

**Joint Ministerial Statement of the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth
(AMMY VIII)**

22 May 2013

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

“Young People- Building Tomorrow's ASEAN Today”

1. The 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY VIII) was convened on 22 May 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. AMMY VIII was preceded by the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (Prep-SOM for AMMY VIII) held on 20 May 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan.
2. AMMY VIII, with its theme of *“Young People - Building Tomorrow's ASEAN Today”* was a further development from directions given by the Ministers at AMMY VII held on 18 October 2011 in Viet Nam, during which the Leaders encouraged promotion of involvement of ASEAN youth in contributing towards the future of ASEAN Community.
3. The Meeting was officially opened by His Excellency Pehin Dato Hazair Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport of Brunei Darussalam. In his opening address, he welcomed all Ministers and their delegations to the Meeting and to Brunei Darussalam. He noted the desire and commitment of ASEAN towards youth development and promoting their roles to build ASEAN of tomorrow as stated in the theme of AMMY VIII.
4. H.E. Pehin appreciated the works carried out under Viet Nam's chairmanship, which laid a foundation to further strengthen regional initiatives and cooperation on entrepreneurship and volunteerism. He highlighted that youth empowerment and engagement is very important to forge a sense of responsibility and eventually enhance the sense of ASEAN belonging and regional solidarity. He underscored the importance to address youth volunteerism, youth entrepreneurship.
5. H.E. Pehin further stressed that ASEAN should keep track of youth cooperation through development of a youth development index, and provide the right environment for young people to contribute to socio-economic development and achieve our goals of our future ASEAN Community.

6. The Ministers acknowledged the progress and achievements made in the implementation of the youth related actions in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint, particularly those that contribute to the ASEAN Community building process. In parallel with that aim, the Ministers underlined the importance of promoting other priorities, e.g.(i) the promotion of ASEAN Awareness; (ii) strengthening entrepreneurship skills and values for youth; (iii) instilling leadership values in youth development; and (iv) youth volunteerism, in ensuring the development and sustainability of the region, and to shape our future together beyond 2015.

7. The Ministers recognised that young professionals are in a unique position to boost ASEAN solidarity by offering voluntary community services in areas such as rural development, disaster relief, health, education and the environment as well as supporting vulnerable groups, including people who are differently-abled, and fostering entrepreneurial skills. In this regard, the Ministers expressed support for initiatives that instil a sense of community including the establishment of an ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme (AYVP) and a regional youth volunteer initiative.

8. The Ministers further agreed that there is a need to promote greater awareness of ASEAN to youth, and engage them through different platforms in promoting social dialogues and people-to-people exchanges, sharing dreams and aspirations of ASEAN.

9. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the 1st ASEAN Youth Entrepreneur Seminar and Expo, which serves as a platform for promoting economic self-reliance and support the self-employment of the ASEAN youths. Given that the youth are of the region's greatest assets, the Ministers encourage other sectors to engage more with youth in enhancing their capacity to be actively involved in the productive workforce and civic engagement, that will also enhance cross-cultural understanding and foster a sense of regional identity, whilst enabling youth to contribute to the social, economic and environmental development of ASEAN Community.

10. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of an ASEAN Youth Programme Fund (AYPF) to further support the ASEAN youth cooperation and development. The Fund will be used to accelerate the implementation of ASEAN youth projects and activities.

11. The Ministers also welcomed other sources of funding, e.g. Singapore–ASEAN Youth Fund (SAYF) to further support youth cooperation in ASEAN.

12. The Ministers welcomed another opportunity to engage China, Japan and Republic of Korea, on various issues and topics on youth.

13. The Ministers appreciated the strong support of China and Korea in the promotion of youth exchanges and young professional development.

14. The Ministers acknowledged the outcomes of youth cooperation with Japan, and extended their appreciation to the Japanese government for the JENESYS 2.0 initiative.

15. The Ministers recognized the potential to work with other ASEAN Dialogue Partners to further enhance efforts in youth development in the region.

16. The Ministers welcomed Cambodia as the forthcoming Chairman and agreed to meet again at AMMY IX in Cambodia in 2015.

17. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for its hospitality as the host of AMMY VIII.
