



JOINT STATEMENT

THE EIGHTH ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION (8TH AMRDPE)

5 JULY 2013, YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

1. The Eighth ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (8th AMRDPE) was held on 5 July 2013 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and preceded by the Tenth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (10th SOMRDPE) on 2-3 July 2013; Sixth ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (6th SOMRDPE+3) on 3 July 2013; and ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication on 4 July 2013. The 8th AMRDPE adopted the theme “Advancing Community Empowerment to Enhance a Better and Sustainable Livelihood”.

2. The 8th AMRDPE was opened by H.E. K.R.M.T. Roy Suryo Notodiprodjo, Minister of Youth and Sports of Indonesia. In the Opening Remarks, H.E. K.R.M.T. Roy Suryo Notodiprodjo acknowledged that economic discrepancy is still prevalent in the region despite the robust economic growth, hence underlined the need for concerted efforts to narrow development gaps through community empowerment. He lauded the timeliness of the Meeting’s theme given the pressing need to address negative impact of the global financial crisis to the poor and vulnerable groups. He also acknowledged the importance of close partnerships and continued dialogues amongst stakeholders, including civil society, academia and business sector, in improving community welfare, which are in line with the shared agenda of building a people-oriented ASEAN. Furthermore, he highlighted Indonesia’s poverty eradication strategies that are based on the principles of pro-growth, pro-job, pro-poor, and pro-environment, and implemented through the Master Plan for the Acceleration and Expansion of Indonesia’s Economic Development, and the Master Plan for the Acceleration of Indonesia’s Poverty Reduction. The poverty alleviation programmes, such as social protection assistance for the poor, community empowerment, micro-, small- and medium-size enterprises empowerment, and assistance to the very poor people were highlighted.

3. The 8th AMRDPE was attended by the ASEAN Ministers responsible for rural development and poverty eradication or their representatives. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. The list of the Ministers or their representatives is enclosed.

4. The Ministers expressed their deepest sympathy and condolence to the victims of earthquake in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, Indonesia, which happened on 2 July 2013.

Progress of Implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint

5. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress of implementation of strategic objectives in the ASCC Blueprint towards poverty alleviation, and encouraged timely implementation of the Action Lines. The Ministers supported the ongoing mid-term review of the ASCC Blueprint which would contribute to the prioritization of efforts towards the ASEAN Community building by 2015 and provide input to ASEAN Member States in envisioning the post-2015 development and poverty eradication agenda of ASEAN. Considering the multi-dimensions of poverty, the Ministers underlined the importance of holistic response through closer inter-sectoral cooperation and collaboration.

Advancing Community Empowerment for Sustainable Livelihood of People

6. The Ministers delivered their respective statements and exchanged views on national strategies, good practices, and experiences in empowering communities to improve and sustain the welfare and livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable groups, and to become self-reliant. The Ministers shared information on multi-sectoral strategies and programmes in ASEAN Member States that are targeting at the individual, family and community levels such as greater access to microfinance/credit, promotion of entrepreneurship skills, women's empowerment, promotion of local agricultural products and farming techniques, inclusive education for the poor children, technical and vocational skills development. The Ministers underlined the importance of a participatory approach in ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of community empowerment programmes through the involvement of the communities themselves, village leaders, civil society, grassroots organisations, volunteers, private sector and other stakeholders. Balanced growth and inclusive development were underlined in building the ASEAN Community by 2015, and in envisioning the post-2015 priorities of ASEAN in narrowing the development gap and alleviating poverty in the region.

Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015)

7. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015) including the eleven regional projects and activities which are in the pipeline for implementation in 2013-2014, notably: the ASEAN Young Professionals Volunteers Corps (Brunei Darussalam); Workshop on the Development of Regional Statistics on Poverty in ASEAN (Brunei Darussalam); ASEAN Regional Forum to Promote Best Practices in Sustainable Rural Infrastructure Development (Malaysia); ASEAN Regional Program for Capacity Development to Enhance Accountability of Local Government in Delivering Social Protection Programs through Community Driven Development (the

Philippines); Food Security and Price Spikes: Stocktaking of Responsive Social Protection Policies for the vulnerable poor (the Philippines); ASEAN Regional Expo on Community Products (OTOP/OVOP) (Thailand); Secure Housing Project Baan Mankong (Thailand); Grassroots Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation (Thailand); Diversify Crop Production from the Low Production Rice Lands as Climate Change Adaptation (Viet Nam); Replication of Biogas Application in Rural Area for ASEAN Member States to Mitigate Global Climate Change (Viet Nam); and Agricultural Production Risk Management for Sustainable and New Rural Development (Viet Nam).

Engagement of Stakeholders

8. The Ministers were pleased to note that the Second ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication was successfully convened on 4 July 2013. The government officials and NGO/CSO representatives shared good practices and exchanged views pertaining to community empowerment programmes to improve the livelihood of poor communities and vulnerable groups. Prior to the Forum, the NGO/CSO Focal Points of ASEAN Member States were nominated to facilitate communications and coordination following the Forum.

9. The Ministers congratulated the NGOs/CSOs from ASEAN Member States that received the inaugural ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards on 5 July 2013, notably: Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation) from Brunei Darussalam; Life with Dignity from Cambodia; Perempuan Kepala Keluarga (Women Headed Household Empowerment) from Indonesia; Association De Soutien Au Development Des Societes Paysannes (Association to Support the Development of the Peasants' Societies) from Lao PDR; Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia from Malaysia; the Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund from Singapore; Tambuyog Development Center Inc. from the Philippines; the Net Foundation from Thailand; and Center of Agricultural Extension Volunteers from Viet Nam. The Awards were presented as a recognition of the outstanding achievements and contributions of those NGOs/CSOs to the rural and community development and to improve the livelihood of the poor and vulnerable groups in their respective communities or countries.

Partnerships with the Plus Three Countries

10. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the successful convening of the ASEAN+3 Regional Training Course on Thailand's Land Management for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Scheme on 25-29 June 2012 in Bangkok; ASEAN+3 Youth Rural Activist Exchange Program for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication on 10-15 September 2012 in Pekalongan and Tasikmalaya, Indonesia; and the ASEAN+3 Village Leaders Exchange Programme on 8-12 April 2013 in Sichuan, China. The activities provided the opportunities for the ASEAN Plus Three Countries to learn from each other's best practices. The Ministers also supported the regularisation of the ASEAN+3 Village Leaders Exchange Programme, with the next Programme to be hosted by Indonesia in 2014.

11. The Ministers were also pleased that new initiatives had been put forward by ASEAN at the 6th SOMRDPE+3 to strengthen cooperation with China, Japan and Republic of Korea. Those planned projects and activities are in the areas of social protection programme delivery by local governments, social protection policies for the vulnerable groups amidst of rice price spikes, enhanced involvement of community facilitators and villages leaders in poverty eradication, promotion of community products of villages, grassroots economic development, diversification of crops production and biogas application in rural areas as climate change adaptation strategies, agricultural production risk management, and sustainable rural infrastructure development.

The 9th AMRDPE

12. The Ministers noted with appreciation Lao PDR's readiness to host the Ninth ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (9th AMRDPE) in 2015.

13. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement of the Meeting. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for the assistance rendered.

**LIST OF MINISTERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
ATTENDING THE EIGHTH ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING ON RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION**

1. **H.E. Pehin Dato Hazair Abdullah**
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports
Brunei Darussalam

2. **Mr. Chann Rotana**
Minister Counselor and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of
Cambodia to ASEAN
Cambodia

3. **H.E. K.R.M.T. Roy Suryo Notodiprodjo**
Minister of Youth and Sports
Indonesia

H.E. Ambassador Yuli Mumpuni
Primary Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports
Indonesia

4. **H.E. Bounheuang Douangphachanh**
Minister to the Government Office
Chairman of Lao National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
Lao PDR

5. **H.E. Dato' Seri Haji Mohd Shafie Bin Haji Apdal**
Minister for Rural and Regional Development
Malaysia

6. **H.E. Thet Naing Win**
Union Minister for Border Affairs
Myanmar

7. **H.E. Jose Eliseo M. Rocamora**
Secretary, National Anti-Poverty Commission
The Philippines

8. **Mr. Chan Heng Kee**
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development
Singapore

9. **Mr. Kanpetch Chuangrungsi**
Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior
Thailand

10. H.E. Ha Cong Tuan

Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Viet Nam

11. H.E. Le Luong Minh

Secretary-General of ASEAN
