the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals (ASOMM), 14<sup>th</sup> ASOMM+3 Consultation and other meeting/events from 4 to 7 October 2021.

**Final Term Review of the AMCAP Phase 1: 2016-2020**

2. The Meeting commended the Senior Officials on Minerals (ASOMM) and its Working Groups for the vigorous efforts to implement and accomplish the initiatives planned under the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan III (AMCAP) Phase 1: 2016-2020, notwithstanding the implementation challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak.

3. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the Final Term Review of the AMCAP-III Phase 1: 2016-2020 reported by the ASEAN Secretariat to the 20<sup>th</sup> ASOMM in December 2020 as well as the 21<sup>st</sup> ASOMM's report on further work in 2021 to complete remaining measures under Phase 1. The Meeting was pleased to note that 92% or 45 of the 49 action lines under AMCAP Phase 1 have now been completed, with the four (4) remaining action lines to be implemented in alignment with the enhanced thrusts and objectives of ASEAN's new minerals sectoral plan for 2021-2025.

4. AMCAP Phase 1 enabled the implementation of regional programmes and a host of activities to build, share and deepen the region's capacities to cooperate on sustainable minerals development, investment promotion and analysis of regional trends and opportunities, and human, and institutional capacity building across the ASEAN Member States, including collaboration with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, International Organisations and the ASEAN Federations of Mining Associations. AMCAP Phase 1 also initiated the ASEAN Reporting Mechanism (RM) to Monitor AMS Adoption of the Sustainability Assessment Framework and Guideline and established the ASEAN Minerals Awards (AMA) to promote sustainable development practices and recognise associated best practices. A rolling Regional Capacity Building Programme was also initiated within AMCAP Phase I to prioritise and sharpen the focus of capacity building activities. The Directions on ASEAN Minerals Cooperation in Response to Global Mineral and Mining Industry Opportunities and Challenges

adopted in 2019 also paved the way for the ongoing efforts to deepen the mineral sector's strategic contribution to AEC regional integration objectives. The ASEAN Minerals Trust Fund was also established with contributions from all member states to support strengthening ASEAN institutions and human capacities on minerals sector development.

5. Meanwhile, the Meeting appreciated the implementation of the 2021 work plans by the four ASEAN Minerals Working Groups, which served as interim work plans for ASEAN minerals sector cooperation in 2021, prior to the endorsement of the AMCAP-III Phase 2.

### **Endorsement of the AMCAP-III Phase 2: 2021-2025**

6. Recognising the emerging and traditional demand for minerals and metals as well as the strong outlook for the global minerals industry in both the short and medium term amidst global expectations of eventual post pandemic economic recovery, the Meeting called for concerted efforts to create an advanced and progressive ASEAN minerals sector for the region's socio-economic prosperity and environmental well-being through enhancing trade and investment and strengthening cooperation and capacity building for sustainable minerals development in the region. The Meeting therefore adopted the Phase 2 of the AMCAP-III to guide ASEAN cooperation in the minerals sector under the ASEAN Economic Blueprint 2025 for the period of 2021-2025. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the hard work of the AMCAP Task Force in developing and finalising the new AMCAP.

7. The Meeting pledged to gear ASEAN minerals cooperation towards promoting the region as a minerals investment destination and building investments in all stages of the minerals value chain, commencing with focus on promoting investments into minerals exploration. In this regard, The Meeting agreed to focus AMCAP-III Phase 2 towards: (i) boosting domestic and international investments in all components of the minerals value chain, (ii) adopting sustainable minerals development principles and working to expand stakeholder engagement and contribution, (iii) building human, institutional and technical capacities in minerals governance, and, (iv) developing new strategies and effective tools for collecting and processing data for the ASEAN minerals information system to drive investments and sustainable development.

8. The Meeting welcomed the launch of the Study on the Development Prospects of ASEAN Minerals Cooperation (DPAMC) funded under the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme Phase II (AADCP 2). The Meeting acknowledged that the findings and analysis of the DPAMC Study together with the Scoping Study for enhancing the ASEAN Minerals Database and Information System (AMDIS) not only supported the development of the AMCAP Phase 2:2021-2025 in strengthening the current ASEAN cooperation in minerals but also provides timely recommendations for visioning in the ASEAN minerals sector beyond 2025.

### **Progress of ASEAN Minerals Cooperation**

9. The Meeting was pleased with the progress of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation from 2020 to 2021 since their last ministerial meeting in December 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

10. On **trade and investment in minerals**, the Meeting noted the conduct of the capacity building activities through the series of webinars in September, October and November this year to promote minerals exploration and support resource and reserve estimation in ASEAN, including the organisation of workshops on Building Policy Prospectivity: Defining Policy, Regulation and Governance Standards to Attract Exploration Investments. The Meeting appreciated the invitation extended by Singapore to the virtual Mining Investment Asia platform from 2 to 4 November 2020 and was encouraged by the wide participation from ASEAN Member States.

11. The Meeting also appreciated the efforts led by individual Member States to take stock and initiate the exchange of views on regional trends and existing national policy environments that underpin regional minerals cooperation, including the review and analysis by Indonesia of trends in ASEAN minerals trade reported to the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Minerals in July 2020 as well as Brunei Darussalam's findings and analysis on existing incentives and laws/regulations reported to the 18<sup>th</sup> WGTIM in March 2021.

12. In furthering the promotion of **sustainable minerals development** in the region, the Meeting noted the ongoing revision of the Guidelines of the ASEAN Minerals Awards (AMA) undertaken by the Board of Judges to provide supplementary provisions for implementing the AMA during the pandemic, particularly the AMA to be organised in 2023.

13. The Meeting was pleased to note the successful implementation of the Annual Sustainability Forum and Workshop conducted under the cooperation framework of ASEAN and the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF). They expressed appreciation to IGF and AMS host countries for the range of topics covered within 2021-2022 in response to expressed needs of ASEAN Member States on important trending issues such as: (i) environmental management and social frameworks which shared guidance on good practices in sustainable minerals development, (ii) environmental impacts of offshore mining, including sustainable sand alternatives, and, (iii) critical minerals and sustainability which can drive investments and innovations as well as minerals supply to meet the demand for high-tech and low-carbon economies.

14. The Meeting welcomed the conduct of various **capacity building** activities to enhance institutional, human and technological capacities of ASEAN minerals officials. The Meeting noted the adoption in January 2020 of the Capacity Building Programme for AMCAP and the commencement of its implementation since then. Notable activities include the successful conduct of the webinars on: (i) Efficient Green Mining Technology and Practices for Sustainable Mineral Resources Development on 24-25 May 2021 by Brunei Darussalam, (ii) Mine Hazards Management for Sustainable Mineral Development in ASEAN+3 Countries - Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) on 24 August 2021 by Malaysia, (iii) Best Practices of Geological Mapping Technologies among AMS (hybrid webinar) to be started in October 2021 by Cambodia.

15. To deepen support for initiatives on trade and investment, SMD and capacity building, the Meeting noted the plan to begin organising workshops on ASEAN project

proposal development in late 2021 to enhance capacities and understanding by proponents of the ASEAN project proposal development, appraisal and approval processes, thereby improving quality of projects at entry and better access to available support for ASEAN community building from Dialogue Partners.

16. With regard to enhancing the **minerals information and database**, the Meeting took note of the ongoing preparations to reengineer the ASEAN Minerals Database and Information System (AMDIS). The Meeting acknowledged the key recommendations of the AMDIS Scoping Study to support the design, enhancement, and effective maintenance of an upgraded AMDIS. The Meeting recognised that both geological and policy prospectivity are key to increasing investments. Hence, ASEAN minerals information systems must (i) develop new strategies and effective tools to upgrade the AMDIS in order to support more aggressive investment promotion, and, (ii) invest to develop sufficient and high quality pre-competitive geological data and resource mapping.

### **Responding to the Opportunities of a Minerals-Intensive Future**

17. To signal the importance of seizing the opportunities arising from global trends and shifts in the international minerals and metals markets and the evolving intensity of demand for minerals and metals up to 2050 and beyond, the Meeting endorsed the Key Recommendations to Respond to the Opportunities and Challenges of a Minerals-Intensive Future as part of the 2021 priority economic deliverables of Brunei Darussalam's 2021 ASEAN Chairmanship.

18. Given that each ASEAN Member State have respective resource endowments and roles to play in the minerals value chain, the Meeting tasked the ASEAN minerals senior officials to undertake preparatory studies and supporting activities, in collaboration with other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, to help position ASEAN for long-term growth not only in minerals trade/exports but also in regional value chains where indigenous minerals and metals are an essential source of inputs for downstream growth sectors and industries.

19. The Meeting exchanged views on the implications and follow-up work in the minerals sector of the cross-pillar work to align with the Consolidated Strategy on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) for ASEAN and the 2021 priority economic deliverable to develop the ASEAN Circular Economy Framework. The Meeting also appreciated the briefing from the International Energy Agency (IEA) on its recently published report on the Role of Critical Minerals in Clean Energy Transitions, which considered alongside ASEAN's cross-sectoral and cross-pillar work in assessing the prospects for deepening the minerals sector's contribution to cross-sectoral development, sustainable and green growth as well the recovery from the pandemic.

### **Intensifying Engagement with Partners**

20. The Meeting acknowledged and thanked the ASEAN minerals cooperation partners, particularly Australia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the IGF for their valuable contributions and support to advance minerals cooperation in the region. They looked forward to intensifying engagement with these Partners as well as with

other existing and potential partners to pursue continuing policy improvements on key aspects of the minerals value chain and sustainable minerals governance.

21. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the implementation of the ASEAN+3 Minerals Cooperation Work Plan for 2016-2020 with a 90% accomplishment rate. The Meeting appreciated the continuous assistance from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for their contribution to the conduct of numerous activities in the promotion of technical information exchange and best practices on information and database, scientific and technological research development of geosciences, and sustainable development of mineral resources. The Meeting also noted the development of the new cooperation work plan for 2022-2025 and looked forward to its timely finalisation.

22. The Meeting was pleased with the progress of cooperation with the IGF under the 2019-2021 Work Plan. The Meeting looked forward to the finalisation of the new ASOMM-IGF work plan for 2022-2024 to support ASEAN in adopting sustainable minerals development principles and implementing leading practices towards progressively improving governance and economic, social and environmental outcomes and building human, institutional and technical capacities of the minerals sector in the region.

23. The Meeting recognised the importance of promoting multi-stakeholder engagement to build support for sustainable minerals development policies, objectives, principles and practices. The Meeting appreciated the cooperation with the ASEAN Federation of Mining Association (AFMA) undertaken thus far, including the conduct of the annual Private Sector Forum back-to-back with the ASOMM Meetings and for its inputs to strengthening the development and implementation of the AMCAP.

24. The Meeting noted the progress of cooperation with the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) and looked forward to deepening cooperation specifically in the area of minerals geoscience and database.

### **Next AMMin**

The Meeting expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for hosting the virtual meeting. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASOMM in 2022 by Brunei Darussalam and the 9<sup>th</sup> AMMin in 2023 by Cambodia.

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