



## JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

### **THE TWENTY-FIFTH ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS AND HEADS OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS DIVISIONS OF MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (25<sup>TH</sup> DGICM) AND ITS RELATED MEETINGS**

Singapore, 23 – 25 August 2022

1. The 25<sup>th</sup> DGICM and Its Related Meetings were held from 23-25 August 2022 in Singapore. The Opening Ceremony was graced by the Minister for Communications and Information & Second Minister for Home Affairs of Singapore, Mrs. Josephine Teo. The 25<sup>th</sup> DGICM was chaired by Mr. Marvin Sim, Commissioner of the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority of Singapore and attended by the ASEAN Heads of Immigration, Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat. The 25<sup>th</sup> DGICM and Its Related Meetings were the first activities under the ambit of the DGICM to be held in a hybrid format following the reopening of borders in the region.
2. The DGICM is an annual meeting of Heads of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of ASEAN Member States to discuss and coordinate regional cooperation on immigration and consular matters. The Chairmanship of DGICM is rotated among the ASEAN Member States in alphabetical order.
3. The Meeting was preceded by the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Heads of Major Immigration Checkpoints Forum (AMICF) followed by the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF) on 23 August 2022. The 5<sup>th</sup> AMICF encouraged regional and international cooperation on immigration matters and elaborated on ways to enhance border security of the ASEAN Member States, such as through information sharing of threat assessments and fraud detection. The implementation of the Intelligence Data Sharing Protocol (IDSP) was also discussed. The 17<sup>th</sup> AIIF discussed the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Meeting and noted the updated Lists of AIIF Contact Points and the Immigration 24/7 Focal Points.

4. The Meeting took note of the briefing on recent developments in ASEAN and exchanged views on national, regional and international efforts on immigration, consular, and border management matters amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, including how COVID-19-related challenges were overcome.
5. The Meeting had fruitful discussions on the progress of several DGICM initiatives, including (i) the implementation of the Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of Other ASEAN Member States; (ii) the way forward for the development of the ASEAN Visa Portal; (iii) the update on the ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Roadmap; (iv) the establishment of ASEAN Immigration Focal Points to Facilitate the Repatriation of Illegal Migrants to Country of Origin; and (v) the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) that are co-lead by the DGICM.
6. The Meeting welcomed the *ad referendum* adoption of the ASEAN Plan of Action (POA) for Cooperation on Immigration and Consular Matters and the TOR of Heads of Specialist Unit (HSU) on People Smuggling.
7. The Meeting adopted the Concept Paper on Initiative 13 of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, with the implementation to be led by Singapore.
8. The Meeting also adopted the Concept Note on Enhancing Information-Sharing of Evolving Border Measures Due to Pandemic, Health Crisis or Emergency, proposed by Singapore, that aims to enhance the feasibility of institutionalising a platform for sharing and communicating significant changes in border measures among the ASEAN Member States.
9. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Thailand to host the 26<sup>th</sup> DGICM and Its Related Meetings in 2023.
10. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality and enjoyed the warm hospitality offered by the Government of the Republic of Singapore.

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