

**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

**The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) and Its Related Meetings**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 6-8 August 2018**

1. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) was held on 6-8 August 2018 in Kuala Lumpur. It was chaired by Dato' Seri Haji Mustafar Bin Haji Ali, Director General of Immigration Malaysia, and attended by all ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The Meeting was preceded by the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Heads of Major Immigration Checkpoints Forum (AMICF), the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ad Hoc Working Group on ASEAN Common Visa (AHWG on ACV) on 6 August 2018 in Kuala Lumpur. The AMICF discussed on the development and management of the foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) movement database and mechanism of cooperation in combating FTFs among the ASEAN Member States. The AIIF shared intelligence information among the ASEAN Member States, particularly in addressing people smuggling and other immigration-related transnational crimes. The Forum also identified immigration intelligence priorities, reviewed the effectiveness of current immigration intelligence processes and discussed the development of the immigration intelligence capabilities. Meanwhile, the 3<sup>rd</sup> AHWG on ACV deliberated the way forward of the ASEAN Common Visa (ACV) initiative.
3. The Meeting exchanged views on various challenges and important national development in immigration, information, capacity building programmes and best practices on border management and immigration related matters.
4. The Meeting recognised the efforts of the Working Group to Study Consular Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of Other ASEAN Member States (DWGCA) to finalise the Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of Other ASEAN Member States and agreed to submit the Guidelines to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) in 2018 for adoption.

**ADOPTED**

5. The Meeting also discussed, exchanged views and updates on the outcomes of the Joint Task Force (JTF) on ASEAN Business Travel Card (ASEAN BTC). The Meeting agreed to conduct a feasibility study on ASEAN BTC.
6. The Meeting noted the discussion on the ACV initiative and agreed to develop a web portal of visa application of each ASEAN Member State. This is seen as a preliminary step to progress in the ACV initiative.
7. At the Meeting, Malaysia agreed to take the lead on Initiative 13 of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 to ease ASEAN travel by facilitating visa processes.
8. The Meeting agreed to review the ASEAN Plan of Action (PoA) for Cooperation on Immigration Matters and welcomed Malaysia's offer to host a working group meeting to draft the revised PoA prior to the convening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> DGICM and Its Related Meetings in 2019.
9. The Meeting agreed to further deliberate on the Concept Paper developed by Indonesia on the proposed establishment of the DGICM + 3 Consultation.
10. The Meeting expressed appreciation to INTERPOL for their assistance in implementing the EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Programme II (EA-MBMP II) and noted the achievements of this Programme. The Meeting also took note that the Programme will end in mid-October 2018 and the Dissemination Session of the Report "*Towards an ASEAN Common Visa: A Comprehensive Feasibility Study*" will be held on 15 August 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
11. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Myanmar to host the 23<sup>rd</sup> DGICM in 2019.
12. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality and expressed appreciation for the warm hospitality offered by the people and the Government of Malaysia.

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