



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 19TH ASEAN-JAPAN SUMMIT

7 September 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community

The 19th ASEAN-Japan Summit was held on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Thongloun SISOULITH, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and H.E. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.

2. We were pleased to note the steady progress achieved in the dialogue relations between ASEAN and Japan over the past forty-three years and reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership, which contributed to regional peace, stability and prosperity. We underscored that strong Japan-Mekong cooperation will enhance ASEAN-Japan relationship by bringing growth to the region as a whole.
3. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated Japan's continued support for ASEAN's unity and centrality in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, in particular the ASEAN Plus Three, the East Asia Summit, and the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. The ASEAN Leaders also appreciated Japan's continued support for ASEAN Community-building efforts toward the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. We emphasized the importance of the rule of law in international relations.
4. We noted with satisfaction the substantive progress made in the implementation of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and its Implementation Plan adopted in Tokyo in 2013 on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan relations.
5. We strongly condemn the terrorist attack in Davao, the Philippines on 2 September 2016, which caused the loss of innocent lives, injuries, and damage to properties. We extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Philippine Government and people, especially to the families of the victims of this attack. In this context, we

reiterated our commitment to combat terrorism and transnational crime through strengthened cooperation under the ASEAN–Japan Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime. We commended the progress made in the implementation of the Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime and reiterated our support to various initiatives and activities to enhance cooperation as well as promote moderation in addressing the new trends and emerging challenges on terrorism and violent extremism as well as transnational crime, including, trafficking in persons (TIP), piracy, IUU fishing and cybercrime. We noted the successful convening of the 13th Senior Official’s Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)+Japan Consultation held on 25 May 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia. We also welcomed Japan’s initiatives to support counter-terrorism efforts by Asian countries announced today.

6. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed Japan’s intention to contribute more proactively in securing peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the international community, under its policy of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, including “Legislation for Peace and Security”, which took effect in March 2016. We noted the importance of strengthening defence and security cooperation and exchange in the region and looked forward to the 2nd ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers’ Informal Meeting scheduled to be held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in November 2016.
7. We were pleased to note that Japan became ASEAN’s second largest trading partner and the second largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) to ASEAN. In 2015, two-way trade between ASEAN and Japan reached US\$239.4 billion, accounting for 10.5 per cent of ASEAN’s total trade. FDI inflows from Japan to ASEAN valued at US\$17.4 billion and accounted for 14.5 per cent of total FDI inflows to ASEAN. We commended the conclusion of negotiations on investment under the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP). We looked forward to the expeditious implementation of the outcomes of the AJCEP services and investment negotiations taking into account of domestic procedures and regulations by each Party.
8. We welcomed the ministerial endorsement of the Renewed ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap, which takes into consideration the AEC Blueprint 2025. We looked forward to closer cooperation between ASEAN and Japan to meet the objectives of the renewed Roadmap through enhancing bilateral economic cooperation, economic integration of ASEAN and cooperation for integrating the region into the global economy. We noted the importance of strengthening cooperation in the various pillars of cooperation in the Roadmap such as infrastructure development, human resource development, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) development, innovation and transfer of technology, trade facilitation, supply-chain and connectivity, nurturing new industries, establishing of ASEAN-Japan innovation network and enhancing inclusive and open

economic integration. We also noted the importance of open trade policies and advanced industrial development to tackle the uncertainty in the global economy.

9. We noted the intensification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. Considering the significant potential of the RCEP to stimulate global trade and growth, we encouraged all Parties to intensify efforts to advance the RCEP negotiations towards a modern, comprehensive, high-quality, and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement, as well as an early and successful conclusion.
10. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed and highly valued Japan's continued support and contribution to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) through the support for the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III (2016-2020). The ASEAN Leaders expressed appreciation for Japan's support to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), especially in the area of human resource development through the one-year attachment programmes at the ASEAN Secretariat for junior government officials of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV). We welcomed Japan's continued support in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III (2016-2020).
11. The ASEAN Leaders valued Japan's support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2015 and looked forward to its continued support for the MPAC 2025 and to promoting enhanced ASEAN connectivity as well as connectivity between ASEAN and Japan. Recognising the critical need for quality infrastructure, the ASEAN Leaders welcomed Japan's Initiative of Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure and the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment, which would contribute to promoting quality infrastructure in Asia and enhancing regional connectivity. We noted with satisfaction the steady progress of the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership. We welcomed the convening of the first ASEAN-Japan consultation on Regional Air Services Agreement in Tokyo, Japan, in March 2016. The ASEAN Leaders encouraged Japan's continued support for better air connectivity between ASEAN and Japan, including the early conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement, based on the principle of meaningful exchange of traffic rights, over and beyond what has been exchanged bilaterally between Japan and each ASEAN Member State, and expressed our expectation for the possibility of opening up wider access between ASEAN and Japan.
12. The ASEAN Leaders valued Japan's contribution to sub-regional cooperation. In this regard, we commended Japan's commitment to assist the Mekong region in realizing "quality growth", as well as promoting environmental protection and sustainable use of water resources. We appreciated Japan's support represented by its consistent implementation of the "Japan-Mekong Action Plan" and the "Mekong Industrial Development Vision", in order to realize "New Tokyo Strategy 2015," under the framework of the "Mekong-Japan Cooperation" and welcomed the "Japan-Mekong

Connectivity Initiative”. We supported the efforts to bring into full play these initiatives and commitments.

13. The ASEAN Leaders acknowledged the support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Japan in the area of strengthening capacity building in agriculture sector and human resource development through partnership with ASEAN universities, and improving statistics data on food processing and distribution related to agriculture in the region. Those initiatives are important to strengthen food value chain issues in the region.
14. The ASEAN Leaders also acknowledge the support of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund and AMEICC (AEM and METI of Japan Consultations-Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee) in various capacity building activities in support of SME development in ASEAN.
15. In addition to promoting low carbon technologies and high efficiency coal-fired power generation to realize low carbon growth, we welcomed the energy efficiency initiatives under ASEAN-Japan energy cooperation such as energy efficiency technology training and energy managers’ accreditation, and called for more focused efforts on transfer of energy sustainability knowledge, good practices, and technology. Also, we underscored the importance of continued investments in energy projects and the continued efforts to promote of high quality energy infrastructure to ensure future energy security.
16. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated Japan’s contribution in the area of disaster management, including in strengthening cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) among the defence sectoral and militaries under the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), and welcomed its continued support for the full operationalization of the ASEAN coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre). We encouraged efforts to further enhance cooperation on the Implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and its Work Programme. We encouraged Japan’s support for the realisation of ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disaster as One in the region and outside the region.
17. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated Japan’s support for promoting health development in the region and enhancing cooperation in the field of healthcare, including through the ASEAN Japan Health Initiative.
18. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated Japan’s initiatives to support ASEAN’s efforts to develop human resources under “Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative” and “Innovative Asia”. and to increase the role of women in economic development, through “Japan-ASEAN Women Empowerment Fund.”

19. We highlighted the importance of people-to-people exchanges to build closer contact, mutual understanding and friendship between ASEAN and Japan. In this regard, we noted with satisfaction the progress made on various exchange programmes under the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2016, Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme (SSEAYP), “WA-Project” and Sport for Tomorrow, Sakura Science Plan, ASEAN and Today’s World (AsTW), Japan-ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Platform (JASTIP), as well as the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) Project Phase III. Moreover, recognizing various achievements between ASEAN and Japan in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation, we acknowledged the importance of promoting joint research and implementation of its outcome such as Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP) and Japan ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Platform (JASTIP)/Collaboration Hubs for International Research Program (CHIRP). We also underscored the importance of sharing the best practices regarding the education models such as KOSEN.
20. The ASEAN Leaders and Japan welcomed the efforts to enhance friendly relations and promote deeper cooperation between ASEAN and Japan in the field of sports, through the establishment of the ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS+Japan), in line with the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and aligned with the ASEAN Work Plan on Sports 2016-2020.
21. We acknowledged Japan’s assistance in the field of ICT through the ICT-infrastructure enhancement studies under the “ASEAN Smart Network Initiative” and cooperation activities under the new “ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2020”. We also recognized that cyber security is a growing global challenge and could impede ASEAN’s progress as a digitally-enabled community. In this regard, we welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the “ASEAN-Japan Collaboration Framework on Information Security”, and noted with appreciation Japan’s determination to proactively support cybersecurity efforts of ASEAN member states through measures such as dispatching specialists and trainers, providing trainings and equipment, supporting the establishment of cybersecurity strategy and guideline, encouraging public-private partnerships, and promoting measures against cybercrime
22. We emphasized the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. We underscored the importance of exercising self-restraint in the conduct of the activities, and for the states concerned to resolve disputes through peaceful means in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We also emphasized the importance of non-militarization. We underlined the need for ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of

Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety, and welcomed the efforts of ASEAN Member States and China to work towards the early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

23. The ASEAN Leaders commended Japan for its active participation in the ASEAN Regional Forum and expressed appreciation for Japan's commitment to co-chair the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security with the Philippines and the United States for the period of 2014 to 2017.
24. We encouraged Japan's continuous support on the full implementation of the EAS Statement on Enhancing Regional Maritime Cooperation, within the EAS framework, aiming at creating a secure and stable region which will provide atmosphere conducive for economic development and prosperous community.
25. We underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability of the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting shared concerns over the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula, including the nuclear test and launches using ballistic missile technology, including submarine-launch ballistic missile on 23 August 2016 by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which are in violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. We urged the DPRK to comply with the relevant UNSC resolutions. We called for the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and highlighted the importance of creating conducive environment towards the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks to help pave the way for maintaining and strengthening peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula. We also emphasized the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.
26. We expressed appreciation to the ASEAN-Japan Centre for its continued contribution and emphasized the need to further utilize the Centre to promote trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and Japan, in accordance with the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism.
27. We reaffirmed and promote cooperation, where appropriate, within the United Nations framework, including the continuing process of UN Reform.
