

ASEAN DOCUMENTS SERIES 2013



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The ASEAN Secretariat
Jakarta

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

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General information on ASEAN appears online at the ASEAN website: www.asean.org.

Catalogue-in Publication Data

ASEAN Documents Series 2013
Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, November 2014

341.026959

1. ASEAN – Treaties – Agreements
2. ASEAN – Meetings – Statements

ISBN 978-602-7643-92-5

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I. ASEAN SUMMIT DOCUMENTS

Joint Statement of the 6th Cambodia-Lao PDR Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) Summit

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 12 March 2013

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as CLMV) gathered for the 6th CLMV Summit on 12 March 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Secretary General of ASEAN was also present at the Summit.
2. We recalled our initiatives and decisions adopted at the CLMV Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 2004; in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2005; in Cebu, the Philippines in 2007; in Ha Noi, Viet Nam in 2008 and in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2010 and reiterated our commitment to enhancing the traditional relations of friendship, good neighbourliness and mutual benefits among the CLMV countries.
3. We reviewed the progress on the implementation of the projects agreed upon at the 5th CLMV Summit in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia on 16 November 2010 aimed at narrowing the development gap among ASEAN Member States as we move toward the ASEAN Community Building by 2015. We also exchanged views on the future direction of CLMV cooperation in light of the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing the Economic Cooperation and Integration among CLMV countries adopted in 2004 and its Plan of Action.
4. We noted the progress and challenges in implementing the sectoral CLMV Action Plan by CLMV countries and tasked their relevant senior officials to ensure the implementation of the remaining activities.
5. In this regard, we commended our CLMV Economic Ministers for the progress in realising their annual Action Plans and welcomed the outcome of the Fourth CLMV Economic Ministers' Meeting held on 26 August 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. We considered the report of CLMV EMM and endorsed their recommendation for more effective implementation of the endorsed CLMV Action Plan in 2013 and the years to come.
6. In trade and investment cooperation, we reiterated our commitment to implementing all existing agreements between and among the CLMV countries in order to promote trade and investment, including trade and investment mission in CLMV countries and abroad. We commended the success in the implementation of Single Stop Inspection at the international border checkpoint, Dansavan (Lao PDR) – Lao Bao (Viet Nam). We agreed that such Single Stop Inspection should be expanded and implemented at other feasible international border checkpoints between CLMV countries so that they become a network of Single Stop Inspection Connectivity to facilitate trade, investment, tourism and transportation.
7. We reaffirmed our commitment to working closely with each other to enhance our cooperation in accelerating ASEAN's Integration efforts, including the effective and timely implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity.
8. In transport cooperation, we agreed to:
 - 8.1 Deepen coordination to make best use of economic corridors across the CLMV countries, particularly the North-South Economic Corridor (NSEC), East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC), the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) under the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) cooperation.

8.2 Facilitate cross border movement of goods and passengers among Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam on the route: Yangon – Meikhtila – Tarlay – Kenglap (Myanmar) – Xiengkok – Louangnamtha – Oudomxay – Muong Khoa (Lao PDR) – Tay Trang – Ha Noi (Viet Nam).

8.3 Further implement the CLMV Multilateral Agreement on Air Services.

9. In agricultural, industry and energy cooperation, we agreed to mutually facilitate investment through relevant investment incentives in important areas, including production and processing of agricultural products, mineral exploitation, renewable energy, sustainable hydropower development, oil and gas exploration, telecommunication infrastructure development and service provision; and enhance cooperation to exchange information and technologies, and to develop joint research in the fields of agriculture, fishery, forestry, livestock, veterinarian, aquaculture, industry and energy.
10. In tourism cooperation, we noted with satisfaction the 19.7 percent growth, over 14.8 million of tourist arrival to CLMV countries in 2012. We appreciated the outcomes of the First Meeting of CLMV Tourism Ministers on 14 September 2012 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, which endorsed the Joint Plan on CLMV Tourism Cooperation covering the 2013-2015 period including: (i) its action program focusing on six key cooperative areas, namely information and experience exchange, enhancement of connections through joint tourism product, human resource development and training, service quality improvement and standardisation, tourism and investment promotion and (ii) joint declaration to cooperate on the development of tourism products and infrastructure, and jointly promote the “Four Countries, One Destination” campaign. We welcomed the plan of Cambodia to host the Second Meeting of CLMV Tourism Ministers which will be conducted in December 2013 in Cambodia.
11. We supported a comprehensive Mid-term Review of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II in 2012 in order to stock-take the implementation of the IAI Work Plan II and set out concrete and practical measures to expedite its objectives and chart its future direction, including enhancing the implementation of the priority projects and the CLMV Priority Action List, as reflected in the Phnom Penh Agenda for the ASEAN Community Building.
12. In human resource development, we appraised the exchange of scholarships, visits and experiences in many fields of development amongst all CLMV countries. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar expressed their sincere thanks to the Government of Viet Nam for providing scholarships annually as well as other training courses to CLM countries. The Meeting requested Viet Nam to continue providing such CLMV scholarship scheme.
13. We expressed our thanks to the Government of Japan for providing USD 20 million for CLMV countries under the Mekong-Japan cooperation framework. We also commended the ASEAN Secretariat for its continued support to mobilise resources to implement the sixteen projects submitted to the Secretariat after the 5th CLMV Summit. At the same time, we called upon ASEAN and other development partners to support and assist in realising the CLMV development projects in order to narrow the development gap in the region.
14. Having considered the important role of the private sector in development activities, we also agreed to encourage participation of the private sector in the implementation of CLMV projects.
15. We tasked the Working Group of each sector of cooperation to convene regular meetings in order to discuss the implementation of the projects under its respective purview. We also agreed that the SOM Meeting should be held annually in the country, which chairs the CLMV Summit.
16. We tasked our Ministers and SOM leaders to ensure the success of the implementation of this Joint Statement and report progress to their respective Heads of Governments.
17. We welcomed the offer of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to host the 7th CLMV Summit in 2014.
18. The Heads of State/Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam expressed their

sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Lao PDR for the excellent arrangements for the 6th CLMV Summit and warm hospitality during the Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Done in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 12 March 2013.

Vientiane Declaration of the 5th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy Summit

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 13 March 2013

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 13 March 2013 for the 5th Summit of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (hereinafter referred to as ACMECS).

We reaffirmed our determination to strengthen the traditional relations of friendship, good neighbourliness and mutual benefits among the ACMECS Countries.

We adopted the ACMECS Plan of Action 2013-2015 and reiterated our strong commitment to implementing the goals and objectives enshrined in the Bagan Declaration and all succeeding Declarations of the ACMECS summits to build good neighbourliness among ACMECS Countries, to enhance peace and stability in the region and to promote sustainable development in our countries to support the ASEAN Community building in 2015 and the implementation of ASEAN Master Plan of Connectivity. We also shared the common view that the Mekong countries could serve as a "Single Production Base" and be part of the global supply chain as a theme of the new ACMECS Plan of Action.

We reviewed the implementation of the Phnom Penh Declaration on the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy and the ACMECS Plan of Action 2010-2012, and noted with satisfaction the significant progress made in the areas of our cooperation such as trade and investment facilitation, agriculture,

industry and energy, transport, tourism, human resource development, public health and social welfare development, and environment.

We emphasised the need for the ACMECS Countries to redouble our efforts individually, bilaterally and collectively to move ACMECS forward more effectively for the interests and benefits of the ACMECS Countries and peoples.

We hereby declared as follows:

1. In Trade and Investment Facilitation Cooperation, we agreed to:
 - 1.1 Further implement the ACMECS Leader's Declaration on Facilitation and Promotion of Trade, Investment and Tourism adopted at the 3rd Summit in Hanoi to ensure the economic growth in ACMECS Countries;
 - 1.2 Strengthen close coordination in trade and investment promotion, particularly among ACMECS Countries, through the organisation of joint trade and investment events, exhibitions and missions in order to increase trade and investment within the region. In this connection, we also agreed to encourage non-ACMECS countries, especially those in Southeast Asia and the ACMECS potential partners to join trade and investment fairs and exhibitions organised in ACMECS Countries to enable ACMECS' Businessmen to expand trade and investment opportunities into the wider regional and global markets;
 - 1.3 Reiterate the commitment to facilitate and promote foreign direct investment, particularly among ACMECS Countries, and from other countries in the region, through the provision of investment incentives under the respective domestic laws and regulations of the ACMECS Countries;
 - 1.4 Encourage regular meetings between ACMECS Business Council and business communities with a view to creating a pro-business environment in the ACMECS Countries; and
 - 1.5 Promote the establishment of ACMECS Rice Trade Cooperation.

2. In Agriculture Cooperation, we agreed to:
 - 2.1 Expedite the implementation of ACMECS Rice Cooperation mechanism to promote the Cooperation of Rice Production amongst ACMECS Countries;
 - 2.2 Encourage consultation and cooperation between the ACMECS Countries and development partners to promote rice production and ensure food security;
 - 2.3 Strengthen cooperation on technology transfer and information sharing in the field of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, livestock and veterinarian and aquaculture to ensure food security in ACMECS Countries;
 - 2.4 Enhance close cooperation in bio-fuel crops production in the ACMECS Countries in order to provide materials and inputs for bio-fuel development;
 - 2.5 Accelerate and facilitate the implementation of Bilateral and Multilateral Contract Farming as an efficient mechanism to guarantee food sufficiency among ACMECS Countries and welcome the signing of an MOU between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on Cooperation in the Promotion of the Contract Farming Scheme under ACMECS; and
 - 2.6 Invite interested development partners to support financial institutions in ACMECS Countries to provide credit for small farmers for agriculture related activities under ACMECS scheme.
3. In Industrial and Energy Cooperation, we agreed to:
 - 3.1 Encourage experience and information sharing as well as technology transfer on the production, energy efficiency technologies, application and production of bio-energy and renewable energy such as biomass, bio-fuel, solar, wind, mini-hydro, and other locally available energy; and promote best practices and appropriate standards in the ACMECS Countries;
 - 3.2 Reiterate the commitment in facilitating investment on sustainable and environmental friendly energy development and enhancing cooperation on renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation;
 - 3.3 Promote the development of power transmission lines and network across the ACMECS Countries;
 - 3.4 Further promote industrial policy development cooperation among ACMECS Countries through organising workshops/training courses on a regular basis;
 - 3.5 Encourage the establishment of industrial zones along the ACMECS Countries' borders and other potential areas along the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC), North South Economic Corridor (NSEC), the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) and the "inter-corridor linkages" focusing on green growth and sustainable development to encourage economic linkages and regional value chain as well as preparation for the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015; and
 - 3.6 Enhance the competitiveness of SMEs in ACMECS Countries.
4. In Transport Linkages, we agreed to:
 - 4.1 Strengthen close coordination to complete multi modal transport connectivity and make full use of existing road transportation networks and economic corridors, particularly the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC), North South Economic Corridor (NSEC) and Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) under the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) cooperation programme to promote trade, investment services and tourism among the ACMECS Countries;
 - 4.2 Encourage the development of air linkages among major cities, cultural and natural heritage sites in the ACMECS Countries, as well as railways and feeder roads to increase trade, investment and tourism flows;
 - 4.3 Encourage ACMECS Countries to further strengthen coordination and cooperation among EWEC countries, ACMECS Countries and related development partners to maximise the use of existing transport linkages as well as

- further develop transport linkages and welcome the successful organisation of the inaugural Vice Foreign Ministers' Meeting on East-West Economic Corridor (Eastern Part) on 17-18 May 2012 in Dong Ha City, Quang Tri, Viet Nam and the offer of Lao PDR to host the Second Vice Foreign Ministers' Meeting in May 2013 in Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR; and support the meeting's outcome to expand the scope of the Vice Foreign Ministers' Meeting on East-West Economic Corridor (Eastern Part) to cover Myanmar in the future. We also commended the success of the Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam Transport Ministers' Meeting held on 21 February 2013 in Hanoi to enhance cooperation on road transport among the three countries; and
- 4.4 Urge the ACMECS Countries to fully ratify the GMS-CBTA Annexes and Protocols to support the seamless cross border transportation of goods and people between and among the parties to the agreement.
5. In Tourism Cooperation, we agreed to:
- 5.1 Promote cross border travel within the ACMECS Countries and conduct a joint tourism marketing and promotion, joint programme activities in tourism in order to realise the "Five Countries, One Destination" concept including new "Tourism Corridors" (Bagan-Chiang Mai-Luangprabang-Vientiane-Siem Reap-Hue);
- 5.2 Promote traveling facilitation, especially visa and transport facilitation within ACMECS Countries; and note the implementation of ACMECS single visa between Cambodia and Thailand; and encourage the other remaining three countries to join this scheme in the future;
- 5.3 Enhance capacity-building programmes in tourism and marketing efforts in ACMECS; and
- 5.4 Promote the green and responsible tourism in the ACMECS region.
6. In Human Resource Development, we agreed to:
- 6.1 Provide the number of scholarship and fellowship as well as vocational training and skills development programmes, inclusive of the private sector, in the cooperation sectors of ACMECS;
- 6.2 Promote partnership and linkage among academic institutions, particularly higher education, vocational training and skills development in the ACMECS Countries;
- 6.3 Encourage development partners to participate in, and provide financial and technical assistance for, ACMECS training projects in the various sectors of cooperation;
- 6.4 Further encourage the establishment of the partnership and network among academic institutions in the ACMECS Countries;
- 6.5 Enhance cooperation on development of competency standards and skills certification system among ACMECS Countries;
- 6.6 Create an attractive environment for the development of a skilled work force through sharing of experiences and development of suitable policies;
- 6.7 Enhance the role of industrial sector to increasingly promote and support vocational education and labour skills training by collaboration amongst relevant partners and stakeholders; and
- 6.8 Establish an international network amongst ACMECS Countries to facilitate in cooperation and collaboration in vocational education and labour skills training.
7. In Public Health and Social Welfare Development, we agreed to:
- 7.1 Strengthen cooperation and facilitate information sharing on infectious disease surveillance and response, particularly to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases at cross border and at the animal-human environment interface through multi-sectoral actions, prevention and control of disease through collaborative activities and dissemination of best practices;
- 7.2 Promote and support capacity building programmes in animal and human health sectors; and
- 7.3 Promote cooperation of ACMECS Countries in sharing experience in social welfare development

in order to improve access to social security and healthcare services and the quality of life of the peoples in the ACMECS Countries.

8. In Environmental Cooperation, we agreed to:
 - 8.1 Continue to implement concrete projects and programmes under the Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation;
 - 8.2 Reiterate the commitment to integrate the environmental goals into all the ACMECS projects on economic development;
 - 8.3 Further strengthen cooperation among ACMECS Countries on environmental conservation and sustainable use of natural resources of the Ayeyawady, Chao Phraya and Mekong rivers; and
 - 8.4 Enhance cooperation between ACMECS Countries in regional and international institutions, as well as with non-ACMECS countries, to promote green development and address climate change and global warming.
9. With regard to resources mobilisation, we agreed to further encourage development partners to participate in the implementation of ACMECS projects and programmes in line with the agreed Guidelines for Development Partners' Participation in ACMECS Projects.
10. We welcomed the offer of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to host the Sixth ACMECS Summit in 2014. The specific date and venue will be coordinated through diplomatic channels.
11. All ACMECS Countries expressed their sincere thanks to the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for the warmest hospitality and excellent arrangements accorded to all member delegations during the Summit.

Adopted in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 13 March 2013.

Chairman's Statement of the 22nd ASEAN Summit

“Our People, Our Future Together”

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 24-25 April 2013**

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, gathered in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam for the 22nd ASEAN Summit on 24-25 April 2013. We had productive discussions under the theme “Our People, Our Future Together”, with an emphasis on the role of our people in ASEAN's community building efforts and the future of ASEAN beyond 2015. We noted the importance of realising a truly ‘People-Centred’ ASEAN as a central element of a post-2015 vision of ASEAN.

Realising the ASEAN Community: Moving Forward

2. While encouraged by the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Charter and the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community, we agreed to further intensify our work to realise an ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible in order to take advantage of current and future opportunities, and effectively respond to regional and international challenges.
3. Recalling the adoption of the Bali Concord III Plan of Action (2013-2017) in Phnom Penh in November 2012, we reaffirmed our commitment to its implementation, and welcomed the support of our Dialogue Partners, which will facilitate the region's efforts in addressing global issues of common interest. We also recalled the Phnom Penh Agenda for ASEAN Community Building and Phnom Penh Declaration on ASEAN: One Community One Destiny adopted at the 20th ASEAN Summit and encouraged the relevant Ministers to continue their implementation.
4. We reiterated our commitment to narrowing the development gaps by implementing the IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015) and the ASEAN Roadmap towards realising the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with special focus on achievable goals and

possible scenarios and priorities beyond 2015. We encouraged all relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to continue working together in addressing cross-cutting issues of the MDGs. We also tasked the relevant Ministers to undertake a mid-term evaluation of the IAI Work Plan II in order to identify proper ways of moving forward in its second phase (2013-2015).

5. Acknowledging the importance of the various ASEAN organs in helping ASEAN Member States to fully implement their commitments to realise the ASEAN Community, and to better prepare ASEAN to meet the challenges of the future, we noted the establishment of a High-Level Task Force to review and make recommendations on ways to strengthen all ASEAN organs.
6. Noting that ASEAN will face an increasingly complex geopolitical situation, the Leaders tasked the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) to review ASEAN's processes and institutions in order to safeguard ASEAN centrality in the regional architecture, and provide recommendations by the 23rd ASEAN Summit.
7. Recalling the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III), recognising the target date to realise an ASEAN Community is fast approaching and the need to consider the next stages of ASEAN's integration efforts as well as how to continue strategically positioning ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture, we tasked the ASEAN Community Councils to initiate work on a post-2015 vision and we looked forward to further discussions on this issue at the 23rd ASEAN Summit.

ASEAN Political-Security Community

8. We acknowledged the progress and achievements made in the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint and we commended our Ministers for their efforts to enhance peace and security in the region through the APSC Council and its sectoral bodies.
9. We underlined the importance of promoting greater transparency, confidence and understanding of regional defence policies and security perceptions among ASEAN Member States and its regional

partners. In this regard, we looked forward to the first publication of the ASEAN Security Outlook (ASO) in 2013. We also looked forward to the launching of the Commemorative Publication for the 20th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

10. We reaffirmed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the key code of conduct governing inter-state relations in the region and a foundation for the maintenance of regional peace and stability. In this regard, we looked forward to the accession of Norway to the TAC in June 2013.
11. We commended the shared commitment and collective responsibility of our Defence Ministers and armed forces in enhancing regional peace and security, including by moving forward the five priority areas of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) process. We also welcomed the ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMM-Plus HADR & MM Ex) to be held in Brunei Darussalam on 17-20 June 2013 as a significant contribution to cooperation amongst the ADMM-Plus countries in their efforts to enhance confidence building and regional capacity in addressing non-traditional security challenges, in particular disaster management. We looked forward to the convening of the 2nd ADMM Plus in August 2013.
12. We encouraged cross-sectoral coordination and multi-stakeholder participation, including greater civil-military coordination in emergency response operations. We also encouraged the various mechanisms related to disaster management in ASEAN to synchronise their activities and policies using the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) as the common platform for disaster management. In this regard, we looked forward to the convening of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) in Thailand on 7-11 May 2013, the Mentawai Megathrust Exercise 2013-2014 in Indonesia, involving the East Asia Summit (EAS) Participating Countries, and the Disaster Emergency Response Exercise (ARDEX), in Viet Nam in October 2013.
13. We reaffirmed our commitment to preserving Southeast Asia as a nuclear weapon-free zone and

- free of all other weapons of mass destruction. We looked forward to the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and its related documents without reservations as early as possible. We also looked forward to the extension of the Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the Treaty on the SEANWFZ for another five years (2013-2017).
14. We are determined to strengthen cooperation in addressing the issue of terrorism and transnational crime in the region. In this regard, we encouraged the relevant sectoral bodies to re-double their work in implementing their respective Work Plans and Work Programmes related to the priority areas of transnational crime as well as in effectively tackling the increasing non-traditional security threats in the region. In this regard, we looked forward to the outcome of the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) to be held in September 2013 in Lao PDR. We re-emphasised the importance of the Declaration on Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 and looked forward to the outcome of the 2nd ASEAN Special Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters to be convened in September 2013 in Brunei Darussalam.
 15. We welcomed the progress made in considering the development of a Regional Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons (RPA) and an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), which reflects the need to urgently combat trafficking in persons in the region.
 16. We recognised that maritime security, including maritime safety, is crucial to a vibrant, peaceful, stable and resilient Southeast Asia, and therefore encouraged the strengthening of regional cooperation in maritime security through, inter alia, capacity building, exchanging of experiences and sharing of best practices by utilising existing ASEAN frameworks, including the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and the Expanded AMF.
 17. We looked forward to the full and effective operationalisation of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) in Jakarta as early as possible, which would promote research activities on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution in the region.
 18. We acknowledged that the presence of landmines and other explosive remnants of war in the soil poses constant threats to the safety of the people and hinders national socio-economic development and aggravates humanitarian problems in many countries in the region. In this regard, encouraged our Ministers to conclude the Terms of Reference on the modalities of an ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) in order to enable its early establishment.
 19. We acknowledged that the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) is a milestone in ASEAN's efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights in the region and encouraged the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to enhance its activities, including the implementation of the AHRD, in close coordination with the various ASEAN sectoral bodies.
- ## **ASEAN Economic Community**
20. We are pleased with the progress of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), where 259 measures or 77.54% of the AEC Blueprint have been implemented. We took note that since the adoption of the AEC Blueprint in November 2007, per capita income in the region had risen from US\$2,267 to US\$3,759 in 2012. The total trade of ASEAN grew by 16.8%, from US\$2.05 trillion in 2010 to US\$2.4 trillion in 2011, as intra-ASEAN trade reached US\$598 billion from US\$520 billion, an increase of 15.1%, over the same period. ASEAN also continued to attract foreign investors, generating a record US\$114 billion FDI inflows in 2011, a 23% increase from US\$92 billion in 2010.
 21. Given the current regional and global economic landscape, we recognised the need to enhance ASEAN competitiveness by better facilitating trade and investment, leveraging upon on-going work to establish the AEC, and therefore better position ASEAN strategically. Therefore, we tasked our Ministers to develop a roadmap that will set out initiatives to ease the way of doing business, address investment impediments, institutionalise discussions on regulatory improvement and incorporate innovation policies into ASEAN's efforts.

22. We also looked forward to further progressing our work for trade and investment facilitation including the development of the Work Programme on ASEAN Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) and realising the ASEAN Single Window, ASEAN Customs Transit System, as well as strengthening the Protocol on Enhanced Dispute Settlement Mechanism, which will bring in line relevant ASEAN economic agreements with the principle of ASEAN as a rules-based community. We further encouraged the setting up of an inter-agency body in each ASEAN Member State to undertake further work in addressing non-tariff barriers.
23. To further supplement these facilitation efforts, we reiterated the need for the development of an ASEAN Business Travel Card to ease the movement of our business people and investors.
24. We recognised that to foster our small and medium enterprises (SMEs), it is critical to create job opportunities and promote social safety nets, in line with our goal to narrowing development gaps in the region. In this regard, we encouraged the relevant Ministers to empower SMEs, especially in the Priority Integration Sectors, through training, advisory and financial support, to take advantage of our integration efforts. We also called on business organisations to lend support to this endeavour and tasked the relevant Ministers to look into ways to provide a strategic regional platform for long-term SME development cooperation.
25. We are encouraged by the rapid expansion of our tourism sectors and commended the joint efforts of the public and private sectors to facilitate and enhance the travel experiences of tourists. We appreciate the continuing efforts for further integration, such as the signing of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Tourism Professionals and the establishment of a Regional Secretariat for ASEAN Tourism Professionals. We encouraged our Ministers to support the establishment of both visa-free travel in ASEAN countries for ASEAN nationals, and ASEAN immigration lanes. In addition, we acknowledged the continued efforts in considering the proposal for an ASEAN Common Visa for non-ASEAN nationals that will facilitate business mobility and tourism.
26. We are pleased with the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS) and the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Food Security (SPA-FS) 2009-2013 which will further promote food security in the region. We recognised the importance of private sector and civil society engagement in addressing regional food security and urged them to strengthen collaboration and partnership with other government agencies, Dialogue Partners and international institutions to implement and monitor the progress of the AIFS Framework and SPA-FS.
27. We are determined to enhance ASEAN energy cooperation in order to address major energy challenges and thus to ensure a secure and reliable energy supply to the ASEAN region. We aimed to strengthen coordinating efforts between ASEAN Member States to accelerate the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2010-2015.
28. We commended the efforts of the ASEAN Transport Ministers on the progress made in land, sea and air transport in supporting ASEAN Connectivity. We noted the completion of the Master Plan and Feasibility Study on the Establishment of an ASEAN Roll-On Roll-Off Shipping Network and Short Sea Shipping and we looked forward to the signing of Protocol 7 on ASEAN Customs Transit System by the ASEAN Finance Ministers. In supporting the establishment of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market, we acknowledged the endorsement of the vision and objectives of the Air Traffic Management Harmonisation that envisage ASEAN airspace as a seamless block of airspaces in Asia-Pacific.
29. We noted that industries such as automotives, electrical appliances and textile and garments industries in the region are increasingly operating in ASEAN as a single market. Recalling the objective to realise the opportunities and business complementarities towards making ASEAN a more dynamic and stronger segment of the global supply chain and the world economy, we recognised the need to undertake the above-mentioned facilitation efforts particularly for the priority sectors.
30. We welcomed the progress made towards realising the Regional Comprehensive Economic

Partnership (RCEP). We noted that the negotiations will commence in May 2013 in Brunei Darussalam, with a view to completing them by 2015. We looked forward to the broadening and deepening of existing ASEAN+1 FTAs and envision the RCEP to be a platform for future trade and investment integration in Asia and the rest of the world.

31. We welcome the decision of the ASEAN Economic Ministers to engage Hong Kong on a bilateral basis for an ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement that will be mutually beneficial for our people.
32. We welcomed the initiatives to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of the regional safety net, Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation and looked forward to the institutionalisation of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) as an international organisation to effectively conduct regional surveillance in identifying risks and vulnerabilities in the region. We are also pleased with the progress of the Asian Bond Market Initiative in deepening the region's capital market.
33. Acknowledging the importance of financial literacy in the daily lives of our people, we welcomed Brunei Darussalam's initiative to convene an ASEAN Conference on Financial Literacy in 2013. The conference seeks to provide a platform for policymakers, academics as well as other relevant stakeholders to share experiences and understanding on best practices in effectively promoting financial literacy in the region.
34. We continued to encourage our Ministers to enhance private sector engagement at various levels in efforts to support the AEC integration initiatives. We further called on the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and other business associations to take an active role in undertaking communications activities on the benefits of the AEC aimed at stakeholders within as well as outside the region.
35. We reaffirmed the importance of the sub-regional initiatives of BIMP-EAGA, IMT-GT, ACMECS, GMS, CLMV and CLV Triangle Development to supplement the efforts under the AEC in realising the vast business opportunities and achieve economic wellbeing for our people. In this regard, we encouraged stronger

collaboration between ASEAN and these sub-regional groupings.

36. We welcomed the initial progress in the realisation of the ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Development (AFEED). Recognising the need to accelerate efforts in promoting the third pillar of the AEC, we encouraged the development of a comprehensive work plan with concrete activities to effectively implement AFEED. We also stressed the importance of synergising AFEED with other on-going efforts to support equitable economic development.

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

37. We reaffirmed the need to forge a common ASEAN identity and build a caring and sharing society. We recognised that the long-term goal is a people-centred and socially-responsible ASEAN Community that achieves enduring solidarity and unity among all nations and people in Southeast Asia.
38. We acknowledged the significance of the Mid-Term Review of the implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint. In this regard, we expressed appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for its financial support to the regional-level analysis of the Blueprint Implementation as announced in March 2013. We encouraged ASEAN sectoral bodies and ASCC national focal points to closely collaborate in the mid-term evaluation exercise. We looked forward to receiving a report of the Review at the 23rd ASEAN Summit.
39. We acknowledged the key role our young people will play in ensuring the development and sustainability of the region. We also expressed our strong 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. We 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.

40. We recognised the importance of nurturing the role of the youth in promoting economic development to benefit the next generation. Thus, we encouraged the private sector to engage young entrepreneurs in raising ASEAN awareness. In this regard, we looked forward to the 1st ASEAN Youth Entrepreneur Seminar and Expo, which will be held back-to-back with the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) in May 2013, and the early implementation of the ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Festival adopted at the 7th AMMY in Viet Nam in 2011, which serves as a platform for young leaders to actively participate in exploring economic opportunities in the region.
41. We welcomed the inclusion of sports as a priority, with 2013 designated as the ASEAN Sports Industry Year. We agreed that cooperation with the private sector in sports and related activities will not only promote healthier lifestyles among our people as we move towards the ASEAN Community in 2015 but also further contribute to building a stronger regional identity. In addition, we welcomed Myanmar's hosting of the 27th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in December 2013.
42. Recognising the contribution of women to the overall ASEAN community building efforts, we welcomed the on-going initiatives of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to promote public awareness through an annual public campaign to stop violence against women and children, and the drafting of an ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children.
43. We acknowledged the significance of prioritising our efforts to address climate change and disaster management in 2013. We recognised that the human impact of climate change is related to adaptation issues that are directly linked to the Socio-Cultural Pillar of the ASEAN Community. We encouraged efforts to develop an ASEAN Climate Change Initiative (ACCI) and to consider an ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change.
44. We agreed that disaster preparedness is crucial as ASEAN Member States continue to face challenges of increasing global temperatures, more severe floods and droughts, as well as rising sea levels. We welcomed the progress in the implementation of the first phase of the AADMER Work Programme during 2010-2012 and committed to support the launching of the second phase of the Work Programme for 2013-2015.
45. We welcomed Thailand's hosting of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit entitled "Water Security and Water-related Disaster Challenges: Leadership and Commitment", in May 2013, which will provide an opportunity to exchange views on how to address challenges regarding water resources management.
46. We noted that transboundary haze pollution remains a concern in the region. In this regard, we agreed to further intensify regional and international cooperation including those under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, particularly to promote efforts among ASEAN Member States to ensure the full and effective implementation of the zero burning techniques in land clearing.
47. We noted with satisfaction the various regional activities undertaken by the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to implement the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community and the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020).
48. We emphasised the importance of promoting the health of the people of ASEAN, and encouraged the continued strengthening of regional capacities to monitor and address the potential for communicable disease outbreaks originating from within or outside of our region. We recognised that the promotion of healthy lifestyles and increasing access to health services will ensure the mitigation of the ill-effects of non-communicable diseases.
49. Recognising the need to promote greater awareness of ASEAN and build a common identity among the youth, we encouraged more initiatives to utilise the ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook in 2012. We also encouraged ASEAN Member States to identify innovative ways to utilise the Sourcebook, such as its translation into local languages and incorporating the material into national school curricula to emphasise ASEAN studies in our schools.

50. We expressed strong commitment to further strengthen human resource development in the region. We acknowledged the importance of education cooperation in improving regional productivity and prosperity and welcomed cooperative projects underway. We welcomed progress made on the ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS) and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Quality Assurance Framework to accelerate student mobility and human resource empowerment in the region.
51. We recognised the need to engage non-governmental organisations, private sectors, and other stakeholders in ASEAN's community building process. In this regard, we were pleased to note the efforts undertaken by ASEAN sectoral bodies.
52. We noted the on-going drafting process of the ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers under the ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM) and looked forward to deliberations on the Instrument to be concluded according to the agreed timeline.

ASEAN Connectivity

53. We noted the progress in realising the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and emphasised the importance of increasing its implementation rate, particularly through more effective coordination, communication and resource mobilisation towards our vision of an ASEAN Community by 2015. We recognised the importance of mobilising financial and technical resources, utilisation of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF), and the promotion of public-private partnership (PPP). In this connection, we took note of the 4th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium entitled "Partnering Private Sector for ASEAN Connectivity" to be held in August 2013 and Thailand's initiative to host the Workshop on "Enhancing Connectivity through Multi-layered Regional Frameworks: The Roles of Dialogue Partners" in July 2013. We welcomed all ASEAN Dialogue Partners, external parties as well as the private sector in assisting ASEAN in the implementation of the MPAC.

Timor-Leste's Official Application for ASEAN Membership

54. We were encouraged by the progress in discussions of the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC), and the ACC Working Group (ACCWG), on all relevant aspects related to the application by Timor-Leste, as well as its possible implications on ASEAN, and agreed to explore the possibility of Timor-Leste's participation in ASEAN activities within the context of its need for capacity building.

ASEAN Awareness

55. Acknowledging the importance of promoting greater awareness of our work in ASEAN for our peoples in order to connect them beyond their borders, to bridge the cultural gap, and to articulate the benefits of regional integration, we tasked all the ASEAN Community Councils to give emphasis on communicating their efforts to the relevant sectors, people and stakeholders, including, through the use of various media such as traditional, mainstream and new media. In this regard, we looked forward to the early finalisation of the ASEAN Communication Master Plan.

External Relations

56. We reiterated the importance of ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture and reaffirmed our commitment to work closely with all our partners through various ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ADMM-Plus and East Asia Summit (EAS).
57. We welcomed interest from our external partners to enhance their cooperation with ASEAN and in this regard, we tasked our Ministers to continue their work on reviewing the mechanisms for engaging our external partners.
58. We noted with satisfaction the progress of ASEAN's relations with its Dialogue Partners and external parties, including their positive contributions to ASEAN's community building. We therefore

encouraged our Ministers to further enhance these relations through ASEAN's various mechanisms to ensure the maintenance of peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region.

Regional and International Issues

South China Sea

59. We discussed the situation in the South China Sea and reaffirmed the importance of peace, stability, and maritime security in the region. We underscored the importance of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), ASEAN's Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea, and the Joint Statement of the 10th Anniversary of the DOC. In this regard, we reaffirmed the collective commitments under the DOC to ensuring the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, without resorting to the threat or use of force, while exercising self-restraint in the conduct of activities.
60. We looked forward to continued engagement with China in implementing the DOC in a full and effective manner, including through mutually agreed joint cooperative activities and projects. Taking into account the importance of the 10th anniversary of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in 2013; and the positive momentum following the 19th ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultations, we tasked our Ministers to continue to work actively with China on the way forward for the early conclusion of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) on the basis of consensus.

Situation in the Middle East

61. We reaffirmed our support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for an independent state of Palestine and a two-state solution where both countries and peoples can live side by side in peace. We called on all parties to make efforts for the resumption of peace talks and remove obstacles related thereto, in particular the construction of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Developments on the Korean Peninsula

62. We expressed concern over the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula. We encouraged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to comply fully with its obligations under all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions and to its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We reaffirmed our full support for all efforts to bring about the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner as well as the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks. We emphasised the importance of dialogue aimed at promoting mutual understanding and confidence among all parties concerned with ensuring peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

Group of Twenty (G20)

63. Acknowledging the importance of continuing the participation of the ASEAN Chair in the G20 Summits, we appreciated the invitation by the Russian Federation to the G20 St. Petersburg Summit in September 2013, and in other related G20 meetings throughout 2013. In this regard, we tasked officials to develop the ASEAN Position Paper for the G20 Summit to reflect ASEAN's views on the G20 agenda, as well as on global and regional issues.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

64. We underscored the important role that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) plays in the Asia Pacific region, in particular in promoting the Bogor Goals of open and free trade and investment, in strengthening capacity building, as well as in building human security in the region. In this regard, we fully support the APEC 2013 chairmanship of Indonesia in playing a leading role to further these objectives, through its three priorities of 'Attaining the Bogor Goals', 'Achieving Sustainable Growth with Equity' and 'Promoting Connectivity'.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

65. We align ourselves to the APEC Ministers' call, during the recent APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade held in Surabaya on 20-21 April 2013, to

expeditiously and effectively advance the WTO Members' engagement in preparing for MC9 in Bali in December this year. The Bali outcomes should include agreements covering trade facilitation, elements of agriculture and development, as well as issues of interest to least developed countries. We therefore, give our full support and cooperation to Indonesia to help bridge the gaps for the adoption of a Bali package that works for all.

**Joint Statement of the 9th
Brunei Darussalam – Indonesia –
Malaysia – Philippines East
ASEAN Growth Area Summit
(9th BIMP-EAGA Summit)**

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 25 April 2013**

1. We, the Leaders of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, met for the 9th BIMP-EAGA Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 25 April 2013, to review the progress of cooperation and to provide further direction in the pursuit of our shared vision of establishing BIMP-EAGA as a regional food basket and ecotourism destination through enhanced connectivity for trade and investment, whilst ensuring sustainable management of the environment. We reiterated the importance of sub-regional economic cooperation of BIMP-EAGA as a strategy in supporting the realisation of the ASEAN Community.
2. Trade will continue to be one of the main cornerstones of BIMP-EAGA cooperation. As such, we are pleased to note that total trade value of BIMP-EAGA grew significantly by 70% from USD 100 billion in 2009 to USD 170 billion in 2011. Intra-EAGA trade represented nearly 25% of the total EAGA trade over the same period. We are also pleased to note the positive trend in foreign direct investment in BIMP-EAGA Member Countries have grown significantly by 129% from USD 24 billion in 2009 to USD 55 billion in 2011.
3. We are pleased with the progress in implementing the Priority Infrastructure Projects, since our endorsement of the Implementation Blueprint (IB) 2012 - 2016 at the 8th BIMP-EAGA Summit in 2012. We took note that the 2013-2014 rolling pipeline projects that have been identified will further contribute to the attainment of the BIMP-EAGA vision. We look forward to the finalisation of the "Result-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework" to provide indicators and assessment of the substantive outcomes and impacts of these projects to our community. We reiterated on the need for effective and timely implementation of the IB and therefore, we tasked our Sectoral Ministers to jointly coordinate and implement these BIMP-EAGA priority projects.
4. We recognised the need to synergise through greater coordination, among the four pillars of BIMP-EAGA, i.e. connectivity, food basket, tourism and environment, to further improve economic development and also narrow the development gap within the BIMP-EAGA Member Countries. We are pleased that, under the connectivity pillar, transport initiatives continue to be sustained. Amongst others, we welcomed the commencement of Malaysia's MASwings flights on 1 February 2013 between Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia and Balikpapan, Indonesia as well as flights between Kuching, Malaysia and Balikpapan, Indonesia. We also welcomed the additional designation of Tawau and Mulu in Malaysia; Makassar in Indonesia; and Cagayan De Oro in Philippines as BIMP-EAGA points for fifth freedom traffic rights.
5. We welcomed the initiatives to improve the ICT literacy in the rural community through the ICT Rural Outreach Program (iROP). We commended the ICT sector for the successful launching of Phase I of the BIMP-EAGA Rink project as a stepping stone to develop the BIMP-EAGA region as a communications hub. We are pleased to note the convening of the inaugural Informal BIMP-EAGA Telecommunications and ICT Ministers Meeting on 14 November 2012 in Cebu, Philippines which provided further direction in moving the ICT agenda forward.
6. We recognised the performance of the tourism sector in the last three years which has demonstrated strong potential for growth. The combined foreign and domestic arrivals in BIMP-EAGA registered a 31% increase, from 13 million in 2009 to 17 million in 2011. We, therefore, appreciated the continuous

efforts of the tourism sector to promote the Equator Asia tourism brand and thus, we welcomed the arrangement of various BIMP-EAGA signature tourism events. We also welcomed their efforts in pursuing various infrastructure development and promotion activities, as well as capacity building program at the Community-Based Ecotourism Pilot Sites, and hosting a BIMP-EAGA familiarisation tour for media and travel writers from China.

7. In strengthening food security in the sub-region, we commended the successful conduct of the 1st BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT Consumer Fair and the BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT Business Transformation Leaders Conference: Promoting High-Value Agriculture through Public-Private Partnerships held in Melaka, Malaysia on 30 November - 2 December 2012 and the positive outcomes of the conference in forging new private sector joint venture initiatives namely, on Biotech Organic Fertilisers and Swiftlet Eco-Park. We look forward to the conduct of the 2nd BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT Consumer Fair to be hosted in the Philippines in 2014. We also commended the private sector joint venture initiatives in the Hybrid Rice Seed production.
8. We tasked our Sectoral Ministers to look into ways of ensuring sustainable use of natural resources in the sub-region, in an effort to conserve the environment for future generations. In this regard, we encouraged active engagement with global environment players to support our work in ensuring the preservation of two of the richest biodiversity areas in the world, namely the Heart of Borneo and the Coral Triangle (Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Eco-region).
9. We recognised the ever-increasing initiatives that are currently being pursued under the BIMP-EAGA cooperation and on the need to effectively coordinate and monitor them through a fully-functioning central secretariat. We look forward to the finalisation of the institutional arrangements for the establishment of the BIMP-EAGA Facilitation Centre (BIMP-FC) by the next Ministerial Meeting.
10. We called on the BIMP-EAGA Business Council (BEBC) to continue to advocate greater ease of doing business and facilitation of cross-border trade and investment in the sub-region. We urged the private sector, our Senior Officials, local governments and officials from the various sectors to strengthen public-private partnerships and reinforce collective efforts at exploring innovative modalities for partnerships, particularly in the area of enhancing connectivity, establishing food basket and promoting tourism in BIMP-EAGA.
11. We thanked our Regional Development Advisor, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), for their continued assistance in the operationalisation of the Implementation Blueprint (IB) 2012-2016 and in the provision of technical assistance projects in supporting the development of connectivity infrastructure and trade facilitation. We urged ADB to continue its support and also consider providing their assistance in delivering projects.
12. We appreciated the ASEAN Secretariat's increasing engagement with BIMP- EAGA and therefore, we welcomed the conduct of the ASEAN Secretariat – BIMP EAGA Consultation on 4 March 2013 in its efforts to align the BIMP-EAGA development with the ASEAN Community agenda. We urged them to pursue identified follow through activities to strengthen ASEAN – BIMP-EAGA collaboration. We support the higher profiling of BIMP-EAGA with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and External Parties.
13. We are pleased with BIMP-EAGA's engagement with China and Japan. We look forward to greater cooperation by all stakeholders to establish actual joint venture undertakings with China and with Japan. We tasked our Senior Officials to identify new Development Partners.
14. We expressed our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Brunei Darussalam for the warm hospitality and the excellent meeting arrangements.

Chairman's Statement of the 23rd ASEAN Summit

“Our People, Our Future Together”

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 9 October 2013**

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), gathered in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam for the 23rd ASEAN Summit on 9 October 2013. We had extensive discussions under the theme “Our People, Our Future Together” which promotes the collective commitment of our people, bound together through the spirit of unity in diversity, to bring forward an ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible.
2. In light of the current global challenges, we reaffirmed the importance of drawing upon the experiences and endeavours of ASEAN in further strengthening the existing bonds of solidarity and cooperation to advance our common interests and overcome challenges within the region and beyond, including through consultations and consensus-building, as well as our mutual respect for fostering greater understanding and good neighbourliness.
3. These existing bonds of solidarity and cooperation underpin our resolve to intensify our community-building efforts by upholding the ASEAN Charter, implementing the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community, particularly the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II (2009-2015), and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC).
4. In advancing the frontiers of our cooperation that will be more responsive to the needs of our people and our future together, we tasked the ASEAN Coordinating Council, in consultations and coordination with the three ASEAN Community Councils, to develop ASEAN's vision beyond 2015. In this regard, we adopted the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision.
5. As a reflection of our political will, we agreed to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat and review the

various ASEAN Organs, its processes and institutions in ensuring ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture. In this regard, we looked forward to the early establishment of the High-Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs.

6. We recognised the role of local governments in ASEAN's community building process particularly to better prepare our people to realise the ASEAN Community 2015. In this connection, we commended the Meeting of Governors/Mayors of the Capital Cities of ASEAN under the theme “ASEAN Goes Local: Contributing to the ASEAN Community 2015” held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 18-19 September 2013 which reflects their strong commitment to play an active role in the process of ASEAN integration.

ASEAN Political-Security Community

7. We noted with satisfaction the continued progress recorded in the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint, which would further strengthen the foundation for dialogue and cooperation for the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the region. In this regard, we welcomed the report of the Second Biennial Review of the APSC Blueprint in September 2013 and reiterated our political will to implement the remaining measures under the APSC Blueprint in an effective and timely manner.
8. We reaffirmed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the key code of conduct governing inter-state relations in the region and a foundation for the maintenance of regional peace and stability. We noted that the growing interest demonstrated by countries that wish to accede to the TAC is without precedent and, in this regard, we welcomed the accession of Norway to the TAC at the 46th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) and Related Meetings in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 1 July 2013. We welcomed the adoption of the revised Guidelines for Accession to the TAC in Southeast Asia by the Foreign Ministers at the 46th AMM and therefore tasked our Ministers to further deliberate on the remaining requests of other countries to accede to the TAC according to the revised Guidelines.

9. On the promotion and protection of human rights in the region, we expressed satisfaction with the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). We welcomed the on-going efforts of the AICHR in implementing its initiatives and programmes, including the implementation of the Priority Programme/Activities of AICHR 2013 and the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD).
10. We underscored the importance of preserving the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty) and the ASEAN Charter. We encouraged the full support of the Nuclear Weapon States for the ASEAN-sponsored United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution on the SEANWFZ Treaty in 2013 and looked forward to its submission and eventual adoption by consensus. We also welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) to enhance regional cooperation in nuclear safety, security and safeguards.
11. In working closer together to promote transparency and confidence-building on security-related policies, we welcomed the first publication of the annual ASEAN Security Outlook (ASO), which would help promote greater understanding of each other's defence policy and contains our collective outlook on the security environment in the region.
12. We noted that the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) shall serve as a centre of excellence to encourage efforts to address explosive remnants of war for interested ASEAN Member States, and shall facilitate cooperation between interested ASEAN Member States and relevant institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. In this regard, we adopted the Terms of Reference of the ARMAC, which was recommended by our Ministers. We looked forward to the full and effective operationalisation of the Centre.
13. Reflecting our deep concern over the formidable challenges of transnational crime, we commended the comprehensive work undertaken by ASEAN sectoral bodies in combating terrorism, trafficking in persons, and trafficking and production of illicit drugs through various practical measures and programmes. In this regard, we welcomed the outcomes of the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and Related Meetings held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 17-18 September 2013, and the 4th ASEAN SOMTC Experts' Working Group Meeting held in Manila, Philippines on 4-6 September 2013. We also welcomed the progress made in developing an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) and a Regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (RPA) which reflects the need to urgently combat trafficking in persons in the region.
14. We welcomed the outcomes of the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 1-4 September 2013. In this regard, we reaffirmed our collective commitment in combating drug trafficking and urged concerned sectoral bodies to intensify their efforts to realise a Drug-Free ASEAN in 2015.
15. We welcomed the continued efforts in considering the proposal for an ASEAN Common Visa for non-ASEAN nationals and acknowledged that Indonesia has convened two regional workshops to explore this initiative. We therefore encouraged the relevant officials to further deliberate on ASEAN Common Visa.
16. We noted the idea of extending our support to ASEAN Member States that does not have permanent representation in third countries to help their respective nationals in need of consular assistance on a case-by-case basis, through bilateral arrangements between the concerned ASEAN Member States. In this regard, we encouraged our Ministers and officials to study this proposal further.
17. We appreciated the efforts to strengthen regional maritime cooperation by leveraging upon existing ASEAN frameworks, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF), and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF). In this regard, we welcomed the convening of the 4th AMF on 1-2 October 2013 and the 2nd EAMF on 3 October 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We

looked forward to the convening of the 3rd EAMF in 2014, which would be held back-to-back with the 5th AMF.

18. Recognising the strategic importance of the ADMM-Plus as an effective platform to foster constructive dialogue and cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus countries, we welcomed the outcomes of the 2nd ADMM-Plus held in Brunei Darussalam on 29 August 2013. We particularly appreciated the ADMM-Plus for its efforts in advancing practical cooperation through the work of its five Experts' Working Groups (EWG) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Maritime Security, Military Medicine, Counter-Terrorism and Peacekeeping Operations. In this context, we welcomed the establishment of the ADMM-Plus EWG on Humanitarian Mine Action. We also welcomed the ADMM-Plus' efforts in encouraging the defence and military establishments of its member countries to set up practical measures that reduce vulnerability to miscalculations, and avoid misunderstanding and undesirable incidents at sea.
19. Moreover, we commended the ADMM-Plus on the success of the ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMM-Plus HADR and MM Ex) in Brunei Darussalam on 17-20 June 2013, which was a landmark cooperation among the defence forces of the ADMM-Plus countries. The Exercise has promoted capacity-building, enhanced interoperability, and established mechanisms for effective response among our militaries.
20. We encouraged the holding of regular disaster relief exercises, in order to improve our capacity in disaster preparedness and, as such, welcomed the Mentawai Megathrust Disaster Relief Exercise (MM-DiREx) Field Training Exercise (FTX) in Padang, West Sumatera, Indonesia in March 2014.

ASEAN Economic Community

21. We were pleased with the continued robust performance of ASEAN's economies. Last year, ASEAN grew by 5.7% and was able to maintain its level of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows at US\$108.2 billion as well as recorded US\$2.47 trillion in total merchandise trade. Against the backdrop of weaker global growth, regional growth is expected to moderate in the immediate term. Nonetheless, in the longer term, economic activities in the region are expected to remain robust.
22. While the economic prospects for ASEAN remain broadly positive, we reiterated the need to enhance ASEAN's competitiveness and to continue deepening and broadening our economic integration and meet our set targets in a timely manner. On that note, we were encouraged by the progress of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), where 279 measures (79.7%) of the AEC Blueprint have been implemented. Recognising the challenges being faced in implementing the AEC, we further agreed to intensify our efforts in those areas under the AEC with high impact to ensure credible integration results by 2015.
23. In this regard, we welcomed the progress in trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation initiatives in the region, such as the on-going work to streamline Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) and to address Non-Tariff Barrier (NTB) effects of NTMs through National level and Regional level Work Programmes on NTMs, efforts to deepen services integration through the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS), especially the 9th Package of Services commitments and the enhancement of the AFAS, as well as the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA). We also welcomed the development of effective rules and regulations, such as on competition policy and intellectual property rights (IPR), to foster a more competitive region.
24. We reaffirmed our commitment to facilitate the movement of ASEAN nationals, business persons and tourists in the region to complement the trade and investment facilitation work. On this note, we commended the initiative undertaken by some ASEAN Member States in designating ASEAN Lanes at their respective airports to facilitate intra-ASEAN travel. We also encouraged our officials to continue their work in exploring the development of the ASEAN Business Travel Card as well as the easing of visa requirements for ASEAN nationals, and to report their progress at the 24th ASEAN Summit.
25. We reiterated the importance of promoting financial literacy amongst the region's people and welcomed the

- outcomes of the ASEAN Financial Literacy Conference held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 10-11 September 2013. The Conference provided a good platform to share experiences and best practices in promoting financial literacy. This could serve as a possible basis for each ASEAN Member State to develop their own country-specific initiatives to enhance financial literacy in the region. We therefore looked forward for the regional and international financial institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank, to provide the appropriate support to ASEAN Member States towards this endeavour.
26. We also intensified our efforts to build stronger integrated financial markets. We believe that robust capital markets are important to ensure financial stability, efficient allocation of capital, harness foreign capital inflows, and develop new investment vehicles in the region. We also remain committed to spur infrastructure development in the region. We therefore looked forward to the commencement of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund's (AIF) lending operations this year. We believe that AIF is an integral component of ASEAN's efforts to strengthen regional physical connectivity, and narrow the infrastructure development gaps in ASEAN.
 27. Recognising the need to strengthen intra-ASEAN maritime and shipping services, we welcomed the progress achieved in our transport cooperation, including the establishment of a task force to monitor and promote the implementation of the ASEAN Single Shipping Market (ASSM) and the progress of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM) particularly on the development of a framework on Ramp Inspection, Aviation Security joint exercise and the ASEAN Regional Contingency Plan. We looked forward to the finalisation of the 8th Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under AFAS and the MOU on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response.
 28. We are determined to continue enhancing ASEAN energy cooperation in order to address major energy challenges and thus, ensure a secure and reliable energy supply to the ASEAN region. We also welcomed the findings of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation Mid-Term Review (APAEC MTR) report, which shows that ASEAN is on track to meet most of the key targets set out in the APAEC 2010-2015 by 2015. We looked forward to the identification of key energy strategies by ASEAN to ensure the progress of ASEAN's future energy landscape beyond 2015.
 29. We also continued to focus our efforts on ensuring regional food security, which is essential for ensuring broader security of the people in our region. We noted the on-going progress and achievement made in the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and its Strategic Plan of Action (SPA-FS) 2009-2013. We acknowledged the good progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement, including the establishment of the APTERR Council, and also on the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security (AFCC). We supported the initiation of the work on developing the post-2015 vision, objectives and goals of the ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry sector towards 2020. We were pleased with the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Comprehensive Strategy on Food Security and Bioenergy Development (APTCS-FSBD) to address climate change, water resources sustainability and bio-energy development in the context of food security.
 30. We reaffirmed our commitment to realise the potential of SMEs to increase their contribution to the region's economic development and to promote inclusive growth. We welcomed the revision of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2010-2015 (SAP SMED) as part of rigorous efforts to align our work with the dynamic economic landscape and regional architecture, as well as the development of a draft Strategic Roadmap to enhance SMEs across the region. We were also pleased to note the continuing support of dialogue partners through various initiatives to promote SME development. In this regard, we welcomed the convening of the Universiti Brunei Darussalam-Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)-Harvard Symposium entitled "SME Development and Innovation Towards a 'People-Centred' ASEAN Community", held on 14 September 2013 in Brunei Darussalam.

31. Recognising the need for effective coordination and engagement between various ASEAN-related business associations, we commended the ASEAN Business Advisory Council for the successful convening of the 1st Joint Consultation Meeting of ASEAN Business Councils in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 18 August 2013. We therefore looked forward to future iterations that will further support private sector development within and beyond the region, with the greater aim of ensuring a successful realisation of the AEC by 2015.
32. We welcomed efforts to further strengthen the IAI as ASEAN's platform for achieving equitable economic development in the region. We looked forward to the results of the Mid-Term Review of the IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015), particularly in terms of identifying concrete and practical measures to fast-track the completion of IAI's objectives and clear recommendations on future direction. We noted the continuing work on the implementation of the ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Development (AFEED), and recognised the need to forge ahead to attain significant results under the third pillar of the AEC.
33. We welcomed the progress of the work on integrating ASEAN into the global economy, particularly through the implementation of the ASEAN+1 FTAs, the ongoing negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and preparations for the ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Area (AHKFTA) negotiations. We were pleased to note that initiatives are being undertaken to make the existing FTAs more responsive to the needs of businesses and increase their utilisation.
34. We were pleased with the progress made on the RCEP negotiations since its commencement on 9-13 May 2013 and noted that the 1st RCEP Ministerial Meeting was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 19 August 2013. We welcomed the detailed work now underway in the working groups on goods, services and investment, as well as the development of a work programme for the timely conclusion of negotiations by the end of 2015, and looked forward to further progress at the third round of RCEP negotiations, which will be hosted by Malaysia in January 2014.

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

35. We adopted the Final Report of the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint and welcomed the generally positive progress with about 90% of all action lines addressed since the Blueprint was approved in 2009. We recognised that this regional component of the Mid-Term Review, undertaken by an independent consultant and funded by Brunei Darussalam, also found that implementation of the Blueprint had reached a critical juncture. We noted that the Final Report complements the other two components of the Review, namely the ASCC Scorecard initiated by the ASEAN Secretariat, and National Assessments, financed through the ASEAN Development Fund (ADF).
36. We acknowledged that recommendations arising from the Mid-Term Review include strengthening the internal mechanisms of the ASEAN Secretariat, refining the ASCC Scorecard and deepening our engagements with socio-cultural stakeholders. We also acknowledged other recommendations highlighting the need for strengthened coordination through cross-sectoral mechanisms, resource mobilisation, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches, a communication strategy as part of a wider ASEAN Community communication strategy and special consideration for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. Recognising the additional need for a commitment to implement the recommendations, we welcomed the decision by the 10th ASCC Council Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 26 September 2013 to set up a core working group to study the recommendations of the Review to help realise our goal of an ASEAN Community that is people-centred and socially responsible.
37. We noted the outcomes of the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 22 May 2013, including the convening of the First ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Seminar and Expo (AYESE) and the establishment of an ASEAN Young Professionals Volunteer Corps (AYPVC), which has since completed inaugural projects in Cambodia, Philippines, and Indonesia. The Volunteer Corps is a Brunei Darussalam initiative in collaboration with Singapore non-governmental

- organisation Mercy Relief with the aim of establishing a spirit of cooperation and togetherness among young professionals of ASEAN Member States through grass-roots community work in areas of their expertise. We also noted the recommendations of the ASEAN Youth Employment Forum in Semarang, Indonesia, in May 2013. To this end, we adopted the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment.
38. We encouraged cross-sectoral coordination and multi-stakeholder participation, including greater civil-military coordination in emergency response operations. We also supported the convening of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and their coordination with the various relevant mechanisms related to disaster management in ASEAN to synchronise their activities and policies using the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) as the common platform for disaster management. In this regard, we adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management.
 39. We noted the outcomes of the 8th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in July 2013 including the acknowledgment of the importance of participatory approaches involving our communities, village leaders, civil society, grassroots organisations, volunteers, the private sector and other stakeholders in ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of community empowerment programmes. We welcomed the 1st ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards and looked forward to the successful implementation of the 11 regional projects and activities under the Framework Action Plan in 2013 and 2014.
 40. We encouraged effective implementation of the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change, with particular attention to vulnerable groups in adaptation efforts. We recognised the importance of preserving, managing and sustaining use of water resources, and call on ASEAN Member States to continue effectively implementing the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan on Water Resource Management, including assessing impacts that economic development has on the environment and people's livelihoods in major river basins including the Lower Mekong Basin.
 41. We recognised the importance of preserving and managing water resources for sustainable development. In this regard, we welcomed the Chiang Mai Declaration by the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in May 2013, which reiterated the importance of water as an essential part of human life and the environment as well as human security and the economy. As such, we acknowledged that water is an issue affecting all three pillars of the future ASEAN Community.
 42. We took note of the report of the 10th ASEAN Social-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Meeting and welcomed the adoption of the recommendation of the 14th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME) for an ASEAN Sub-Regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS), as a joint haze monitoring system among Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution countries. We also took note of the outcomes of the trilateral meeting on transboundary haze between the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore at the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Hua Hin on 14 August 2013. We also welcomed Indonesia's commitment to the ratification of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution and looked forward to Indonesia's ratification of the Agreement at the earliest time.
 43. Specifically on labour, we reiterated the importance of job creation and social safety nets for small and medium-sized enterprises to narrow development gaps in the region through direct engagement with non-governmental organisations and the private sector. We reaffirmed our collective commitment to further strengthen human resource development and acknowledged the importance of education cooperation to improve regional productivity and prosperity. Recalling our statement on the 22nd ASEAN Summit on the ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers under the ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM), we encouraged ALMM to accelerate the

on-going drafting process of deliberations on the instrument to be concluded according to the agreed timeline.

44. We recognised the importance of establishing an ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework, together with initiatives to strengthen quality assurance system in different ASEAN Member States as well as ASEAN as a region, aimed at accelerating student mobility and human resource empowerment in the region. In this regard, we encouraged the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to further develop the concept on ASEAN Regional Qualification Framework.
45. Mindful of the need for a strengthened holistic and multi-disciplinary approach that is responsive to gender and age as well as being sensitive to children, we adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN. We noted that the Declaration, in recognition of the specific situations of women and children, particularly victims and survivors of violence, indicates the kind of support and services to be provided in ASEAN Member States.
46. We also adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, which sets out principles, strategies and mechanisms in accordance with the domestic laws and policies of ASEAN Member States in ensuring equitable access to services, social welfare and justice as well as development of social services for all to bring about prosperity in the region.
47. We agreed on the urgent need to accelerate actions to reduce risk factors caused by the four main noncommunicable diseases, namely cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases. We recognised that they are not only the leading cause of death in most ASEAN Member States but that increasingly younger people are affected by premature death caused by such medical conditions. We therefore adopted the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases.

ASEAN Connectivity

48. We noted the progress in realising the MPAC and emphasised the importance of increasing its

implementation rate, particularly through more effective coordination, communication and resource mobilisation. We recognised the importance of mobilising financial and technical resources, utilisation of the AIF, and the promotion of public-private partnership (PPP) especially through collaboration with dialogue partners and external parties.

49. We recognised the importance of ensuring synergy and mutual reinforcement between sub-regional cooperation arrangements and the MPAC. We also welcomed the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee's (ACCC) engagement with dialogue partners, external parties as well as the private sector in the implementation of the MPAC. In this connection, we welcomed the outcomes of the 4th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium entitled "Partnering Private Sector for ASEAN Connectivity" held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 27 August 2013 with the contribution of the ERIA.

External Relations

50. We reiterated the importance of ASEAN's central role and leadership in the evolving regional architecture and reaffirmed our commitment to work closely with all our external partners to ensure the maintenance of peace, security, stability and prosperity through the various ASEAN-led processes, including the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, ARF, ADMM-Plus and East Asia Summit (EAS). In this regard, we looked forward to meeting our partners at the forthcoming ASEAN Plus One Summits, the ASEAN Plus Three Summit and the EAS.
51. We encouraged all external partners of ASEAN to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) to bring the ASEAN common platform on global issues into reality by 2022. We took note of Indonesia's idea to promote second generation external relations and dialogue partnership, with the aim of having an equal, mutually beneficial and meaningful partnership.

52. Recalling the relentless efforts of the ASEAN Plus Three in addressing the challenges posed by the

Asian financial crisis in 1997, we called on the ASEAN Plus Three to remain steadfast and even more united in ensuring the economic well-being of the region. Recognising the global dimension of the prevailing economic situation, we remain committed to cooperate with the Plus Three countries in ensuring the prosperity and stability of the region, through among others, the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation Agreement (CMIM), the ASEAN Plus Three Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), the work plan for the implementation of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) New Roadmap+, and the inauguration of the guarantee transaction of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF).

53. We reaffirmed the principles, objectives and modalities of the EAS as stipulated in the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the EAS, and the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the EAS, which underlined the common vision of the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on issues of strategic importance to the region, including political, security, economic and development issues so as to further promote peace, stability, economic prosperity and integration in East Asia. We further reaffirmed ASEAN's central role in the EAS, and ASEAN's commitment to work in close partnership with all EAS participating countries, to ensure that EAS would continue to be an important integral component of the emerging regional architecture. We welcomed the progress of cooperation in the EAS, especially in the six (6) priority areas, namely energy and environment, education, finance, disaster management, global health issues and pandemic diseases as well as ASEAN Connectivity. We noted with appreciation, Indonesia's idea of having a treaty of friendship and cooperation that include a wider indo-pacific region based on the principles contained in the TAC and in line with the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles).

Regional and International Issues

54. We discussed the situation in the South China Sea and further reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, and maritime security in the region
- in accordance with the principles contained in the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), ASEAN's Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea, and the Joint Statement of the 15th ASEAN-China Summit on the 10th Anniversary of the DOC. In this regard, we reaffirmed the collective commitments under the DOC to ensuring the resolution of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, without resorting to the threat or use of force, while exercising self-restraint in the conduct of activities.
55. We remain committed to ensure the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety, including the mutually agreed joint cooperative activities and projects in accordance with the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC. In this regard, we welcomed the commencement of formal consultations between ASEAN and China on the COC following the 6th ASEAN-China Senior Officials Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC and the 9th ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC held in Suzhou, China on 14-15 September 2013. Taking into account the importance of the 10th anniversary of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in 2013 and the positive progress of dialogue and consultations, we looked forward to intensifying official consultations with China on the development of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) with a view to its early conclusion. The COC will serve to enhance peace, stability and prosperity in the region. We also looked forward to developing the ideas of establishing hotlines of communication to further enhance trust, confidence and to respond to emergency situations at sea and cooperate in the area of search and rescue for vessels in distress at sea as part of an "early harvest" package of the COC.
56. We stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula, and encouraged peaceful dialogue including creating a positive atmosphere for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. We reiterated the importance of fully complying with obligations in all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions and commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-

- Party Talks. We reiterated our support for all efforts to bring about the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and reaffirmed our commitments to fully implement the relevant UNCS Resolutions to this end.
57. We reaffirmed our support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for an independent state of Palestine and a two-state solution where both countries and peoples can live side by side in peace. We welcomed the recent resumption of direct peace talks between Palestine and Israel and called on all parties to make efforts to remove obstacles related thereto, in particular the construction of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories to reach a final status agreement.
58. We shared the concerns of the international community on the use of chemical weapons in Syria which has caused the loss of lives. We further stressed the importance of ensuring the safety and security of civilians, including personnel involved in international peace operations. In this regard, we underscored the importance of resolving the crisis in a peaceful manner and supported all efforts, particularly by the United Nations, including the adoption of the UNSC Resolution 2118.
59. We welcomed the outcomes of the G20 Summit held in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 5-6 September 2013 and appreciated the opportunity to share ASEAN's views on current issues affecting the global economy, through the participation of the ASEAN Chair. ASEAN continues to support the work of the G20 to achieve strong, balanced, and sustained growth and we looked forward to Australia's invitation for the Chairman of ASEAN in 2014 to engage the G20.
60. We congratulated Indonesia for the successful outcomes of the 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia on 7-8 October 2013. The work of APEC, especially the key priority areas of attaining the Bogor Goals, achieving sustainable growth with equity and promoting connectivity which is the focus this year, will complement our goals in ASEAN to realise the AEC by 2015. To this end, we reaffirmed our support for APEC's work and take this opportunity to welcome China as the next APEC Chair in 2014.
61. We recognised that a strong, rules-based multilateral trading system, continues to be essential in sustaining international trade flows and ensuring the growth of the global economy. In this regard, we reaffirmed our commitment towards a successful outcome at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia, which will include trade facilitation, some elements of agriculture and a set of development issues that would be a stepping stone towards seeking to successfully conclude the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) Round and providing renewed confidence in the multilateral trading system.
62. We welcomed the progress made by the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group (ACCWG) in their deliberations on Timor-Leste's application for ASEAN membership.

ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 9 October 2013**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (here in after referred to as "ASEAN"), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, met at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on [9 or] 10 October 2013;

RECALLING the Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention on the Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004, adopted at the Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on the Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 6 January 2005;

AFFIRMING that the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and

its Work Programme 2010-2015 serve as a catalyst for achieving the ASEAN vision of disaster resilient nations and safer communities by 2015;

RECALLING ALSO the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations “Bali Concord III” and ASEAN Leaders’ Statement on Cooperation in Flood Prevention, Mitigation, Relief, Recovery and Rehabilitation, adopted at the 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia on 17 November 2011, which emphasise the need to promote partnership, strengthen efforts to address climate change adaptation, enhance civil-military coordination in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and facilitate regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction;

MINDFUL OF the growing numbers of HADR initiatives under ASEAN-related mechanisms, in particular the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM), ADMM- Plus, East Asia Summit (EAS) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF);

REITERATING our decisions at the 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia on 17 November 2011, the 21st ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 18 November 2012, and the 22nd ASEAN Summit on 24-25 April 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam that AADMER, with a view to maintaining ASEAN’s Centrality, will serve as the main regional policy backbone and common platform for disaster management in the region;

ENCOURAGED by the significant progress on the operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), which was launched on 17 November 2011 at the sidelines of the 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia, and its important role as the operational engine of AADMER to enhance regional cooperation in disaster management and ensure ASEAN’s collective response to disasters in the region;

COMMENDING the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the AADMER and the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) for the progress in implementing AADMER Work Programme Phase 1 (2010-2012);

REAFFIRMING the commitment of ASEAN in pursuing effective cooperation in disaster risk reduction to reduce the vulnerabilities and enhance the capacities of ASEAN peoples to be more resilient and self-reliant in mitigating

the impact of disasters; as stated in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint element B7.

DO HEREBY:

1. Fully support the launch of AADMER Work Programme Phase 2 (2013-2015) in the upcoming AADMER Partnership Conference in November 2013 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, which will provide an enhanced planning framework and deepening stakeholder participation in mobilising and targeting resources for the implementation of the Work Programme;
2. Call on relevant ASEAN bodies to undertake necessary steps to ensure effective and timely implementation of the AADMER Work Programme Phase;
3. Encourage ASEAN Dialogue Partners and relevant regional and international organisations to help to develop a supportive environment that optimises the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme;
4. Agree to further spur and reinforce ASEAN’s commitment to the operationalisation and sustainability of the AHA Centre, and expand and nurture co-operation and co-ordination among the ASEAN Member States, and with relevant and international organisations in promoting regional collaboration in disaster management and emergency response;
5. Urge ASEAN Member States and relevant ASEAN bodies in disaster management, with the support of Dialogue Partners and relevant regional and international organisations, to take necessary steps to strengthen the effective utilisation and quick deployment of the ASEAN Standby Arrangements for Disaster Relief and Emergency Response, including the ASEAN-Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ERAT), on a real-time basis;
6. Welcome the convening of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) as the ASEAN ministerial body in charge of promoting ASEAN cooperation in disaster management;
7. Encourage a joint effort and more integrated coordination and synergy in HADR among the various ASEAN-related mechanisms, wherever possible, in particular the AMMDM, ADMM, ADMM-Plus, ARF,

and EAS, in particular further implementation of the Indonesia-Australia (EAS) Joint Paper on “A Practical Approach to Enhance Regional Cooperation on Disaster Rapid Response” adopted by the EAS Leaders at the 6th EAS in Bali, Indonesia on 19 November 2011, using AADMER as the main common platform for disaster management in ASEAN with the ACDM as the driver in the process to maintain ASEAN’s Centrality in these efforts;

8. Promote regular dialogues among relevant ASEAN ministerial bodies to accelerate well-coordinated and concerted efforts to realise the building of disaster resilient and safer communities, reduce disaster losses and jointly respond to disaster emergencies by using AADMER as the common platform and maintaining ASEAN’s Centrality, and in this regard task the relevant ASEAN ministerial bodies to work on the proposed formation of a Joint Task Force and allocate an additional joint session in the respective ministerial meetings to promote dialogues among the relevant ASEAN ministerial bodies; and
9. Task the AMMDM, COP, ACDM and AHA Centre to work closely with other relevant ASEAN bodies and ASEAN-related mechanisms to chart a longer-term vision of ASEAN cooperation in disaster management beyond 2015 that promotes ASEAN’s leadership and shared vision in the area of disaster management in relevant multilateral fora.

ADOPTED in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, this Ninth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.

Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision

Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 9 October 2013

WE, the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 23rd ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam;

RECALLING the spirit in which the ASEAN Founding Fathers gathered in Bangkok in 1967 to create an organisation that would help bring about a Southeast Asian region of peace, freedom and prosperity for their peoples;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok, 1967), the Declaration on the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (Kuala Lumpur, 1971), the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in Southeast Asia (Bali, 1976), the Declaration of ASEAN Concord (Bali, 1976), the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok, 1995), the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali, 2003) and the ASEAN Charter (Singapore, 2007), that refers among others to a people-oriented ASEAN;

RECALLING ALSO the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) which envisage the establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015 and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity which would complement and support ASEAN integration through enhanced physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity;

REAFFIRMING the Bali Declaration on the ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) and its Plan of Action (2012-2017) to bring the ASEAN common platform on global issues into reality by 2022;

ASPIRING to a Southeast Asian region bound by One Vision, One Identity, One Community;

NOTING the importance of realising a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and a truly people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN as central elements of a Post-2015 Vision of the ASEAN Community.

DO HERE BY :

AGREE to commit ourselves to the development of the ASEAN Community's post-2015 vision.

TASK the ASEAN Community Councils to expedite their work on developing the ASEAN Community's post-2015 vision, recognising the importance of promoting coherence and consistency in efforts to develop this vision, building upon the achievements recorded in the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015);

REQUEST the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) to further develop the central elements of the ASEAN Community's post-2015 vision for endorsement by the ASEAN Summit in 2014, and for the ACC to establish a Working Group of the ACC at the level of Senior Officials of the three pillars to oversee the overall process of developing this post-2015 vision by the 27th ASEAN Summit, with progress reports submitted to the 24th, 25th and 26th ASEAN Summits;

PLEDGE our continued commitment, attention and involvement in the process of developing the post-2015 vision for the ASEAN Community.

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence against Children in ASEAN

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 9 October 2013**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN"), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 23rd ASEAN Summit;

UPHOLDING the goals, purposes and principles of ASEAN as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015);

REAFFIRMING the goals and commitments of ASEAN to eliminating violence against women and monitor their progress as reflected in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region adopted at the 37th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) on 30 June 2004;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING the importance and general principles of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD adopted at the 21st ASEAN Summit on 18 November 2012; and the commitments of ASEAN as reflected in the ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia adopted at the 18th ASEAN Summit on 8 May 2011; the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted at the 17th ASEAN Summit on 28 October 2010; the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children adopted at the 10th ASEAN Summit on 29 November 2004; the Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN adopted at the 4th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare (AMRSW) on 2 August 2001; the Resolution on the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children adopted at the 3rd AMRSW Meeting on 2 December 1993; and the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region adopted at the 21st AMM on 5 July 1988;

ACKNOWLEDGING the commitments of individual ASEAN Member States to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) that have been ratified by all ASEAN Member States; the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Vienna Declaration); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA), BPFA+5 Outcome Document; the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Child Survival, Protection and Development; A World Fit For Children Declaration; and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

RECALLING resolutions relating to the elimination of violence against women and children of the United Nations General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), and 1889 (2009) on Women, Peace and Security;

WELCOMING the adoption of the Terms of Reference and Work Plan (2012-2016) of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children in ASEAN taking into consideration the regional and national contexts bearing in mind the different historical, political, socio-cultural, religious, legal and economic backgrounds in the region;

RECOGNISING that ASEAN Member States shall take all appropriate measures to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedom and to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of intensifying efforts of ASEAN Member States to promote the rights of women and children, as well as to prevent and protect them from and respond to all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of women and children particularly for those who are in vulnerable situations, including domestic violence, women and children who are sexually exploited, women and children with disabilities, women and children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, women and children in conflict with laws, cyber pornography and cyber prostitution, trafficking in women and children, women and children in disasters, women and children in armed conflict, women and children in refugee camps, women and children on the move, stateless women and children, migrant women and children, women and children belonging to ethnic and/or indigenous groups, children in early marriage, physical abuse of children, bullying, discrimination against women and children in mass and social media, and others;

RECOGNISING that violence against women and violence against children occur irrespective of the stages of the life cycle, whether at home, in school, in the workplace, in public or private spaces (including cyber space) as a

result of gender bias, discriminatory and harmful traditional practices and must be eliminated as they impair human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children;

EMPHASISING that the rights of children to special protection and care are different than those of women, given that parents have the responsibilities in the upbringing and development of their children and to protect them from violence, abuse, maltreatment and exploitation, and the obligations of state parties to assist parents in these efforts;

DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

ASEAN Member States, individually and/or collectively, express common resolve to eliminate violence against women and violence against children in the region through the following measures:

1. Strengthen and, where necessary, enact or amend national legislations for the elimination of violence against women and violence against children, and to enhance the protection, services, rehabilitation, education and training, recovery and reintegration of victims/survivors;
2. Integrate legislations, policies and measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and violence against children and to protect and assist the victims/survivors in the national development plans and programmes with time-bound targets, adequate resources, and gender responsive planning and budgeting;
3. Strengthen a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to promote the rights of women and children and adopt a gender responsive, child sensitive, and age-responsive approach to eliminate violence against women and violence against children in the region which includes effective laws, legislations, policies and measures to:
 - Investigate, prosecute, punish and, where appropriate, rehabilitate perpetrators;
 - Protect women and children victims/survivors and witnesses;
 - Provide victims/survivors with access to justice, legal assistance, protection,

- social welfare services, education, and health services, including counseling and peer-to-peer support mechanisms, rehabilitation, recovery, and reintegration into the community, and consider provision of programme for families to properly give support to victims/ survivors;
- Instill awareness to prevent re-victimization of women and children from any form of violence and ensure it does not occur anywhere through various programmes, such as provision and promotion of vocational training and employment opportunities of women who are victims/survivors, access to reproductive health services, education and other basic social services;
 - Promote family support services, parenting education, education and public awareness on the rights of women and children and the nature and causes of violence against women and violence against children to encourage active public participation in the prevention and elimination of violence;
 - Create an enabling environment for the participation of women and children, including victims/survivors, in the prevention and elimination of violence against women and violence against children;
 - Develop effective strategies to eliminate harmful practices which perpetuate gender stereotyping, violence against women and violence against children;
4. Strengthen the existing national mechanisms, with the assistance, where necessary, of the ACWC and other related stakeholders, in implementing, monitoring and reporting the implementation of the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of CEDAW, CRC and other Treaty Bodies as well as the accepted recommendations under the Universal Periodic Review Process of the United Nations Human Rights Council related to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and violence against children;
 5. Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officers, policy makers, social workers, health personnel, and other stakeholders to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate gender responsive and child friendly legislations, policies and measures for women and children victims of violence;
 6. Encourage research and data collection and analysis in confidential concerning all forms of violence against women and violence against children to support the formulation and effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes to eliminate violence against women and violence against children for better protection of the victims/survivors in the region;
 7. Strengthen the provision of support social welfare services to women and children victims/survivors of violence and their families in ASEAN through the establishment of an ACWC network of social services to facilitate the promotion of good practices, sharing of information, exchange of experts, social workers and service providers, including NGOs;
 8. Strengthen partnerships with external parties at international, regional, national and local levels, including ASEAN Dialogue Partners, UN Agencies, civil society, community-based organisations, academia, philanthropists and private entities, in the work for the elimination of violence against women and violence against children in ASEAN and to mobilise resources to assist the victims/survivors;
- WE TASK** the relevant ASEAN bodies, in particular the ACWC, to promote the implementation of this Declaration and review its progress through appropriate instruments and actions with the support of ASEAN Member States.
- ADOPTED** in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam this Ninth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language

ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection

Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 9 October 2013

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN"), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 23rd ASEAN Summit in Brunei Darussalam;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to build an ASEAN Community comprising three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political and Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community that are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing by 2015;

GUIDED BY the ASEAN Charter which sets out the purposes of ASEAN in particular to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice;

MINDFUL the primary goal of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community is to contribute to realising an ASEAN Community that is people-centred and socially responsible with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the nations and peoples of ASEAN by forging a common identity and building a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and harmonious where the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the peoples are enhanced;

RECALLING the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015) that recognised the role of social protection in enhancing the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN;

FURTHER RECALLING the collective commitments of ASEAN in, among others, the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in A Global Community of Nations; Cebu

Declaration Towards One Caring and Sharing Community; ASEAN Human Rights Declaration; Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community; Proclamation of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020): Towards an Inclusive Society; Joint Declaration and ASEAN Roadmap on the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in ASEAN; Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly; Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children; Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN;

Resolution on the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children; Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region; ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers; as well as in the work programmes of the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies;

ACKNOWLEDGING the commitments of individual ASEAN Member States to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and other related international instruments that ASEAN Member States are parties to;

NOTING the concept of "Regional Policy Advocacy on Social Protection: An Agenda for ASEAN Community 2015, Toward an ASEAN Social Protection Framework" initiated by Cambodia during the 8th Meeting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council on 25 October 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; recommendations of the 6th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development and 7th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSVD) held on 20-22 September 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, as well as the 7th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development, and 8th SOMSVD held on 12-14 September 2012 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, respectively, as well as recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Social Protection and Promoting Social Services for Vulnerable Groups held on 11 September 2012 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, as well as ILO Recommendation concerning national floors of social protection, 2012 (No. 202);

DO HEREBY:**Principles**

STRIVE to adhere to the following principles that are applied in accordance with the domestic laws and policies of respective ASEAN Member States, nationally-defined social protection and its national priorities, and adapted to the different contexts of ASEAN Member States:

1. Everyone, especially those who are poor, at risk, persons with disabilities, older people, out-of-school youth, children, migrant workers, and other vulnerable groups, are entitled to have equitable access to social protection that is a basic human right and based on a rights-based/needs-based, life-cycle approach and covering essential services as needed;
2. Extending coverage, availability, quality, equitability and sustainability of social protection should be gradually promoted to ensure optimal benefits to the beneficiaries;
3. Social protection covers, but is not limited to, social welfare and development, social safety-nets, social insurance, social assistance, social services, in ASEAN Member States;
4. Implementation of social protection should be based on respect for fundamental freedoms, promotion and protection of human rights, promotion of social justice, social solidarity, non-discrimination, accessibility, reasonable accommodation, gender equality, social inclusiveness, coherence, and accountability;
5. Implementation of social protection towards progressive realisation in ASEAN Member States is the main responsibility of the respective governments based on national legislations, policies, programmes, strategies, standards and guidelines;
6. Social protection is a cross-cutting issue, hence its implementation requires coordinated and holistic approaches with the involvement of governments, private sectors, development partners, civil society, service providers, and other stakeholders, where appropriate;
7. Family unit and the community are an important element in supporting and delivering social protection services and therefore should be strengthened and preserved;
8. Inclusive and participatory approach should be ensured in the planning, programming and budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of social protection at all levels in the region to realise the strengthening of institutional capacity, transparency and responsiveness to the needs of those concerned;
9. Social protection is an investment in people that should be supported by adequate resources in order to empower them to meet their basic needs;
10. Social protection shall be adaptive to the different risks such as lifestyle and individual risks, social risks, and emerging risks and vulnerabilities faced by the region such as, but not limited to, changes in the economy and labour markets and impacts of climate change, disasters and economic crises.

Strategies and Mechanisms

FURTHER STRIVE to foster the following concrete actions towards improved quality, coverage, and sustainability of social protection in ASEAN Member States subject to each ASEAN Member State's national policies and priorities and adapted to the different contexts of ASEAN Member States:

11. Support national policies, strategies and mechanisms to strengthen the implementation of social protection programme, as well as effective targeting systems to ensure social protection services would go to those most in need;
12. Advocate strategies that promote the coverage, availability, comprehensiveness, quality, equitability, affordability and sustainability of various social protection services, including the expansion of social insurance to the informal sector; strengthening social assistance programmes for persons with disabilities, elderly, children and other vulnerable groups; greater access to social protection programmes and services, including vocational trainings as part of active labour market interventions and human resource development;

13. Promote results-based and evidence-based national assessments and benchmarking of social protection delivery services in ASEAN Member States that would contribute to the progressive implementation, effective monitoring and evaluation, as well as optimum impact of social protection;
14. Explore and develop assessment tools and regional statistical indicators where appropriate to measure the impact of social protection to the holistic development of vulnerable groups for future planning towards available accurate baseline data collection;
15. Allocate adequate financial resources for social protection in line with national targets and subject to the capacity of each Government;
16. Strengthen the capacity of government officials, communities, service providers, and other stakeholders for better responsiveness, coordination and effectiveness of social protection and delivery services at regional, national and local levels;
17. Collectively accelerate the progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in all ASEAN Member States by strengthening capacity to assess and manage health systems to support UHC through sharing of experiences, information and experts;
18. Foster the involvement of the existing mechanisms of ASEAN sectoral bodies, including the ASEAN+3 Network on Universal Health Coverage, in promoting social protection in the region through projects and activities to support ASEAN Member States in fulfilling the social protection of the people, particularly the poor, persons with disabilities, older people, children and other vulnerable groups;
19. Promote multi-sectoral responsiveness of social protection through consultations, sharing of information on good practices and policies, knowledge management, cooperation, and coordination on social protection amongst the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat. In this regard, the relevant ASEAN Ministerial Sectoral Bodies are tasked to convene an inter-sectoral regional consultation meeting involving SOMSWD, Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDE), Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM), ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), and ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), and other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies from the economic and political-security pillars should be convened regularly, as much as possible, to promote coordinated and holistic approach;
20. Assign the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD), with the support of SOMSWD, as the focal point for inter-sectoral cooperation on social protection at regional level, while acknowledging the different national coordinating mechanisms in ASEAN Member States;
21. Build and strengthen the networking and partnerships within and among ASEAN Member States as well as with Dialogue Partners, UN Agencies, civil society, private sectors, development partners, and other stakeholders in supporting adequate resources and effective implementation of the commitments reflected in this Declaration.

ADOPTED in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, this Ninth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.

Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases in ASEAN

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 9 October 2013**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

HAVING gathered in Bandar Seri Begawan on October 9, 2013, for the 23rd ASEAN Summit;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that noncommunicable diseases, namely, cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, are the leading causes of deaths in ASEAN Member States and that increasingly younger people in low and middle-income members are affected by premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases leading to loss of productivity and social and economic consequences;

EQUALLY CONCERNED on the increasing trends of intermediate risk factors for noncommunicable diseases such as high blood pressure, high blood sugar levels, high blood cholesterol levels, and overweight and obesity in ASEAN Member States as well as behavioural risk factors such as smoking, unhealthy diet, the harmful use of alcohol and physical inactivity, and that these factors are the leading global risks for mortality and disability;

NOTING that noncommunicable diseases are often associated with mental disorders;

RECALLING the commitment stated in the ASEAN Charter, in which ASEAN is resolved to ensure sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations and to place the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the peoples at the centre of ASEAN Community building process.

GUIDED by the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint adopted in 2009, part of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015 which calls for programmes, surveillance and access to primary health care for people at risk or vulnerable to diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancers;

ENCOURAGED by other provisions in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint such as promoting information, education and advocacy activities for healthy lifestyles and behaviour change intervention including diet and physical activity, developing a framework for unhealthy food and beverages, establishing an ASEAN Nutrition Surveillance System, promoting research into traditional/complementary and alternative medicine as well as risk factors for noncommunicable diseases, and the strengthening of regional networking in the health sector;

RECALLING that ASEAN Health Ministers have identified nutrition, physical activity, tobacco control and the prevention of noncommunicable diseases as priorities in the Declaration of the 6th ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting

on Healthy ASEAN Lifestyles adopted in Vientiane in 2002, the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015) endorsed at the 10th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting in 2010, and the Joint Statement of the 11th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting in 2012, outlined two levels of actions to intensify strategies to prevent noncommunicable diseases;

FURTHER NOTING that Health Ministers from ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea emphasised during the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting in Phuket in 2012, the need to adopt a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach to tackle unhealthy lifestyles and risk behaviours as well as the social determinants of health to address unhealthy diets and sedentary lifestyles;

WELCOMING the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, Rio de Janeiro entitled The Future We Want, which commits to strengthen health systems towards the provision of equitable, universal health coverage and promote affordable access to prevention, treatment, care and support related to noncommunicable diseases, and commit to establish or strengthen multi-sectoral national policies for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases;

RECALLING the Helsinki Statement on Health in All Policies adopted in Helsinki, in 2013 for governments to commit to health and health equity; ensure effective structures, processes and resources as well as build capacity on Health in All Policies for people's health and well-being;

CONFIRMING our commitment to the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020 endorsed by the 66th World Health Assembly in 2013; the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health endorsed by the 57th World Health Assembly in 2007 and the Set of Recommendations on the Marketing of Foods and Non-Alcoholic Beverages to Children as well as the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol endorsed by the 63rd World Health Assembly in 2010;

REAFFIRMING the importance of the Moscow Declaration of the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Noncommunicable Disease Control and the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in 2011;

RECALLING the ASEAN statement on noncommunicable diseases at the United Nations High Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in New York in 2011 to strengthen health systems, infrastructure and national policies, to accelerate tobacco control programmes as well as strengthen partnerships and involve all stakeholders for health;

WELCOMING the recent establishment of the ASEAN Task Force on Noncommunicable Diseases (ATFNCD) and the subsequent agreement of Member States to monitor a set of noncommunicable diseases indicators in line with the comprehensive global monitoring framework for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases adopted at the 66th World Health Assembly in 2013 and **COMMENDING** the work done by the ASEAN Focal Points on Tobacco Control to accelerate and support progress among Member States towards the full implementation of WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;

DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT WE:

AGREE on the urgent need to accelerate actions to reduce risk factors for noncommunicable diseases taking into consideration cost-effective interventions as recommended by WHO;

REQUEST ASEAN Ministers responsible for health, food industry development and trade to work together with other stakeholders, including NGOs and the private sector, for a common understanding on healthier food choices emphasising the roles and responsibilities of the food and beverage industries in providing food choices so as to increase the availability, accessibility and uptake of healthier food options in our communities;

ENCOURAGE intensified efforts to promote the screening of people at risk of noncommunicable diseases to facilitate early detection and primary prevention;

EXPAND EFFORTS to strengthen the capacity of health systems incorporating the principles of Universal Health Coverage to improve early management of noncommunicable diseases as well as prevent and manage complications;

CALL FOR the effective implementation of action lines related to non-communicable diseases in the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015)

URGE ASEAN Health Ministers to enhance efforts towards achieving the set of 9 voluntary global targets for the prevention and control of noncommunicable disease by 2025, which was adopted during the 66th World Health Assembly in, Geneva, in 2013;

CALL ON ASEAN Ministers responsible for health and other relevant sectoral bodies to accelerate the adoption of Health in All Policies (HiAP) in tackling unhealthy lifestyles including risk behaviours for noncommunicable diseases; and

COMMIT to ensuring that reducing the burden of noncommunicable diseases and achieving universal health coverage are featured prominently in the post-2015 development agenda.

ADOPTED in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, this Ninth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen in a single original copy in the English language.

Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment

Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 9 October 2013

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

HAVING gathered in Bandar Seri Begawan on 9 October, 2013, for the Twenty-Third ASEAN Summit;

RECALLING the call for action by the International Labor Conference in Geneva in 2012, which recognised that the unprecedented global youth unemployment crisis could leave long-lasting "scarring" with persistent youth

unemployment and underemployment carrying very high social and economic costs threatening the fabric of societies;

RECOGNISING the concern of the International Labor Organisation that the youth unemployment rate of about 13 percent in Southeast Asia and the Pacific is considerably higher than in East or South Asia and is projected to rise over the next five years, reversing a decline since the onset of the global financial crisis in 2008;

FURTHER RECOGNISING recent ILO estimates that ASEAN and neighbouring Pacific economies have the highest regional youth to adult unemployment rate in the world with young people in the region being five times more likely to be out of work than adults;

ACKNOWLEDGING that informal work, casual day labor and household production activities are common forms of non-standard employment in the region and highlight the need for more formal work with fixed contracts along with regular pay and benefits;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that youth labor force participation rates in the region are among the highest in the world at more than 50 percent and that the ASEAN population of 15 to 24-year-olds alone is approaching 108 million; and

RESPONDING to the Resolution on “Nurturing and Enhancing the Role of Young People to Meet the Future Challenges of ASEAN” adopted by the Committee of Social Matters at the Thirty-Fourth General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) in Bandar Seri Begawan on 22 September 2013;

DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT WE:

WELCOME the First ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Seminar and Expo (AYESE) hosted by Brunei Darussalam in May and encourage the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth to work with [labor and education sectoral bodies as well as] ministerial bodies under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) to ensure that the ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Network (AYEN) moves forward with regular activities including the ASEAN-China Youth Forum held back to back with the annual ASEAN Business and Investment Summit;

FURTHER WELCOME the initiative of Brunei Darussalam to establish an ASEAN Young Professionals Volunteer

Corps done in partnership with Mercy Relief, a Singapore Non-Government Organisation supported by the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund to embark on initial pilot projects in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines as well as Malaysia’s initiative to establish and develop the ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme as mentioned in the resolution of AMMY VIII in Brunei Darussalam;

SUPPORT the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) in calling on young professionals to offer volunteer services while supporting other vulnerable groups and fostering entrepreneurial skills;

ENCOURAGE other ministerial bodies under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) umbrella to help mobilise young professionals for such volunteer activities, notably the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE), the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Relief (AMMDM), the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM), the ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED) and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME);

WELCOME the statement of the ASEAN Labour Ministers delivered by Brunei Darussalam at the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting in Moscow in July and the recommendations of the ASEAN Youth Employment Forum hosted by Indonesia in May which aim to draw on strong and specific regional cooperation to complement individual national programs through various approaches such as job-matching systems for new graduates, workforce migration and appropriate access to social protection; and

AGREE that all stakeholders including both ASCC and AEC ministerial bodies, the private sector and non-governmental organisations should intensify efforts to strengthen the entrepreneurial skills and volunteerism mindset of young people through different platforms and people-to-people-exchanges while accelerating the development of a regional training network across ASEAN that includes out-of-school youth and other vulnerable groups.

ADOPTED in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, this Ninth Day of October in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen in a single original copy in the English language.

Statement on Current Developments in the Kingdom of Thailand

14 December 2013

We, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, have been closely following the current developments in the Kingdom of Thailand.

We reiterate that the political stability in the Kingdom of Thailand is essential to achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous ASEAN Community.

We call on all parties concerned to resolve the current situation through dialogue and consultations in a peaceful and democratic manner.

Issued: 14 December 2013

II. ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY

ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM)

Statement by the Chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the Underground Nuclear Test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

19 February 2013

The Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) express their deep concern about the effect on regional peace and stability caused by the recent report of an underground nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

ASEAN encourages the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply fully with its obligations to all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions, namely 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009) and 2087 (2013), and to its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks.

In doing so, ASEAN reaffirms its full support for all efforts to bring about the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks.

ASEAN further emphasises the importance of dialogue aimed at promoting mutual understanding and confidence among all parties concerned with ensuring peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

Issued: 19 February 2013

Joint Communiqué of the 46th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 29–30 June 2013**

1. We, the Foreign Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), met on 29 – 30 June 2013 at the 46th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam under the theme "Our People, Our Future Together". His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam chaired the Meeting.

Building a Lasting Community

2. We are encouraged by the successful outcome of the 22nd ASEAN Summit held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 24-25 April 2013, which reaffirmed our resolve to further intensify our efforts to ensure a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible ASEAN Community in 2015 by implementing the ASEAN Charter and the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community. We reiterated our commitment to narrowing the development gap by effectively implementing the IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015) and the ASEAN Roadmap towards realising the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
3. In responding to the evolving geopolitical landscape, we emphasised the importance of reviewing ASEAN's processes and institutions in order to safeguard ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture while enhancing its resilience in overcoming challenges and seizing opportunities.
4. We looked forward to the early commencement of the work of the High-Level Task Force on Strengthening

- the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs to meet the challenges of the future.
5. In order to enhance the region's capacity in addressing global issues of common concern and raise the profile of ASEAN in the international arena, we reaffirmed our commitment to implement the Bali Concord III Plan of Action (2013-2017) and welcomed the support of our Dialogue Partners, external parties, regional and international organisations.
 6. As part of our efforts to implement the Bali Concord III Plan of Action (2013-2017), we agreed to coordinate and provide mutual support for ASEAN Member States' candidacy in regional and international organisations, where possible. In this regard, we reaffirmed ASEAN's support for Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Viet Nam, and the Philippines' candidature to become Non-Permanent Members of the UN Security Council for the year 2015-2016, 2017-2018, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2027-2028 respectively.
 7. Recalling the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) and the decisions made by our Leaders at the 22nd ASEAN Summit, we remain committed to the development of a post – 2015 ASEAN vision to meet the challenges of the future in order to promote peace, stability and prosperity in Southeast Asia and further deepen ASEAN integration, as well as to continue strategically positioning ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture and the world at large. We agreed to take appropriate actions on Indonesia's call for ASEAN to formulate aspirational goals beyond 2015, such as doubling ASEAN's combined GDP and halving the percentage of people living in poverty in the ASEAN region by 2030.
 9. We welcomed the entry into force of the Third Protocol Amending the TAC and the accession by the UK, the EU, and Brazil in Phnom Penh in 2012 to the Treaty as a positive signal of their commitment to strengthen cooperation with ASEAN and contribute to peace and security in the region. In this regard, we looked forward to the accession of Norway to the TAC on 1 July 2013 in Brunei Darussalam.
 10. We recognised the growing interest of other non-ASEAN Member States to accede to the TAC. In this regard, we adopted the revised Guidelines for Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. We also commended the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in revising the Guidelines.

Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

11. We underscored the importance of preserving the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the Treaty of Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and the ASEAN Charter. We agreed to continue engaging the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Treaty, outstanding issues with regards to the signing of the Protocol of the SEANWFZ Treaty without reservations as early as possible. We also underscored the importance of strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime to maintain peace, security and prosperity in the region.
12. We noted with appreciation the progress made on implementing the Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of SEANWFZ Treaty 2007-2012 and welcomed the adoption of the revised Plan of Action (2013-2017) with a renewed commitment and a stronger emphasis on concrete actions.
13. We encouraged the full support of the NWS for the ASEAN-sponsored United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution on the SEANWFZ Treaty in the upcoming 68th session of the UNGA. We also looked forward to the submission and eventual adoption by consensus of the 68th UNGA draft resolution on the SEANWFZ Treaty.

ASEAN Political-Security Community

Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia

8. We reaffirmed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the key code of conduct governing inter-state relations in the region and a foundation for the maintenance of regional peace and stability.

Nuclear Safety

14. Recalling the Leaders' decision to promote information sharing and transparency on nuclear related issues in the region, we encouraged further cooperation in line with the Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty (2013-2017).

ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

15. We welcomed the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and noted the annual report of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). In acknowledging its second term, we underlined the importance of the AICHR, as the overarching human rights institution in ASEAN and tasked the AICHR to enhance its work on the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular, the implementation of the AHRD, in accordance with its Terms of Reference. Bearing in mind that human rights is a cross-cutting issue as well as cross-pillars that is being dealt with in several sectoral bodies, we encouraged AICHR to work in close consultation, coordination and collaboration with various ASEAN sectoral bodies, engage in dialogue with other ASEAN bodies and entities associated with ASEAN as well as consult, as may be appropriate, with other relevant institutions and entities, concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights.
16. We appreciated the Government of Indonesia for organising a dialogue with the AICHR on 25 June 2013 in Jakarta to share information on the promotion and protection of human rights in Indonesia. The dialogue was useful in supporting AICHR in conducting its work. We noted that AICHR and some ASEAN Member States might consider having such a dialogue in the future.

ASEAN Security Outlook

17. We emphasised the importance of the ASEAN Security Outlook (ASO) to promote transparency in security-related policies and complement ASEAN's confidence building efforts in the region. In this regard, we looked forward to its first annual publication in 2013.

18. Encouraged by the effective and productive joint collaboration by the SOM-ADSOM Joint Working Group (JWG) having finalised the ASO standardized format, we further recommended the close coordination needed between ASEAN SOM and ADSOM on the relevant agendas under the APSC Blueprint.

ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

19. We welcomed the nominations of the members of the Governing Council and Advisory Board to the AIPR and looked forward to its full and effective operationalization of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) in Jakarta, which would promote research activities on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution in the region.

ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre

20. We reiterated the importance of an ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) and commended the work of the Working Group on the Modalities of ARMAC. We encouraged the Senior Officials to expedite the conclusion of the TOR with a view to submit their recommendations to us before the 23rd ASEAN Summit.

Maritime Cooperation

21. Recognising that maritime security, including maritime safety, is crucial to a vibrant, peaceful, stable and resilient Southeast Asia, we encouraged the strengthening of regional cooperation in maritime security through, inter alia, capacity building, exchanging of experiences and sharing of best practices by utilising existing ASEAN frameworks, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) / Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF).
22. We welcomed the review of the AMF to further strengthen the work of the Forum and complement the existing efforts undertaken by ASEAN.
23. We welcomed the convening of the EAMF in October 2012 in Manila, with ASEAN playing a central role, while working in close partnership with all participants.

We looked forward to the 4th AMF / 2nd EAMF to be held in Malaysia in 2013.

Non-Traditional Security Issues

24. We reaffirmed our commitment in addressing non-traditional security issues, particularly in combating transnational crimes and other transboundary challenges. In this regard, we looked forward to the outcome of the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) to be held in Lao PDR on 15-19 September 2013.
25. We reaffirmed our support for the work of relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies in following up with the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 through the full implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use (2009-2015). We welcomed the outcomes of the 1st ASEAN Special Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters held in Thailand on 31 August 2012 and looked forward to the convening of the 2nd ASEAN Special Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters in Brunei Darussalam in September 2013. In this regard, we encouraged the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) to intensify cooperation, exchange of information, data and intelligence, and the sharing of best practices. We also noted the proposal for ASOD to consider creating a database on drug traffickers in the region.
26. Recalling the Leaders' Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia adopted in 2011, we welcomed the progress made by the 9th SOMTC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) held in June 2013 in Danang, Viet Nam on the development of an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) and a Regional Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons (RPA).
27. We noted with satisfaction the full ratification of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT) by all ASEAN Member States in January 2013. We welcomed the successful review of the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism to address, among others, the root causes of terrorism, and enhancing cooperation on promoting moderation.

Defence Matters

28. We noted the outcomes of the 7th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) held in Brunei Darussalam on 7 May 2013 and its role in promoting regional peace and stability through dialogue and cooperation in defence and security matters, with a view to adding value and complementing the overall ASEAN process. We welcomed the adoption of the concept papers on Establishing ASEAN Defence Interaction Programmes and Establishment of Logistics Support Framework.
29. Acknowledging the significance of defence cooperation through the ADMM-Plus, we emphasised the importance of maintaining and enhancing the central role of ASEAN in the ADMM-Plus process. We noted with appreciation the substantial achievements of the ADMM-Plus process in forging practical cooperation, in particular, through the work of the five ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWG) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Maritime Security, Military Medicine, Counter-Terrorism and Peacekeeping Operations. In this context, we welcomed the establishment of the ADMM-Plus EWG on Humanitarian Mine Action. We also welcomed the adoption of the concept paper on transition of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group Co-Chairmanship by the 7th ADMM. We looked forward to the convening of the 2nd ADMM-Plus in August 2013.

Disaster Management and Emergency Response

30. We welcomed the ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMM-Plus HADR & MM Ex) recently held in Brunei Darussalam on 17-20 June 2013, as a landmark cooperation among the defence forces of ADMM-Plus countries, in their efforts to enhance confidence building, regional capacity, interoperability and coordination in addressing non-traditional security challenges, in particular disaster management.
31. We encouraged cross-sectoral coordination and multi-stakeholder participation, including greater civil-military coordination in emergency response operations. We also encouraged the various mechanisms related to disaster management in ASEAN to synchronise their activities and

policies using the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) as the common platform for disaster management. We encouraged the holding of regular disaster relief exercises, in order to improve our capacity in disaster preparedness and, as such, welcomed the convening of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) 2013, co-hosted by Thailand and the Republic of Korea, in Cha-am, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand on 7-11 May 2013, as one of the largest civilian-military exercises of its kind in the region. We also welcomed the Mentawai Megathrust Exercise 2013-2014 in Indonesia, involving the East Asia Summit (EAS) Participating Countries on 20-26 April 2013. We looked forward to the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Exercise (ARDEX), in Viet Nam in October 2013.

ASEAN Economic Community

32. We welcomed the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint. We expressed our support for the commitment to effectively carry out the remaining prioritised measures to establish AEC by 31 December 2015 and implement cooperation initiatives and measures that will facilitate the flow of trade, investment and people in the region as well as narrowing the development gap among ASEAN Member States, which would enhance ASEAN's competitiveness, as called for by the Leaders.
33. We supported the on-going efforts towards the establishment of visa-free travel in ASEAN countries for ASEAN nationals, ASEAN immigration lanes. We also recognised the need for the development of an ASEAN Business travel card. In addition, we acknowledged the continued efforts in considering the proposal for an ASEAN Common Visa for non-ASEAN nationals that will facilitate business mobility and tourism.
34. We reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring that our stakeholders are able to benefit from our economic integration work. In this regard, we welcomed the various activities that enable the ASEAN SMEs and young entrepreneurs to actively realise the vast potential in being part of the regional and global supply chain. We also reaffirmed our commitment and recognised the need for stronger partnership between

the public and private sector, not only in undertaking the AEC initiatives, but also in actively communicating the information on AEC to the general public.

35. We were encouraged by the development in the sectors under the AEC such as finance, energy, industry, information and communications technology, agriculture, tourism and transport. In this regard, we continue to support efforts to further progress in these areas, in view of their importance towards the establishment of the AEC in 2015, as well as our pursuit of sustainable and equitable economic development for the betterment of our future generation.
36. We welcomed ASEAN's continued engagement with its Dialogue Partners in its efforts to strengthen economic integration and linkages in the region. We noted with satisfaction the positive outcomes of the 1st Meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Trade Negotiating Committee (RCEP-TNC) in Bandar Seri Begawan in May 2013 and urged the RCEP participating countries to strive for a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement that will become a platform for future trade and investment integration in Asia and the rest of the world. We further welcomed the decision to engage Hong Kong on a bilateral basis for an ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement.

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

Review of Blueprint

37. We welcomed the convening of the First Regional Assessment of the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint in Bandar Seri Begawan on 15-16 June 2013. We commended the ASEAN Secretariat for developing a Scorecard to measure the achievement of goals based on national, regional and global contributions and a Monitoring System to assess inputs, activities and outputs on a regional basis. We noted that in addition to Brunei Darussalam offering to fund the regional assessment of the Blueprint in March, resources have recently been mobilised from the ASEAN Development Fund for national assessments, wherever necessary, to be made. We hoped the Mid-Term Review process would

be accelerated, in order to produce a comprehensive report on the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint, to serve as the basis for enhancing the fulfilment of the ASCC Blueprint 2015 and to make recommendations of future priorities in Socio-Cultural Community.

Youth

38. We acknowledged the Eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth in Bandar Seri Begawan on 22 May 2013 which endorsed a proposal by Brunei Darussalam for an ASEAN Young Professionals Volunteer Corps to complement the ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme established by Malaysia. We noted that Brunei Darussalam has since announced a partnership with a non-governmental organisation in Singapore to carry out three initial short-term projects in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines this year.
39. We further acknowledged the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Volunteerism and Entrepreneurship, which calls on young professionals to offer voluntary community services in areas such as rural development and poverty eradication, disaster relief, health, education and the environment, while supporting vulnerable groups and fostering entrepreneurial skills. We noted that greater awareness of ASEAN among young people should be further encouraged through different platforms to promote dialogue and people-to-people exchanges.
40. We also acknowledged the ASEAN First Young Entrepreneurs Seminar and Expo in Bandar Seri Begawan in May 2013 as a platform for promoting young entrepreneurship and greater economic self-reliance among young people and noted the resolution adopted by the Seminar which highlighted the challenges of youth employment.
41. We welcomed the agreement to set up the ASEAN Youth Programme Fund to help implement regional policies and programmes related to the youth, and encourage further mobilisation of existing resources including the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund and other sources from ASEAN Dialogue Partners, to support youth cooperation activities.

ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

42. We welcomed the ongoing initiatives of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) such as the setting up of an ACWC Network of Social Service Agencies involved in preventing, protecting and helping victims of violence against women and violence against children in ASEAN.

Disaster Management

43. We acknowledged the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the AADMER in Ha Noi on 30 May 2013 and progress in putting into operation the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management with contributions from ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partners as well as plans to launch the Second Phase of the AADMER Work Programme and the Second AADMER Partnership Conference in Ha Noi in November 2013.
44. We also encouraged closer cooperation in disaster prevention through capacity building efforts focusing on early warning and a timely weather forecast system among ASEAN Member States and between ASEAN and relevant Dialogue Partners.
45. We welcomed the convening of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) to promote synergy and coordination using AADMER as the common platform for disaster management in the region. We also supported the proposal for an ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management to be issued by the 23rd ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan in October 2013.
46. We also noted ACDM's decision to have a regular forum, such as the open sessions of ACDM meetings to ensure continued discussion on the implementation and linkages between the EAS paper on A Practical Approach to Enhance Regional Cooperation on Disaster Rapid Response (EAS Disaster Management Initiative) and the AADMER Work Programme.

Climate Change and Environment

47. We recognised that trans-boundary haze is a recurring challenge for ASEAN and underscored the importance of the steps taken to overcome it. To address this issue effectively, we reaffirmed our strong commitment to continuously strengthening national and regional capacities through concerted efforts and intensified regional and international cooperation, in particular through the establishment of effective monitoring, rapid response and fire-fighting systems to mitigate haze impacts. We tasked our senior officials to work closely with their relevant counterparts to consolidate ASEAN's existing initiatives to combat the haze, recommend new and strengthen regional cooperation measures that can be taken to prevent the haze, and report on the progress of these efforts through the Foreign Ministers to the Leaders at the next ASEAN Summit. In this regard, we welcomed the convening of the 15th Meeting of the Subregional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Trans-boundary Haze Pollution on 17 July 2013 in Malaysia. We also stressed the importance for regional countries to uphold their international obligations and work together to tackle the transboundary haze pollution problem, and in this regard called upon ASEAN Member States that have not yet ratified and operationalized the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution to do so expeditiously.
48. We encouraged full implementation of the ASEAN Climate Change Initiative and the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change. We welcomed the continued enhancement of consultation and collaboration in international climate change negotiations as well as climate change forums. We took note of Indonesia's initiative on the establishment of a regional Climate Change Database centre.
49. We recognised the importance of water resources preservation and management for sustainable development. We agreed on the need for enhanced cooperation in this area within ASEAN and other sub-regional frameworks, with a view to preventing floods and droughts in the region which could affect agricultural productivity and regional food security. We welcomed the outcome of the Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit on "Water Security and

Water-Related Disaster Challenges: Leadership and Commitment" held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 19-20 May 2013.

Social Protection

50. We welcomed the results of the Inter-Sectoral Workshop on Strengthening Social Protection in ASEAN on 24-25 June 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia where concerned sectoral bodies reach consensus in promoting social protection in ASEAN. We noted the suggestion for a declaration on social protection towards building an ASEAN as a people-oriented, caring and sharing society.

Narrowing the Development Gap and Initiative for ASEAN Integration

51. We were encouraged by the progress made in implementing the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II that will narrow the development gap among ASEAN Member States. In this regard, we encouraged the finalisation of the work programme of the Equitable Economic Development towards its effective implementation in the very near future. We welcomed the decision to undertake a mid-term review of the IAI Work Plan II to identify proper ways of moving it forward into its second phase (2013-2015), taking into account the linkages with other subregional cooperation frameworks. We also welcomed the adoption of the Guidelines for IAI Projects for ASEAN Dialogue Partners and External Parties which would contribute to mobilising resources towards better ASEAN integration.

ASEAN Connectivity

52. We noted the progress in realising the MPAC and emphasised the importance of increasing its implementation rate, particularly through more effective coordination, communication and resource mobilisation. We recognised the importance of mobilising financial and technical resources, utilisation of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF), and the promotion of public-private partnership (PPP) especially through collaboration with Dialogue Partners and external parties. In this connection, we

welcomed the theme of the 4th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium entitled “Partnering Private Sector for ASEAN Connectivity” which will be held in Brunei Darussalam in August 2013 and Thailand’s initiative to host the Workshop on “Enhancing Connectivity through Multi-layered Regional Frameworks: The Roles of Dialogue Partners” as well as the EAS Regulatory Roundtable to be co-hosted by Thailand and New Zealand in July 2013. We recognised the importance of ensuring synergy and mutual reinforcement between sub-regional cooperation arrangements and the MPAC. We also welcomed the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee’s (ACCC) engagement with Dialogue Partners, external parties as well as the private sector in the implementation of the MPAC. In this regard, we welcomed the inaugural meeting of the ACCC and India and the inaugural meeting of the ACCC and the Republic of Korea. We also look forward to the convening of the 2/2013 ACCC and Japanese Task Force on ASEAN Connectivity Meeting and the Second Meeting between ACCC and the Chinese Working Committee of China-ASEAN Connectivity Cooperation Committee. We took note that the ACCC is looking forward to meeting with non-ASEAN EAS participating countries to discuss the follow-up to the Declaration of the 6th EAS on ASEAN Connectivity.

Timor-Leste’s Official Application for ASEAN Membership

53. We were encouraged by the progress by the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group (ACCWG) in the consideration of all relevant aspects related to the application by Timor-Leste, as well as its possible implications on ASEAN, and agreed to explore the possibility of Timor-Leste’s participation in ASEAN activities within the context of its need for capacity building.

External Relations

54. We reiterated the importance of ASEAN’s central role in the evolving regional architecture and reaffirmed our commitment to work closely with all our partners through various ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, ARF,

ADMM-Plus and East Asia Summit (EAS) in ensuring the maintenance of peace, security, stability, and enhancing prosperity in the region.

55. We expressed satisfaction on the progress achieved in ASEAN’s relations with the Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States of America. We underscored the importance of further deepening and broadening our cooperation in various fields with our Partners as a critical part of ASEAN’s efforts in building a closely integrated community. In this regard, we are pleased to note that there are 74 Ambassadors of non-ASEAN Member States currently accredited to ASEAN and the establishment of 40 ASEAN Committees in Third Countries around the globe.
56. We took note of the progress in the drafting of the General Guidelines for ASEAN’s Formal Engagement with External Parties which will include guidelines for the conferment of formal status on external parties as stipulated in Article 44 of the ASEAN Charter.
57. We adopted the Guidelines for the Convening of Commemorative Summits and Commemorative Activities between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners.

ASEAN-Australia

58. We welcomed the proposal of Australia to convene an ASEAN-Australia Commemorative Summit in 2014 to mark the 40th anniversary of the dialogue relations. We were encouraged by the progress made in implementing the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme Phase II (AADCP II) 2008-2015 in supporting ASEAN on its economic integration policies and priorities, in line with the AEC Blueprint. We looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN-Australia Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership (2014-2018) at the ASEAN-Australia Commemorative Summit in 2014 and welcomed the suggestion to extend the current Plan of Action to 2014. The Meeting acknowledged the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) agreement, including the implementation of the Economic Cooperation Work Programme projects,

review of the AANZFTA Non-Tariff Measures and establishment of a regional mechanism for monitoring utilisation of tariff preferences.

ASEAN-Canada

59. We noted the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2010-2015). We welcomed the successful convening of the 1st ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-Canada Consultations held on 31 August 2012 in Cambodia, which endorsed the 2012-2015 Work Plan to Implement the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment. We also welcomed the establishment of the Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) on 31 August 2012 that will serve as a channel for future government-to-business engagement and to raise awareness of trade and investment opportunities in ASEAN and Canada.
60. We welcomed the successful convening of the inaugural ASEAN-Canada Joint Coordination Committee on 3 April 2013 in Jakarta and the adoption of the TOR of the ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership Program that would enable Canada's CAD 10 million contribution to be utilised.

ASEAN-China

61. We welcomed the proposals made by ASEAN and China to organise activities to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in 2013, including the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting in China in August 2013; the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Roadshow to China in 2013; and the High-Level Forum on the 10th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in Thailand in August 2013. We noted with satisfaction the progress made on the implementation of the 2010 Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015). We appreciated the efforts made by China in deepening ASEAN-China cooperation and strengthening coordination through the appointment of its first resident Ambassador of China to ASEAN and the establishment of the Mission of China to ASEAN in Jakarta in September 2012.

ASEAN-European Union

62. We noted with satisfaction the progress made to implement the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017), which aims to give a more strategic focus to regional cooperation in a wide range of areas. We welcomed the progress in the implementation of the EU's Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2011-2013. We noted with satisfaction the progress of two important programmes to facilitate ASEAN integration efforts, namely the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE) and the Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI).
63. We stressed the importance of the ASEAN-EU Partnership and working with the EU to elevate the Partnership to a higher level. In this regard, we noted the intention of the President of the European Commission to have a dialogue with ASEAN.
64. We recognised the importance of enhancing economic cooperation between ASEAN and the EU and the implementation of ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Program. In this regard, we noted the on-going Free Trade agreement negotiations between the EU and individual ASEAN Member States as "building blocks" towards the region-to-region FTA.

ASEAN-India

65. We welcomed the Vision Statement adopted at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi in December 2012, including the Leaders declaration to elevate this relationship to a Strategic Partnership. We also welcomed the conclusion of negotiations of the Trade in Services and Investment Agreements and looked forward to the signing of these agreements during the 11th AEM-India Consultations in Brunei Darussalam in August 2013. In celebrating the 20th anniversary of ASEAN-India dialogue relations, we noted with appreciation the various initiatives held in 2012 to signify the expanding and deepening of the dialogue partnership.
66. We expressed satisfaction with the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015). In this

regard, we noted the on-going work on the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action and suggested incorporation of the relevant short-term actionable goals from the Vision Statement. In this connection, we noted the launch of the ASEAN-India Centre in India.

ASEAN-Japan

67. Recognising that this year marks the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan dialogue relations, we looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo on 13-15 December 2013. We noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action 2011-2015.
68. We appreciate the significant contribution made by Japan to ASEAN community building, including through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), and welcomed Japan's decision to extend the JAIF to 31 December 2013 and the operations of the JAIF Management Team to 30 June 2014. We also expressed appreciation for Japan's support to the implementation of the IAI, particularly through the IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015), to help narrow the development gaps in ASEAN. We looked forward to a mechanism similar to JAIF to further facilitate ASEAN-Japan cooperation and further support the ASEAN community building process.
69. Recalling the ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap, we welcomed the decision of the 15th ASEAN-Japan Summit in Cambodia in November 2012 of doubling bilateral trade and investment flows between ASEAN and Japan by 2022. We noted the on-going negotiations for the Trade in Services and Investment Chapters of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement and reaffirmed the urgency of expediting the conclusion of these negotiations by the Commemorative Summit in December 2013.

ASEAN-Republic of Korea

70. We welcomed the proposal made by the ROK to convene the ASEAN-Korea Special Summit, with substantive deliverables, in 2014 in the ROK as well

as conduct commemorative activities in the same year to mark the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-ROK dialogue relations.

71. We also welcomed the progress made in implementing the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity and its Plan of Action (2011-2015), especially the Two Year Implementation Programme 2012-2013. We noted the ROK's intention to further strengthen political and security cooperation with ASEAN as per the Plan of Action 2011-2015 to Implement the ASEAN-ROK Declaration on Strategic Partnership.
72. In facilitating closer cooperation and mutual understanding between ASEAN and the ROK, we noted with appreciation the appointment of the ROK resident Ambassador to ASEAN and the establishment of its Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta in October 2012. Pursuant to this we welcome the adoption of the revised Terms of Reference of the ASEAN-ROK Joint Cooperation Committee and look forward to the convening of the first ASEAN-ROK Joint Cooperation Committee in 2014.
73. We encouraged efforts to optimize many activities held by the ASEAN-Korea Centre to promote ASEAN-ROK cooperation, mainly in the three areas of trade and investment, culture and tourism, and public relations and information, which also include, among others, the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

ASEAN-New Zealand

74. We welcomed New Zealand's initiative to convene the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Summit in 2015 to mark the 40th anniversary of the dialogue relations. We noted with appreciation the progress made on the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration for an ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Partnership 2010-2015. We also welcomed the endorsement of the Proposed areas of focus for the ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Partnership Framework's Plan of Action 2013-2014, and looked forward to the effective implementation of activities under these focus areas, as well as the four flagship initiatives, namely the ASEAN-New Zealand Scholarship Programme, Young Business

Leaders Exchange Programme, Initiatives on Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response, and Agricultural Diplomacy.

ASEAN-Russia

75. We acknowledged with appreciation the progress made in implementing the Comprehensive Plan of Action to Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation (2005 – 2015). We welcomed the various developments in advancing ASEAN-Russia relations, including the adoption of the Roadmap of the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation by the Economic Ministers of ASEAN and Russia in 2012, and looked forward to its effective implementation.
76. We note the importance of increasing cooperation in areas of tourism and culture, and in this regard we encourage all ASEAN Member States to ratify the ASEAN-Russia Agreement in Cultural Cooperation to do so expeditiously so that initiatives in the agreement can be duly implemented.
77. We took note with appreciation the convening of the ASEAN-Russia Youth Summit on 13-14 May 2013 in Moscow and the ASEAN-Russia Business Forum on 22 June 2013 in St. Petersburg as part of the effort to promote interaction between stakeholders in strengthening cooperation between ASEAN and Russia.

ASEAN-United States of America

78. We noted with appreciation on the progress made in implementing the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity 2011-2015. Recognising the recommendation of the ASEAN-U.S. Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to institutionalise the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Meeting to an ASEAN-U.S. Summit, we looked forward to the 1st ASEAN-U.S. Summit to be held in Brunei Darussalam in October 2013. In this regard, we tasked our Senior Officials to review and consider the recommendations of the ASEAN-U.S. EPG as appropriate.
79. We appreciated the various initiatives by the U.S. in advancing ASEAN-U.S. economic cooperation,

namely the 2013 ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) Work Plan and the ASEAN-U.S. Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Initiative. We further welcomed the positive outcomes of the ASEAN Economic Ministers Roadshow to the United States held recently in June 2013.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

80. We noted with appreciation the substantive progress on the implementation of the Second Joint Statement on the East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007 – 2017) which provided strategic guidance for the future direction of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. In this regard, we adopted the paper on the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) and looked forward to the Revised ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017) to be submitted to the 16th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan in October 2013. We noted the recommendations contained in the report of the East Asia Vision Group II (EAVG II) and welcomed the proposal of the ROK to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the Report. We also adopted the Concept Paper on the Follow-Ups to the EAVG II Report as finalised by the CPR Plus Three Meeting.
81. We noted with appreciation the role of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund in supporting the activities under the framework of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and the recommendation on the replenishment of the Fund.
82. We welcomed the progress of enhancing the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), the consensus on the draft ASEAN +3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) Agreement that will transform AMRO into an international organisation, as well as the endorsement of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) New Roadmap+ Workplan, including the initiative on "Fostering Infrastructure Financing Bond Development", at the 16th ASEAN +3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting which took place in Delhi, India on 3 May 2013.
83. We reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)

Agreement as a permanent mechanism to ensure sustainable and integrated food security in the region. We also welcomed the establishment of the APTERR Secretariat in Thailand in March 2013 and looked forward to strengthen cooperation in food security by developing more initiatives to improve food storage capacity such as new technologies. We also encouraged the relevant sectoral bodies to explore the development of new food security reserve initiatives and mechanisms for other staple foods. In this regard, we underlined our support for the proposed creation of an ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System.

84. We welcomed the developments in a number of areas of cooperation within the ASEAN Plus Three framework which contributed towards the implementation of the Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity. We also agreed that the ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity be integrated into the existing ASEAN Plus Three mechanisms as an emerging priority area of the revised ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017).

ASEAN Regional Forum

85. We reaffirmed the ARF as the primary forum in enhancing political and security dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, while stressing ASEAN's central role within the ARF process. We reiterated our commitment to implement the Ha Noi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement and the various work plans under the ARF framework. We underlined our Leaders' direction to call for synergy between the ARF and various ASEAN-led mechanisms.

East Asia Summit

86. We recognise the valuable contribution of the EAS in the maintenance and promotion of peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region. In this regard, we reaffirmed our commitment to further promote the EAS as the leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interests based on the principles, objectives, and modalities of the EAS as reflected in the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration, 2010 Ha Noi Declaration,

and the 2011 Declaration on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles).

87. Recalling the 2012 Phnom Penh Declaration on EAS Development Initiative, we welcomed the progress made in EAS cooperation especially in the six priority areas, namely energy and environment, education, finance, disaster management, health and ASEAN Connectivity, which contribute to deepening regional economic integration. We looked forward to meeting our counterparts from other EAS participating countries to further discuss ways and means to deepen EAS dialogue and cooperation in other strategic areas of cooperation such as maritime security, food and energy security, environment and biodiversity.
88. We discussed ASEAN's common approach with regard to the future direction of the EAS as instructed by ASEAN Leaders at the 21st ASEAN Summit bearing in mind the Leaders-led, open and inclusive nature of the EAS with ASEAN playing a central role while working in close partnership with all EAS participating countries. We recalled the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit, and 2012 Chairman's Statement of the 7th EAS that welcomed the proposal of Brunei Darussalam to conduct a stock-take review and reflection aimed at further consolidating and strengthening the EAS on the basis of its established principles, objectives and modalities and to provide recommendations to the 8th EAS.
89. We took note of the idea for an Indo-Pacific framework envisaged based on the principles contained in the TAC and in line with the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles).

Regional and International Issues

South China Sea

90. We discussed the situation and recent developments in the South China Sea. In this regard, we appreciated the exchange of views on the issues including initiatives and approaches to enhance trust, confidence and dialogue, and address incidents in the South China Sea. We also noted suggestions for a hotline of communication,

as well as search and rescue of persons and vessels in distress. We further reaffirmed the importance of peace, stability, and maritime security in the region. We underscored the importance of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), ASEAN's Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea, and the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on the 10th Anniversary of the DOC. In this regard, we reaffirmed the collective commitments under the DOC to ensuring the resolution of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, without resorting to the threat or use of force, while exercising self-restraint in the conduct of activities.

91. We looked forward to continued engagement with China in the full and effective implementation of the DOC in all its aspects. We would continue carrying out mutually agreed joint cooperative activities and projects in accordance with the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC. We stressed the need to maintain the positive momentum on dialogue and consultations following the 19th ASEAN-China Senior Officials Consultations and 8th ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC. Taking into account the importance of the 10th anniversary of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in 2013, we look forward to the formal consultations between ASEAN and China at the SOM level on the COC with an aim to reach an early conclusion of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, which will serve to enhance peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Situation in the Middle East

92. We reaffirmed our support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for an independent state of Palestine and a two-state solution where both countries and peoples can live side by side in peace. We called on all parties to make efforts for the resumption of peace talks and remove obstacles related thereto, in particular the construction of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
93. We reiterated that the stalemate of diplomacy with regard to the Syrian issue must be immediately

resolved. In this regard, we support the ongoing efforts of the international community, notably the United Nations, to promote a peaceful and viable solution to the situation in the country.

Developments on the Korean Peninsula

94. We expressed concern over the developments in the Korean Peninsula. We encouraged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to comply fully with its obligations under all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions and to its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We reaffirmed our full support for all efforts to bring about the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner as well as the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks. We emphasised the importance of dialogue aimed at promoting mutual understanding and confidence among all parties concerned with ensuring peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula. In this regard, we recommended that the ARF, where all six members to the Six-Party Talks are also participants, could contribute to forging a conducive atmosphere for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks.

Group of Twenty (G20)

95. Acknowledging the importance of the continued participation of the ASEAN Chair in the G20 Summits, we looked forward to the G20 St. Petersburg Summit in September 2013 and the development of the ASEAN Position Paper to the G20 Summit which will reflect ASEAN's views on the G20 agenda, as well as our perspectives on current global and regional issues.

Post-2015 Development Agenda

96. We noted the submission of the report titled A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development by the United Nations High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, co-chaired by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

97. We acknowledged the important role that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) plays in regional economic integration in the Asia Pacific region, in particular in promoting free and open trade and investment as well as in strengthening capacity building. In this regard, we expressed our full support for the APEC 2013 chairmanship of Indonesia in playing a leading role to further these objectives, through its three priorities of 'Attaining the Bogor Goals', 'Achieving Sustainable Growth with Equity' and 'Promoting Connectivity'.

47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting

98. We looked forward to the 47th AMM/PMC/21st ARF/4th EAS-FMM to be held in Myanmar in 2014.

Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Sessions with the Dialogue Partners

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 30 June-1 July 2013**

1. The ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) + 1 Sessions with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America were held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 30 June - 1 July 2013, to review dialogue relations, including the progress of implementing their respective plan of actions and exchange views on regional and international issues.
2. Recognising the long-standing relations between ASEAN and the Dialogue Partners, Ministers reaffirmed their strong commitments to work closely together to promote peace, security, stability and prosperity, and explore ways to further deepen cooperation in addressing various challenges of

common concern, such as climate change, haze and environmental degradation, natural disasters, pandemic diseases, and transnational crimes, through institutional capacity-building, exchange of information and technologies including establishing as well as improving early warning systems, on the basis of equal partnership and mutual benefit.

3. The Ministers recalled the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) and its Plan of Action (2013-2017) and reaffirmed the commitment to implement it with the support of ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, including within the frameworks of the ASEAN Plus Three and East Asia Summit. The Ministers noted Indonesia's call for ASEAN to formulate aspirational goals beyond 2015, such as doubling ASEAN's combined GDP and halving the percentage of people living in poverty in the ASEAN region by 2030.

Australia

4. The ASEAN+1 Session with Australia was co-chaired by H.E. Albert F. del Rosario, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Hon. Bob Carr, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia.
5. The Meeting noted that as ASEAN's oldest Dialogue Partner, Australia has a long history of engagement with ASEAN and it was in the economic and strategic interests of ASEAN and Australia for the relationship to continue to strengthen.
6. ASEAN agreed that an ASEAN-Australia Commemorative Summit will be in the margins of the 25th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits in Myanmar in 2014. The Meeting noted the progress on the development of the new Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership (2014-2018) and looked forward to its adoption in 2014. The Meeting also agreed to work together to celebrate 40 years of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations in 2014. The Meeting also welcomed Australia's initiative to appoint a resident Australian Ambassador to ASEAN this year, which should be valued as Australia's underlying commitment in strengthening ASEAN-Australia cooperation.

7. The Meeting agreed to strengthen maritime security cooperation between ASEAN and Australia and took note of Australia's proposal to convene the 2nd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Seminar on United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in early 2014 with the Philippines as co-chair.
8. The Meeting recognised Australia's support to the ARF's various priority areas, including counter-terrorism and transnational crime, disaster relief, maritime security, non-proliferation and disarmament, cyber security, space security and preventive diplomacy.
9. ASEAN acknowledged Australia's continued strong support for the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) through its active participation in the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Military Medicine, Peacekeeping Operations and Maritime Security, including its co-chairmanship of the Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security and role as host of the inaugural ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Field Training Exercise scheduled in October 2013.
10. The Meeting welcomed Australia's contribution to the region's on-going programme to combat human smuggling and trafficking in persons, including its co-chairing with Indonesia of the Bali Process, and the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP).
11. The Meeting also welcomed Australia's collaboration with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to promote corporate social responsibility. The Meeting also recognised Australia's initiative to strengthen international response on drug-resistant malaria.
12. The Meeting noted Australia's on-going work in the region to support the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), and welcomed Australia's interest to help improve infrastructure connectivity through public-private partnership and a connectivity workshop that Singapore will co-host with Australia in 2014. Recognising the potential benefits of enhanced connectivity between ASEAN and Australia in terms of increasing market access, trade, tourism, investment, regional transportation, information and communication technology, the Meeting suggested that ASEAN and Australia should also work together to prevent inherent risks from increased connectivity such as transnational crimes and other cross-border challenges. To this end, the Meeting encouraged the regular engagement between the ACCC and Australia to identify and promote connectivity cooperation within the framework of the implementation of the MPAC.
13. The Meeting acknowledged the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) agreement, including the implementation of the Economic Cooperation Work Programme projects, such as the review of the AANZFTA Non-Tariff Measures and establishment of a regional mechanism for monitoring utilisation of tariff preferences. The Meeting expressed appreciation for Australia's support of the first round of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which was launched at the 21st ASEAN Summit in November 2012 and welcomed Australia's hosting of the second round on 23-27 September 2013.
14. ASEAN acknowledged Australia's demonstration of commitment to the ASEAN Sociocultural Community agenda in many fronts and expressed gratitude for Australia's support to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management (AHA Centre), as well as technical assistance in the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme, operationalization of the AHA Centre provision of education services and scholarships and facilitation of people-to-people exchanges, cultural visits and tourism between Australia and ASEAN. In this connection, the Meeting encouraged the implementation of elements in the Indonesia-Australia Joint Paper, which are in line with the AADMER Work Programme and the AHA Centre Strategic Plan.
15. The Meeting further noted that the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program (AADCP) Phase II has been implementing functional cooperation programs toward ASEAN's goal of an economic community by 2015, and increasing the capacity of

the ASEAN Secretariat since 2009. ASEAN is pleased that this support will continue beyond 2015.

Canada

16. The ASEAN+1 Session with Canada was co-chaired by H.E. K. Shanmugam, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Law of the Republic of Singapore and the Hon. John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada.
17. The Meeting took note of the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2010-2015), in which ASEAN expressed appreciation to Canada for its invaluable support to ASEAN in promoting the rights of women, migrant workers and children, and initiating education and people-to-people exchanges. ASEAN also expressed appreciation for Canada's cooperation on strengthening good governance, counter-terrorism, integrated disaster risk management capabilities, and in encouraging trade and investment.
18. The Meeting noted Canada's interest to cooperate through the ARF on Non-Proliferation and looked forward to the convening of the workshop on countering illicit trafficking of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials.
19. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of the Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC), which focuses on the growth of private-sector cooperation between Canadian and Southeast Asian businesses. It noted that the CABC has completed a study on Business Opportunities in ASEAN and would be hosting a Canada-ASEAN Business forum October 8 – 9 2013. The Meeting also noted Canada's contribution to the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) by funding a project via UN Women. The Meeting also noted with satisfaction the various meaningful activities conducted last year to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the ASEAN-Canada Relationship under the theme "35 years of Partnership and Friendship".
20. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN-Canada Enhanced

Partnership Program at the 1st ASEAN-Canada Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) Meeting held on 3 April 2013 at the ASEAN Secretariat. The new program was established following the commitment made by Minister Baird of CAD\$10 million over three years towards ASEAN-related projects. The Meeting noted the following proposals for future cooperation: a trade facilitation supply chain management program; the Grand Challenges ASEAN-Canada funding health care innovations project; financial services training by the Toronto Centre; a software project aimed at strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat; and English language training initiatives.

21. The Meeting welcomed Canada's commitment to support the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and discussed opportunities for further collaboration between ASEAN and Canada in this area, including the promotion of private-public partnership (PPP) projects. The Meeting also encouraged Canada to explore more cooperation in agriculture and infrastructure network linkages, which would significantly contribute to the bridging of the development gap in ASEAN. The Meeting encouraged the regular engagement between the ACCC and Canada to identify and promote connectivity cooperation within the framework of the implementation of the MPAC. In this context, we look forward to the convening of the interaction between the ACCC and Canada.
22. The Meeting also encouraged Canada to explore more cooperation in agriculture and infrastructure network linkages, which would significantly contribute to the bridging of the development gap in ASEAN.

China

23. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with China was co-chaired by H.E. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and H.E. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The Meeting welcomed H.E. Wang Yi's first participation and co-chairing of the ASEAN PMC+1 Session with China.
24. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the achievements made within the framework of ASEAN-China Dialogue

- Relations and in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the period of 2011-2015 to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity, through a broad spectrum of cooperative activities on political-security, economic, and socio-cultural fields.
25. The Meeting recalled the successful outcomes of the 19th ASEAN-China Senior Official's Consultation held on 2 April 2013 in Beijing and agreed that ASEAN-China relations could be elevated by deepening existing cooperation, particularly in trade and investment facilitation, connectivity, and maritime cooperation, while expanding the scope of cooperation to encompass other areas such as food and energy security, science and technology, transportation, and education.
 26. The Meeting welcomed the inaugural meeting between the ACCC and the Chinese Working Committee on China-ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (CWC-CACCC), and encouraged China's continued support to implement the ASEAN Connectivity Projects. The Meeting looked forward to the utilization of the ASEAN-China Maritime Cooperation Fund for projects related to maritime connectivity under the MPAC.
 27. The Meeting agreed to advance trade facilitation, deepen industrial cooperation, increase mutual investment and jointly upgrade ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (FTA), as well as to step up regional infrastructure connectivity and actively facilitate the setting up of a financing platform for Asia's infrastructure development. The Meeting noted a proposal to setting the year 2014 as the ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year.
 28. The Meeting looked forward to develop cooperation with China in sharing best practices and technology transfer process in renewable energy resources management, in increasing energy efficiency, and in developing research for high-efficiency and low-pollution utilization of non-renewable energy.
 29. The Meeting encouraged closer cooperation in capacity building initiatives and programs between ASEAN and China, particularly in the methodology of surveys and data collection, as a systematic attempt to eradicate food insecurity through ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS).
 30. On the framework of ASEAN-China Science & Technology Program, the Meeting welcomed the feasibility studies on the establishment of ASEAN-China Technology Transfer Centres, which will give a wider network and connection to all ASEAN Member States.
 31. On the health cooperation, the Meeting welcomed the signing of the ASEAN-China Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation that would enhance health and medical science capabilities in the region.
 32. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary, the Meeting discussed how to further strengthen the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for mutual benefit, peace, stability and prosperity. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the proposals made by both sides to organise activities to commemorate this auspicious occasion including the High-Level Forum on 10th anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership on 2 August 2013 in Bangkok, Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting in August in China, and ASEAN Economic Ministers' Roadshow to China in October 2013.
 33. The Meeting underscored the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea and noted the ASEAN Statement on the Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea. The Meeting stressed the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Meeting welcomed the collective commitments of ASEAN Member States and China to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), including the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC and to work towards the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC) on the basis of consensus. In this regard, the Meeting appreciated the continued ASEAN-China consultations and dialogue for mutual trust, confidence and cooperation, and the convening

of the 8th Meeting of ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC on 29 May 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was encouraged with the convening of the 6th ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC and the 9th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on the implementation of the DOC to be hosted by China in September 2013 during which all parties will have official consultations on the code of conduct. The Meeting noted that steps will be taken to establish an Eminent Persons and Experts Group (EPEG) and/or other mechanisms to provide support to such consultations.

34. The Meeting reaffirmed its determination to work closely together to ensure the successful outcome of the 16th ASEAN-China Summit in October this year, and noted a proposal for ASEAN and China to develop a joint statement to commemorate the 10th anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership.

European Union

35. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with EU was co-chaired by H.E. Pham Binh Minh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Rt. Hon. Lady Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and Vice President of the European Commission.
36. The Meeting reviewed and noted with satisfaction the progress of ASEAN-EU cooperation, particularly the implementation of the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017). The Meeting welcomed the EU's initiative to convene an ASEAN-EU workshop on maritime cooperation in September 2013 in Indonesia, as one of the concrete implementations of the Plan of Action as well as Bali Concord III Plan of Action.
37. The Meeting recalled the EU's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in the Southeast Asia (TAC) in July 2012, as an important milestone in the ASEAN-EU relations, which further demonstrated the EU's commitment to promote peace, security and stability in the Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific.
38. The Meeting highly appreciated the EU's support for ASEAN's efforts in community building, narrowing development gap, regional integration and enhanced connectivity, through programmes such as the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE), Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2011-2013, among others.
39. The Meeting recalled the successful outcome of the ASEAN-EU Senior Officials' Meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, on 14-15 May 2013, which reaffirmed the commitment by both ASEAN and the EU to further broadening and deepening the ASEAN-EU dialogue relations.
40. The Meeting agreed to enhance the effective implementation, on the basis of equal partnership and mutual benefit, of the Plan of Action through, inter alia, prioritising in annual Work Plans the areas of cooperation and in support of ASEAN's efforts in community building, regional integration and connectivity. The Meeting also emphasised the importance of enhancing mutual understanding as well as sharing best practices and expertise between ASEAN and EU in community building process.
41. The Meeting stressed the importance of the ASEAN-EU partnership and working with each other to elevate the partnership to a higher level. In this regard, the EU informed the Meeting of the intention of the President of the European Commission to have a dialogue with ASEAN.
42. The Meeting agreed to further strengthen cooperation in a wide range of international and regional issues of mutual interest such as the East Asian regional architecture, global financial and economic situation, climate change and disaster management, counter-terrorism and transnational crimes, food and energy security, maritime security, human rights cooperation, trade and investment, connectivity, narrowing development gap. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the EU's initiative to convene an ASEAN-EU workshop on maritime cooperation in September 2013 in Indonesia, as one of the concrete implementation of the Plan of Action. The Meeting change of views on regional and international issues of common concern, including on the question of the South China Sea and the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

43. The Meeting welcomed the signing of the grant contract of the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE) by the Secretary General of ASEAN and the EU Ambassador to ASEAN, to enhance the operational capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat.
44. The Meeting noted that the 20th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting will be held in Brussels in 2014.
49. The Meeting welcomed the conclusion of negotiations of the Trade in Services and Investment Agreements and looked forward to the signing of the agreements during the 11th AEM-India Consultations in Brunei Darussalam in August 2013.
50. The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015). The Meeting hoped that the process of finalization of some key projects including the creation of a sustainable IT infrastructure in CLMV countries; establishment of Tracking and Data Reception Station and Data Processing Facility for ASEAN; cooperation between the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) of India would receive priority. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the finalisation of the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action and suggested incorporation of the short-term actionable goals from the Vision Statement.

India

45. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with India was co-chaired by H.R.H. Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam, and H.E. Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India. The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the overall progress of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership and reaffirmed its contribution to the regional growth and prosperity and global peace and security.
46. The Meeting congratulated India on the successful hosting of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in December 2012 and welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-India Vision Statement at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and the elevation of the partnership to a Strategic level. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the various meaningful activities conducted in 2012 to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, including the ASEAN India Car Rally and the INS Sudarshini expedition and their related business and cultural events, which helped to make the calendar of activities fully participate of the people of the region as well.
47. The meeting welcomed India's 'Look East policy' within the framework of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership, particularly in supporting the ASEAN Community Building process covering the three pillars of ASEAN Community, connectivity, and in strengthening ASEAN centrality.
48. The Meeting encouraged ASEAN-India cooperation to further address trans-national security challenges particularly on the field of combating terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking and cyber crimes.
51. In this connection, the Meeting noted the launching of the ASEAN-India Centre and encouraged the finalization of the required modalities for operationalization of the Centre. The Meeting also noted India's intent to set up the separate ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre, announced by the ASEAN-India Economic Ministers, to promote trade and investment cooperation between ASEAN and India.
52. The Meeting highlighted the importance of transportation networks between Southeast Asia and South Asia, and welcomed India's commitment to support the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) through both hard and soft infrastructure linkages. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the convening of the Inaugural ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and India Consultation on June 10, 2013 at Balikpapan, Indonesia, to explore concrete ways and means to support the MPAC; as well as India's participation at the 21st ASEAN Land Transport Working Group Meeting on July 3-5, 2012 in Lao PDR. The Meeting also encouraged both sides to look into the possibility of taking concrete steps towards the development of

the Mekong India Economic Corridor. The Meeting also highlighted the importance of linking the ASEAN-India regions through maritime connectivity under the umbrella of the MPAC and welcomed India's participation at the 24th ASEAN Maritime Working Group Meeting on October 17-19, 2012 in Yangon, Myanmar; and the 25th ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group Meeting on March 12-14, 2013 in Mandalay, Myanmar.

53. The meeting noted with appreciation India's on-going work in the region to support ASEAN community building efforts through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), particularly India's role in establishing and supporting Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC) and Centre for English Language Training (CELT) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam and the on-going annual programmes for people-to-people exchanges between students, diplomats, farmers, media and members of the strategic communities in ASEAN Member States and India.
54. The Meeting noted the combined population of ASEAN and India is currently at 1.8 billion people, and in this context, highlighted the importance to strengthen ASEAN and India cooperation on agriculture and energy in order to ensure food and energy security in the long term.

Japan

55. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with Japan was co-chaired by H.E. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia and H.E. Fumio KISHIDA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The Meeting welcomed H.E. Fumio KISHIDA's first participation and co-chairing of the ASEAN PMC+1 Session with Japan.
56. The Meeting took note of the meaningful celebration of various commemorative activities in ASEAN Member States and Japan to mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations in 2013. The Meeting also looked forward to the successful convening of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan, on 13-15 December 2013. The Meeting noted the work of track two dialogue between intellectuals of ASEAN and Japan, and looked forward to the submission of their recommendations on the long-term vision of the ASEAN-Japan relations.
57. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the good progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action (POA) 2011-2015, which is an important instrument to further deepening and enhancing ASEAN-Japan cooperation and partnership, and agreed to speed up the effective and full implementation of this POA, and to contribute to the ASEAN's efforts to realize the ASEAN Community building by 2015.
58. The Meeting noted the negotiations on ASEAN-Japan Trade in Services and Investment Agreement and called for the early conclusions of the negotiations to pave the way for the realisation of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP).
59. The Meeting highly appreciated the ASEAN-Japan Centre for its significant contribution to promote trade, investment and tourism, and its important role in narrowing the development gap in ASEAN. In this regard, the Meeting encouraged the ASEAN-Japan Centre to undertake more concrete activities and programmes in the areas of trade, investment and tourism promotion as well as of cultural and people-to-people exchanges.
60. The Meeting highly valued Japan's active support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), through the 33 flagship projects identified by Japan related to 3 ASEAN Corridors (East-West Corridor, Southern Economic Corridor and Maritime Economic Corridors) for enhancing ASEAN Connectivity. The Meeting noted with appreciation the meeting between the ACCC and Japan's Task Force in Jakarta in April 2013 and welcomed the completion of the feasibility study on the development of ASEAN Ro-Ro and Short Sea Shipping Networks and looked forward to the concrete implementation of the development of such networks. The Meeting, furthermore, encouraged Japan's Task Force to continuously support ASEAN in the timely and effective implementation of the MPAC, especially to establish greater maritime connectivity between ASEAN and Japan, as well as to share expertise and experience in promoting Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

61. The Meeting appreciated Japan's active contribution to human resources development, including through the Attachment Programme at the ASEAN Secretariat, which sees an increase of two additional attachments officers this year from each CLMV countries to gain experience on regional cooperation under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) at the ASEAN Secretariat.
62. ASEAN underscored the significant contribution of the Government of Japan to ASEAN community building and integration process through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), which was extended to the end of 2013. In this regard, both sides are requested to utilize the JAIF in a timely manner to carry out projects and activities under the IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015) and ASEAN-Japan framework.
63. The Meeting highlighted the importance of people-to-people interaction to building closer contacts, mutual understanding and friendship between ASEAN and Japan. In this regard, the ASEAN Ministers appreciated the active role of Japan in promoting closer ties and nurturing friendship among youths of ASEAN and Japan, particularly through the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2.0, which was announced by Japan in January 2013.
64. The ASEAN Ministers highly appreciated Japan's continuing commitment to support the narrowing of development gaps and balanced growth. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of accelerating efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by involving various stakeholders including the private sector and civil society.
65. On disaster management, the ASEAN Ministers expressed high appreciation to Japan for its support to the AHA Centre, in particular its ICT system. The Meeting underscored the importance to further develop cooperation in disaster management training, sharing experiences, and transfer of know-how in disaster management. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to Japan's contribution to the implementation of the second phase of the Work Program of the AADMER for 2013 to 2015. The Ministers also welcomed the development of the Disaster Management Network for the ASEAN Region and highlighted the partnership between Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC) in Japan and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) in Thailand, particularly their joint projects on flood management.
66. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of achieving low carbon growth toward the future and welcomed the outcome of the Second East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue held on 18 May 2013 in Tokyo, co-chaired by Cambodia and Japan. The Ministers shared the view that various approaches including the Joint Crediting Mechanism, which Japan has been promoting, could contribute to facilitating the diffusion of low carbon technologies, products, systems and services, and thus low carbon growth in the region.
67. The Ministers highlighted the importance of urbanization as potential challenges for ASEAN confronted by the rapid increase of population and economic growth. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed Japan will seek to further promote its cooperation with ASEAN and ASEAN Member States in the area of urbanization.
68. The ASEAN Ministers appreciated Japan's continued support for ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, including the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Plus Three Summit, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus.
69. The Meeting reaffirmed the urgent need for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform in order to render the body more representative, legitimate, effective and responsive to the realities of the international community in the 21st century and thus to increase the representation of the Asian region in the Council. The Meeting also reaffirmed their determination to work closely to achieve this reform.
70. The Ministers expressed a grave concern on the protracted stalemate of the Middle East Peace Process, and urged both Israel and Palestine to resume direct negotiations for achieving peace. The ASEAN Ministers also welcomed Japan's initiative for establishing the Conference on Cooperation among

East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) for the purpose of supporting the state-building efforts of Palestine, and the Ministers encouraged all ASEAN member states to participate in the CEAPAD.

71. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of peace, stability, maritime security, and freedom of navigation. In this regard, the Meeting supported commitments of ASEAN and China to fully implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in accordance with the adopted Guidelines and the Joint Statement of the 15th ASEAN-China Summit on the 10th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and to work toward concluding a code of conduct in the South China Sea based on consensus.
 72. The Meeting encouraged the DPRK to comply fully with relevant UNSC Resolutions, including the UNSC Presidential Statement on the DPRK on 16 April 2012, and also encouraged all parties concerned to exercise maximum self-restraint. The Meeting called on all parties concerned to respect the September 19, 2005 Six Party Joint Statement and supported the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks in order to bring about peace, security and denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting also emphasised the importance of addressing the issue of abduction, which is a humanitarian issue.
- New Zealand**
73. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with New Zealand was co-chaired by H.E. Alounkeo KITTIKHOUN, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR, and the Hon. Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand.
 74. The Meeting reviewed the progress of ASEAN-New Zealand relations and noted with satisfaction that there has been significant progress made over the past year in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on an ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Partnership 2010-2015. In this connection, the Meeting agreed to focus on specific areas for implementation of the ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Partnership Framework's Plan of Action for period 2013-2014.
 75. The Meeting expressed the importance of increasing cooperation in areas of education, food and energy security, and disaster management. The Meeting also noted with satisfaction the effective implementation of the four flagship initiatives, covering the ASEAN-New Zealand Scholarship Program, Young Business Leaders Initiative programmes on Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response, and Agriculture Diplomacy.
 76. The Meeting also encouraged ASEAN-New Zealand cooperation to address trans-boundary environmental challenges as well as to share best practices and technology to cope with such challenges.
 77. The Meeting expressed appreciation to New Zealand for its continued support for ASEAN community building efforts, especially in the implementation of the IAI projects and other programs, which have contributed significantly to ASEAN's efforts to narrowing the development gap and regional integration.
 78. The Meeting expressed appreciation to New Zealand for their support in the implementation of the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity and the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area Agreement (AANZFTA), including support through the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Work Programme.
 79. The Meeting appreciated New Zealand's contribution to ASEAN efforts in strengthening institutional connectivity. In this connection, the Meeting welcomed New Zealand's initiative to co-host EAS Regulatory Roundtable with Thailand on 18 July 2013 in Bangkok.
 80. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of continuing cooperation on disaster preparedness and response and ASEAN encouraged New Zealand to continue its support of the AHA Centre and the implementation of the Work Programme (2010-2015) of the AADMER.
 81. ASEAN welcomed and endorsed New Zealand's initiative to convene the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Summit in 2015 to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Dialogue Relations.

Republic of Korea (ROK)

82. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with Republic of Korea was co-chaired by H.E. Dr. R. M. Marty. M. Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and H.E. Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. The Meeting welcomed H.E. Yun Byung-se's first participation and co-chairing of the ASEAN PMC+1 Session with ROK.
83. ASEAN appreciated the active role of the ROK's Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta since its establishment on 29 October 2012. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN-ROK Joint Cooperation Committee and looked forward to the convening of the 1st ASEAN-ROK Joint Cooperation Committee between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the resident Ambassador of the ROK to ASEAN in 2014 in Jakarta.
84. The Meeting noted ROK's initiative to further strengthen political and security cooperation with ASEAN, in accordance with the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Republic of Korea Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015)
85. The Meeting welcomed the substantial progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity 2011-2015, especially on the Two Year Implementation Programme 2012-2013, among other in the area of education, ICT, exchange of youth, media, and experts, and other capacity building projects. The Meeting noted with appreciation on the implementation of projects under the mechanisms of Special Cooperation Fund (SCF) and Future-Oriented Cooperation Project Funds (FOCPF).
86. The Meeting was encouraged by the significant growth of trade among ASEAN and the ROK which amounted to US\$ 124.9 billion in 2011 compared with US\$ 97.3 billion in 2010, and in this regard, the Meeting strived to re-double the efforts to achieve the target US\$ 150 billion by 2015 by fully utilizing the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area.
87. The Meeting reaffirmed their commitment to work together in addressing major global and transboundary challenges such as climate change and the environment as well as disaster management, including through close cooperation on Low Carbon Green Growth Policy and the use of environment-friendly technology, in which ASEAN may learn from ROK's experience. The Meeting also noted the successful convening of ARF DiREX 2013 and 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit, which provided important opportunities to enhance the capabilities of ASEAN and ROK in the area of disaster and water management capabilities.
88. The Meeting noted with appreciation the consultation mechanism that the ROK has established to work with the ACCC in exploring potential cooperation in connectivity, especially in the areas of infrastructure and ICT, people-to-people and mobilisation of innovative financing for connectivity. The Meeting further welcomed the convening of the inaugural meeting between the ACCC and the ROK's Task Force on Connectivity in Balikpapan, Indonesia, on 10 June 2013.
89. ASEAN encouraged ROK to support programmes under the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015, whose goals include the expansion of broadband and promotion of access to and affordability of ICT use, as well as to consider providing technological support to the AHA Centre.
90. The Meeting highlighted the ROK's constant commitment in supporting the ASEAN-Korea Centre, taking into account the ROK's generous contribution to the Centre's financial budget year 2013. The Meeting encouraged more efforts to optimize many activities held by the Centre to promote ASEAN-Korea cooperation, mainly in the three areas of trade and investment, culture and tourism, and public relations and information, which includes, among others, the development of Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The Meeting noted that the ASEAN-Korea Centre has initiated cooperation with the ASEAN-Japan Centre and the ASEAN-China Centre and hope that such cooperation would enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of each centre's activities.
91. The Ministers stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula

and encouraged the DPRK to comply fully with its obligations under all relevant UNSC Resolutions and its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. The Ministers reiterated their support for all efforts to bring about the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. In this context, the Meeting welcomed the Trust-building Process on the Korean Peninsula and the Initiative for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia by the President of the Republic of Korea.

92. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-Korea Special Summit in 2014. The Meeting agreed to conduct commemorative activities throughout 2014 to mark the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations.

Russian Federation

93. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with the Russian Federation was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, and H.E. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.
94. The Meeting reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action to Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation (2005-2015) and exchanged views on the future direction of ASEAN-Russia cooperation.
95. The Meeting agreed to enhance cooperation in the political and security, economic and socio-cultural priority areas, namely, combating terrorism and transnational crimes, trade and economy, investment, energy, transport, agriculture and food security, tourism, science and technology, disaster management and culture, as well as supporting ASEAN connectivity.
96. The Meeting welcomed the convening of the ASEAN-Russia Youth Summit held on 12-14 May 2013 in Moscow, Russia, and encouraged the conduct more youth exchanges in the future to strengthen people-to-people links. The Meeting also welcomed the convening of the ASEAN-Russia Business Forum on 22 June 2013 in St. Petersburg, aimed at promoting

interactions between ASEAN and Russia business community in the field of trade, investment, and tourism.

97. The Meeting noted the importance of increasing cooperation in areas of tourism and culture. In this regard, the Meeting encouraged all ASEAN Member States that have not ratified the ASEAN-Russia Agreement on Cultural Cooperation to do so expeditiously so that initiatives in the agreement can be duly implemented.
98. The Meeting noted the status of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership Financial Fund as well as a number of Joint Projects sponsored by the Fund.
99. The Meeting welcomed the appointment of Dr. Victor Sumsy, Director of the ASEAN Centre in the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO University), for a second term from June 2013 to May 2016.

United States of America

100. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with the United States of America was co-chaired by H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Hon. John Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States of America. The Meeting welcomed Hon. John Kerry's first participation and co-chairing of the ASEAN PMC+1 Session with the U.S.
101. The Meeting reviewed the ASEAN-U.S. cooperation and its future direction, and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern and interest. The Meeting, in particular, deliberated and agreed to cooperate further on the subjects of cyber security, cyber terrorism, disaster management, food and energy security, education, economics, trafficking in persons and connectivity.
102. The Meeting noted, with satisfaction, the current status of ASEAN-U.S. cooperation that has been contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The Meeting agreed to continue efforts to elevate the ASEAN-U.S. partnership to a strategic level and welcomed the first ASEAN-US Summit to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan later this year, as well as

- the U.S. proposal to make biodiversity cooperation as one of its major themes.
103. The Meeting also welcomed the enhanced engagement of the U.S. in the region through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as ARF, EAS and ADMM Plus. The Meeting also welcomed the U.S. engagement in the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) and their proposal for an Expanded ASEAN Seafarer Training (EAST) program, which will be realised through a workshop on counter-piracy to be held in Manila in September 2013.
104. The Meeting welcomed the progress of ASEAN-U.S. cooperation in various areas including maritime security, transnational crime, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, energy, education, rule of law, and development in the Lower Mekong Sub-region. The Meeting also recognized that the ASEAN-U.S. Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Initiative would further promote economic cooperation between ASEAN and the U.S.
105. The Meeting welcomed the successful convening of the 26th ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue in Washington D.C., United States on 2-4 May 2013 that contributed to the enhancement of the ASEAN-U.S. dialogue relations and cooperation.
106. The Meeting recognized the need to strengthen and consolidate existing ASEAN-US cooperation frameworks and mechanisms, namely, the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity 2011-2015 and 2013 Work Plan of the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA Work Plan 2013) and ASEAN-U.S. Energy Cooperation Work Plan (2012-2014), in order to accelerate their implementation. The Meeting welcomed the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Roadshow in the U.S. that took place on 10-13 June 2013.
107. The Meeting also noted that the important role of ASEAN-US track II activities and cooperation among ASEAN-US Business communities, such as the organizing of the annual ASEAN-U.S. Business Summit with a view to further enhancing ASEAN-U.S. relations.
108. The Meeting commended the recommendations by the ASEAN-U.S. Eminent Persons Group to the 4th ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Meeting in charting the future direction of ASEAN-U.S. relations and stressed the need to transform them into concrete actions. In this respect, the Meeting agreed to give emphasis on the recommendations of ASEAN-US Eminent Persons Group for further strengthening of the ASEAN-U.S. relations.
109. The Meeting expressed support for the efforts being undertaken by ASEAN and China for the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and their plans to work together for the early conclusion of a code of conduct in the South China Sea based on consensus.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Lower Mekong Initiative

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 1 July 2013**

On July 1, 2013, the Foreign Ministers of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and the U.S. Secretary of State and the Secretary-General of ASEAN met in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam for the 6th Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Ministerial Meeting.

Ministers endorsed LMI as a forum through which to address complex, transnational development and policy challenges. They agreed that the action plans for each of the six pillars will enable LMI members to advance regional priorities most effectively, and endorsed the role of the LMI Coordination Hub in providing information to LMI stakeholders through the upgraded LMI website.

Ministers launched the Eminent and Expert Persons Group (EEPG) for LMI based on the approved terms of reference. The EEPG will comprise two experts from the political, academic, cultural, economic, or business circles in each

LMI member country who will make recommendations to the Ministers on the strategic direction of LMI and the way forward.

Ministers also stated that it is essential for LMI and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration to be more closely aligned and coordinated. They agreed that while both initiatives serve valuable purposes and should continue to exist independently, there is potential for collaboration and information sharing that needs to be realized.

Ministers reaffirmed the importance of integrating gender throughout all LMI pillars and programs and agreed to new language in the LMI Master Plan of Action supporting this principle. Specific efforts include integrating gender into Mekong Technology Innovation Generation and Entrepreneurship Resources (TIGERS) and developing a new program designed to provide capacity building for women in forestry management. Ministers also suggested holding the next Gender Policy Dialogue meeting on the margins of the next ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women. Ministers endorsed the priorities of the LMI Health Pillar: prevention and control of communicable and emerging infectious diseases; prevention and control of counterfeit as well as substandard medications (CSM); regional collaboration to support implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR); and identifying and sharing best practices in public health. Ministers agreed that compliance with World Health Organization IHR core capacities requirements should be advanced, as should work towards a regional approach to prepare for public health responses to food safety events, chemical, radiation and/or nuclear incidents, and bio-terrorism. Ministers also agreed that prevention of production of counterfeit and substandard medicines and capacity building to control and regulate CSM was also identified as a priority.

The ministers approved the following new health projects: Pandemic Health Threat Response to address outbreaks of H7N9 in the Asia-Pacific; a Healthcare Management workshop through the Third Country Training Program to be implemented jointly with Singapore and the U.S.; regional cross-border malaria cooperation, along the lines of that being undertaken by Thailand, the U.S. and Myanmar along the Thai-Myanmar border; and a technical exchange between Cambodia and Laos to enhance gender integration in health policies and structures for improved health outcomes. Ministers reaffirmed the Education Pillar's focus on building educational ties and cooperation. They endorsed

the continuation of the Professional Communications Skills for Leaders English language training to Phase 2—promoting capacity building among experts—exploring the equivalency of qualifications in tertiary programs between Lower Mekong partner countries, and encouraging regional cooperation on education reform.

The LMI Environment and Water Pillar promotes dialogue and information exchange between LMI countries to encourage policies and programs that support sound management of natural resources, with an emphasis on cross-cutting and transnational issues. The goal of the pillar is to advance economic growth and sustainable development through transnational policy dialogues and programs to improve the management of water and natural resources.

Ministers endorsed the following new Environment and Water Pillar projects: Smart Infrastructure for the Mekong (SIM), which is an on-demand USAID technical assistance mechanism for smart infrastructure design and development support; USAID's new planned work to build capacity in GIS and remote sensing technologies for natural resource management; and greater collaboration on environmental and water issues through events such as the 'NEXUS Dialogue on food, water and energy'. The ministers welcomed recent progress on planning for implementation of two proposals from Viet Nam on water resources management that were previously discussed at the fifth LMI Ministerial.

Ministers also welcomed the continuation of the Forecast Mekong project, which could include Thailand's proposal for LMI Members to consider integrated weather forecasting to aid in natural disaster preparedness.

Ministers welcomed the design of the Connectivity Pillar to reflect the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) by including infrastructure, information and communications technology, and people-to-people connectivity. They noted that this focus and the new emphasis on collaboration with ASEAN will support the achievement of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.

In direct support of both the people-to-people connectivity and institutional connectivity components of the MPAC, the ministers endorsed a new project called Connecting the Mekong through Education and Training (COMET). The goal of COMET is to increase the number of skilled

workers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, accounting and tourism throughout the sub-region by utilizing breakthroughs in information and communication technology (ICT) and innovative partnerships among education institutions, governments, and the private sector.

Ministers also endorsed follow-up to the 'Connect Mekong' platform, including the kick-off Mekong TIGERS project, a private sector DEMO conference and training to be held in Viet Nam this August to support and evaluate sub-regional innovators and entrepreneurs. Ministers also endorsed the expansion of the Best Practices Exchange to areas including engineering, capital markets, aviation, health, energy, and ICT. BPEs share best practices in smart infrastructure financing and development through greater engagement of private sector resources. Ministers welcomed Thailand's continued efforts to develop its proposal on capacity building on cross-border procedures and border management. Ministers thanked Singapore for its role in providing Third Country Training to develop technical capacity in infrastructure challenges, and requested continuing involvement.

Ministers endorsed the Plan of Action for and recognized the work of the Agriculture and Food Security Pillar to expand agricultural trade and investment in the region and increase engagement with the private sector, agriculturists, and other sectors. Ministers approved the new text of the Plan of Action for the pillar and approved mapping donor activity in the Lower Mekong sub-region in the agriculture and food security sector, in order to detect programming gaps, identify potential partnerships, and avoid overlapping activities.

Over the next decade energy consumption in the Mekong sub-region is expected to increase at least five percent annually. Ministers approved the inaugural Plan of Action for the new Energy Security Pillar and welcomed its focus on regional market development, power interconnection, energy efficiency and conservation, transparency and good governance and research and development. Ministers welcomed the proposal for regulatory capacity building to address topics such as cost-reflective tariff design, system planning coordination, and regional interconnectivity.

The ministers looked forward to the convening of the fifth LMI Regional Working Group Meeting in Cambodia and the seventh LMI Ministerial Meeting in 2014 in Myanmar.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 3rd Friends of the Lower Mekong Ministerial Meeting

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 1 July 2013**

On July 1, 2013, the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the High Representative of the European Union, the Secretary General of ASEAN, and senior representatives of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank joined the U.S. Secretary of State and Foreign Ministers of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam for the Third Friends of the Lower Mekong (FLM) Ministerial Meeting.

At the meeting, Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to supporting transnational cooperation and coordination in the Lower Mekong sub-region. They agreed that FLM has contributed to building capacity, improving infrastructure and promoting stability in the region, and expressed a desire to continue to work closely with Lower Mekong countries to achieve sustainable growth and address the development gap in the region thus contributing to ASEAN integration and community building.

Ministers agreed that donors and other actors in the region should coordinate their efforts in order to avoid unintentional duplication and to identify areas of potential collaboration. To that end, Ministers committed to working together with other donors, ASEAN, and the Mekong River Commission to promote complementary efforts in the region. LMI is already engaging with ASEAN to identify areas of overlap and potential collaboration. Ministers expressed support for similar coordination efforts within the donor community, in particular through information sharing and donor mapping.

Ministers agreed that one of the most important issues in the region was that of environmental issues and shared water resources. They noted that Lower Mekong country partners were already providing regional leadership in these areas, and considered further steps FLM partners could take to collectively advance these issues and support Lower Mekong country partners' efforts.

Within the framework of the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community and the challenge of reducing

the existing development gaps, Ministers urged LMI Members and the ASEAN Secretariat to ensure optimal complementarities between their activities in this area. Ministers suggested that greater interaction with Lower Mekong partner countries, for example through Regional Working Group meetings and other regional mechanisms such as the Mekong River Commission and the ADB's Greater Mekong Sub-region program would enable the alignment of FLM partner technical strengths and programs with Lower Mekong partner countries' priorities. This would allow the identification of opportunities for donors and countries in the region to work together on specific projects in support of sound management of natural resources and shared water resources.

Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (2013-2017)

1. Compliance with the Undertakings in the SEANWFZ Treaty

- a. Encourage accession to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident by all States Parties;
- b. Encourage accession to the Convention on Nuclear Safety by all States Parties;
- c. Encourage ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by all States Parties;
- d. Encourage conclusion of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Additional Protocols by all States Parties;
- e. Promote the universalization of international agreements related to disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) as mentioned in 1(a), 1(b), 1(c) and 1(d);
- f. Apart from the instruments as mentioned above in 1(a), 1(b), 1(c) and 1(d), the Executive Committee will recommend to the Commission a list of other international instruments which will strengthen the implementation of the SEANWFZ;
- g. Following approval by the Commission for the SEANWFZ, States Parties will endeavor to complete the accession to instruments as

recommended in the list at the soonest possible time;

- h. Implement a Control System to verify compliance with the obligations of States Parties under the SEANWFZ Treaty, in line with the obligations listed in Articles 10-13 of the SEANWFZ Treaty;
- i. Strengthen the relevant existing and prospective mechanisms within ASEAN such as the Nuclear Energy Cooperation Sub-Sector Network (NEC-SSN) and the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) to contribute to the eventual development of a regional nuclear safety regime to regulate and oversee the safety assessment requirements for those States Parties which have embarked on peaceful nuclear energy programmes, in accordance with Article 4 of the SEANWFZ Treaty.
- j. Encourage Member States to make a report on their respective implementation of the Plan of Action;

2. Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone

- a. Continue consultations with the Nuclear Weapon States.

3. Cooperation with the IAEA and Other Partners

- a. Promote cooperation with the IAEA, other international and regional bodies and institutes with the relevant resources and expertise including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), other Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones, Dialogue Partners, Nuclear Weapon States and other friendly States, to seek their support for the implementation of the provisions of the SEANWFZ Treaty.
- b. Encourage the IAEA, other international and regional bodies and institutes with the relevant resources and expertise, other Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones, Dialogue Partners, Nuclear Weapon States and other friendly States, to organize capacity building activities, exchange information and experiences, and provide expertise to the States Parties, especially on the following:
 - i. developing national/regional legal framework to meet international standards on nuclear safety;

- ii. establishing regional networks for early warning
 - iii. developing a regional emergency preparedness and response plan.
- c. Consider establishing regular consultations between ASEAN and the IAEA;
 - d. Promote the profile of the SEANWFZ Treaty at multilateral fora and international organisations, including continued efforts to secure the biennial adoption of Resolutions on the SEANWFZ Treaty in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly;
 - e. Promote ASEAN's common position on issues related to non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy at multilateral fora and international organisations.

4. Institutional Arrangements

- a. Concerned sectoral bodies in ASEAN will jointly draw up specific work programmes/projects to implement the various actions and measures outlined in this Plan of Action with the assistance of the ASEAN Secretariat. Experts from the IAEA and other partners could be invited, on a case-by-case basis, to develop specific work programmes and project proposals.
- b. The Commission for the SEANWFZ shall review the implementation of the Plan of Action at its projected conclusion in 2017, or as and when recommended by the Executive Committee for the SEANWFZ. The Executive Committee shall review progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action annually.

Statement by the Chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the Impact of Typhoon Haiyan on the Philippines

12 November 2013

The Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations wish to express their heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines following the devastating impact of Typhoon Haiyan.

As our Secretary-General coordinates ASEAN's humanitarian assistance and response, we reaffirm our commitment to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response of 2005 and to the safety and welfare of the people we represent, especially during such times of extreme suffering.

The Association will offer its strongest support in the work of recovery and in restoring hope and confidence to the people of our community who have experienced such terrible personal loss.

Issued: 12 November 2013

ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)

Brunei Darussalam Joint Declaration of the ASEAN Defence Minister on Securing Our People, Our Future Together

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 7 May 2013**

WE, the Defence Ministers of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, and the Secretary General, Ministry of Defence, Malaysia, gathered here in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 7 May 2013 for the Seventh ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (hereinafter referred to as "ADMM");

REAFFIRMING FURTHER our adherence and commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter;

INSPIRED by and united under One Vision, One Identity and One Caring and Sharing Community, with a view to promoting a people-oriented ASEAN in which all sectors of society are encouraged to participate and benefit from the process of ASEAN integration and community building;

RECALLING the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009 - 2015) adopted at the 14th ASEAN Summit held on 1 March 2009 in Phetchaburi province, Thailand, which strategically set out a clear vision and direction to achieve the community building by 2015, in order to serve the peoples of ASEAN;

RECALLING ALSO the outcomes of the 22nd ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, which was held on 24 - 25 April 2013, and committing to further intensify the work to realise an ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible in order to take advantage of current

and future opportunities, and effectively respond to regional and international challenges;

RECALLING FURTHER the inaugural ADMM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 9 May 2006 as a historic event in the evolution of ASEAN, which has paved the way for consolidating and strengthening defence and military interactions within the ASEAN framework;

ENCOURAGED by the significant achievements of the ADMM in the last seven years in promoting regional peace and stability through dialogue and cooperation in defence and security issues, with a view to adding value and complementing the overall ASEAN process;

DETERMINED to enhance cooperation within ADMM to contribute towards realising the ASEAN Community as envisaged in the ASEAN Charter and, in particular, the establishment of an ASEAN Political-Security Community by 2015;

EMPHASIZING that defence cooperation remains vital in building regional peace and security as well as in securing the well-being of our peoples, and our future together;

RECOGNISING the need to respond effectively, in accordance with the principle of comprehensive security, to all forms of threats, including new and emerging security challenges;

SHARING THE BELIEF that further broadening and deepening of cooperation in non-traditional security areas will continue to serve the security interests of the ASEAN peoples and is essential for promoting peace, stability and development in the region;

RECOGNISING ALSO the need to promote and enhance people-to-people interaction within the ASEAN defence and military establishments, with a view to creating an ASEAN sense of belonging that is in line with the goal of a people centred ASEAN;

REITERATING the strategic importance of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) as an effective platform to foster constructive dialogue and cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus countries, with a view to building capacity, developing expertise and enhancing coordination in areas that can contribute to regional peace and stability;

REAFFIRMING FURTHER our determination to maintain ASEAN centrality and our proactive role as the primary driving force in the relations and cooperation with the Plus countries in the ADMM-Pius process;

COMMENDING the substantial achievements of the ADMM Pius process in forging practical cooperation, in particular, through the work of the five ADMM-Pius Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Maritime Security, Military Medicine, Counter Terrorism and Peacekeeping Operations;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN Member States' commitment to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and ASEAN's Six Point Principles on the South China Sea, and mindful of the Joint Statement of the 15th ASEAN-China Summit on the 10th Anniversary of the DOC, and support our Leaders' commitment at the 22nd ASEAN Summit for ASEAN to work actively with China towards the early conclusion of a code of conduct (COC) in the South China Sea to promote peace and stability;

RECOGNISING the contribution of the ASEAN militaries in substantively advancing cooperation within the ASEAN defence sector;

NOTING WITH GREAT SATISFACTION the results of the Tenth ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) in Bandar Seri Begawan on 20 March 2013, and related ASEAN militaries meetings, and commending the progress made in enhancing practical cooperation and in achieving tangible results through their comprehensive and forward-looking Two-Year Activity Work Plan;

REAFFIRMING shared commitment and collective responsibility in enhancing regional peace, security and prosperity;

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. Further strengthen and intensify the ADMM's efforts in promoting regional peace and stability through dialogue and cooperation towards a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient ASEAN Political-Security Community;
2. Undertake appropriate measures and initiatives to increase the level of ASEAN awareness within

the ASEAN defence and military establishments to promote ASEAN identity building in support of an ASEAN Political-Security Community;

3. Continue to strengthen existing bonds of regional solidarity through defence cooperation in order to effectively respond to current and future challenges and opportunities;
4. Strengthen ASEAN's centrality through the ADMM's proactive role as the primary driving force in regional defence cooperation and community building;
5. Commit to deepening cooperation by developing more concrete and action-oriented measures;
6. Adopt the Concept Paper on Establishing ASEAN Defence Interaction Programmes, which will serve as guidance to promote and enhance people-to-people contacts within the ASEAN defence and military establishments;
7. Adopt the Concept Paper on the Establishment of Logistics Support Framework, which will serve as guidance to support coordination mechanisms in mobilizing military assets and capacities as appropriate, towards a more cohesive and effective response to non-traditional security challenges;
8. Note Cambodia's proposal to conduct a workshop on the establishment of a study group on ASEAN Civil-War-Free Zone, which aims to ensure that the region remains peaceful and stable, and to completely eliminate all civil wars in the region;
9. Welcome the results of the First Meeting of the Establishment of ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network, co-chaired by Thailand and Indonesia on 4 - 7 September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand, which fosters friendship and strengthens the relationship amongst ASEAN Member States;
10. Reaffirm the significant role played by the ASEAN militaries and encourage them to further advance their cooperation through practical and concrete cooperative activities, with a view to enhancing capacity-building and increasing interoperability to address non-traditional and transnational security issues and challenges;

11. Strengthen the operational effectiveness and preparedness in the areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) and in this regard welcome the Second ASEAN Militaries' Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise (AHX) to be held in Brunei Darussalam in June 2013;
12. Strive to advance the achievements of the ADMM-Pius in promoting greater dialogue as well as collective and cooperative efforts between ASEAN and its Plus countries to both harness opportunities and meet the challenges posed by non-traditional and transnational security threats;
13. Recognise the importance and fully support the inaugural ADMM-Pius Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMM-Pius HADR and MM Ex) to be held in Brunei Darussalam in June 2013 as a landmark cooperation amongst the defence forces of the ADMM-Pius Member States, which contributes towards the building of regional capacity in addressing non-traditional security challenges in particular disaster management;
14. Adopt the Concept Paper on the Establishment of the ADMM-Pius Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action, which will promote practical and effective cooperation between ASEAN Member States and Plus Countries in dealing with the remnants of war in the region;
15. Adopt the Concept Paper on the Transition of the ADMM-Pius Experts' Working Group Co-Chairmanship, which will serve as an effective guide for future transitions and provides the necessary procedures that will support any additions to the existing ADMM-Pius EWG and their co chairmanship;
16. Approve the new set of co-chairs of the ADMM-Pius EWGs for the next cycle starting after the ADSOM-Pius in April 2014 in Myanmar;
17. Support efforts and commitment to promote greater transparency, confidence building and understanding of regional security challenges and perceptions in Southeast Asia including through the first publication of the ASEAN Security Outlook (ASO); and
18. Welcome Myanmar's Chairing of ASEAN and its hosting of the Eighth ADMM in 2014.
 DONE at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, this Seventh Day of May in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen, in a single original copy in the English Language.

 For Brunei Darussalam:
 PEHIN DATU SINGAMANTERI COLONEL (RTD) DATO SERI SETIA (DR) AWANG HAJI MOHAMMAD YASMIN HAJI UMAR
 Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office

 For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
 GENERAL TEA BANH
 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence

 For the Republic of Indonesia:
 PURNOMO YUSGIANTORO
 Minister of Defence

 For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
 LIEUTENANT GENERAL DOUANGCHAY PHICHITH
 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense

 For Malaysia:
 DATO' SRI DR HAJI ISMAIL HAJI AHMAD
 Secretary General, Ministry of Defence

 For the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
 LIEUTENANT GENERAL WAI LWIN
 Union Minister for Defence

 For the Republic of the Philippines:
 VOLTAIRE T. GAZMIN
 Secretary of National Defense

 For the Republic of Singapore:
 DR NG ENG HEN
 Minister for Defence

 For the Kingdom of Thailand:
 AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SUKUMPOL SUWANATAT
 Minister of Defence

 For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
 GENERAL PHUNG QUANG THANH
 Minister of National Defence

Chairman's Statement of the 2nd ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 29 August 2013**

1. The Second ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) was held on 29 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting was chaired by Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Retd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Defence Ministers and representatives of Defence Ministers from ten ASEAN Member States and eight ASEAN Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America. The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
3. The Meeting was briefed on the recent developments in ASEAN by His Excellency Nyan Lynn, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN. The briefing outlined ASEAN's advancement towards an integrated, wellconnected and people-centred ASEAN. Significant progress has been achieved in the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) pillars. The date of realization of the ASEAN Community would be on 31 December 2015 as the result of a key decision by the ASEAN Leaders last year in Cambodia. In this endeavor, ASEAN is committed to encourage the participation of the people and all stakeholders in the ASEAN community building process.
4. The Meeting was also briefed on the progress of the ADMM-Plus by Colonel (Retd) Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Azmansham Pengiran Haji Mohamad, Permanent Secretary (Defence Policy and Development), Ministry of Defence, Brunei Darussalam / ADSOM-Plus Chairman. The Meeting expressed satisfaction on the substantial achievements of the five ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWGs), namely humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security, military medicine, counter-terrorism and peacekeeping operations. The Meeting commended the inaugural ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMMPPlus HADR and MM Ex) held in Brunei Darussalam in June 2013, and looked forward for the upcoming ADMM-Plus Counter-Terrorism, Maritime Security and Peacekeeping Operations Practical Exercises in Indonesia, Australia and Philippines, respectively.
5. The Meeting exchanged views on regional and international security and defence issues. The Meeting expressed concerns about non traditional security challenges, including terrorism, maritime security, piracy, climate change, natural disasters and infectious diseases, as well as the emerging challenge of cyber security. In that regard, the Meeting stressed the importance of cooperation within and outside ASEAN in dealing with these issues, especially through the ADMMPPlus process. The Meeting also stressed the importance of ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional security architecture, and the continuing work in addressing non-traditional security challenges such as in the area of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).
6. The Meeting also emphasized the strategic importance of the ADMMPPlus in enhancing the peace, stability and development in Southeast Asia and beyond, and in promoting closer cooperation to address common security issues and challenges. In view of this, the Meeting welcomed the Sixth ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting's (ADMM) decision held on 29 May 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to increase the frequency of ADMM-Plus meetings from once in three years to once in two years. This will foster greater momentum in dialogue and cooperation, and reinforce the positive commitment of the ADMM-Plus countries to enhance regional peace and stability in a cooperative manner.
7. The Meeting underscored the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea. The Ministers stressed the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states

directly concerned in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The Ministers welcomed the collective commitments of ASEAN Member States and China to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), including the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC, and to work towards the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

8. The Meeting underlined the importance of peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting also encouraged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply fully with its obligations to all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and to its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. To this end, the Meeting expressed its support for all efforts to bring about the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.
9. The Meeting also expressed concerns over worrying reports on the use of chemical weapons in Syria, and several Ministers emphasized the important role of the United Nations and its processes in dealing with the issue.
10. In remaining actively engaged in the ADMM-Plus process to respond effectively to current and future challenges and opportunities, the Meeting encouraged the ADMM-Plus defence and military establishments to establish practical measures that reduce vulnerability to miscalculations, and avoid misunderstanding and undesirable incidents at sea.
11. The Meeting affirmed the Concept Paper on the Establishment of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action adopted at the Seventh ADMM held on 7 May 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, which promotes practical and effective cooperation between ASEAN Member States and Plus countries in dealing with the consequences of explosive remnants of war in the region.
12. The Meeting also affirmed the Concept Paper on the Transition of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group Co-Chairmanship adopted at the Seventh ADMM, which serves as an effective guide for future transitions and provides the necessary procedures that will support any additions to the existing ADMM-Plus EWGs, and their co-chairmanship. In this regard, the Ministers tasked their senior officials to develop robust work plans and set appropriate key milestones for the next cycle of the EWGs that begins in April 2014.
13. The Chair welcomed ideas to promote further and build on cooperation in the ADMM-Plus. The Meeting noted new initiatives on promoting capacity building through an HADR Table-Top Exercise, Mine Action Workshop and trafficking in persons conference, as well as exploring cooperation in cyber defence and sharing knowledge in science and technology. The Meeting also noted that these new initiatives will be conducted through close collaboration with relevant EWG chairs.
14. The Meeting adopted the Bandar Seri Begawan Joint Declaration on the Second ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus, which commits to strengthen defence cooperation in the advancement of the cause of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region based on the enduring principles of equality, mutual respect, mutual benefit and respect for international law.
15. The Meeting also reaffirmed the direction of the ASEAN Leaders during the 22nd ASEAN Summit in May 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan to promote synergy between regional mechanisms, including that of the ADMM-Plus and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). In this regard, the Ministers noted the usefulness to develop procedures to share information between the ADMM-Plus and ARF, to coordinate the schedule of meetings, exercises and activities more effectively.
16. The Meeting also welcomed the convening of Third ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus in Malaysia in 2015.
17. The Meeting expressed appreciation to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)

Joint Press Statement of the 17th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors- General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs (17th DGICM)

Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam, 29-30 August 2013

1. The Seventeenth Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs (17th DGICM) was held on 29-30 August 2013. H.E Lieut. Gen. To Lam, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Public Security and H.E Nguyen Thanh Son, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the S.R of Viet Nam attended the opening ceremony. H.E Lieut. Gen. To Lam delivered the opening speech and emphasized the important role of the ASEAN Immigration and Consular agencies and the close cooperation among them to facilitate the movement of people, at the same time, effectively combating people smuggling, irregular migration and transnational crimes.
2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E Major General Le Thanh Dzung, Director-General, Immigration Department, Ministry of Public Security, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and was attended by the Directors-General of Immigration and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States, and the representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat.
3. The Meeting held candid and fruitful discussions. Information on the progress in immigration control, the development in infrastructure and technology, capacity building programme for immigration personnel was shared.
4. The Meeting reaffirmed that the role of immigration is eminent in effectively mitigating the indelible impact of globalization and responding to the threats of transnational crime. The presence of robust national laws; effective operational procedures; capability development; and the leverage on of IT and the use of electronic passport (e-passport) with a polycarbonate base biodata page are instrumental in effective border control. In this regard, the Meeting commended the ongoing progress being achieved in immigration matters in individual Member States which demonstrates the commitment and the vigilance by the ASEAN Immigration authorities.
5. The Meeting welcomed Myanmar's update on the progress being made in signing bilateral agreements with other ASEAN Member States for visa exemption for ordinary passport holder. As the ASEAN Community is envisaged to be established in 2015, visa exemption for the ASEAN Nationals as espoused in the ASEAN Charter and the Community Blueprints should be a priority.
6. The Meeting took note of Viet Nam's proposal on Abolishing the Requirements of Consular Legalization for Foreign Public Documents among ASEAN Countries for further consideration by Member States.
7. The Meeting noted that as epitomized in the ASEAN Charter, facilitating intra-ASEAN travel, legal movement of people and tourism would amplify the regional development and community building progress.
8. The Meeting also welcomed the updates by Malaysia and Singapore on the establishment of ASEAN Lanes at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport and Changi International Airport respectively.
9. The 9th ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF) was held in conjunction with the 17th DGICM. The AIIF accentuates bilateral and regional cooperation in the area of immigration, and discussed topics on the information sharing, fraud detection and effective response to irregular movement of people, migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. The Meeting

endorsed the Report of the 9th AIF and encouraged enhanced regional collaboration in timely sharing of information and conducive immigration networking. In this regard, the ASEAN Member States appreciated the initiative by Viet Nam for the establishment of ASEAN Immigration Hotline.

10. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN and the Meeting expressed gratitude to the warm hospital accorded by the Government and the People of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Joint Press Statement of the 9th ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) + Australia Consultation

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam,
30 August 2013**

The 9th ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation was held on 30 August 2013 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Major General Le Thanh Dung, Director-General of the Immigration Department, Ministry of Public Security of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and Mr Peter Vardos, Deputy Secretary, Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), Australia.

The Meeting noted the success of ongoing activities undertaken in 2012-13 as agreed by the 8th DGICM+ Australia Consultation.

The Meeting agreed to pursue a number of practical activities in 2013-14, demonstrating the shared interest that ASEAN and Australia have in continuing a constructive partnership that benefits the project countries of ASEAN and Australia.

Recognizing the agility and flexibility of criminal networks, the Meeting called for a closer regional cooperation and vigilant approach in effectively responding to the irregular movement of people, trafficking in persons and people smuggling.

ASEAN and Australia agreed that they would continue to work together on cooperative arrangements in relation to immigration matters across the region. The meeting also agreed to further publicise, where appropriate, the agreements of the ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation through the ASEAN website.

It was agreed that the 10th ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation would be held in conjunction with the 18th Meeting of the ASEAN DGICM in Brunei Darussalam in 2014.

All participants expressed appreciation to the people and the Government of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to all the delegates.

Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 1-4 September 2013**

1. ASEAN Ministers, SOM Leaders and the Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 3rd September 2013. The Meeting aimed, through ASOD to monitor the progress of the implementation of the ASOD Work Plan 2009-2015.
2. The Meeting expressed their profound gratitude to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for graciously granting an audience to the Ministers and Senior Officials and for his invaluable advice in advancing regional cooperation in combating transnational crime.
3. The Meeting took note that the Leaders of ASEAN called for intensified concerted efforts to realise the vision and goal of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 to be a high priority agenda. The Meeting also recognised that the drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health, security and safety and the well-being of humanity.

4. The Meeting shared views, efforts and achievements in facing the challenges posed by the drug problem in the respective countries of ASEAN, which includes, among others:
- (i) Emphasised that ASEAN Member States have the gigantic task to achieve the desired target of a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015.
 - (ii) All ASEAN Member States shared their best practices on treatment and rehabilitation programmes;
 - (iii) Highlighted the need for a new paradigm to combat the threat of drugs, with the attainment of a balance between treatment and prevention approach with the law enforcement approach;
 - (iv) Recommended ASEAN Member States to fully participate in and contribute to data collection and Standardised Country Reports which would substantively attribute to the regional actions that ASEAN would inspire to undertake;
 - (v) Highlighted the importance of adopting the approach of strengthening of national programs and combining bilateral cooperation agreements and regional ASEAN collaboration to combat the drug problem;
 - (vi) To protect our community especially the young generation of ASEAN Member States from the drug menace;
 - (vii) Shared the concern on increasing threats of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and recommended sharing of information on profiling of new drugs.
5. The Meeting commended ASOD in its relentless efforts to achieve its mission of realizing a vision of drug-free ASEAN by 2015 and urged ASOD and other relevant bodies to discuss necessary measures to work towards a post-2015 agenda for ASEAN to further realise this vision.
6. The Meeting commended the significant progress made by the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force on Drugs (AAITF), and looks forward to the expansion of the operational cooperation to include sea/maritime and land border interdiction. The Meeting noted the interest of ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other external parties in collaborating with the AAITF.
7. The Meeting agreed to task the ASEAN Secretariat to develop a comprehensive concept paper on the institutionalisation of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters and on the strengthening of co-ordination and co-operation between ASEAN sectoral bodies on drug matters.
8. It is imperative to continue the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters in 2014 and 2015 in order to strengthen ASEAN cooperation and monitor the progress on cross cutting issues relating to drug matters. The Meeting welcomed Indonesia's offer to host the 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters in 2014.
9. The Meeting took note of Thailand's proposal to establish the office of ASEAN-Narco which will serve as the coordinating office for ASEAN Member States on drug matters.
10. The Meeting affirmed their determination and resolve to work closely together to realise the vision of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 and beyond, realising that combating the drug menace is no longer just the individual responsibility of each ASEAN Member State, but the collective responsibility of all.
11. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality, in line with this year ASEAN's "Our People, Our Future Together".

Joint Statement of the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (9th AMMTC)

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 17 September 2013

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers overseeing the responsibilities of combating transnational crimes, gathered in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 17 September 2013, to consolidate and further strengthen regional cooperation in combating transnational crimes. The Meeting was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) for the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as "9th AMMTC") held on 16

- September 2013. The 9th AMMTC was chaired by Dr. Thongbanh Sengaphone, Minister of Public Security of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
2. We welcomed the convening of two ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters held consecutively on 31 August 2012 and 3 September 2013.
 3. We took note of the outcomes of the 32nd and 33rd ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) and looked forward to the successful implementation of ASOD Work Plan.
 4. We also took note of the outcomes of the 16th and 17th Meeting of Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) and encouraged the respective Senior Officials to strengthen regional collaboration on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.
 5. We adopted the SOMTC Work Programme 2013-2015 and tasked the Voluntary Lead Shepherds to lead SOMTC to fulfil the respective areas of the Work Programme under their purview.
 6. We took note that all ASEAN Member States had ratified the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT) by 11th of January 2013. We tasked the SOMTC to implement the ASEAN Comprehensive Action Plan on Counter Terrorism (ACPoA on CT) to fulfil the ACCT.
 7. We took note the report of the Chairman of the 33rd ASEAN Chiefs of Police Conference (ASEANAPOL Conference XXXIII).
 8. We deliberated in depth and exchanged views during our Retreat on the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security (APSC) Blueprint, and on ASEAN's possible future direction in combating transnational crime beyond 2015.
 9. We tasked the Voluntary Lead Shepherds to implement the SOMTC Work Programme 2013-2015. We expressed our appreciation on the progress made by the SOMTC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons (WG on TIP) and further tasked the SOMTC to finalise the legally binding ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), and the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (RPA) which will ensure the protection of our people against trafficking in persons. We welcomed SOMTC's decision on the creation of the new SOMTC Working Group on Cybercrime and looked forward to its meaningful deliberations.
 10. We welcomed the convening of the 10th AMMTC in Malaysia in 2015.
 11. We expressed our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

Chairman's Statement of the 20th ASEAN Regional Forum

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 2 July 2013**

1. The 20th Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 2 July 2013. The Meeting was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers and Representatives of all ARF participants. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. The list of delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.
3. The Ministers welcomed the launching of the "ASEAN Regional Forum at Twenty: Promoting Peace and Security in the Asia-Pacific – A Commemorative Publication for the 20th ARF". In this connection, the Ministers expressed appreciation to Brunei Darussalam and China for their efforts in initiating and co-editing the publication to mark this significant milestone.

4. The Ministers reiterated the importance of the ARF as a primary forum for dialogue and cooperation on political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. They reaffirmed their support for ASEAN as the main driving force of the ARF, as well as acknowledged the crucial contribution the ARF plays in the evolving regional security architecture.
5. The Ministers encouraged the continued cooperation and contribution of all the ARF participants in taking the ARF process forward to the next stage of its evolution at a pace comfortable to all. In this regard, they underscored the need to continue implementing the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement 2020 and all other current work plans in a consistent and comprehensive manner. The Ministers also emphasized the importance of implementing the Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan, which aims to move the ARF process forward from Stage I to Stage II on the basis of consensus, through action-oriented cooperation and activities, while continuing confidence-building measures.

Highlights of Discussions on Regional and International Issues

6. The Ministers noted the outcomes of the 22nd ASEAN Summit which was convened on 24-25 April 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Reflecting the theme 'Our People, Our Future Together', the Summit emphasized on the role of the people in ASEAN's community building efforts under the three pillars, namely ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Social-Cultural Community, with the aim of realizing the ASEAN Community by 2015, as well as the future of ASEAN beyond 2015.
7. The Ministers welcomed the progress of the ARF, and while continuing to strengthen confidence building, encouraged the ARF to undertake more preventive diplomacy activities consistent with the principles in the 'ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy' and 'ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan'. In this connection, the Ministers welcomed the proposal on preventive diplomacy training, which would provide opportunities for the ARF to consider ways to strengthen preventive diplomacy training in the region. The Ministers reaffirmed that the ARF should continue to serve as a platform for its participants to deal with security challenges through dialogue and cooperation while upholding the principles of peaceful settlement of disputes and mutual respect.
8. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of enhancing cooperation in other regional security mechanisms. In this context, they looked forward to the convening of the Second ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM-Plus) on 29 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Ministers noted the outcomes of the 7th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) on 6-7 May 2013 and the ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMM-Plus HADR & MM Ex) on 17-20 June 2013. The Ministers also noted on the upcoming ADMM-Plus EWG for Counter Terrorism Exercise (CTX) on 9-13 September 2013 and Maritime Security Field Training Exercise (FTX) on 29 September – 1 October 2013.
9. The Ministers reiterated the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as a code of conduct for growing inter-state relations. In this regard, they welcomed the accession of Norway to the TAC.
10. The Ministers underlined the importance of peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula. Most Ministers encouraged the DPRK to comply fully with its obligations to all relevant UNSC Resolutions and to its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. To this end, Ministers reiterated their support for all efforts to bring about the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. Most Ministers reaffirmed their commitments to fully implement all the relevant UNSC Resolutions. The Ministers also emphasized the importance of addressing the issues of humanitarian concerns of the international community. The Ministers further encouraged exploring all possibility of engaging in a peaceful dialogue which would lead to the creation of an atmosphere of trust and confidence among the concerned parties.
11. The Ministers underscored the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea and noted the ASEAN Statement on the Six-

- Point Principles on the South China Sea. The Ministers stressed the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Ministers welcomed the collective commitments of ASEAN Member States and China to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), including the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC and to work towards the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC) on the basis of consensus. In this regard, the Ministers appreciated the continued ASEAN-China consultations and dialogue for mutual trust, confidence and cooperation, and the convening of the 8th Meeting of ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC on 29 May 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Ministers were encouraged with the convening of the 6th ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC and the 9th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on the implementation of the DOC to be hosted by China in September 2013 during which all parties will have official consultations on the code of conduct. The Ministers noted that steps will be taken to establish an Eminent Persons and Experts Group (EPEG) and/or other mechanisms to provide support to such consultations.
12. The Ministers supported the international cooperative efforts in non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy. They underlined the importance of preserving the Southeast Asia region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty. The Ministers welcomed ASEAN's adoption of the Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty (2013-2017). The Ministers noted the E3+3 (China, France, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States of America and the European Union High Representative) efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issues. The Ministers also noted Japan's initiative on nuclear disarmament as one of the co-chairs of the next ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.
 13. The Ministers welcomed the recent elections in Pakistan as a historic victory for the democratic life of the country. The Ministers further welcomed the new government's early prioritization of furthering peace and stability in the region. The Ministers reflected that enhanced regional political and economic relations and the stability they can bring are potentially significant sources of economic growth and are drivers for improved security in that region.
 14. The Ministers discussed non-traditional security threats and challenges, such as natural disasters, terrorism, trafficking of illicit drugs, people smuggling, trafficking in persons, cyber security and piracy. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of intensifying cooperation, including through information-sharing and capacity-building, to address these challenges. In introducing new areas of cooperation, the Ministers noted interest among ARF participants to explore space security.
 15. The Ministers expressed condolences to the families of victims of natural disasters that occurred recently, including the tornado that hit Oklahoma City in the United States of America and the flashflood in the Uttarakhand Himalayan region in India. These events serve as a reminder of the nature of disasters and the critical importance of disaster preparedness and response. On this note, the Ministers encouraged for the ARF to continue enhance cooperation and coordination on humanitarian assistance and disaster management between concerned stakeholders, both civilian and military. They also commended all participants who supported and contributed to the successful organisation of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise 2013, co-chaired by Thailand and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in Cha-am Phetchaburi Province, Thailand.
 16. Several participants raised deep concerns over the situation in Syria as a threat to regional stability and security and called upon an immediate cessation of violence in all its forms and a political solution through full implementation of the 2012 Geneva Communiqué.
 17. The Ministers welcomed the steps taken by Fiji towards holding elections in 2014. Some participants urged continued engagement between Fiji and the Pacific Island Forum, the Commonwealth and the United Nations to support a credible election that is accepted by the people of Fiji and the international community.

Review of Activities of the Current Inter-Sessional Year (2012- 2013)

18. The Ministers noted with satisfaction ARF's contribution in promoting dialogue and security cooperation, particularly through the implementation of ARF Track 1 activities during the inter-sessional year 2012-2013. They commended the work of the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting (ARF SOM) on 24 May 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam and the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBMs and PD) co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam and China in Bandar Seri Begawan on 27-28 November 2012 and Beijing on 27-28 April 2013. The Ministers endorsed the recommendations contained in the reports appearing as **ANNEX 2, 3 and 4 respectively**.
19. The Ministers appreciated the contributions made by the defence officials and emphasized the importance of defence and security cooperation in the ARF process. The Ministers were pleased with the high-level interaction among the ARF defence officials and encouraged them to continue to improve synergies between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus, with a view of submitting recommendations for consideration of the Ministers in the future. In this connection, the Ministers recalled the Discussion Paper on Improving Synergies, as noted at the 19th ARF, and which provides some practical suggestions on strengthening communication and information exchange between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus. The Ministers noted the reports of the Sixteenth ARF Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (ARF HDUCIM), the Defence Officials' Dialogue and the Tenth ASEAN Regional Forum Security Policy Conference (ASPC). These reports appear as **ANNEX 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9**.
20. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the:
- 11th ISM on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime co-chaired by Vietnam and Australia held on 4-5 March 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam;
 - 12th ISM on Disaster Relief co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia held on 12-13 March 2013 in Padang, Indonesia;
 - 5th ISM on Maritime Security co-chaired by Indonesia, ROK and the United States held on 18-19 April 2013 in Seoul, ROK; and
- 5th ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament co-chaired by the Philippines, Japan and Australia held on 4-5 June 2013 in Manila, the Philippines.
- The reports of these meetings appear as **ANNEX 10, 11, 12 and 13** respectively.
21. The Ministers were pleased that the Co-Chairs of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) were invited to the relevant ARF Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs). With the purpose of improving synergy between the ARF and ADMM-Plus, the Ministers agreed for the ARF to continue to invite the Co-Chairs of the ADMM-Plus EWG to the relevant ARF ISM.
22. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise 2013 (ARF DiREx) in Cha-am, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand on 7-11 May 2013, co-chaired by Thailand and ROK. They noted the ARF DiREx 2013 After Action Review Report and agreed with the recommendation for the ARF to enhance coordination and build synergy in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities with other regional arrangements, such as the EAS and ADMM-Plus. The Ministers also noted that the next ARF DiREx would be in 2015. The Ministers welcomed the offer by China to co-chair the ARF DiREx in 2015 and encouraged for an ASEAN Member State to co-chair the exercise. The report of the ARF DiREx 2013 appears as **ANNEX 14**.
23. The Ministers noted the outcomes of the following workshops and seminars, which were successfully held in the inter-sessional year 2012-2013:
- 5th ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting, Ulaanbaatar, 27-28 August 2012 (co-chaired by Indonesia and Mongolia);
 - 4th ARF Workshop on Preparedness and Recovery to a Biological Event, Manila, 5-7 September 2012 (co-chaired by the Philippines, Australia and the United States of America);
 - ARF Workshop on Cyber Incident Response, Singapore, 6-7 September 2012 (co-chaired by Singapore and Australia);
 - ARF Seminar on Confidence-Building Measures in Cyberspace, Seoul, 11-12 September 2012 (co-chaired by Malaysia and the ROK);
 - ARF Workshop on Space Security, Hoi An, 6-7 December 2012 (co-chaired by Vietnam and Australia);

- ARF Workshop on Ship Profiling, Kuala Lumpur, 15-16 April 2013 (co-chaired by Brunei, Malaysia and New Zealand);
 - 7th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) Meeting, Honolulu, 9-10 May 2013 (co-chaired by Malaysia and the United States of America); and
 - 2nd ARF CBM Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540, Bangkok, 14-15 May 2013 (co-chaired by Thailand and the United States of America).
24. The Ministers approved the Best Practices for Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event as a reference paper for ARF participants to develop their own national guidelines on biological event preparedness and response system.

Programme of Work for the Inter-Sessional Year (2013-2014)

25. The Ministers reiterated that confidence building measures and preventive diplomacy should be mutually reinforcing and implemented in parallel. In this regard, the Ministers endorsed the "Concept Paper on Moving towards Preventive Diplomacy" as a guideline for ARF participants to comfortably conduct preventive diplomacy, consistent with the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy, as adopted by Ministers in 2011. The Ministers also underlined the importance of exploring preventive diplomacy suited to the region based on agreed ARF PD principles as enshrined in the ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy adopted in 2001. The Concept Paper appears as **ANNEX 15**.
26. The Ministers welcomed Myanmar and the European Union (EU) to co-chair the ARF ISG on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (CBMs and PD) and the adjoining Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD) in the next inter-sessional year. The Ministers noted that the first meeting of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD for the inter-sessional year (2013-2014) will be held in the second half of 2013 and the second meeting will be held in the first half of 2014.
27. The Ministers agreed that the ARF ISM on Disaster Relief, on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and on Maritime Security will continue in the next inter-sessional year. In this connection, Ministers welcomed Myanmar, China and Japan to co-chair the 13th ISM on Disaster Relief; Indonesia and New Zealand to co-chair the 12th ISM on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime; the Philippines, Australia and Japan to continue co-chairing the 6th ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament; and Indonesia, ROK and the United States of America to continue co-chairing the 6th ISM on Maritime Security in the next inter-sessional year.
28. The Ministers agreed for the ARF Work Plan on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime to be updated in the upcoming cycle year; and for it to be considered by the ARF ISM on CTTC, ISG on CBMs and PD, SOM and subsequently the 21st ARF.
29. The Ministers reaffirmed the procedure that all proposed ARF activities, work plans and papers should first be discussed at the ISG/ISM level and agreed to by the ARF SOM. The List of ARF Track I Activities for the next inter-sessional year (July 2013-July 2014) that has been approved by Ministers appears as **ANNEX 16**.

Future Direction of the ARF Process

30. The Ministers welcomed Myanmar and Malaysia as the next Chair and Vice Chair of the 21st ARF, respectively. Their term begins on 1 January 2014.
31. The Ministers reaffirmed that the Hanoi Plan of Action (PoA) to implement the ARF Vision Statement shall move the ARF process forward at a pace comfortable to all participants. They underscored the need for the ARF to become a more 'action-oriented' forum, with deeper engagement in preserving peace, stability and security in the region. They also underlined that the ARF plays a leading role in multilateral cooperation to address common challenges in non-traditional security areas in the region. The Ministers stressed the importance for the Hanoi PoA's implementation to be reviewed annually by the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD and the ARF SOM. The Ministers were satisfied with implementation of the PoA as presented in the Matrix of Status of Implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action (**ANNEX 17**) and encouraged for future Matrix to highlight areas of the POA requiring further attention by the officials.

32. Given the rapid development of ICT worldwide, the Ministers recognised that the ARF is a good platform to enhance collaborations among ARF participants to effectively mitigate cyber threats and combat cybercrimes. In this regard, the Ministers noted the progress of the development of the ARF work plan related to cyber security. They tasked the officials to further deliberate the elements of the work plan at the next relevant ARF ISM/ARF ISG on CBMs and PD/ARF SOM with a view of finalizing the work plan at the next ARF Ministerial meeting.
33. The Ministers noted the proposed Seminar of Experts on the development of Cyber CBMs in ASEAN Regional Forum and tasked the ARF officials to discuss this matter further at the next ARF ISM/ARF ISG on CBMs and PD/ARF SOM.
34. The Ministers welcomed the active role of the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (ARF EEPs) in contributing towards the progress of the ARF. The Ministers considered the recommendations presented by the 7th ARF EEPs Meeting. In this connection, they tasked the EEPs to assess the ARF progress and also provide recommendations in advancing the overall ARF process, particularly in the implementation of the Preventive Diplomacy activities. The Meeting noted a suggestion for representatives of the ARF EEPs, as experts or resource person to their respective governments, to attend relevant ARF ISMs/ISG. The Ministers welcomed the EU to co-chair the 8th ARF EEPs meeting with Malaysia in Malaysia.
35. In stressing the need to further promote transparency among ARF participants, the Ministers welcomed the 2013 ARF Annual Security Outlook (ARF ASO). They shared the view that it is a useful document in promoting confidence, understanding and transparency among ARF participants. The Ministers further noted that the ASEAN Security Outlook is due to be published for the first time this year.
36. The Ministers commended the work of the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat in supporting the 20th ARF Chair, Co-Chairs of ISMs and other ARF endorsed activities. The Ministers noted the Matrix of ARF Decisions and their Status 1994-2013 (**ANNEX 18**). Taking into account the increasing activities under the ARF ambit, the Ministers reiterated their support for strengthening the ARF Unit with necessary resources and manpower, as part of the on-going efforts to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat itself.
37. As means of strengthening the ARF, the Ministers reiterated the importance of enhancing ties between the Track I and Track II, as well as, between the ARF and other relevant regional and international security bodies.



III. ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM)

Joint Media Statement of the 45th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Meeting

Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 19 August 2013

1. The 45th Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) was held on 19 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam, chaired the meeting, which was preceded by a preparatory meeting of the Senior Economic Officials (prep-SEOM). The AEM also had joint meetings with the 27th ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council and the 16th ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council.

Economic Performance

2. The Ministers welcomed the continued robust economic performance and resilience of ASEAN in 2012. In particular, ASEAN economies as a whole grew by 5.7%, which is almost one percentage point higher than the region's economic growth rate in 2011. The faster growth is noteworthy in a global environment of weaker growth performance overall. Once again, resilient domestic demand, including government-initiated investment and strong consumption demand, coupled with strong macroeconomic fundamentals and financial stability underpinned the region's growth performance. With the global economy slowly recovering, the Ministers

are confident that ASEAN would be able to sustain growth between 5.3% and 6% in 2013.

3. Reflecting the still weak global economy, the Ministers noted the slowdown in the growth of ASEAN's merchandise trade to 3.6% in 2012, which grew from US\$ 2.39 trillion in 2011 to US\$ 2.47 trillion in 2012. Intra-ASEAN trade remained stable at US\$ 601 billion. China is now the top destination for ASEAN exports, followed by Japan, EU-28, and the United States.
4. On the other hand, the Ministers were pleased to note that ASEAN was able to maintain its level of foreign direct investment (FDI) at US\$108.2 billion in 2012, when global FDI inflows significantly declined including inflows to most developing economies. The European Union (EU-28) remained the top source of FDI to ASEAN, accounting for approximately 22% of total inward FDI to ASEAN. Japan was the second largest source of FDI to ASEAN with a share of 19%, followed by the United States with a 6% share. Intra-ASEAN investment continued to grow and account for an increasing share, reaching US\$20 billion in 2012 or around 18.5% of total inward FDI into ASEAN.
5. Although financial risks have abated and the global economy is beginning to recover, the Ministers noted that global growth projections have recently been adjusted downward for 2013 because of slower growth in several key emerging market economies and a more protracted recession in the Euro area. To sustain ASEAN's growth momentum, they agreed to maintain macroeconomic and financial stability, address capacity and supply-side constraints, and continue basic structural reforms such as streamlining regulations, trade and foreign investment liberalisation and facilitation, and investment in infrastructure and human capital. The Ministers also reaffirmed the

importance of deeper and broader ASEAN economic integration in further boosting the region's growth prospects.

6. The Ministers also noted that nominal GDP for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) in 2012 increased by 5.5% from 2011 to US\$ 219.5 billion, which accounts for 9.5% of ASEAN's nominal GDP. The Ministers also noted that FDI to CLMV countries reached US\$ 10.2 billion in 2012, which accounts for 9.5% of total FDI into ASEAN.
7. While ASEAN looks to continue making significant progress in all aspects of integration and community building, specific attention is required in order to ensure that the opportunity to benefit from regional economic integration are equally shared among ASEAN Member States. The different levels of development among Member States requires a deepening and broadening of integration as well as capacity building initiatives to address the development gap to accelerate economic integration of all the Member States.

Implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint

8. The Ministers noted the small improvement in the overall implementation rate of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, which is at 79.4% as of July 2013. They reaffirmed their commitment to enhanced implementation of in-country measures in order to realise regional measures and ensure the timely realisation of AEC by 2015. In particular, the Ministers have recently endorsed the list of prioritised key deliverables for 2013 and 2015 identified by the different AEC sectoral bodies. This is in line with the Phnom Penh Agenda for ASEAN Community Building issued by the Leaders in April 2012, which called for the identification of priority activities and concrete key measures to address the challenges and obstacles in realising AEC.

Trade in Goods

Non-tariff measures (NTMs)

9. The Ministers noted several initiatives of ASEAN to address the matter of NTMs. These include i.e. the re-alignment of the ASEAN NTMs database with

the new UNCTAD classification, the establishment of an interagency body at the national level in each Member State to complement regional initiatives on NTMs, the uploaded Matrix of Actual cases on NTMs/trade barriers onto the ASEAN Secretariat Website, and the endorsement of the National level and Regional level Work Programme on NTMs by the 27th AFTA Council. The endorsed National level Work Programme on NTMs would be used as a guideline for ASEAN Member States to address NTBs/barriers at their national level. The Ministers re-iterated the importance of eliminating the barrier components of NTMs and committed to abide by the transparency, proper notification, and evaluation obligations as required by the provisions of ATIGA in eliminating the barrier components in NTMs implemented by ASEAN Member States.

Self-certification

10. The Ministers noted the progress made by Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand under the 1st Self-Certification Pilot Project since its implementation on 1 November 2010. The Ministers noted the entry into force of the MOU among the Governments of the Participating Member States of ASEAN on the 2nd Pilot Project for the Implementation of a Regional Self-certification System by Indonesia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines on 10 May 2013. The Participating Member States of the 2nd Self-Certification Pilot Project will start the implementation of the Pilot Project within the 3rd quarter of 2013. The Ministers noted the intention of Myanmar to join the 1st Self-Certification Pilot Project and the interests of Thailand and Viet Nam to take part in the 2nd Self-Certification Pilot Project. The Ministers affirmed the importance and prioritisation of the realisation of a single ASEAN-wide Self-Certification System by 2015.

FOB Value removal from the CO Form D

11. The Ministers endorsed the revised ATIGA Operational Certification Procedures (OCP) text to cater for the abolishment of the FOB value in the CO Form D in case where Wholly Obtain (WO), Change in Tariff Classification (CTC), or Process Rule is applied as per the agreed effective implementation date on 1 January 2014. ASEAN Member States would continue

to explore the possibility of removing the FOB value in the CO Form D where Regional Value Content (RVC) is used.

Transposition of ATIGA Tariff reduction schedule into AHTN 2012

12. The Ministers noted the progress made on the transposition of ATIGA tariff reduction schedules from AHTN 2007 into AHTN 2012 and the issuance of legal enactments by ASEAN Member States. The transposed ATIGA tariff reduction schedules in AHTN 2012 of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Myanmar, and the Philippines have been endorsed ad-referendum by the AFTA Council. The Minister reaffirmed the importance of the full implementation of the transposed ATIGA TRSs in AHTN 2012 by all ASEAN Member States in early 2014.

List of superseded agreements

13. The Ministers noted the signing of the Protocol to Amend Certain ASEAN Economic Agreements Related to Trade in Goods by the ASEAN Economic Ministers during the 19th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat (19th AEM Retreat) on 8 March 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. ASEAN Member States are currently in various stages of undertaking domestic procedures to complete the ratification of the said Protocol. Upon its entry into force, the list of superseded agreements will be administratively annexed to the ATIGA.

ASEAN Single Window (ASW)

14. The Ministers commended the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW), in particular the successful connectivity testing conducted by seven (7) participating Member States on the exchange of ATIGA Form D and ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) under the scaled-down version of the ASW Pilot Project.
15. The Ministers urged ASEAN Member States to ensure the timely commencement and completion of the full-fledged pilot testing of the ASW and the evaluation of the ASW Pilot Project before 2015.
16. The Ministers urged ASEAN Member States to expedite the work for the completion of the

development of the protocol on the legal framework to implement the ASW that would govern cross-border data exchange among Member States in the "live" implementation of the ASW.

17. Noting the importance of the National Single Windows (NSWs) in the implementation of the ASW, the Ministers urged the remaining Member States to expedite the development and implementation of their respective NSWs to ensure the timely realisation of the ASW by 2015.

Standards and Conformance

18. The Ministers noted the progress made by the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) on eliminating Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) in ASEAN through harmonisation of standards and technical requirements, development and implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) and harmonisation of regulatory regimes.
19. The Ministers urged the Member States to prioritise actions on harmonisation of standards, mutual recognition arrangements for conformity assessment results and technical regulations for the Priority Integration Sectors, including the completion of internal processes to complete the legal scrubbing of proposed Agreements and transposition of signed Agreements into national legislations/regulations.
20. The Minister urged Member States to reduce country specific requirements on standards and technical requirements/regulations to achieve greater harmonisation of standards and technical requirements in the region.
21. Noting the importance of reducing Technical Barriers to Trade in facilitating trade in ASEAN, the Ministers urged the ACCSQ to meet the agreed deliverables in 2015 in the area of standards and conformance.

Trade in Services

22. The Ministers urged Member States to expedite the completion of their internal procedures for the entry into force of the ASEAN Agreement on Movement of Natural Persons, a standalone agreement aimed at facilitating the mobility of natural persons engaged

in trade in goods, trade in services and investment on a temporary basis. The Agreement signed in November 2012 covers business visitors, intra-corporate transferees, contractual service suppliers and others as may be specified by Member States in their Schedule of Commitments.

23. The Ministers welcomed the progress towards the completion of the 9th Package of Services Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services, which is targeted for completion by 2013. The 9th Package of Services Commitments would facilitate a freer flow of services within the region, and would be a step closer to the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community 2015 vision. In this regard, the Ministers have urged Member States to expedite the completion of their 9th Package of Services Commitments.
24. The Ministers welcomed the preparations for the enhancement of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services, which is due to start negotiations in the 4th quarter of 2013. The new ASEAN services agreement will be comprehensive and forward-looking as it aims to further broaden and deepen integration within ASEAN as well as ASEAN's integration into the global supply chain.

Investment

25. The Ministers noted the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), which serves as ASEAN's main economic instrument in realising free flow of investment, since its entry into force on 29 March 2012. The Ministers welcomed the efforts of Member States towards progressive liberalisation by implementing domestic reforms to improve their business environment. Further, Member States finalised the Protocol to Amend the ACIA which provides the mechanism to amend or modify reservations in the ACIA Schedule.
26. The Ministers noted the launch of ASEAN's investment publications: the annual "ASEAN Investment Report 2012", which features the region as the location of choice for investment by leading global companies, as well as the "ACIA Guidebook for Businesses and Investors" and the "ACIA Handbook for Investment

Promotion Officials" to promote and create greater understanding of the ACIA.

27. The Ministers launched the new ASEAN Investment Website, which is developed to serve as the platform and gateway of information about ASEAN as an investment destination and provide relevant information to investors and businessmen, specifically on measures that are being implemented by ASEAN to create an enabling business environment.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

28. The Ministers endorsed the revised Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2010-2015) and welcomed the recommendations of the ASEAN SME Advisory Board as regards enhancing the core capabilities of SMEs, enhancing SME access to finance, and enhancing SME access to market and internationalisation of SMEs. In particular, the Ministers called for the establishment of the national SME development funds and enhancement of SME access to finance. The Ministers noted the progress in the development of the ASEAN SME Policy Index and the integrative and country reports to be finalised by September 2013. The Ministers welcomed the enhanced regional cooperation on SMEs as well as the enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and the dialogue partners focusing on SME development.

Intellectual Property (IP)

29. The Ministers noted that key deliverables consistent with the goals in the AEC Blueprint are continuously being accomplished by the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC) and that the work plans for 28 initiatives under the ASEAN IPR Action Plan 2011-2015 are being implemented to help advance the legal and policy infrastructures that address the evolving demands of the IP landscape.
30. The Ministers commended the significant progress that had taken place in the area of participation in multilateral agreements on intellectual property. The Ministers further noted that the ASEAN IP Portal (www.aseanip.org), a one-stop portal which facilitates information flow within the region's IP knowledge

network, was officially launched on 26 April 2013 in conjunction with World IP Day.

Competition Policy

31. The Ministers noted the progress in the implementation of competition policy and law in ASEAN Member States, in particular that Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar are currently drafting their respective competition laws. The Ministers also noted the publications on “Guidelines on Developing Core Competencies in Competition Policy and Law for ASEAN” as a reference for staff of competition-related agencies and “Handbook on Competition Policy and Law in ASEAN for Business 2013” to provide updated information for businesses on the current approaches and practices relating to competition policy and law in ASEAN Member States.

Consumer Protection

32. The Ministers noted the ongoing progress on notification and information exchange by ASEAN Member States on recalled/banned products and of voluntary recalled products as well as several initiatives, which have been introduced by the ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP) and are planned for delivery in 2013. These initiatives include redress mechanism models for national consumer protection in AMSs, eight consumer protection digests, and one case study on emerging consumer protection issue.

ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS)

33. The Ministers were pleased to note the statistical developments since the establishment of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACCS), which has resulted in the improved production and dissemination of statistics. The Ministers also noted the on-going mid-term review of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and the development of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The ACSS Strategic Plan 2011-2015 aims at establishing a strong and reliable system of ASEAN statistics (ACSS) by 2015, addressing key statistical requirements in support of ASEAN regional integration, and narrowing the statistical development

gap between the ASEAN-6 and the CLMV. Cognisant of the emerging challenges in the statistical system as ASEAN gears up towards deeper and broader integration, the Ministers encouraged relevant officials to align national priorities for statistical development with the ASEAN Vision 2020 and with agreements reached in ASEAN Summits in order to ensure the relevance of ASEAN statistics produced for policy purposes. These challenges are to be addressed in the ACSS Strategy 2016-2020 which is targeted for adoption in 2014.

Public-Private Sector Engagement

34. The Ministers noted that many PPE activities were carried out in 2013, including the 3rd ASEAN-EU Business Summit and the 6th Dialogue between Secretary-General of ASEAN and the Federation of Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industries in ASEAN. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Business Advisory Council for holding its first consultation with the business councils, and the successful convening of the flagship ASEAN Business and Investment Summit for the sixth consecutive sessions. The Ministers supported and urged the participation of the public and private sectors from all ASEAN Member States at the 10th China-ASEAN Expo and the 10th China-ASEAN Business Summit to be convened from 3 to 6 September 2013 in Nanning, China; and the ASEAN-Business and Investment Summit to be convened alongside the 45th ASEAN Economic Ministers meeting on 19-22 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

External Economic Relations

35. The Ministers noted the developments in the implementation of the ASEAN+1 FTAs and were pleased with efforts to enhance and upgrade the Agreements with the view to encouraging business utilisation of the ASEAN’s FTAs.
36. The Ministers also noted the progress in the negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), in particular the commencement of actual negotiations in May 2013. The Ministers urged officials involved in the negotiations to ensure that the Guiding

Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is closely adhered to.

37. The Ministers welcomed the initial engagement between SEOM and their Hong Kong counterparts to carry out the mandate of the Ministers to pursue closer economic engagement, including the establishment of the ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Area.

Narrowing the Development Gap

38. The Ministers welcomed the launch of the book “Narrowing the Development Gap in ASEAN: Drivers and Policy Options” organised at the ASEAN Secretariat on 17 May 2013. The publication is a collaboration of ASEAN and Australia through the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme Phase 2 (AADCP II), and communicates the latest findings on the status of progress in ASEAN’s efforts in narrowing the development gap between the newer Member States of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam and ASEAN-6. With a better understanding of the issues and challenges, ASEAN can raise the awareness of the economic divide in ASEAN and design policies to further assist the CLMV and narrow the development gap.
39. The Ministers noted that a comprehensive Mid-term Review of the IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015) is currently underway. It aims to assess the implementation of the IAI Work Plan II and sets out concrete and practical measures to expedite the achievement of IAI’s objectives and chart the Work Plan’s future direction. The Ministers called on sectoral bodies to assist in the assessment of the IAI Work Plan II implementation and explore ways to further improve delivery of projects that will benefit the CLMV and enable their greater participation in the overall economic integration process. The Ministers welcomed the approval of the CLMV Action Plan 2014, which contributes to the accomplishment of the IAI Work Plan II.
40. The Ministers acknowledged the contributory role of sub-regional groups such as BIMP-EAGA, IMT-GT and various Mekong sub-regional cooperation frameworks in narrowing the development gap in the region. The Ministers welcomed the increasing

engagement for closer interaction and enhanced cooperation with officials in an effort to align the sub-region’s development agenda with the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint. Strengthening links with sub-regional cooperation programmes would achieve greater complementation of initiatives and its contribution to the ASEAN integration.

ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Development (AFEED)

41. The Ministers noted on the progress of the development of the work plan for the implementation of the AFEED. The World Bank is rendering assistance to develop a concept note based on the 131 activities identified in the AFEED stocktaking matrix.

Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building

42. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to ASEAN’s dialogue and development partners’ for the technical assistance and capacity building they continue to provide not only to Member States but the ASEAN Secretariat as well. These technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives made available through the various facilities, i.e. ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme Phase II, ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU, ASEAN Development Vision to Advance National Cooperation and Economic Integration from the US. The operationalisation of the ASEAN-ADB Memorandum of Understanding (2012-2015) has been very useful in providing the development dimension in ASEAN’s economic integration efforts.
43. The Ministers noted the completion of the ADVANCE program and looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investments programme, which is aimed at strengthening institutions that support the trade and investment targets outlined in the AEC Blueprint.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Hang Chuon Naron, Secretary

of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia; H.E. Kong Vibol, Vice Chairman, The Council for the Development of Cambodia, Cambodia; H.E. Gita Irawan Wirjawan, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; Mr. Achmad Kurniadi, Deputy Chairman for Investment Cooperation, Investment Coordinating Board, Indonesia; H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; Ms. Atchaka Sibunruang, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Thailand; H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Dao Quang Thu, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement of the 1st RCEP Ministerial Meeting

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 19 August 2013**

1. The first RCEP Ministerial meeting was held on 19 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Ministers were encouraged by the good progress made early in the negotiations.
2. In the spirit of the Joint Declaration adopted by the Leaders last November, Ministers reiterated that the RCEP negotiations will aim to achieve a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement. RCEP will cover trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technical cooperation, intellectual property, competition, dispute settlement and other issues. Ministers expressed enthusiasm for RCEP's potential to deepen economic ties, facilitate participation in regional and global value chains and broaden markets among participating economies, with total trade reaching US\$740.5 billion and combined GDP amounting to US\$21.2 trillion in 2012.

3. Ministers welcomed the establishment of three working groups: Trade in Goods (RCEP WGTIG), Trade in Services (RCEP WGTIS) and Investment (RCEP WGI) and the initial exchange of views among participating countries in other areas as stated in the Guiding Principles. Ministers also noted that detailed work is now underway in the working groups on goods, services and investment. Other relevant issues were also under discussion. Ministers welcomed the development of a work program for the timely conclusion of negotiations.
4. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to deliver the vision endorsed by Leaders in the Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the RCEP. Ministers also encouraged officials to advance the negotiations based on the work program, so as to build upon the momentum already achieved.
5. The second round of negotiations will be held in Brisbane, Australia on 23-27 September 2013.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

Ms. Jan Adams, Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia; H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce, China; H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textile, India; Mr. Iman Pambagyo, Director-General of International Trade Cooperation, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan; H.E. Yoon Sang-jick, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea; H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; Hon. Tim Groser, Minister of Trade, New Zealand; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement of the 5th CLMV Economic Ministers' Meeting

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 19 August 2013**

1. The Fifth Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) Economic Ministers' Meeting (EMM) was held in Brunei Darussalam on 19 August 2013. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar.
2. The Ministers emphasized the importance of the integration of CLMV countries into ASEAN to sustain economic growth. The Ministers also recognized the contribution of the CLMV Action Plan to the implementation of agreed measures in the AEC Blueprint as ASEAN works towards establishing an ASEAN Community by 2015.
3. The Ministers noted that during the 6th CLMV Summit held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in March 2013, the CLMV Leaders endorsed the report of the progress made in advancing economic cooperation in CLMV countries through the CLMV Action Plans.
4. The Ministers also noted that the implementation of the CLMV Action Plan for 2013 is on track, with six out of fourteen completed activities and the rest in various stages of implementation. They thanked the ASEAN Secretariat for its efforts in mobilising resources for some of the projects under the Action Plan.
5. Activities under the CLMV Action Plans under the CLMV Economic Ministers' Meeting process provide ways for CLMV countries to continue working together towards greater economic development, building human resources capacity, and enhancing coordination mechanisms to address priority sectors and align with ASEAN goals. These are supportive of the continuous development of CLMV's economies. CLMV's nominal GDP in 2012 has increased by 5.5% from the previous year to US\$ 219.5 billion, which accounts for 9.5% of ASEAN's nominal GDP. The Ministers also noted that foreign direct investment to CLMV countries reached US\$ 10.2 billion in 2012, which accounts for 9.5% of total foreign direct investments into ASEAN.
6. The Ministers endorsed the CLMV Action Plan 2014 which includes 20 priority activities on Economic, Trade, Human Resource Development and Coordination Mechanism. Priority activities under the first two categories are mostly self-funded by the CLMV countries with some counterpart support from various partners. Under the Coordination Mechanism, specific project proposals which can be taken up with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and external parties, and implementation partners such as regional think-tanks were also endorsed. These projects cover a range of topics to support the integration of CLMV into ASEAN such as training and studies to support CLMV's SMEs, Intellectual Property Rights, e-commerce, trade facilitation, among others. The Ministers also agreed to include additional activities, as the need arises, which would help to contribute to the promotion of equitable economic development of CLMV countries.
7. The Ministers noted the progress as well as challenges in implementing the CLMV Action Plans. They encouraged the full implementation of the CLMV Action Plan 2013 and tasked the CLMV Senior Economic Officials to ensure timely implementation of the remaining activities by the end of the year. Furthermore, the Ministers tasked the CLMV Senior Economic Officials to seek more concrete ways to better engage ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, external parties, ASEAN-6 countries, and other subregional cooperation arrangements in the Mekong to ensure the efficient implementation of the CLMV Action Plans.

List of Ministers and Head of Delegations

H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General, ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement of the 5th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 20 August 2013**

1. The 5th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 20th August 2013. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Varathep Rattanakorn, Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, Thailand, and H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan and attended by Economic Ministers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, as well as the Secretary-General of ASEAN. Business representatives of 6th Mekong-Japan Industry and Government Dialogue and ADB representative also attended.
2. The Ministers welcomed the business representatives' report of the Dialogue held on 2nd August in Thailand with 112 attendees. Ministers appreciated major inputs from the Dialogue, which include (1) further development of regional value chain through deepening of industry cluster, (2) completion of Economic Corridor infrastructure such as roads between Mawlamyine to Mae Sot, Dawei deep seaport, maintenance of existing infrastructure, and (3) reinforcing soft infrastructure in the area of regional energy trade and cross-border transportation. The business representatives also highlighted the importance of having a region-wide, medium and long-term vision for businesses to further contribute to the Mekong-Japan economic and industrial cooperation.
3. ADB reported to the Ministers on the current progress and the future perspective of developing "Regional Investment Framework" under the GMS program. The Ministers took note of the ambitious investment framework, and reaffirmed the indispensability of close coordination and partnership with the business sector, Development Partners and other relevant initiatives in the Mekong sub-region, ASEAN and East Asia, for effective implementation of Mekong-Japan economic and industrial cooperation.
4. Referring to the comments from business representatives and ADB, Japan underscored the necessity to develop a grand design of Mekong sub-region's optimal regional value chain network from a medium-and long-term perspective beyond 2015, for more effective mobilization of resources. The Ministers welcomed Japan's proposal to formulate the "Mekong Industry Development Vision" and stressed the importance of further cooperation for empowering the Mekong sub-region as the center of gravity for global value chains beyond 2015. In this regard, the Ministers tasked AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee's Working Group on West-East Corridor Development (AMEICC WEC-WG) to work on this initiative.
5. The Ministers welcomed the steady progress in the implementation of the "Mekong Development Roadmap", especially those that appeared in the Progress Report, which includes the construction of Cai Mep ODA seaport, continuous cooperation on improving the capacity of Vientiane International Airport, steady implementation and utilization of regional transportation agreements as building blocks for full implementation of Cross-Border Transport Facilitation Final Agreement (CBTA) and various human resource development activities particularly in Myanmar.
6. The Ministers also noted the new elements to be incorporated into the Roadmap, such as border area development, regional industrial human resource development, and establishing the sub-working group on business legal system under the AMEICC WEC-WG. The Ministers agreed on the general direction of revising Mekong Development Roadmap under the Mekong-Japan Economic and Industrial Cooperation Initiative (MJ-CI) Action Plan, and tasked members of AMEICC WEC-WG to further improve the Roadmap by this year's Mekong-Japan Summit.
7. For the upcoming 5th Mekong-Japan Summit, the Ministers agreed to report major updates on the Mekong Development Roadmap under MJ-CI since the last summit to the Leaders. To this end, the Ministers tasked members of AMEICC WEC-WG to prepare the report intersessionally.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan; H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Varathep Rattanakorn, Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, Thailand; H.E. Tran Quoc Khanh, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee-Third Session

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 10-12 September 2013**

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee, consisting of Chief Statisticians or Heads of National Statistical Offices of all ASEAN Member States (AMSs), convened its third session in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 10-12 September 2013 towards meeting the statistical requirements of the ASEAN Community through improved data availability, quality, and effective dissemination and communication of statistics, and addressing new challenges and demands beyond 2015.
2. Mr. Haji Abd Amin bin Hj Hashim, Acting Director General of the Department of Economic Planning and Development of the Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam, presided over the Meeting. Ms. Marlar Aung, Deputy Director General of Central Statistical Organisation of Myanmar, Co-Chaired the Meeting.

Enhancing Dissemination and Communication of Statistics

3. The ACSS Committee is pleased to pre-announce the release of the second issue of the ASEAN Community Progress Monitoring System (ACPMS) 2012 on 17 September 2013. The ACPMS is the statistical report to track the progress in various aspects of ASEAN integration. The ACSS Committee is also encouraged by the successful implementation of the pilot model of Community Mission-Based Dissemination, in which four AMSs: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Viet Nam, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat will simultaneously issue press releases on this publication on the same day to highlight the importance of ACPMS.
4. The ACSS Committee remains resolute in promoting ASEAN statistics dissemination and communication with close collaboration among AMSs and the media. To facilitate statistical dissemination and sharing of data, the ACSS Committee has adopted the Policies and Guidelines on Data Sharing, Confidentiality, Dissemination and Communication of Statistics. This set of policies and guidelines will help the AMSs and the ASEAN Secretariat to promote wider accessibility to ASEAN statistics, enhance ASEAN statistics' credibility and gain public trust in ASEAN statistics.
5. Works are also underway to improve quality, timeliness, availability, accountability and transparency of statistics by embarking on the development of measures to assess the implementation of the ACSS Code of Practice (CoP).

Responding to Greater Demand for Comparable and Timely Statistics

6. The ACSS Committee continues to improve data availability, comparability and timeliness of statistics in the key integration areas of international merchandise trade, trade in services, and foreign direct investment. More trade in services data items have been made available to the public; trade and foreign direct investment data are updated in a more regular and timely manner. An advance release calendar will be issued to inform the public on the

release dates of these ASEAN statistics. The ACSS Committee has adopted the Terms of References for the Working Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics and the Working Group on Statistics of International Trade in Services to strengthen the mandate of these working groups.

7. The ACSS Committee has adopted its revised Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2013, Revised AWP 2014 and Revised Indicative AWP 2015 to include additional activities aimed at further strengthening the production, dissemination, and quality of ASEAN statistics. The ACSS Committee has also expanded the list of ASEAN Statistical Indicators (ASI) to better respond to the ASEAN Community statistical requirements, and is working on its implementation roadmap.
8. The ACSS Committee is in the middle of a major undertaking to identify and better respond to the future demand for statistics and address the outstanding challenges. It has assessed and adopted the outcomes of the Mid-Term Review of the ACSS Multi-Year Action Plan 2011-2015, and provided guidance to the draft ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The ACSS Committee is resolved to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of its Strategic Plan by ensuring greater users inputs through the conduct of a user need and satisfaction survey and organising a High-Level Seminar on ACSS Strategic Planning in mid 2014.

Strengthening Partnership and Capacity Building

9. The ACSS Committee is encouraged by the continued support from its development partners, including international organisations, dialogue partners and donor agencies. At the same time, it is also keen to initiate dialogue among the AMSs to contribute to the relevant statistical development at the global and regional arena.

Hosting of the Meeting

10. The ACSS Committee expresses its deep appreciation to the Government of Brunei Darussalam, through the Department of Economic Planning and Development,

for the excellent leadership, meeting arrangements and facilitation, as well as for the warm hospitality accorded during the Third Session of the ACSS Committee.

11. The ACSS Committee appreciates the confirmation by the Central Statistical Organization of Myanmar to host and chair the Fourth Session of the ACSS Committee in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in September 2014.

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam,
12 September 2013

Joint Media Statement of the 19th Ministerial Meeting of Indonesia-Malaysia- Thailand Growth-Triangle (IMT-GT)

**Koh Samui, Surat Thani, Thailand,
13 September 2013**

Introduction

1. The Nineteenth Ministerial Meeting of the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (19th MM IMT-GT) was held on 13 September 2013 in Koh Samui, Surat Thani, Thailand. H.E Mr. Varatthep Ratanakorn, Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office of Thailand and Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives, chaired the Meeting. H.E Dato' Razali Ibrahim, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia, and H.E. Dr. Rizal Affandi Lukman, Deputy Minister for International Economic and Financial Cooperation, attended the Meeting. Mr. James Nugent, Director General of Southeast Asia Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Mr. Tran Dong Phuong, Director at the ASEAN Secretariat, were also present. The Meeting was preceded by the 20th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the IMT-GT, the 10th Chief Ministers and Governors Forum Meeting and the 2nd IMT-GT Ministerial Retreat.

2. We the Ministers, in celebrating our 20th Anniversary Year of IMT-GT, are aware of the need to be constantly vigilant given the global uncertainties that surround us. In this regard, we are pleased with the progress made in the IMT-GT Trade, Investment and Tourism Database (ITITD) and call for the database to be regularly updated and, in light of the global challenges, request ADB to continue its assistance in ensuring accurate, reliable data at the Subregional level. We recognize the important contribution from our respective Departments of Statistics, and note ADB is to provide a statistician for Centre for IMT-GT Subregional Corporation (CIMT) to coordinate and consolidate country data.
3. We are pleased to note the successful signing of the CIMT's Establishment Agreement that took place in Brunei Darussalam on 25 April 2013. We thank the host country, Malaysia, for according CIMT with International Organisation Status on 21 June 2013. We urged member countries to expedite necessary support to strengthen CIMT into a fully functional secretariat. We requested ADB to continue providing capacity building support to CIMT.
4. We are pleased with the progress made in developing the IMT-GT Green Cities Framework that will be used as guideline for urban development in the Subregion in their effort to develop sustainable cities. We took note of the completion of the ADB scoping study for Melaka, Malaysia under the Green Cities Initiative and we encouraged the fast implementation of projects. We are also pleased to announce the confirmation that Medan, Indonesia will also taking part in the initiative, and urge ADB to commence the respective studies for Medan and Songkhla components.
5. We are pleased to note on the progress made by the Working Groups in developing the IMT-GT subregion, and the commencement of the 2nd Rolling Pipeline 2013-2014 guided by the Implementation Blueprint 2012-2016. We commend highly the Working Groups in successfully finalising their respective Working Groups Terms of Reference (ToR), a document which will guide them on their respective responsibilities, improving their reporting mechanisms and identifying respective focal persons in each member country.
6. As one of the main driving force in IMT-GT, we express our appreciation on the significant contribution by the Joint Business Council (JBC) in identifying and implementing projects from the private sector. We tasked our Working Groups to subsume JBC's recommendations into each sector strategy, and to keep close contact between stakeholders and improving the monitoring process. We urged the states and provinces of the IMT-GT to closely collaborate with the JBC, in line with the roles outlined for the states and provinces from the previous Leader's Directive.
7. We commend the Chief Ministers and Governors Forum (CMGF) leadership in promoting the Green Cities Initiative, and welcome their strong interest in participating in this important initiative. We express appreciation to ADB's support in providing technical assistance in the scoping studies for the three pilot cities involved namely Melaka, Malaysia; Songkhla, Thailand; and Medan, Indonesia.
8. We note the urgency of accelerating the study on the Special Border Economic Zone (SBEZ) and announce that the scoping study will be undertaken by ADB and encompass the three countries of IMT-GT by January 2014 and include stakeholders' comments and views. The scoping study will define the terms of reference for the future in-depth study and identify potential sources of financing. The findings and recommendations of the scoping study will be reported at the Leader's Summit in April 2014.
9. Leveraging on the IMT-GT potential to be a delivery vehicle of ASEAN towards achieving the ASEAN Community, Ministers urge Senior Officials to outreach other Subregional Frameworks and explore strategic linkages with the wider fora in ASEAN, commencing with the transport sector. We are encouraged by the expressions of support from the ASEAN Secretariat to this end.
10. We acknowledge the need to strengthen our cooperation with development partners, particularly Japan, South Korea, India, China, Australia and other willing partners in South Asia and the Pacific, including regional institutions such as ERIA. We tasked CIMT to come up with concrete scope of cooperation in order to identify greater opportunities with each development partner.

11. We commended Dumai, for its significant progress made in developing for the Melaka-Dumai RoRo signature project and look forward to Melaka's progress in developing for the project which will enhance maritime connectivity in IMT-GT and the ASEAN region. We also took note of the route of Belawan-Penang-Trang which was proposed as another critical maritime route.
12. We tasked the Senior Officials to further develop the concept of Inclusive Growth for IMT-GT cooperation for consideration as a possible topic for the next Summit. We also requested ADB to provide information on the possible adoptions of Inclusive Growth in other regional cooperation programmes which are relevant to the IMT-GT Subregion.
13. We expressed our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Thailand for the successful organisation of the 19th IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting.

ASEAN Free Trade Area **(AFTA)**

Joint Media Statement of the 22nd Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs

Singapore, 4-6 June 2013

1. The 22nd Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs was held from 4 to 6 June 2013 in Singapore. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Fong Yong Kian, Director-General, Singapore Customs. All 10 ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Meeting.
2. Mr Peter Ong, Head of Civil Service and Permanent Secretary (Finance), Singapore, opened the Meeting on 4 June 2013. In his opening address, Mr Ong emphasised the important role of Customs in facilitating intra-ASEAN as well as international trade. He highlighted the important role played by ASEAN Customs administrations to support the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.
3. The ASEAN Directors-General of Customs Meeting reviewed the work of the ASEAN customs working groups. These include the Coordinating Committee on Customs, chaired by the Philippines; the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group, chaired by Singapore; the Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group, chaired by Malaysia; the Customs Capacity Building Working Group, chaired by Brunei Darussalam; and the ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee, chaired by the Philippines.
4. Key achievements during the past year include the implementation of the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2012/1 by all 10 ASEAN Member States, completion of the ASEAN Single Window Pilot Project Component 2 (Scaled Down)¹, and the commencement of the ASEAN Customs Transit System component under the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU Programme. The customs working groups also developed best-practice documents to support customs modernisation and reform in ASEAN, namely the Best Practice Guide for ASEAN on Advance Rulings on Tariff Classification, the ASEAN Customs Enforcement Bulletin Volume IV, the ASEAN Customs Post Clearance Audit Bulletin Volume IV, and the Compendium of Best Practices in Strategic Management.
5. The Meeting discussed the advancement of customs integration and harmonisation in ASEAN. These include the need to expedite the ratification of the ASEAN Agreement on Customs, and the finalisation and signature of Protocol 2 (Designation of Frontier Posts) and Protocol 7 (Customs Transit System) to the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit. The Meeting also noted that issues pertaining to the long-term sustainability of the ASEAN Single Window project need to be further explored. The Meeting appointed Thailand as the Chair of the AHTN Task Force for 2013-2015.
6. The Meeting held a series of consultation sessions with the Customs administrations of China, Japan and Korea, and the World Customs Organisation to strengthen Customs-to-Customs partnerships in

the region. At the ASEAN Customs-World Customs Organisation (WCO) Consultation, the WCO presented its Strategic Plan and Vision for Customs in the 21st Century. Key elements of this Vision include trade facilitation and security, fair and efficient revenue collection, protection of society, and institutional and human resource development.

7. During the ASEAN-China Customs Consultation, China invited the ASEAN Member States to participate in an international operation to target illegal maritime shipments of hazardous and other wastes, and updated on China's single window development.
8. During the ASEAN-Japan Customs Consultation, Japan updated on the progress of bilateral technical assistance projects for the ASEAN Member States, and the results of the Time Release Study conducted in several ASEAN Customs administrations.
9. During the ASEAN-Korea Customs Consultation, Korea proposed further collaboration with the ASEAN Customs administrations on the exchange of experiences and best practices on authorised economic operator (AEO) programmes, and to establish mutual recognition arrangement of AEO programmes with the ASEAN Customs administrations.
10. The Meeting held a joint consultation with the US-ASEAN Business Council, the Conference of Asia-Pacific Express Carriers, and the ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations, to strengthen Customs-to-Business partnerships in the region. These business associations shared with the Meeting insightful presentations on best practices in trade facilitation, combating counterfeiting and piracy in ASEAN, and secure trade in express deliveries.

ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting (AFMM)

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 17th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM)

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 3-4 April 2013**

Theme: Our People, Our Future Together

Introduction

1. We, the ASEAN Finance Ministers, convened our 17th Annual Meeting under the chairmanship of H.E. Pehin Dato Abd Rahman Ibrahim, Second Minister of Finance at the Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam.
2. We, the ASEAN Finance Ministers, together with the Central Bank Governors Troika and the ASEAN Secretary General, expressed our utmost gratitude to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for graciously consenting to grant us an audience at the Istana Nurul Iman on 3 April 2013.
3. Together with the troika of ASEAN Central Bank Governors of Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar, we continue our commitment to maintain growth and improve economic stability in the region amidst the global economic challenges. We are also committed to maintain the stability of financial markets in the region. Our exchange of views with the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) on the risks and policy challenges confirmed our pledge to maintain stability.
4. We remain committed to realizing the goals of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). In this regard, we have taken several concrete steps in the various areas under the Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN. In addition to this, we reiterated our commitment to support the full operationalization

of the USD 485.2 million ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and the initial projects of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) this year.

5. We also welcomed the enhancement of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) as agreed by the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors last year. We strongly believe that this initiative is crucial in maintaining economic stability in the region given remaining uncertainties surrounding the global economy.

Regional Economic Update and Policy Challenges

6. We are pleased that the ASEAN economies grew by 5.6 percent last year despite the global uncertainties. This was underpinned by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, robust domestic demand, and sound balance sheets of banks and the corporate sector. We are confident our economies will grow this year at between 5.3 percent and 6 percent. Nonetheless, we remain vigilant in monitoring the external risks, particularly the weak external demand and volatile capital flows that may undermine the economic recovery going forward.
7. We are committed to implement appropriate monetary, fiscal, and other macro-prudential policies to sustain economic growth and maintain financial market stability. Our macroeconomic policies will be adjusted in line with country-specific development level and conditions facing our respective economies. Our main focus remains on price and financial sector stability which are imperative in supporting an on-going yet sustainable economic expansion. We agreed to further strengthen domestic demand, pursue structural reforms, encourage private sector investment, and aim for equitable economic development throughout the region. More importantly, we agreed to enhance our cooperation and integration efforts, and to improve regional resilience against external shocks.

Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN (RIA-Fin)

8. We agreed to intensify our efforts to build stronger integrated financial markets to achieve the goals of the AEC.

9. We welcomed the updates by the troika of ASEAN Central Bank Governors of Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam, and Myanmar on the implementation of the ASEAN Financial Integration Framework (AFIF) under the guidance of Senior Level Committee (SLC) on Financial Integration. We also welcomed the Governors' endorsement in principle of the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF) and the ongoing work on payments and settlements system.

10. We recognized the work of the ASEAN Central Banks in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, Asian Development Bank and the SEACEN Research and Training Center within the Steering Committee on Capacity Building (SCCB). We strongly believe that capacity building is of utmost importance in narrowing the development gaps among ASEAN economies and in bringing all ASEAN members to fully participate in the ongoing integration efforts.

11. We are pleased with the launch of the Summary Report of the Combined Study on Assessing the Financial Landscape and Formulating Milestones for Monetary and Financial Integration in ASEAN, which reflects the ASEAN's views on the current state of financial integration and highlights ASEAN's financial integration frameworks in the areas of financial services, capital account, payments and settlement systems and capital markets.

Capital Market Development

12. We firmly believe that robust capital markets are important in ensuring financial stability and facilitating the efficient allocation of capital. We have therefore agreed to continue the efforts to deepen and integrate our capital markets, to harness foreign capital inflows, and to develop new investment vehicles in the region. We wish to ensure that the flow of capital is geared towards productive sectors, and we are encouraged that the work undertaken by the Working Committee on Capital Market Development (WC-CMD) and the ASEAN Capital Market Forum (ACMF) has shown great progress in achieving that objective.

13. We took note of the WC-CMD's Bond Market Development Scorecard which has continued to be a useful benchmark for ASEAN finance and central bank officials to monitor the progress of ASEAN's

bond market development, openness and liquidity. We also welcomed the WC-CMD's progress in work relating to OTC derivatives market reforms, helping to enhance ASEAN members' understanding in this developing area. We encouraged the WC-CMD to continue capacity building programmes and the exchange of views on best practices, in the effort to reduce market gaps as identified in the Scorecard.

14. We welcomed the significant progress made by the ACMF and the ASEAN Exchanges in the integration of capital markets, particularly on the launch of the ASEAN Trading Link, the development of a regulatory framework for cross-border offers of mutual funds, the implementation of the fully-harmonized ASEAN Disclosure Standards and the completion of the common regulatory model to facilitate the cross-border provision of supporting marketing services. We noted the ongoing efforts on corporate governance ranking of ASEAN publicly listed companies as well as the development of a common prospectus framework for cross-border offers of securities. We encouraged the ACMF and the ASEAN Exchanges to continue working on the initiatives for the development of an integrated ASEAN capital market. In particular, to support the ASEAN Trading Link, we agreed to establish a cross-committee comprising ACMF, WC-CAL, WC-CMD and WC-PSS to develop a blueprint for the establishment of clearing, settlement and depository linkages.

Financial Services Liberalization

15. We remain positive that the on-going Sixth Round of negotiations of Financial Services Liberalization under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) will bring our economies closer in ensuring that ASEAN's financial sectors support the region's trade and investment activities. We look forward to signing the Protocol to implement the Sixth Package next year as an important deliverable before the AEC's crucial 2015 deadline.
16. We are supportive of the work done by the Working Committee on Financial Services Liberalization (WC-FSL) in deepening insurance sector integration to complement the banking sector efforts in support of the AEC. We note and encourage the established channel of collaboration between the WC-FSL

and the ASEAN Insurance Regulators' Meeting in undertaking developmental initiatives to further support insurance sector integration. We also welcome the WC-FSL's continued efforts in ensuring that ASEAN's integration with the global economy is achieved via ASEAN's free trade agreements with dialogue partners.

Capital Account Liberalization

17. We recognized that freer capital mobility is essential in supporting greater investment, trade and business activities in the region, and in promoting greater integration of our markets with the global economies and in line with the goals of the AEC. In this regard, the Working Committee on Capital Account Liberalization (WC-CAL) has shown substantial progress in its efforts to achieve greater capital mobility.
18. We welcomed the WC-CAL's work on the capital account liberalization framework. This includes the completed heat maps which assess member countries' current level of openness of the capital account regime. This also serves as a basis for members' Individual Milestones Blueprints, which show member countries' plan to progressively liberalize their capital account sequencing in accordance with the ASEAN Financial Integration Framework.
19. We also noted the WC-CAL's successful completion of the mutual assessment process of identifying rules to progressively liberalize our current account transactions, direct and portfolio investments, and for other types of flows. We furthermore welcomed the discussions on safeguards of capital account liberalization held by this Working Committee.

Strengthening ASEAN Finance Cooperation and Economic Integration

Enhancing Regional Surveillance

20. We recognized the need for stronger economic surveillance efforts to achieve regional economic integration. We are encouraged by the improved work of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office (AIMO), particularly with the development of surveillance reports, monitoring tools, and capacity

building programs. We are fully committed to expand the capacity and resources of AIMO, and encourage Member States and external partners to better assist AIMO in delivering its mandate. We support AMRO and AIMO to work closely to develop productive and value-added economic surveillance report.

21. We also reaffirmed our support to AMRO in providing macroeconomic and financial surveillance of the region, particularly in its mandate to support the CMIM. We welcomed AMRO's participation in briefing us on the macroeconomic and financial situation in the region. We also look forward to the institutionalization of AMRO as an international organization.

Infrastructure Financing

22. We welcomed the full establishment of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund Limited in Labuan, Malaysia last year and the commencement of AIF lending operations this year. We believe that the AIF is an integral component of ASEAN's efforts to strengthen regional physical connectivity, and narrow the infrastructure development gap in ASEAN. We welcomed Myanmar's commitment to join the AIF as a shareholder, at the earliest opportunity available. We also welcomed the idea of the AIF as an innovative infrastructure financing mechanism in ASEAN region to be shared with other international fora like APEC and G20 Forum. We appreciated the continued support from the ASEAN-World Bank Infrastructure Finance Network (IFN) and endorsed the programs for 2013.

Cooperation on Customs Matters

23. We are pleased with the progress of activities under customs cooperation, particularly the pilot project to implement the two-month ASEAN Single Window pilot testing among seven participating countries as well as the implementation of the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2012. We urged our customs officials to fully implement the outstanding initiatives, including the finalization of agreements and protocols, to support the establishment of a single market and production base under the AEC.

ASEAN Cooperation on Taxation

24. We agreed to strengthen cooperation in addressing tax-related impediments to integration including withholding tax and double taxation issues. We encouraged the ASEAN Forum on Taxation (AFT) to further enhance regional dialogue on taxation, strengthen cooperation in tax matters, as well as establish and update bilateral tax treaties in the region.

ASEAN Cooperation in Insurance

25. We are encouraged by the progress made by the ASEAN insurance regulators in improving insurance penetration in the region, developing regulatory frameworks to promote insurance products, and promoting consumer education to increase awareness. We agreed on capacity building initiatives to assist member regulators in aligning their regulations with international best practices.
26. We noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Strategy on Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI). We recognized the importance of the initiative and welcomed the collaborative efforts of the AFDM, AIRM and ACDM in this regard. We endorsed the establishment of the ASEAN Cross-Sectoral Coordination Committee on DRFI initiatives and we tasked the AFDM and AIRM to work closely with their ACDM counterparts in further implementing the ASEAN DRFI Roadmap.

Financial Inclusion

27. We welcomed the efforts made by ASEAN members in promoting financial inclusion as mandated by our Leaders in 2011. We firmly believe that inclusion of the small and medium enterprises will further promote them to become the backbone of our future economic growth.
28. We welcomed the new initiative on Financial Literacy by Brunei Darussalam to provide a platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences and best practices on effectively promoting financial literacy between ASEAN member countries. We recognized the far reaching benefits of Financial Literacy and education in contributing to the well-being of the people and stability of the economy.

Engaging and Building a Stronger ASEAN

29. We reaffirmed our commitment to promote a stable and integrated ASEAN, and our support for strong, sustainable, inclusive and balanced growth in the region. We are determined to continue our efforts to work towards economic and financial integration. We are committed to narrowing the development gap and raising the living standards of our people by reducing barriers to trade, investment and financial flows.

Acknowledgement

30. We thanked Brunei Darussalam for hosting the 17th AFMM this year and welcome Myanmar as Chair in 2014.

ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)

Joint Press Statement of the 35th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (35th AMAF)

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
26 September 2013**

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry held our 35th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) Meeting on 26 September 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, under the Chairmanship of H.E Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia.

Moving Towards 2015 and Beyond

2. We noted with satisfaction the on-going progress and achievements made in the ASEAN cooperation in food, agriculture, and forestry to contribute towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community. In order to ensure the realisation of the ASEAN Economic

Community (AEC) deliverables in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry sectors by 2015, we agreed to focus our efforts and resources on the achievement of the identified key deliverables and prioritised measures. In this regard, we requested all subsidiary bodies under our purview to review their respective current Strategic Plans of Actions (SPA) to achieve the approved key deliverables and prioritised measures.

3. Building on the good progress and achievement made in the sector, we agreed to initiate the work on a post-2015 vision to support positioning ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture, as mandated by the 22nd ASEAN Summit. We tasked the Senior Officials to develop a vision, objectives and goals of the ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry sectors towards 2020, based on the review of the current framework and Strategic Plan of Action, and submit appropriate recommendations to our meeting in 2015 for adoption.

Food Security Arrangements

4. We noted the on-going progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Food Security (SPA-FS) 2009-2013, and expressed our appreciation to the ASEAN Dialogue and Development Partners for their valuable support in achieving this progress. To move forward, we agreed to develop a second phase of SPA-FS to accommodate some changes towards the common goal of long-term food security and reflect the important contribution of the Food, Agriculture and Forestry sectors in the realisation of the ASEAN Community. In this connection, we appreciated the contributions and support by Development Partners such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the development of the new SPA-FS.
5. We acknowledged the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security (AFCC), particular in the fisheries and forestry sectors. We appreciated the contribution and support extended to ASEAN by the Dialogue Partners through various programmes/projects, particularly the ASEAN-German Programme

on Climate Change: Agriculture, Forestry and related Sectors (GAP-CC), the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership Programme on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) and the ASEAN-U.S Project on Maximizing Agricultural Revenue through Knowledge, Enterprise Development and Trade (MARKET), which made this progress possible.

Cooperation on Sectoral and Priority Issues

6. We reviewed the cooperation in the individual area of food, agriculture and forestry, and commended our subsidiary bodies for their efforts and achievements made in their respective areas. As a result, we considered and endorsed the following documents to provide a basis for ASEAN joint approaches in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry sectors and to facilitate trade of agricultural products in the region and beyond:
 - (i) List of Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) for six pesticides: i) carbofuran (asparagus); ii) carbosulfan (asparagus) iii) fenvalerate (broccoli Chinese, brassica oleracea var. alboglabra); iv) fipronil (yard long bean); v) chlorpyrifos (soybean immature); and vi) azoxystrobin (carambola) as ASEAN Harmonised MRLs. We agreed to support the recommendation for ASEAN Member States to adopt ASEAN MRLs as part of the national regulatory framework and to submit ASEAN Supervised Pesticides Residue Field Trials (SPRT) data to the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPPR) to enable the recognition of ASEAN MRLs as Codex MRLs;
 - (ii) ASEAN Standards for: i) Cabbage (ASEAN Stan 30 : 2013), ii) Coffee Beans (ASEAN Stan 31 : 2013), iii) Turmeric (ASEAN Stan 32 : 2013), and iv) Yard-long Bean (ASEAN Stan 33 : 2013);
 - (iii) Regional Strategy for Epidemiology Capacity Building in ASEAN;
 - (iv) Regional Strategic Framework for Laboratory Capacity Building and Networking in Southeast Asia;
 - (v) Intra-ASEAN Phyto-sanitary Guidelines for Importation of Citrus-fruit;
 - (vi) Guidelines for the Use of Chemicals in Aquaculture and Measures to Eliminate the Use of Harmful Chemicals.
7. We were encouraged with the significant progress made in enhancing the competitiveness of agricultural commodities through the development and implementation of ASEAN best practices, namely Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP), and Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP). We supported the initiative to establish an ASEAN certification and accreditation mechanism to support the implementation of these best practices.
8. We noted the continued efforts to strengthen capacities and capabilities of ASEAN to prevent, control, and eradicate highly pathogenic emerging diseases (HPEDs). We also noted the progress in establishing the ASEAN Coordination Centre on Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ) and tasked the relevant ASEAN bodies to intensify their efforts. We appreciated the collaboration and support made by the Dialogue and Development Partners, namely FAO, OIE, EU and Australia, through the relevant animal health programmes and projects.
9. We noted the development of the ASEAN Animal Health Collaboration Website (www.asean-animalhealth.org) as a platform that will facilitate dissemination and sharing of relevant information related to animal health initiatives among the Member States, and with stakeholders and relevant partners, and hereby expressed our support to its launching, and sustenance by the Member States. We appreciated the support made by FAO, through the European Union-funded Programme on HPEDs, FAO Component for the website development.
10. We agreed on the necessity to review the Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) of ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry by carrying out an impact assessment study of the implemented programmes and activities to identify necessary actions and measures to further strengthen cooperation in this area.
11. We commended the continuous ASEAN work and cooperation towards the attainment of sustainable forest management. Significant progress and

achievement have been reached and further enhanced in several areas, among others ASEAN cooperation and common position in international forest policy processes and negotiations.

12. We acknowledged the arrangement of an exhibition on ASEAN Herbal and Medicinal Plants with engagement of the private sector to showcase and display the achievement and contribution of Herbal and Medicinal Plants and the collaborative R&D Project to ASEAN Community Building.
13. We noted the implementation progress of the various cooperative programmes and activities in fisheries, including projects and activities to support the implementation of AIFS and AFCC. We further noted the implementation of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Scheme and welcomed the initiative to establish a Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) as a tool to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region.
14. We noted and supported the role of ASEAN SPS Contact Point (ASCP) to coordinate and monitor the progress of SPS-related works being undertaken by various working groups (WGs) under AMAF as well as liaising with other SPS-related bodies/mechanisms in ASEAN. The ASCP, under its Work Programme 2013-2015, will also promote cooperation and mutual support in SPS capacity building activities, including human resources development and enhancing technical capacities between and among the relevant WGs under AMAF.

Country initiatives for programmes/ projects on food, agriculture and forestry

15. We supported with particular appreciation the programmes and projects initiated by Member States to further enhance cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry, namely (i) ASEAN Genetically Modified Food Testing Network (ASEAN GMF Net), (ii) ASEAN Food Safety Network (AFSN), (iii) ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed, (iv) Collaboration of ASEAN Research and Development in Sericulture and (v) Conservation Agriculture.

Moving Together with Partners towards 2015

16. We expressed our appreciation for the assistance and support rendered by various Dialogue Partners and International Organisations, including Australia, China, the European Commission, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), in advancing cooperation on food, agriculture and forestry in ASEAN region,
17. We launched the ASEAN-FAO MOU on Strengthening Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry, which followed by three projects namely (i) TCP/RAS/3406(E) on Emergency Assistance for Surveillance of Influenza A (H7N9) Virus in Poultry and Animal Populations in Southeast Asia (ii) TCP/INT/3402(E) Emergency Support to Global and Coordinated Response to Influenza A (H7N9) Virus in Poultry and Other Animal Population, and (iii) Strengthening the capacity of ASEAN in coordination and monitoring of the implementation of ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS) and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA FS).
18. Together with the Minister of Agriculture of China, we signed the MOU between ASEAN and China on Food and Agriculture Cooperation, in which ASEAN and China agreed to strengthen cooperation in important issues such as food security, food safety, farm mechanization and machinery, agriculture extension and technology transfer training and extension and biotechnology.

36th AMAF Meeting

19. We agreed to convene the 36th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Meeting in Myanmar in 2014.
20. We expressed our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government and People of Malaysia for hosting the 35th AMAF Meeting and for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Mr. San Vanty, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Suswono, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Phouangparisak Pravongviengkham, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR; H. E. Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia; H.E. U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar; H.E Mr. Jose Eduardo E. Malaya III, the Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia, Philippines; H.E. Dr. Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Minister of State for National Development and Defence, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Yukol Limlamthong, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand; H.E. Dr. Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam; H.E. Dr. AKP Mochtan, Deputy Secretary General, Community and Corporate Affairs, ASEAN Secretariat.

ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM)

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 31st ASEAN Ministers of Energy Meeting (AMEM)

Bali, Indonesia, 25 September 2013

“Energy Sustainability for ASEAN Prosperity”

1. The 31st ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) was held on 25 September 2013 in Bali, Indonesia. H.E. Mr. Jero Wacik, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia, chaired the Meeting, and H.E. Mr. Viraphonh Viravong, Vice Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR was the Vice-Chairperson. The 10th Meeting of Energy Ministers of the ASEAN Plus Three Countries (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea), the 7th East Asian Summit Energy Ministers Meeting, and a dialogue with the International Energy Agency (IEA) were also held on this occasion.
2. The 31st AMEM and related meetings were officiated by H.E. Prof. Boediono, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia. In his Opening Remarks, H.E. Prof Boediono cited that geographical location binds the people of Southeast Asia together and necessitates the establishment of economic, political, social and cultural networks amongst the Southeast Asian Nations. In recognising ASEAN cooperation as the core network, he underscored the need for ASEAN to establish multilayer networks through mutually beneficial relationship and long term cooperation in order to weather the impact of globalisation and growing uncertainties. He added that Indonesia as one of ASEAN founders would ensure its contribution in the establishment of an effective ASEAN energy core network and enhancement of energy sustainability in the region as sustainability is fundamentally significant for the future. Lastly, the Vice President wished the ASEAN Energy Ministers Meeting and associated meetings constructive and fruitful discussions.
3. The Ministers recognised the volatility in the global energy markets due to the economic uncertainty in several countries and the worldwide economic slowdown. In this respect, the Ministers reaffirmed the Leaders' commitment to strengthen energy cooperation to address major energy challenges to ensure secure and reliable energy supply in ASEAN. In line with the good progress made toward an ASEAN Economic Community, the Ministers welcomed the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation Mid-Term Review (APAEC MTR) report, prepared by Regional Energy Policy and Planning Sub-sector Network (REPP-SSN), which shows that ASEAN is on track to meet most of the key targets set out in the APAEC 2010-2015.
4. Reiterating the key thrusts of the APAEC to enhance energy security, accessibility and sustainability as key pillars for the development and aspirations of each ASEAN Member State, the Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to identify key strategies to ensure

the progress of ASEAN's future energy landscape beyond 2015.

5. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to continue strengthening efforts in oil and gas supply cooperation. To this end, the Ministers agreed on the signing of the Instrument to Extend the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP) Project for another term of 10 years until 20 May 2024. Acknowledging the significant impact of shale gas developments particularly in North America, the Ministers welcomed the convening of the Regional Workshop on the "Changing Global Gas Market and Unconventional Gas" in Jakarta in May 2013 as a platform for ASEAN to gain more knowledge about U.S.' LNG export regulatory framework.
6. The Ministers commended the Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities/Authorities (HAPUA) on their efforts in moving forward on the harmonisation of the technical, legal and regulatory framework and identification of financial modalities for the realization of the ASEAN Power Grid (APG). In particular, the Ministers welcomed the recommendations of the project on "Harmonisation of the Technical Standards, Codes and Guidelines in the area of Planning and Design, System Operation and Maintenance for the APG", which was completed with the assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). To accelerate the realisation of the APG, the Ministers tasked HAPUA to develop an efficient and effective framework for taxation and customs tariff in order to accelerate investments in the development of APG projects. The Ministers also noted the progress of the six interconnection projects that are currently under construction, particularly the new interconnection projects between Viet Nam and Lao PDR; and between Sarawak in Malaysia and West Kalimantan in Indonesia. The Ministers welcomed the collaboration between HAPUA and ACE on the Joint Study on: a) CO₂ Reduction by Greater Role of Renewable Energy in ASEAN Power Generation; b) Standard on Integrated of Renewable Energy Generation on Wider System Grid; and c) the 4th ASEAN Energy Outlook.
7. The Ministers commended the efforts of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Sub-Sector Network (EE&C-SSN) particularly in promoting and improving energy efficiency in the region, which contributed to a 7.56% reduction in the ASEAN-wide energy intensity (EI) in 2010 over 2005 level, and noted that ASEAN is on track to meeting the collective target of 8% reduction by 2015. In this regard, the Ministers noted the EE&C-SSN's Work Plan to develop a credible longterm EI reduction target for ASEAN and a systematic mechanism to monitor EI reduction. Given Japan's experience in implementing energy efficiency, the Ministers urged EE&C-SSN to continue collaboration with the Energy Conservation of Japan (ECCJ), ASEAN-Japan Energy Efficiency Partnership (AJEEP), and Energy Conservation Workshop under AJEEP (ECAP). The Ministers noted the good progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Energy Management Scheme (AEMAS) under the EU Switch Asia Programme and the project on harmonisation of the household air-conditioners energy efficiency standards.
8. On Renewable Energy (RE), the Ministers noted the activities undertaken by the Renewable Energy Sub-Sector Network (RE-SSN) and the Renewable Energy Support Program (RESP) in promoting the development of renewable energy in the region, including capacity building workshops on RE Standards, mini-hydro, Solar PV and the publication of the ASEAN RE Development 2006-2011. The Ministers appreciated the efforts of ASEAN Member States and noted the excellent advancement of RE installed capacity to 29.3% in 2011. The Ministers appreciated the successful launching of the 1st ASEAN Renewable Energy Week and the 1st ASEAN Renewable Energy Forum led by Malaysia and the ACE.
9. Due to the increasing dependence on coal in ASEAN, the Ministers reiterated the importance of strengthening cooperation on coal by introducing more efforts on clean coal technology. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the upcoming activities to be undertaken by the ASEAN Forum on Coal (AFOC) to promote the responsible use of coal in ASEAN and the use of clean coal technology. The Ministers noted the work in the development of the Agreement on Coal Use and Trade (ACUT). The Ministers also noted the efforts to further understanding on ASEAN Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) with the aim to develop a paper on ASEAN CCS Strategic Consideration

in collaboration with prominent international CCS institutions.

10. The Ministers lauded the expansion of the ASEAN Energy Awards to champion the best practices in ASEAN with the launching of the first ASEAN Coal Awards. In this regard the Ministers congratulated the 2013 winners of the ASEAN Energy Awards which included the seventeen (17) winners of the ASEAN Coal Awards, twelve (12) winners of the ASEAN Best Practices in Energy Efficient Buildings, fifteen (15) winners of the ASEAN Best Practices in Energy Management and ten (10) winners of the ASEAN Renewable Energy Awards.
11. The Ministers noted the magnitude of the challenges facing the global nuclear energy industry in addressing the nuclear safety issues, particularly following the Fukushima Dai-chi accident in March 2011. In this regard, the Ministers tasked the Nuclear Energy Cooperation Sub-Sector Network (NEC-SSN) to take the necessary steps to engage the international community, particularly Dialogue Partners and energy International Organisations, including the European Union (EU) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to enhance regional knowledge to build capacity and facilitate cooperation in nuclear energy technologies and public communications. The Ministers welcomed the cooperation activities of the ASEAN Dialogue Partners, including the implementation of the 2nd Phase of the ASEAN+3 Human Resources Development (HRD) Programme on Civilian Nuclear Energy (CNE) 2012-2014 and the Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN) supported by Republic of Korea and Japan, respectively. The Ministers also noted the convening of Workshop on “Developing a Safe and Secure Nuclear Power Program: The Essential Elements” under the ASEAN-US Work Plan 2011-2014 which will be conducted on 9 October 2013, hosted by Indonesia.
12. As part of the process to enhance ASEAN energy institutions, the Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) Enhancement Task Force (AETF) to utilise the ASEAN Energy Endowment Fund (AEEF) as a source of ACE’s operational expenses under a close supervision of the ACE Governing Council. The Ministers also welcomed the commencement of the open recruitment process for a professional ACE Executive Director. In this regard, the Ministers agreed on the signing of the Protocol to Amend the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Energy of 1998.
13. The Ministers noted the ASEAN Energy Regulators’ Network (AERN) Work Plan for 2013-2014, which will focus on: (a) sharing of the AERN 2013 calendar of planned seminars, forums and training programs as part of capacity building and exchange of best practice; and (b) country updates on regulatory issues to share upto-date practices among AERN Members.
14. The Ministers also took note of the ASEAN Energy Literacy Cooperation Initiative to share views and ideas for enhancing public awareness on energy issues and welcomed Thailand’s plan to host the first workshop on ASEAN Energy Literacy Cooperation in January 2014.

Energy Cooperation with Dialogue Partners and International Organisation

15. The Ministers appreciated the significant benefits from the close cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and international organisations in the realisation of the APAEC 2010-2015 target. The Ministers further welcomed the adoption of the work plans and concrete deliverables under the SOME-METI Energy Cooperation Program Priorities 2013-2014, the SOME-Russia Energy Cooperation for 2013-2014, the SOME-US Energy Cooperation Work Plan 2012-2014, and the EAS ECTF Work Plan 2013-2014.
16. Noting the close collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA), following the signing of the MOU in 2011, the Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to consider pursuing a similar cooperation with other international organisations.

Next Meeting

17. The Ministers agreed to convene the 32nd ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and its related Meetings with Dialogue Partners in Lao PDR in 2014.

18. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Indonesia for the warm hospitality accorded to them and for the excellent arrangements made for the 31st AMEM and its related Meetings with Dialogue Partners.

ASEAN Ministers for Energy

Hon. Pehin Dato (Dr.) Mohammad Yasmin Umar, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. ITH Praing, Secretary of State of Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy of the Kingdom of Cambodia; H.E. Jero Wacik, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Indonesia; H.E. Viraphonh Viravong, Vice Minister of Energy and Mines of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Hon. Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water of Malaysia; H.E. Zay Yar Aung, Union Minister for Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; H.E. Carlos Jericho L. Petilla, Secretary of the Department of Energy of the Republic of the Philippines; H.E. S. Iswaran, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore; H.E. Police Lieutenant General Dr. Wichianchot Sukchotrat, Vice Minister of Energy of the Kingdom of Thailand; H.E. Le Duong Quang, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; and; H.E. Dr. AKP Mochtan, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs.

Instrument of Extension of the ASEAN Memorandum of Understanding on the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline Project

Bali, Indonesia, 25 September 2013

WHEREAS the ASEAN Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipelines Project was done at Bali, Indonesia on 5 July 2002;

WHEREAS the MOU entered into force on 21 May 2004, and shall remain in force, pursuant to Article VIII (4) of the MOU, until 20 May 2014;

WHEREAS Article VIII (6) of the MOU provides that the MOU may be extended beyond its period of validity with the agreement of all Member States;

WHEREAS the Member States, at the 29th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) held on 20 September 2011 in Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam, agreed to extend the validity of the MOU for an additional period of 10 (ten) years;

NOW, therefore, the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, hereby expressed their consent to extend the MOU until 20 May 2024, unless earlier terminated by the Parties pursuant to Article VIII (6) of the MOU;

DONE at Bali, Indonesia, this Twenty-Fifth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen, in a single original copy in the English Language.

For the Government of Brunei Darussalam:
MOHAMMAD YASMIN UMAR
Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office

For the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia:
ITH PRAING
Secretary of State of Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy

For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia:
 JERO WACIK
 Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources

For the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
 VIRAPHONH VIRAVONG
 Vice Minister of Energy and Mines

For the Government of Malaysia:
 MAXIMUS JOHNNY ANGKILI
 Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water

For the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
 ZAY YAR AUNG
 Union Minister for Energy

For the Government of the Republic of the Philippines:
 CARLOS JERICHO L. PETILLA
 Secretary of Department of Energy

For the Government of the Republic of Singapore:
 S.ISWARAN
 Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister
 for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Kingdom of the Thailand:
 WICHIANCHOT SUKCHOTRAT
 Vice Minister for Energy

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
 LE DUONG QUANG
 Vice Minister for Industry and Trade

Protocol to Amend the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Energy

Bali, Indonesia, 25 September 2013

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, being the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

(hereinafter referred to collectively as "ASEAN Member States", or individually as "ASEAN Member State" in this Protocol);

RECALLING the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Energy signed on 22 May 1998 in Manila, the Philippines (hereafter referred to as "the Agreement");

ACKNOWLEDGING the instrumental role and contribution of the ASEAN Centre for Energy since its establishment in supporting the implementation of the Agreement on ASEAN Energy Cooperation signed on 24 June 1986 in Manila, the Philippines, the Protocol Amending this Agreement signed on 15 December 1995 in Bangkok, Thailand, and in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 23 July 1997, and the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC);

DESIRING to enhance the ASEAN Centre for Energy to ensure that it serves as a high-performing institution which builds a coherent, coordinated, focused and robust energy policy agenda and strategy for ASEAN and to fulfill three critical roles: (i) advance ASEAN energy goals; (ii) function as an energy data and knowledge hub; and (iii) serve as an ASEAN energy think tank;

CONSIDERING Article 12, Paragraph 2 of the Agreement, which provides that the Agreement may be amended by consent of the ASEAN Member States and such amendment shall become effective upon the signing of the Protocol amending this Agreement;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Amendment of Article 3 (4) (e) of the Agreement

Article 3 (4) (e) of the Agreement shall be substituted as follows:

"To appoint a professional Executive Director for the Centre with a long-term performance-based contract, selected from among nationals of the ASEAN Member States through an open recruitment process."

Article 2

Amendment of Article 7(1)(e) of the Agreement

Article 7 (1) (e) of the Agreement shall be substituted as follows:

“The Executive Director shall have a term of office of three (3) years which may be extended on an annual basis for a period not exceeding two (2) years. The extension is subject to the consensus of all Council members and is to be based on the annual performance appraisal of the Executive Director as conducted by the Council.”

Article 3

Amendment of Article 7 (1) (e) of the Agreement

Article 7(1)(e) of the Agreement shall be substituted as follows:

“Notwithstanding paragraph 1.d. above, the Council shall have overall responsibility for the Fund including the promulgation and approval of rules and procedures for the investment and the use of the Fund. The Fund may be used to finance the operations of the Centre, subject to an annual ceiling to be determined by the Council.”

Article 4

Amendment of Article 11 of the Agreement

Article 11 of the Agreement shall be substituted as follows:

“Any dispute concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through negotiations and consultations among the Member States of ASEAN, in accordance with the ASEAN Protocol on Enhanced Dispute Settlement Mechanism signed on 29 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic.”

Article 5

1. This Protocol shall enter into force on the date of signing.
2. This Protocol shall be deposited with the Secretary General of ASEAN who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each ASEAN Member State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol to Amend the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Energy.

DONE at Bali, Indonesia, this Twenty-Fifth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen, in a single original copy in the English Language.

For the Government of Brunei Darussalam:
 MOHAMMAD YASMIN UMAR
 Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister’s Office

For the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia:
 ITH PRAING
 Secretary of State of Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy

For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia:
 JERO WACIK
 Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources

For the Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic:
 VIRAPHONH VIRAVONG
 Vice Minister of Energy and Mines

For the Government of Malaysia:
 MAXIMUS JOHNNITY ONGKILI
 Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water For the

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
 ZAY YAR AUNG
 Union Minister for Energy

For the Government of the Republic of the Philippines:
 CARLOS JERICHO L. PETILLA
 Secretary of Department of Energy

For the Government of the Republic of Singapore:
 S. ISWARAN
 Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand:
 WICHIANCHOT SUKCHOTRAT
 Vice Minister for Energy

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of VietNam:
 LE DUONG QUANG
 Vice Minister of Industry and Trade

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin)

Joint Press Statement of the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals

Bali, Indonesia, 28 November 2013

1. The Fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin) was held on 28 November 2013 in Bali, H.E. Mr. Jero Wacik, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia, chaired the Meeting, and H.E. Somboun Rasasombath, Vice-Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR, was the Vice-Chairperson.

Opening Ceremony

2. The Fourth AMMin was officially opened by H.E. Jero Wacik, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia and followed by the official launching of the ASEAN Mineral Database and Information System (AMDIS) using Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standard. In his opening remarks, H.E. Jero Wacik, conveyed his deep condolences and sympathy to the people of the Philippines that were affected by Typhoon Haiyan. He conveyed President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's mandate to the ASEAN Ministers of Minerals that outcomes of the dialogues in ASEAN region should contribute on the prosperity of ASEAN people. He welcomed with appreciation on the launch of the ASEAN Mineral Database and Information System (AMDIS) in order to support the development of the minerals sector. He also shared his views that the development of the minerals sector should contribute to the national development of ASEAN Member States, create jobs, enhance people's welfare, and take due consideration on environmental protection. Lastly, he underscored the importance of further strengthening ASEAN minerals cooperation, particularly in ensuring accessibility and sustainability in minerals development, as well as to boost investment and trade in minerals sector in order to support the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by

ASEAN Economy Community and Minerals Sector

3. In following the directive of the 23rd ASEAN Summit, held on 9 October 2013 in Brunei Darussalam, for the ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to redouble efforts in the implementation of the Roadmap for ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and to prioritise measures and deliverables to achieve the AEC by 2015, the Ministers reiterated their commitment to further strengthening cooperation with a view to enhance ASEAN mineral sector's competitiveness to enable it to overcome the challenges, and advance ASEAN Member States' common interests. The Ministers also agreed to intensify cooperation efforts to ensure credible integration results in the minerals sector by 2015.
4. The development of mineral resources has the potential to boost economic growth through the provision of employment, export revenues and investment in infrastructure and human capital. The demand for minerals in ASEAN would continue to grow on the back of continuing economic growth and market expansion within the ASEAN Member States. The Ministers therefore reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the regional framework for mineral cooperation that aims to stimulate the development of the minerals added value and promote the wise use of the finite mineral resources.
5. Emphasising the importance of sustainable development and environmentally friendly development of mineral resources, the Ministers also agreed on the need for concerted efforts among ASEAN Member States to address the negative environmental and socio-economic impacts and perception of mining.
6. In order to achieve measurable success in sustainable minerals development, an effective public-private partnership should be re-enforced. Towards this end, the Ministers placed a strong emphasis on facilitating the private sector as the primary source of investment as well as fostering a more active participation of the private sector in the policy and regulatory discussion and participation.

ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan 2011-2015

7. The Ministers reviewed the implementation of the cooperation activities reflected in the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP) 2011-2015, particularly on the measures carried out under the strategic priorities, namely a) Facilitating and Enhancing Trade and Investment in Minerals, b) Promoting Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Mineral Development, and c) Strengthening Institutional and Human Capacities in the ASEAN Minerals Sector. The Ministers commended the Senior Officials for the excellent work carried out in 2011-2013 and expressed appreciation to the progress made in the implementation of the various cooperative programmes/activities in minerals cooperation under the Working Group on Minerals Information and Database (WGMID), Sustainable Mineral Development (WGSMD), Capacity Building (WGCBM), and Trade and Investment in Minerals (WGTIM).
8. Recognising the importance of providing the public and business community with greater access to information on minerals, the Ministers welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Mineral Database Information Systems (AMDIS). AMDIS contains data and information concerning mineral resources, minerals trade, research and development in minerals, capacity building, regulation, as well as minerals company profile.
9. The Ministers particularly acknowledged the successful implementation of the capacity building activities and events carried out by ASEAN Member States in cooperation with Dialogue Partners, among others: a) Training Program on Mineral Resource Database for ASEAN, b) International Conference on Geology and Natural Resources of ASEAN (Geo ASEAN), c) Training on Geological Surveys and Resources Mapping, d) Workshop on Mine Rehabilitation and Sustainable Development, e) 2nd Trans-Asia Coal Trading Forum, f) Training on Mining Investigation and Rehabilitation for ASEAN Member States, g) The 4th Training on Geological Mapping Capacity Building for ASEAN Member States, and h) Workshop on Technology and Methodology of Geochemical Mapping and Seminar on Capacity Building on Cross Border Geological Correlation. The Ministers also noted the outcomes of the Workshop on Permit Policy and Mechanism for Mineral Mining License in ASEAN Countries held on 27 August 2013, in Bukit Tinggi, Indonesia.
10. In order to provide support for effective implementation of the AMCAP 2011-2015, the Ministers encouraged the ASEAN Member States to support the ASEAN Mineral Trust Fund (AMTF) by remitting their contributions to the Fund. The Ministers agreed that the AMTF could be utilised for the projects and activities under AMCAP 2011-2015 and any other plans approved by the ASEAN Senior Officials on Minerals (ASOMM).
11. The Ministers lauded their Senior Officials, the ASEAN Secretariat as well as the ASEAN Federation of Mining Association (AFMA) and the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) for their continued vigorous initiation, coordination and facilitation in the implementation of the regional minerals programmes and activities under the AMCAP 2011-2015, and encouraged them to enhance their efforts in furthering ASEAN minerals cooperation and in ASEAN's cooperation with the Dialogue Partners and International Organisations.
12. To advance the strategic agenda on minerals cooperation, the Ministers tasked the senior officials to commence the formulation of the next ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan for the period 2015-2019, which should be ready for adoption at the 5th AMMin in 2015.

Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

13. The Ministers were pleased with the development and progress of the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) cooperation under the ASOMM+3. The Ministers emphasised the benefits of having more inclusive frameworks on minerals cooperation and encouraged China, Japan and the Republic of Korea to exchange knowledge in the promotion of scientific and technological research in minerals, geoscience and geological mapping, as well as organising more workshops/training on minerals development.

14. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Indonesia for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the 4th AMMin and Associated Meetings.
15. The Ministers agreed to convene the 5th AMMin in 2015 in Lao PDR.

ASEAN Ministers for Minerals

Mr. Haji Md Yunos bin Bolhassan, Acting Commissioner of Land/Director of Administration and Finance, Ministry of Development, representing; H.E. Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Hj Suyoi bin Hj Osman, Minister of Development of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Ith Praing, Secretary of State, Ministry of Industry, Mines, and Energy of Cambodia; H.E. Jero Wacik, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia; H.E. Somboun Rasasombath, Vice Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR; Dato' Dr. Mohd Ali Mohamad Nor, Deputy Secretary General of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia, representing ; H.E. Datuk Seri G. Palanivel, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia; Mr. Tin Maung Naing, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Myanmar to ASEAN, representing; H.E. Dr. Myint Aung, Minister of Mines of Myanmar; Ms. Fay W. Apil, OIC Regional Director of Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Cordillera Administrative Region, representing Hon. Ramon J.P. Paje Secretary Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines; Mr. Lim Ban Hoe, Group Director, Transport and Logistic Group, International Enterprise Singapore of Singapore, representing; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister of Trade and Industry of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore; Mr. Thammasak Pongprasert, Director, Office of Primary Industries and Mines, Region 1, Department of Primary Industries and Mines, Ministry of Industry of Thailand, representing; H.E. Prasert Boonchaisuk, Minister of Industry of Thailand; H.E. Dr. Nguyen Linh Ngoc, Vice-Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam; and; H.E. Dr. AKP Mochtan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST)

Chairman's Statement of the 15th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST-15)

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
12 November 2013**

Introduction

1. The 15th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST-15) was held on 12 November 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by Honorable Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin, Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation, Malaysia and attended by Science and Technology Ministers and Senior Officials from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN and her staff were also in attendance.
2. Nine (9) meetings were convened prior to the 15th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology as follows: (i) the 45th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on S & T Infrastructure and Resource Development (SCIRD-45) on 7 November 2013; (ii) the 23rd Meeting of the Advisory Body on the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology (ABAPAST-23), 8 November 2013; (iii) the 22nd Meeting of the Advisory Body of the ASEAN Science Fund (ABASF-22), 8 November 2013; (iv) the 66th Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST-66), 9 November 2013; (v) the 10th ASEAN-India Working Group on Science and Technology (AIWGST-10) on 10 November 2013; (vi) the 6th ASEAN-Russia Working Group on Science and Technology (ARWGST-6) on 10 November 2013; (vii) the 4th ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Committee on Science and Technology (AJCCST-4) on 11

November 2013; (viii) the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN-ROK Joint Science and Technology Committee on 11 November 2013; and (ix) the 7th ASEAN COST Plus Three Meeting on 11 November 2013.

3. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for its efforts as previous AMMST Chair in bringing to the attention of the AEC and ASCC Councils that the AMMST and COST shall remain under the purview of the AEC as indicated in Annex 1 of the ASEAN Charter. Noting, however, that science and technology (S&T) actions are reflected in the ASCC Blueprint, COST shall continue reporting to both AEC and ASCC Councils until end of 2015.

Development of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2015-2020

4. The Ministers noted the progress report of the development of the APASTI 2015-2020 and looked forward to the finalization and adoption of said plan of action at the 8th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST-8) to be held next year in conjunction with the celebration of the 9th ASEAN Science and Technology Week in Bogor, Indonesia in August 2014.
5. The Ministers welcomed the planned launching of the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Challenges initiative. Call for innovation-focused proposals with funding support from the ASF shall be made and the announcement of grant recipients will be announced at the 67th Meeting of COST in April 2014 in Singapore.
6. The Ministers recalled that the feasibility of establishing the ASEAN Innovation Fund (AInF) will be part of the APASTI 2015-2020 development work. The Ministers, however, agreed that while awaiting the completion of the APASTI, an expert group meeting shall be convened to study the expansion of the scope of utilisation of the ASF to support innovation-driven projects and the rebranding of the ASEAN Trust Fund for Science and Technology (ASF) to the ASEAN Trust Fund for Science, Technology and Innovation (ASTIF).

Establishment of the ASEAN-NDI Secretariat

7. The Ministers agreed that the Philippines shall be the Secretariat of the ASEAN-Network for Drugs, Diagnostics, Vaccines and Traditional Medicine Innovation (ASEAN-NDI) initiative. The Ministers noted with appreciation the commitment of the Philippines to cover the cost associated with the operation and maintenance of the ASEAN-NDI Secretariat.

ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM) Workshop

8. The Ministers approved the conduct of the ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM) Workshop proposed by Thailand. The Ministers noted that the ATM Workshop aims to discuss policies and mechanisms to promote talent mobility in ASEAN and encourage international brain circulation, as well as, to explore the potential of developing an 'ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM)' Programme as a platform for talent mobility among ASEAN and its partners. The Ministers agreed to utilise the ASF to implement this initiative.

Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

9. The Ministers noted the proposal of India to elevate its cooperation with ASEAN in science, technology and innovation to a strategic partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Ministers tasked the ABAPAST and the legal authorities of ASEAN to review the draft once it is made available.
10. The Ministers noted that while the APASTI 2015-2020 is being developed, the implementation of the Work Plan of the ASEAN-Russia Working Group on Science and Technology will be extended to 2015.
11. The Ministers expressed its appreciation to Japan for its support to the science and technology component of the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS 2.0) project and looked forward to implementation of this initiative. The Ministers noted that the initiative would allow 1800 students in S&T and related fields from ASEAN Member States to visit Japan to gain knowledge on

Japan's strengths and attractions, and understanding the underlying values and efforts that enable Japan to achieve such success; and to inspire and motivate the young generations to adopt practical ideas from the experience of Japan. The Ministers further noted the continued implementation of the e-ASIA Joint Research Programme.

12. The Ministers welcomed the ROK's initiative to further strengthen science and technology cooperation through the development of action plan on ASEAN STI initiatives which can contribute the implementation of the APASTI 2015-2020. The Ministers noted that the proposed scaling up of the strategies related to priority setting and program design for three technologies: Green Technology; Food Technology; and Water Technology will be reviewed by the SCIRD.
13. The Ministers welcomed the offer of China to expand the coverage of its Young Scientist Visiting Programme under the China-ASEAN Science and Technology Partnership (STEP) Programme to include JAPAN and the ROK. The Ministers also noted that China shall host the International S&T Partnership – 10+3 Innovation Forum - Integration of Innovation Elements and Participation of Private Sector next year in Nanning, China.
14. The Ministers noted the successful implementation of the various programmes under the ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science (ACGS) which is led by the ROK. The Ministers noted that the ACGS Consultative Meeting has been elevated to the ACGS Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting. The Ministers look forward to the successful conduct of the ACGS BOD Meeting on 25-28 November 2013 in Changwon, ROK as well as the forthcoming ASEAN Plus Three Teachers' Workshop and Student Camp for the Gifted in Science next year.
15. The Ministers noted the highlights of the 13th ASEAN Food Conference (AFC-13) which was held on 9-11 September 2013 in Singapore and the conduct of the following forthcoming events:
 - i. The World Innovation Forum Kuala Lumpur (WIFKL) 2013, 12-13 November 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
 - ii. The 7th Meeting of the Board of Directors (BODs) of the ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted

in Science, 25-28 November 2013, Changwon, ROK;

- iii. ASEAN Meeting on Grand Challenges in STI, 12-13 December 2013, Bangkok, Thailand;
- iv. The ASEAN STI Days, 21-23 January 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand; and
- v. 9th ASEAN Science and Technology Week, 18-28 August 2014, Bogor, Indonesia.

Next Meeting of the ASEAN S&T Ministers

16. The Meeting noted that the 8th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST-8) will be held in Indonesia on 25 August 2014.

ASEAN Telecommunication and IT Ministers (TELMIN)

Joint Media Statement of the 13th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) and Its Related Meetings

Singapore, 15 November 2013

1. The 13th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology (IT) Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) was held in Singapore on 14-15 November 2013. H.E. Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information, Republic of Singapore, chaired the Meeting. H.E. Group Captain Anudith Nakornthap, Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Kingdom of Thailand, was the Vice-Chairman. On this occasion, the ASEAN Ministers also held separate dialogues with their counterparts from the People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

2. H.E. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, officiated the 13th TELMIN and its related meetings with Dialogue Partners. In his opening address, Prime Minister Lee highlighted the importance of ICT in supporting ASEAN's community building and economic integration efforts, as well as in creating new opportunities for ASEAN. While ICT has been instrumental in enhancing the economy, it has also posed new challenges, notably, in the area of cyber security. In urging ASEAN Member States to work towards strengthening regional cooperation, Prime Minister Lee suggested three areas for TELMIN to consider going forward, namely, (i) the harmonisation of the 700MHz frequency band for mobile broadband services to be in line with the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) 700MHz Band Plan; (ii) acceleration of the shift from analog to digital television broadcast to free up spectrum capacity for other services such as wireless broadband; and (iii) enhancement of the resilience and protection of submarine communications cable systems. Beyond efforts to align the 700MHz frequency band with the APT 700MHz Band Plan, Prime Minister Lee also urged TELMIN to commence work on harmonising the 800MHz frequency band.
 3. The Ministers expressed their condolences and deepest sympathy to the people of the Philippines who fell victim to the Haiyan Typhoon. The Ministers wished the Philippines a speedy recovery from the disaster.
6. The Ministers supported the innovative utilisation of radio frequency in ASEAN to further enhance ICT connectivity through the continued formulation of enabling policies and regional cooperation, and intensifying cooperation for greater harmonisation of the digital dividend spectrum within ASEAN, including the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity 700MHz band plan for the deployment of mobile broadband services.
 7. The Ministers encouraged information exchange and best practice sharing amongst ICT professionals in the region through platforms such as, but not limited to, the ASEAN CIO (Chief Information Officers) Forum and ASEAN ICT Award.
 8. The Ministers supported the continual development of human capital to create a competent ICT workforce in ASEAN through the continued development of ICT skills standards and certification, information sharing between ASEAN Centres of Excellence (COEs), as well as capacity building and scholarship programmes.
 9. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of building confidence and trust in network and information security in order to further promote trade and investments, including through the activities of the ASEAN Network Security Action Council (ANSAC), through collaboration with governments and submarine cable industry in raising awareness of the importance of submarine cables to regional and global connectivity, the resilience of submarine cables from man-made and natural disasters, as well as in ensuring that damaged or cut cables are expeditiously repaired.
 10. The Ministers adopted the Singapore Declaration, entitled "Connecting Communities, Co-creating Possibilities", to reiterate ASEAN's commitments to promote ICT-driven economic transformation through people engagement, empowerment and innovation through the rollout of national broadband networks, improvements to national Universal Service Obligations (USOs) and collaboration with relevant sectors such as education. The Ministers also noted the importance of fostering an environment that promotes competition in the private sector which will in turn benefit ASEAN citizens.

Connecting Communities Co-Creating Possibilities

4. The Ministers commended the senior officials and regulators in charge of telecommunications and IT in the region for the good progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM2015), and agreed to further intensify the cooperation to complete the AIM2015 in order to contribute to the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015.
5. The Ministers agreed to further strengthen regional digital inclusion efforts to increase ICT adoption particularly in the rural areas, and enable all ASEAN citizens to have equal opportunity to take part in the development process. This could be done

that are built on infrastructure development, human capital development, and bridging the Digital Divide efforts. It maps out the priority actions in the implementation of the AIM 2015, acknowledging that ICT is an enabler for ASEAN economic and social development and integration.

11. The Ministers also agreed to prioritise the development of a new post-2015 ASEAN ICT Masterplan to ensure continuity and provide a stable, conducive environment for businesses and communities to flourish. In this regard, the Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to commence planning and development of the next ASEAN ICT Masterplan for the period of 2016 – 2020.

ICT Cooperation with Dialogue and Development Partners

12. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to China, Japan, Republic of Korea, European Union (EU), and International Telecommunications Union (ITU) for the successful implementation of their respective annual ICT work plans and joint activities with ASEAN in 2013.
13. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to China for successfully organizing a series of cooperation activities in the areas of ICT for upgrading the traditional industries, e-government public platforms, internet resource administration, cross-border mutual recognition of electronic signatures, and network security.
14. The Ministers welcomed the new Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and the People's Republic of China on ICT Cooperation which strengthens further the ASEAN-China ICT cooperative partnership.
15. The Ministers welcomed the 2014 Work Plan proposed by China in the areas of policy and experiences exchanges, leveraging new technologies and applications of broadband communication for socio-economic development, applying IoT (Internet of Things) technologies to "smart city" solutions, network and data security, network convergence and interconnectivity, and participation of experts of China in the relevant cooperative activities organized by ASEAN. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to China for its initiative to sponsor 500 ASEAN officials and experts during the period of 2014-2018 for attending training programs and workshops to be organized in China.
16. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for her assistance in a number of areas of cooperation including information security, human capacity development, and development of ICT-based services under the ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan for 2013-2014. The Ministers endorsed Japan's proposal for mutual cooperation in the field of ICT as the "ASEAN Smart Network Initiative". The ASEAN Ministers also expressed their sincere thanks to Japan for the additional contribution of USD 300,000 to the ASEAN-Japan ICT Cooperation Fund.
17. The Ministers of ASEAN and Japan recognised that the "ASEAN-Japan Collaboration Framework on Information Security" is progressing well and agreed to implement the outcome of the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Policy Meeting on Cyber Security Cooperation that was held in Tokyo in September 2013, which includes the need to create secure business environment, build secure information and communication networks, and enhance capacity for cybersecurity.
18. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Republic of Korea for having successfully implemented a series of cooperation activities with ASEAN in ICT development, especially through policy consultation, human resources development as well as workshops since 2002. The ASEAN Ministers also expressed their sincere thanks to the Republic of Korea on the Korea-ASEAN ICT Partnership Project (2012-2016) that has been in progress, focusing on priority areas such as ICT infrastructure enhancement, new technology and services, capacity building and ICT knowledge sharing, as well as cooperation with international organizations.
19. The Ministers welcomed Republic of Korea's efforts for the provision of a guideline for the development of mobile applications on smart phones, having recognized the importance of reaching an era of mobile communications through smart ICT devices. The ASEAN Ministers endorsed Republic of Korea's proposal for future cooperation on ICT development through international organizations, including the

establishment of information superhighway in collaboration with UN ESCAP as well as training programs via UN APCICT.

20. The Ministers noted that the “Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI)” Facility is well on track to intensify interaction between EU and ASEAN on ICT, amongst others, implementing priority projects of the AIM 2015 and supporting ASEAN in the development of transparent and coherent and harmonised ICT regulatory frameworks, in particular on spectrum management and broadband development.
21. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to ITU for the assistance in telecommunications/ICT policy, legal and regulatory environment in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar (CLM); the initiatives on submarine cable protection, national statistics portal and policy and strategic framework on “Universal Service Obligation Policy for facilitating the provision of broadband to every school” in ASEAN; as well as other various activities, projects, trainings and direct country actions in individual ASEAN Member States as the areas of cooperation agreed on the MOU between ASEAN and ITU. The Ministers also confirmed their full support for the success of ITU Connect Asia-Pacific Summit 2013, while ITU, in response, reiterated its continued support and cooperation to ASEAN and its individual member countries.
22. The Ministers emphasised that ASEAN is not only open to policy and regulatory dialogue but also for greater interaction with dialogue and development partners. The Ministers also called for greater private sector participation to jointly develop ASEAN’s competitive edge through quality ICT infrastructure and skill-based workforce which will contribute to the realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

Next Meeting

23. The Ministers agreed to convene the 14th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting and its Meetings with Dialogue and Development Partners in Thailand in 2014.
24. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Singapore for their warm hospitality accorded to

them and for the excellent arrangements made for the 13th TELMIN and its related Meetings.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

H.E. Pehin Dato Abdullah Bakar, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia; H.E. DR. Basuki Yusuf Iskandar, Secretary-General of Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of Indonesia; H.E. Hiem Phommachanh, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Lao PDR; H.E. Ahmad Shabery Cheek, Minister of Communications and Multimedia of Malaysia; H.E. U Myat Hein, Union Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Myanmar; H.E. Louis Napoleon C. Casambre, Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines; H.E. Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information of Singapore; H.E. Group Captain Anudith Nakornthap, Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand; H.E. Le Nam Thang, Deputy Minister of Information and Communications of Viet Nam; H.E. MIAO Wei, Minister of Industry and Information Technology of People’s Republic of China; H.E. Masahiro YOSHIZAKI, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination (International Affairs), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan; H.E. Jae-You CHOI, Assistant Minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning of the Republic of Korea; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Singapore Declaration Connecting Communities, Co-Creating Possibilities

Singapore, 15 November 2013

We, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology (IT), gathered in Singapore on the occasion of the Thirteenth ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (13th TELMIN) on 14 and 15 November 2013:

RECALLING the commitment of the ASEAN Leaders at the twenty-second ASEAN Summit in Brunei in April 2013 to intensify efforts to realise an ASEAN Community that is

politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible in order to take advantage of current and future opportunities, and effectively respond to regional and international challenges;

RECOGNISING the pivotal role that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) plays in socio-economic development and transformation, digital inclusion and regional integration;

DESIRING to harness ICT as an enabler to connect and integrate communities within and outside ASEAN and to leverage the limitless opportunities presented by ICT to innovate and transform the lives of people;

REAFFIRMING the commitment towards the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM2015) to create an empowering and transformational ICT for an inclusive, vibrant and integrated ASEAN;

RECOGNISING FURTHER the importance of and significant benefits arising from regional spectrum harmonisation and the availability of the digital dividend spectrum for mobile broadband services when ASEAN achieves analogue TV switch-off by 2020;

NOTING the agreement reached by some ASEAN Member States¹ to harmonise the use of 700 MHz digital dividend spectrum, based on the Asia Pacific Telecommunity ("APT") 700 MHz band plan for mobile broadband services;

ENCOURAGED by the progress and achievements made in the implementation of the AIM2015 by the ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM) and ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators' Council (ATRC) and their excellent cooperation and collaboration with Dialogue Partners;

WELCOMING the mid-term review of the AIM2015 and its findings to refine and improve the impact and effectiveness of the initiatives;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to work on a post-2015 ICT vision for ASEAN;

HEREBY AGREED TO:

1. Intensify cooperation to implement and complete all initiatives under six strategic thrusts of the AIM2015 in order to contribute to the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015 and support the recommendations of the mid-term review of the AIM2015 to be implemented effectively.
2. Support innovation and infrastructure development in ASEAN to make ICT an engine of growth in the region including through the continued formulation of enabling policies and regional cooperation, and information exchange and best practice sharing such as the ASEAN CIO (Chief Information Officers) Forum and ASEAN ICT Awards.
3. Intensify cooperation for greater harmonisation of the digital dividend spectrum within ASEAN, including the APT 700 MHz band plan for the deployment of mobile broadband services.
4. Encourage the development of affordable and universal broadband access to empower ASEAN citizens and bridge digital divide, including the continued development of e-services for effective delivery of public services and appropriate policies and programmes at the national level to implement the recommendations of the ASEAN Broadband Corridor.
5. Promote cooperation to reduce international mobile roaming charges on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit to the extent that is consistent with the national laws, policies and regulations of ASEAN Member States.
6. Emphasise the continual development of human capital to create a competent ICT workforce in ASEAN through the continued development of ASEAN ICT skills standards and scholarship programmes and information exchange.
7. Strengthen digital inclusion efforts to increase ICT adoption and literacy particularly among the elderly and persons with disability, and enable ASEAN citizens to have equal opportunity to take part in the development process such as through the rollout of national broadband networks, improvements to national Universal Service Obligations (USOs) and collaboration with relevant sectors such as the education industry.

8. Build confidence and trust in network and information security infrastructures in order to further promote trade and investments, including through the activities of the ASEAN Network Security Action Council (ANSAC) and Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) in ASEAN.
9. Collaborate to increase awareness on the importance of submarine cables to regional and global connectivity, and intensify regional cooperation to protect submarine cables from man-made and natural disasters.
10. Enhance cooperation with Dialogue Partners and international governmental organisations, and adopt a multi-stakeholder approach, where appropriate, in the development of ICT policies and programmes in order to bring full benefits to all stakeholders.
11. Prioritise the development of a new post-2015 ICT masterplan for ASEAN to ensure continuity and provide a stable, conducive environment for businesses and communities to flourish.

ADOPTED this Declaration at the 13th TELMIN in Singapore on 15 November 2013.

ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM)

Joint Ministerial Statement the 19th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting

**Pakse City, Champasak Province,
Lao PDR 19 December 2013**

1. The Nineteenth ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting was held on 19 December 2013 in Pakse City, Champasak Province, Lao PDR. H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR, chaired the Meeting, and H.E. Mr. Nyan Htun Aung, Union Minister for Transport of Myanmar was the Vice-Chairperson. The 19th ATM Meeting was preceded by the 36th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) and their consultations with dialogue partners held on 16-18 December 2013.
2. The 19th ATM was officially opened by H.E. Mr. Thongsing Thammavong, the Prime Minister of Lao PDR. In his Opening Remarks, Prime Minister Thammavong extended his warm welcome to all delegates to the City of Pakse in Champasak Province. He cited that Lao PDR has achieved significant progress in the development of transport facilities, especially in multimodal transport which includes roads, waterways, air and railways. He also highlighted numerous challenges, such as the development and improvement of transport infrastructure that Lao PDR as well as ASEAN Member States have to work together in order to support the establishment of ASEAN integration. He further emphasised the need of concerted efforts to effectively address the challenges and realise the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. He believed that the 19th ATM Meeting would significantly contribute to further promoting and enhancing transport development cooperation, especially ASEAN Connectivity, in a smooth, speedy, safe and modern manner. Lastly, he wished the 19th ATM and its associated meetings a great success.
3. The Ministers affirmed their commitments to establish an efficient, secure and integrated transport network to support the timely realisation of an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. The Ministers noted the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post 2015 Vision where the Leaders tasked the ASEAN Coordinating Council to establish a Working Group comprising of Senior Officials from the three pillars to develop the central elements of the Vision for their endorsement next year.
4. Pursuant to the Leaders' mandate, the Ministers tasked its senior officials to work on the post-2015 vision and roadmap for ASEAN transport cooperation and integration including the establishment of a Task Force.

Enhance regional air transport cooperation

5. The Ministers welcomed the progress made on the Implementation Framework of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM) particularly the adoption of both the Air Transport Economic Cooperation Work Plan (2014-2015) and Air Transport Technical Cooperation Work Plan (2014-2015) to further facilitate the establishment of the ASAM.
6. The Ministers also commended the conclusion of the Eighth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) which will further liberalise air transport ancillary services in the region. The Ministers subsequently signed the Protocol to implement the package of commitments on air transport services.

Facilitate greater cross border movement of goods and passengers

7. The Ministers welcomed the progress made under the implementation of the Transit Transport Coordinating Board (TTCB) Overall Work Plan, particularly the conclusion of Protocol 7 (Customs Transit System) of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) and looked forward to its signing at the earliest opportunity. The Ministers looked forward to the early conclusion of Protocol 2 (Designation of Frontier Posts) of AFAFGIT.
8. The Ministers emphasised the importance of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross Border Transport of Passengers by Road Vehicles (ASEAN CBTP) to facilitate greater cross-border mobility of passengers and called for its early conclusion.

Strengthen ASEAN maritime cooperation

9. The Ministers welcomed the progress made to facilitate the free flow of intra-ASEAN shipping services through the completion of various measures under the ASTP/BAP, including the conclusion of the Study on Formulating an ASEAN Single Shipping Market (ASSM) Implementing Strategy. The Ministers

also welcomed the establishment of a task force to promote and monitor the implementation of the ASSM.

10. The Ministers recognised the importance of effective preparation for and response to oil pollution incidents at the national, sub-regional and regional levels to minimise the damage from an oil spill. The Ministers look forward to the signing of the MOU on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response at the next ATM meeting.
11. The Ministers supported the initiative to convene the inaugural Roundtable Discussion on Safety and Health in Ports in conjunction with the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET) Coordinating Board (COB) Meeting, to create greater synergies in the area of occupational safety and health in ports.

Strengthen Collaboration with Dialogue Partners

12. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to China, Japan and ROK for the technical assistance rendered to ASEAN Member States under their respective established transport partnerships. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to EU and Germany for their continued support to ASEAN in forging ahead with its transport integration process.
13. Under the ASEAN-China Transport Partnership, the Ministers agreed to sign the Protocol 2 on the Fifth Freedom Traffic Rights of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement to further facilitate air connectivity between and beyond both regions. The Ministers welcomed the effort of the ASEAN-China Working Group Meeting on Regional Air Services Arrangements to focus on the operationalisation of ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement and its Protocols.
14. For ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership (AJTP), the Ministers welcomed the adoption of new AJTP policies for implementation in the next decade, the launching of ASEAN-Japan Transport Statistics Book to link transport policies development through the compilation of statistical database of road, rail, water and air transport sector in ASEAN and Japan. The Ministers

also welcomed Japan's recent announcement to work towards the conclusion of a regional air services agreement with ASEAN. In this context, the Ministers endorsed the establishment of the ASEAN-Japan Working Group on Regional Air Services Agreement to start negotiations on an ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement. The Working Group will discuss various matters related to enhancing air connectivity for ASEAN Member States and Japan.

15. Under ASEAN-ROK Transport Partnership, the Ministers welcomed the progress made in advancing transport cooperation between ASEAN and ROK and look forward to the revision of the ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Roadmap at the next ATM+ROK meeting.
16. Recognising the potential for comprehensive aviation cooperation on a region-to-region basis, the Ministers welcomed and looked forward to the convening of the 1st EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit (EAAS) to be held on 11-12 February 2014 in Singapore, which would serve as a useful platform to deepen the strategic aviation dialogue between ASEAN and the EU with the aim of concluding a comprehensive air transport agreement between the two regions. The Ministers also encouraged key stakeholders from the aviation industry to participate in the EAAS.
17. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in implementing the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from EU (ARISE) and the EU-ASEAN Air Transport Integration Project (EU-AATIP) programmes which will further enhance transport facilitation and air transport cooperation in the region, respectively.
18. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the Implementation Agreement of the Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Mitigation in the Land Transport Sector Project with Germany, which would contribute to a regional approach towards improving energy efficiency and reducing or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions from land transport.

Engaging Development Partners

19. The Ministers recognised the importance of establishing and enhancing linkages with

development partners for the timely realisation of the measures stipulated in ASTP/BAP and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC). At the Special Meeting between the ATM+Dialogue Partners and the Development Partners, the Ministers had a good exchange of views with the development partners as to how they could help ASEAN in achieving an efficient, integrated transport connectivity in the region, particularly through the provision of technical and financial assistance for prioritised transport infrastructure projects. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the development partners, e.g., Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Exim Bank of China, for their interest and active participation. The Ministers look forward to their continued support in implementing various transport initiatives to support the establishment of an AEC.

Twentieth ATM

20. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Lao PDR for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. The Ministers agreed to meet for the 20th ATM in Mandalay, Myanmar in 2014.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

H.E. Pehin Dato Abdullah Bakar, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice Minister for Transportation of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Ab Aziz Bin Kaprawi, Deputy Minister of Transport of Malaysia; H.E. Mr. Nyan Htun Aung, Union Minister for Transport of Myanmar; H.E. Atty. Catherine Jennifer P. Gonzales, Undersecretary of Transportation and Communications of the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport of Singapore; Mr. Teerapong Rodprasert, Deputy Permanent Secretary, representing; H.E. Mr. Chadchart Sittipunt, Minister of Transport of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Dinh La Thang, Minister of Transport of Viet Nam; and; H.E. Mr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.

Meeting of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM)

Joint Media Statement of the 16th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (16th M-ATM)

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 20 January 2013

1. The Sixteenth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (16th M-ATM) was held on 20 January 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2013 (ATF 2013). The Meeting was preceded by the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of ASEAN National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) and other ASEAN NTOs meetings with Dialogue Partners. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Professor Dr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism of Lao PDR, with Dato' Dr. Ong Hong Peng, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Tourism Malaysia, serving as Vice Chairperson.
2. The Ministers were pleased with the positive growth of international visitor arrivals into ASEAN in 2012. Preliminary figures submitted by all ASEAN Member States showed that ASEAN attracted more than 74.8 million visitors last year, posting a strong 10.14 per cent growth. Enhanced air connectivity, particularly the strong growth of Low-Cost Carriers within ASEAN has been a contributing factor in maintaining Intra-ASEAN travel as the major source market with the share of 46 percent of total international arrivals, and this was followed by the influx of tourists from Asia with the share of 28 per cent.
3. The Ministers were satisfied with the implementation progress of the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2011-2015, where 24 measures for 2011 and 2012 have been duly completed. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to all ASEAN tourism committees/working groups and lead coordinators of the respective measures for their efforts and contribution in facilitating the implementation of the ATSP 2011-2015. The Ministers agreed to further strengthen efforts to achieve the ATSP goals by

2015. In contributing to the establishment of ASEAN Community in 2015, the Ministers also agreed to continuously review the implementation of ATSP and identify new concrete measures to sustain the contribution of tourism to the ASEAN economies.

Greater Connectivity within and beyond ASEAN

4. The Ministers were pleased to note the implementation progress of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) measures that would further facilitate ASEAN tourism development. The Ministers also welcomed the effective implementation of the Declaration of the 6th East Asia Summit (EAS) on ASEAN Connectivity and the finalisation of ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity.
5. The Ministers were encouraged with the progress of the establishment of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM) through the adoption of its implementation framework, which charts out the strategy, milestones and necessary mechanisms for the realisation of the ASAM. The Ministers welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on Protocol 2 on the exchange of 5th freedom air traffic rights between ASEAN Member States and China under the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement that would create more air accessibility by exercising 5th freedom traffic rights amongst cities in ASEAN and China. This development will further enhance business and leisure travel connectivity. The Ministers looked forward to its signing at the earliest opportunity.
6. The Ministers welcomed the development of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Cross Border Transport of Passenger (CBTP) that would facilitate cross border road transport of people between and among ASEAN Member States through simplification and harmonisation of transport procedures and requirements.
7. The Ministers also welcomed the progress made in the study on ASEAN common visa for non-ASEAN nationals including the convening of the Regional Workshop on ASEAN Common Visa held on 18-19 July 2012 in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the establishment of the Joint Working Group on the ASEAN Common Visa (JWGACV). The Ministers

tasked their officials to be actively involved in the Working Group, particularly in identifying challenges and opportunities in developing the ASEAN Common Visa, as well as implications to tourism sector.

Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tourism Professionals

8. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Tourism Professionals by Thailand on 9 November 2012 in Bangkok. The MRA is one of the key ASEAN tourism initiatives to support the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community 2015. The purposes of this MRA mechanism are to facilitate mobility of tourism professionals within ASEAN based on tourism competency qualification/certificate, and at the same time, improve the quality of services delivered by tourism professionals. There are 32 job titles covered under this MRA, ranging from housekeeping, front office, food and beverages services and food production for hotel division, to travel agencies and tour operator for travel division.
9. The Ministers were pleased with the completion of the development of Toolboxes for Priority Tourism Labour Divisions, whereby 46 toolboxes covering common and generic competencies across all six (6) Labour Divisions and specific units for Housekeeping Division were developed. The completion of those toolboxes was followed by the successful convening of the Training of ASEAN Master Trainers and Master Assessors for Housekeeping Division held on 13 November – 14 December 2012 in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. The Ministers were pleased that ASEAN now has 27 ASEAN Tourism Master Trainers and 30 ASEAN Tourism Master Assessors. The Ministers encouraged all Member States to train more Master Trainers and Master Assessors to ensure smooth implementation of MRA on Tourism Professionals. With the readiness of MRA supporting components and completion of those necessary infrastructures, the Ministers agreed to begin pilot implementation of this MRA for the housekeeping division by next year.
10. In order to provide effective facilitation and monitoring support for the implementation of the MRA on Tourism Professionals, the Ministers supported the

recommendation to establish a Regional Secretariat for ASEAN Tourism Professionals, and agreed to select Indonesia as the host of the Secretariat. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Australia for the technical assistance extended for the implementation of this important initiative through the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme (AADCP).

Ensuring Quality of Tourism

11. The Ministers endorsed the Guidelines for ASEAN Public Toilet Standard and ASEAN Clean Tourist City Standard as well as audit criteria, method and guidance for ASEAN Green Hotel, ASEAN Spa Service and ASEAN Homestay Standards. Implementation of the Guidelines would enhance quality of these tourism establishments, which in turn would contribute to the enhancement of the regional tourism sector's competitiveness, attractiveness as well its sustainability. The Ministers tasked their officials to develop the mechanism guidelines, including capacity building for auditor and pilot testing those standards.
12. As a collective effort in the response to the global climate change, the Ministers noted the outcomes of the "ASEAN Climate Change and Tourism Workshop" held on 11-12 September 2012 in Legazpi City, the Philippines. The Ministers agreed to task their officials to develop an ASEAN Tourism Roadmap outlining measures, parameters as well as cooperative programs and activities in responding to climate change issues.
13. The Ministers acknowledged the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Tourism Security and Safety Guidelines initiative, particularly on the establishment of the ASEAN Tourism Security and Safety Online Resources Centre (www.aseantssrc.org), which include Guidelines, Best Practice Examples and Background Papers.
14. Recognizing the important role of tourism as an effective instrument for alleviation of poverty, improvement of people's quality of life and its contribution to economic and social development, the Ministers took note of the progress in the drafting of an ASEAN Joint Declaration on the Implementation of Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, and tasked the

Senior Officials to finalise it for adoption in the near future.

ASEAN Tourism Marketing Strategy

15. The Ministers were pleased with the implementation progress of the ASEAN Tourism Marketing Strategy 2012-2015, particularly through the completion of the development of the tourism digital campaign for China (www.dongnanya.travel) and its supporting online activities, the development of the experiential and creative market campaign and distribution strategy, and ASEAN tourism raising awareness through press releases and blogs.
16. The Ministers agreed to launch the “ASEAN for ASEAN” activities to further encourage nationals of ASEAN Member States to visit other ASEAN Member States through organising travel/tourism fairs, seminars, conferences and other related activities promoting ASEAN tourism. In further supporting “ASEAN for ASEAN” campaign, the new ASEAN tourism website (www.aseantourism.travel) was launched with the objectives to strengthen ASEAN Tourism information flows within the region, facilitate direct exchange of information between ASEAN NTOs and stakeholders and enhance awareness about ASEAN tourism cooperation activities. The Ministers were pleased to note the result of the convening of the ASEAN Food Festival on 18-20 September 2012 in Yogyakarta as regular event.
17. The Ministers acknowledged the ASEAN Promotional Chapter for Tourism (APCT) activities in Sydney in 2012 through participation in major tourism consumer shows and networking functions in Australia, as well as APCT Mumbai’s activities in 2012, with its focus on print and online campaigns and partnerships with local stakeholders

ASEAN Tourism Product Development

18. The Ministers were pleased with the progress of joint collaboration in further developing four main ASEAN tourism products, namely: nature, cultural and heritage, community, and cruise and river-based tourism. The Ministers supported the development

of an ASEAN Ecotourism Strategic Plan that would recommend policies, strategies and action plans to improve the planning, management and operation of eco-tourism sites, products and services in ASEAN.

19. The Ministers welcomed the results of the International Cruise Tourism Workshop under the theme of “Opportunities and Challenges of Cruise Tourism in Southeast Asia” held on 12 April 2012 in Bali, Indonesia, attended by key players in the cruise value chain, such as transport, maritime, cruise lines and cruise associations. The Ministers encouraged all Member States to overcome the challenges in developing cruise industry in the region, particularly on the infrastructure requirements and quality of services in every destination.
20. The Ministers were pleased with the success of the ASEAN Tourism Investment Forum (ATIF) 2012 held on 7-8 November 2012 in Lombok, Indonesia. The Ministers welcomed the convening of ATIF 2014 in Cambodia.

Cooperation with ASEAN Centres

21. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre for their efforts in providing continuous support and technical assistance to the development of ASEAN tourism sector, including promoting ASEAN tourism to respective Chinese, Japanese and Korean markets and strengthening product development.

ASEAN Tourism Forum

22. The ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) held on 18-24 January 2012 in Vientiane with the theme: “ASEAN: Hand in Hand, Conquering Our Future” was attended by 459 international buyers and 989 sellers with 495 booths in ASEAN. The Ministers acknowledged the partnership with CNN International and CNBC as the Official Sponsor for ATF 2013.
23. The ATF 2014 will be convened in Kuching, Malaysia on 16-23 January 2014 with “ASEAN: Advancing Tourism Together” as the theme. Myanmar provided confirmation to be the host of ATF 2015.

24. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Lao PDR for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the Meetings.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia; Mr. I Gusti Putu Laksaguna, Inspector General of Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy Indonesia, representing; H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Indonesia; H.E. Prof. Dr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR; Dato' Dr. Ong Hong Peng, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Tourism Malaysia representing; H.E. Dato' Sri Dr. Ng Yen Yen, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia; U Aung Zaw Win, Director General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar representing; H.E. Mr. Htay Aung, Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr. Secretary of Tourism, Philippines; Mr. Lionel Yeo, Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board, representing; H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Sombat Kuruphan, Vice Minister for Tourism and Sports, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Ho Anh Tuan, Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of Viet Nam; and; H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDS)

Joint Media Statement of the 15th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC)

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 21 August 2013**

1. The purpose of the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) is to enhance the economically sound and sustainable development of the Mekong Basin through the establishment of economic partnerships and linkages between the riparian and non-riparian members of the Cooperation. Its members include all ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China.
2. The 15th Ministerial Meeting on the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 21 August 2013.
3. At the Meeting, the Ministers took note of the progress made in the implementation of AMBDC projects. As of August 2013, the aggregated estimated cost of the 22 projects (excluding the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link Project) amounts to about US\$276.7 million. Of this amount, the funding expected from donors amount to US\$274.2. Recognising that financing of activities remain a priority and challenge for the countries, the Ministers discussed opportunities to further strengthen cooperation among countries and stakeholders to benefit development of the region.
4. The Ministers also noted the progress of activities from the various countries on the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) Project and that further developments on the SKRL will be reported at the 15th Meeting of the Special Working Group on the SKRL scheduled in October 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
5. As one of the many key actions under the Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity, the Ministers noted

- the strengthening of coordination between the Special Working Group on the SKRL with the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC).
6. Apart from infrastructure, the Ministers have placed renewed interest on the other areas of cooperation set in the AMBDC Basic Framework, such as human resource development and capacity building. The Ministers highlighted that providing technical assistance and training for the CLMV countries in establishing and operating their segments of the SKRL must continue and be appraised regularly.
 7. The Ministers noted the progress at the country initiatives and the importance of sustaining efforts at the national level for the region's benefit. For the remaining years leading up to the creation of an ASEAN Community by 2015, the AMBDC will need to set priorities in identified areas and concerns under the cooperation. The Ministers recognised that the issue of implementation has become bigger and more complex and will require steps to rationalise and prioritise the agenda of the AMBDC.
 8. In this regard, the Ministers tasked the Steering Committee to ensure effective implementation of the activities under this cooperation in coordination with the countries, and with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat.
 9. The Ministers agreed that Myanmar will chair the AMBDC for the period 2014 and will host the 16th AMBDC Ministerial Meeting.
 10. In closing, the Ministers expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the meeting.
- LIST OF MINISTERS:**
- The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Du Ying, Vice Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission, People's Republic of China; H.E. Gita Wirjawan, Minister of Trade, Indonesia (represented by Mr. Iman Pambagyo, Director General of International Trade Cooperation, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia); H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines (represented by Mr. Angelo S.M. Benedictos, Director, Bureau of International Trade Relations, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines); H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore (represented by Mr. Lee Ark Boon, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore); H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand (represented by Mr. Somkiat Triratpan, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand); H.E. Dao Quang Thu, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam (represented by Mr. Tran Duy Dong, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam); H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.



IV. ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 10th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 26 September 2013**

1. The 10th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (10th ASCC Council) was convened on 26 September 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The 10th ASCC Council was preceded by the 15th ASEAN Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC (SOCA), held on 24 September 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan.
2. The Meeting was officially opened by His Excellency, Pehin Dato Hazair Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei Darussalam. In his opening address, he welcomed all Ministers and their delegations to the Meeting and to Brunei Darussalam.
3. H.E. Pehin Hazair stated that in the recent years ASEAN had continued to place importance on the people, and their progress and development. He said the theme of Brunei Darussalam's chairmanship this year "Our People, Our Future Together" put priority on building a people-oriented and socially-responsible ASEAN Community. H.E. Pehin Hazair expressed confidence that ASEAN would achieve its socio-cultural goals if the momentum of recent years was maintained. Incorporating the human dimension in ASEAN's broader work of regional cooperation and community building, he said, would ensure that Member States and citizens equitably enjoy development and the benefits of economic integration.
4. The Ministers acknowledged that the primary goal of the ASCC is to contribute to realising the ASEAN Community that is people-centred and socially responsible, with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the nations and peoples of ASEAN, by forging a common identity and building a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and harmonious where the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the peoples are enhanced.
5. With regard to the priority areas of 2013, the Ministers noted with satisfaction the various activities conducted and achievements made under the Youth, Culture, Sports, Education, the Disaster Management and Climate Change sectors. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the respective sectoral bodies for the efforts taken in accelerating the goals articulated in the ASCC Blueprint as well as facilitating the vision of an ASEAN Community through the sectoral initiatives.
6. In this connection, the Ministers acknowledged the various Joint Statements produced by the different ASCC ministerial meetings in 2013 as follows:
 - Joint Ministerial Statement of the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth;
 - Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Volunteerism and Entrepreneurship;
 - Joint Statement of the 8th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE);
 - Joint Statement of the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD); and
 - Joint Statement on the Implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production in ASEAN, 14th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME).

7. They noted with satisfaction the intensified efforts among ASEAN Member States to collaborate across sectors on cross-cutting issues, and through increased engagement of various stakeholders in the processes, as illustrated by the ASEAN Declaration on Social Protection, as well as in the promotion of ASEAN awareness, as exemplified by the ASEAN Young Professionals Volunteers Corps (AYPVC) and the ASEAN Youth Volunteers Programme (AYVP).
8. The Ministers endorsed the Report of the Mid Term Review (MTR) of the ASCC Blueprint implementation for the adoption of the 23rd ASEAN Summit. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Working Group of the Mid-Term Review of the ASCC Blueprint, which include the ASEAN Secretariat and the regional consultants, for all their hard work in reviewing the ASCC Blueprint as well as the recommendations made in the MTR.
9. Subsequently, the Ministers conveyed their appreciation to all SOCA focal points and their respective national consultants for undertaking the national assessments. On a final note related to the MTR, the Ministers expressed their gratitude to Brunei Darussalam for chairing the Review exercise and providing financial support to the regional assessment as well as the ASEAN Development Fund for the financing for the respective national aspects of the MTR.
10. The ASCC Council supported the 14th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME) agreement to recommend to the ASEAN Leaders to adopt the ASEAN Sub-Regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS) as a joint haze monitoring system among MSC countries, with digitized land use maps and concession maps of fire-prone areas that cause transboundary haze to be shared on a Government-to-Government basis. The ASCC Council further supported the 14th IAMME agreement to take prompt action based on the decision of the ASEAN Leaders at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in October 2013.
11. In addition to the Report of the MTR of the ASCC Blueprint Implementation, the Ministers endorsed the outcome documents from the various sectoral bodies for submission to the 23rd ASEAN Summit,

for the Leader's adoption and notation. The list of documents are as follows:

For adoption

- Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment;
- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN;
- ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection;
- Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases in ASEAN;
- ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management For notation;
- ASEAN State of Education Report;
- ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Plan II (2014-2015);
- ASEAN-China Cooperation Framework for Environmentally Sound Technology and Industry.

12. In closing, the Ministers expressed their appreciation to Brunei Darussalam for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement as the host of the 10th ASCC Council.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM)

Chairman's Statement of the 2nd Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 30 May 2013

1. The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), held on 30 May 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, was officially opened by H.E. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and chaired by H.E. Cao Duc Phat, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, as Chair of COP in 2013. The Meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of disaster management or their representatives from all ASEAN Member States and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
2. The COP was the second meeting held after the AADMER entered into force on 24 December 2009. The COP, which is the policy governing body to the AADMER, meets at least once every year.
3. At the outset, Mr. Vu Van Tu, Director-General of Department of Dyke Management, Flood and Storm Control (DDMFSC) and Chief of Standing Office of Central Committee of Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) of Viet Nam as the new elected Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) presented the AADMER Work Programme Phase 1 Accomplishment Report, which was subsequently adopted by the COP. The Report outlines the progress of implementation of AADMER Work Programme Phase 1 (2010-2012), and identifies some gaps and challenges as well as strategies to address them.
4. The COP noted several major milestones that have been achieved under Phase 1. The COP also took note of 17 flagship projects as priorities for Phase 2 implementation (2013-2015), as contained in Chapter 5 of the Accomplishment Report. The Accomplishment Report will be made disseminated to the partners and be made available online at the ASEAN website (www.asean.org) and the AHA Centre's website (www.ahacentre.org).
5. The COP was encouraged with the progress on the operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), and the effective role the AHA Centre played in the recent disasters that occurred in the region. The Meeting noted the report of the ACDM that the current operation of the AHA Centre has been supported through the AHA Centre Fund, which consists of annual and equal contributions from the Member States, as well as generous contributions from ASEAN Dialogue Partners, in particular Australia, European Union, Japan, New Zealand and United States of America.
6. The COP noted several response mechanisms that have been put in place to facilitate ASEAN's collective response to disasters, including the fully functioning ASEAN-Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ERAT) and the ASEAN Disaster Emergency Logistic System. To promote synergy among various ASEAN-related mechanisms and to further strengthen civil-military coordination on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, the COP encouraged for the use of ASEAN's response mechanisms under AADMER, in particular the AHA Centre, the ASEAN-ERAT and the ASEAN Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response (ASEAN-SASOP), in the upcoming exercises that will be held in the region.
7. The COP recognised the importance of time and speed in the mobilisation of ASEAN's response mechanisms in disaster emergencies, and concurred with the recommendation of the ACDM to set up an AHA Centre's Revolving Fund to be managed by the AHA Centre. The Revolving Fund will consist of among others balance from the ADMER Fund that has been used for emergency relief purposes.

8. The COP took note of the some major events that will take place in the current year in relation to the launch and implementation of the AADMER Work Programme Phase 2, particularly:
- a) Second AADMER Partnership Conference to launch the AADMER Work Programme Phase 2 and to mobilise resources and support for its implementation, to be held in November 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam;
 - b) ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) as an opportunity to test ASEAN's response mechanisms under the AADMER and readiness of the AHA Centre, to be held on 24-29 October 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam;
 - c) ASEAN Day for Disaster Management (ADDM), which has been held annually to raise awareness of ASEAN people about disaster resilience and risk reduction, to be held in the second week of October 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.
9. During the First Meeting in March 2012, the COP committed to realise ASEAN Leaders' decision to ensure that AADMER should remain as the main regional policy backbone and coordinating platform for disaster management in ASEAN. Further to this, at this Second Meeting, the COP resolved to promote synergy and coordination among various ASEAN-related mechanisms on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
10. In view of the above, the COP supported ACDM's proposal to form a Joint Task Force composed of ACDM and senior officials from other relevant ASEAN bodies. For this purpose, the ACDM Chair will coordinate with other chairs of relevant ASEAN bodies to form the Joint Task Force, which main purpose is to promote synergy and coordination among the relevant internal ASEAN mechanisms related to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, using AADMER as the regional policy backbone and common platform.
11. To ensure continued discussion on the linkages between the EAS paper on A Practical Approach to Enhance Regional Cooperation on Disaster Rapid Response (EAS Disaster Management Initiative) and the AADMER Work Programme, the COP supported ACDM's decision to have a regular forum, such as through the open sessions of ACDM meetings.
12. The COP welcomed the convening of ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), to enable ASEAN Ministers in charge of Disaster Management to promote synergy and coordination using AADMER as the common platform for disaster management in the region.
13. The COP welcomed the proposal by the ACDM to issue the "ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management", at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in October 2013 in Brunei Darussalam, to gain further political support to the region's disaster management efforts under AADMER, and to promote ASEAN's Centrality as well as project ASEAN's leadership in the area of disaster management.
14. The COP expressed appreciation for the capable leadership of Indonesia as Chair of the COP and the impressive leadership of Thailand as Chair of the ACDM in 2012. The Chair expressed thanks for the confidence to the leadership of Viet Nam as Chair of COP and ACDM in 2013 and requested the full support of everyone for the success of endeavors under Viet Nam's chairmanship.
15. The COP expressed appreciation to the Government of Viet Nam for hosting the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the AADMER and the excellent arrangements made and hospitality provided.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)

Media Release of the 14th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment and 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution

Surabaya, Indonesia, 25 September 2013

1. Ministers responsible for the environment from ASEAN Member States (AMS) held their 14th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment and 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution on 25 September 2013 in Surabaya, Indonesia. The Ministers reviewed regional cooperation on a number of environmental issues, in particular the related actions in the environmental sustainability section of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint, and discussed new initiatives to further promote regional environmental cooperation.
 2. The Ministers reviewed national, sub-regional and regional activities to address land and forest fires in the region and its associated transboundary haze pollution. The Ministers welcomed the significant progress in the implementation of the Work Programme of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, including concrete on-the-ground activities; the progress in the development of the ASEAN-wide Fire Danger Rating System; implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (2006-2020) and the implementation of the Strategic Review on Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution programmes. The Ministers adopted the updated ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (2006-2020).
 3. The Ministers noted that in the northern ASEAN region, the prevailing rainy season is expected to keep hotspot activities subdued until the onset of the traditional dry season in December 2013.
- For the southern ASEAN region, the prevailing dry season is expected to continue till early October 2013. An increase in hotspot activities leading to the occurrence of transboundary smoke haze may still be expected during extended periods of dry weather conditions. The ASEAN Member States pledged to remain vigilant and continuously monitor and implement haze preventive activities.
4. The Ministers agreed to recommend to the ASEAN Leaders to adopt the ASEAN Sub-Regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS) as a joint haze monitoring system among MSC countries, with digitized land use maps and concession maps of fire-prone areas that cause transboundary haze to be shared on a Government-to-Government basis. The Ministers agreed to take prompt action based on the decision of the ASEAN Leaders at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in October 2013.
 5. The Ministers agreed to set up a Task Force comprising of Panel of Experts on Fire and Haze Assessment and Coordination to review the existing alert levels and formulate trigger points.
 6. The Ministers noted that several ASEAN Member States have contributed to the ASEAN Transboundary Haze Pollution Control Fund towards realising the pledge of providing an initial seed contribution of US\$500,000 for the Fund. The Ministers welcomed contributions from other partners to the Fund.
 7. The Ministers noted the significant progress and achievements of the two projects on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia (funded by Global Environment Facility) and the SEApeat Project (funded by European Union) which will conclude in 2014. The Ministers supported the Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystem in ASEAN for the period 2014 to 2020 based on the lessons learned from these two projects in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy by the year 2020. The Ministers also supported the development of a similar longer term programmatic approach to address fires in the Mekong region which mostly originates from agricultural activities and forest areas.

8. The Ministers adopted the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2014-2018 as the successor plan to the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2008-2012, to serve as a guiding document to continue promoting sustainable development through environmental education and public participation. The Ministers expressed satisfaction on the successful implementation of the AEEAP 2008-2012.
9. The Ministers noted the publication of the ASEAN Guidelines on Eco-schools to serve as reference for promoting coordinated development and establishment of eco-schools in ASEAN Member States.
10. The Ministers approved the nomination of Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines as the 33rd ASEAN Heritage Park (AHP). The AHP Programme serves as a regional network of national protected areas of high conservation importance preserving a complete spectrum of representative ecosystem to generate greater awareness, pride, appreciation, enjoyment, and conservation of ASEAN's rich natural heritage. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in Los Baños, Philippines serves as the Secretariat of the AHP Programme.
11. The Ministers noted with appreciation the ratification of the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) by the Government of Thailand on 19 February 2013 and the Government of Malaysia on 29 April 2013. The Agreement entered into force on 23 July 2009, following the deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification by Myanmar to the ASEAN Secretariat.
12. The Ministers agreed that the 3rd ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City (ESC) Award and 2nd Certificate of Recognition Presentation Ceremony be held back-to-back with the 15th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (IAMME) in 2014 in Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Award aims to promote environmentally sustainable cities in ASEAN by recognising exemplary efforts and sharing best indigenous practices to keep cities clean, green, and liveable.
13. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government of Viet Nam for successfully hosting the 4th High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities on 21-22 March 2013 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, with support from the Government of Japan, Australia and the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities. The event promotes information exchange and foster concrete collaborative actions on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC), an immediate priority area for regional collaboration among East Asia Summit (EAS) participating countries identified at the Inaugural East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) in 2008.
14. The Ministers adopted the ASEAN Joint Statement on Sustainable Consumption and Production to express their commitment to strengthen cooperation within ASEAN and with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, relevant UN Agencies and other international partners on the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP). The Ministers also encouraged relevant stakeholders in ASEAN, including private sector and civil society, to enhance their contribution to sustainable development by continuously building its capacities, implementing best practices for Sustainable Consumption and Production, and promoting exemplary regional cooperation of the 10YFP activities, including through relevant ASEAN Bodies.
15. The Ministers will meet their counterparts from the People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea at the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting on 26 September 2013 to exchange views on global environmental issues, and to discuss activities on areas such as biodiversity, climate change, environmental education, environmental science and technology, and environmentally sustainable cities.
16. The Ministers responsible for the environment will meet again in Lao PDR in 2014 on the occasion of the 15th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment and the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.

Joint Statement on the Implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production in ASEAN by the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Environment

Surabaya, Indonesia, 25 September 2013

WE, the Ministers responsible for environment of the Government of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 14th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment;

AFFIRMING that the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production is an important objective of Sustainable Development.

RECOGNIZING that ASEAN is a dynamic community and the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production is fundamental to sustaining our development and achieving our prosperity.

RECOGNIZING that in addressing environmental, social and economic trends through the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production, additional policy support and ongoing public and private sector investments in capacity building on technical skills and institutional competency are needed.

ACKNOWLEDGING that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) adopted the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption

and Production (10YFP), and the resolution 203 of the 67th Session or 67/203 of the United Nations General Assembly on the adoption of the 10YFP.

THEREFORE, WE

COMMIT to strengthen our cooperation within ASEAN and with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, relevant UN Agencies and other international partners on the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production.

ENCOURAGE relevant stakeholders in ASEAN, including private sector and civil society, to enhance their contribution to sustainable development by continuously building its capacities, implementing best practices for Sustainable Consumption and Production, and promoting exemplary regional cooperation of the 10YFP activities, including through relevant ASEAN Bodies.

INVITE Dialogue Partners to provide necessary funding and technical assistance to the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production in ASEAN Member States through all channels including the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

CONTINUE the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

ACKNOWLEDGE Indonesia's proposal to explore the possibility of establishing an ASEAN Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Adopted in Surabaya, Indonesia, this Twentyfifth Day of September in the Year of Two Thousand and Thirteen.

Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP)

Media Release of the 3rd Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 1 April 2013

1. The Third Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (MSC Mekong) was held on 1 April 2013 in Siem Reap, Cambodia and attended by Ministers/representatives responsible for land and forest fires and haze from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, and the Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.
2. The Meeting noted that escalation of hotspots is expected over the next few weeks in parts of the region but these are likely to become gradually subdued with the end of the prevailing dry season, around mid-May 2013. The Meeting also noted the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre's (ASMC's) forecast that the prevailing neutral (neither El Niño nor La Niña) condition is expected to persist into August 2013. The traditional rainy season in the Mekong sub-region is expected to begin around mid-May 2013 with the start of the Southwest Monsoon. While hotspots are expected to be mostly subdued after the onset of the rainy season due to wet weather conditions, sporadic outbreaks can be expected during short occasional dry spells. The MSC Mekong countries agreed to continue to be vigilant and to prevent and mitigate land and forest fires during periods of dry weather.
3. The Meeting discussed and shared various initiatives undertaken by the MSC Mekong countries to mitigate land and forest fires and to control smoke haze pollution during the current dry season. Cambodia conducted Annual Exercise/Fire Fighting Training of Trainers and strengthened law enforcement in protected areas. Lao PDR has completed the training of trainers on peatland assessment, improved coordination mechanism among various departments concerned to share resources, and concentrated its efforts on preventing and mitigating fires. Thailand has approved national haze prevention and mitigation measures for northern Thailand and appointed the Deputy Prime Minister as the single Commander; the forest fire and air quality data dissemination is also a main mechanism to warn people for health protection and raise awareness on fire and haze control. Viet Nam has considered forest fire as the priority issue and concentrated its efforts on preventing and mitigating fires. All MSC Mekong countries have strengthened their policies and measures on forest protection and land and forest fire control.
4. The Meeting agreed to continue to participate in the refinement and development of an ASEAN-wide Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) based on relevant national early warning systems. A Training Workshop on FDRS Enhancement will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia tentatively in May 2013 involving technical officials to share experience and build capacity to implement the FDRS at the national level.
5. The Meeting noted the good progress and challenges faced in the implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP) funded by Global Environment Facility and the EU-supported SEApeat Project, which aim to promote the sustainable management of peatlands in ASEAN to sustain local livelihoods, reduce the risk of fires and associated haze and contribute to global environmental management. The Meeting also noted the positive assessment of the projects by independent mid-term reviews. The Meeting supported the development of a second phase of activities after completion of the first phase in 2014, as recommended by the mid-term reviews.

The Meeting expressed their appreciation to the Government of Cambodia for hosting the 3rd MSC Mekong Meeting and the excellent arrangements made and generous hospitality provided.

Media Release of the 15th of the Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 17 July 2013

1. Ministers responsible for the environment from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, the Vice-Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand and the Secretary-General of ASEAN met on the occasion of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution on 17 July 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
2. The Ministers noted the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre's (ASMC's) weather outlook of occasional periods of dry weather for the next few months until the end of the Southwest Monsoon season in early October 2013. An increase in hotspot activities leading to the occurrence of transboundary smoke haze can be expected during extended periods of dry weather conditions. Indonesia reported that the occurrence of tropical cyclones could also increase the severity of transboundary smoke haze. With the prevailing neutral conditions (neither El Niño nor La Niña) expected to persist for the rest of 2013, the MSC countries agreed to continue to be vigilant and be prepared for any occurrence of transboundary haze from fires during extended periods of dry weather in the coming months.
3. The Ministers noted the seriousness of the recent severe transboundary haze situation. The Ministers commended Singapore for their efforts in the development of the ASEAN Sub-Regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS) as agreed at the 14th MSC meeting. The Ministers acknowledged that the HMS is a useful tool that could assist in monitoring and internal enforcement actions against irresponsible parties contributing to fires. The Ministers agreed to recommend adopting the HMS as a joint haze monitoring system among MSC countries, with digitized land-use maps and concession maps of fire-prone areas that cause transboundary haze to be shared on a Government-to-Government basis subject to the ASEAN Leaders' approval at the ASEAN Leaders' Summit in October 2013.
4. The Ministers expressed appreciation on the substantive efforts by Indonesia in implementing its Plan of Action (PoA) in Dealing with Transboundary Haze Pollution, particularly in addressing the recent land and forest fires which resulted in transboundary haze pollution. Command posts were established and resources from various stakeholders, such as the military, police and the fire brigades under the Ministry of Forestry, community fire brigades, private sector were mobilized. Ground and aerial fire suppression, including water bombing and artificial rain, were conducted. The local communities' active participation in prevention and mitigation of fires were also secured. Intensive law enforcement was carried out by the Task Force comprising national and local police, relevant ministries and the civil investigators. The Ministers expressed appreciation for Indonesia's efforts in putting out the fires in a matter of days which led to a drastic drop in fires.
5. The Ministers noted that the efforts undertaken by Indonesia demonstrate its capacity to mitigate the occurrence of fires. However, the Ministers acknowledged the need for better early warning systems and to be better prepared to anticipate any fires in future, so that immediate mitigation actions could be undertaken even before the fires get out of control. The MSC member states reaffirmed their offer of assistance for emergency response should the situation warrant it.
6. The Ministers commended Indonesia's commitment to expedite the process of ratification of ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.
7. An ASEAN Workshop on the Enhancement of the Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) will be held in Malaysia in September 2013, which aims to enhance the ASEAN-wide FDRS currently run by the Malaysia Meteorological Department, through training and capacity building of relevant member states to operate the system in their respective countries.
8. The Ministers provided guidance on the implementation of the Strategic Review of the Sub-

Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) Programmes and Activities, which covers enhancing haze control management through early warning/monitoring, fire prevention and fire suppression, including refinement of the Fire Danger Rating System; conducting training courses offered by member states under the Regional Haze Training Network, and organisation of the MSC Forum.

9. Indonesia expressed appreciation to Malaysia and Singapore for continued efforts in bilateral collaborations and noted that such collaboration to address transboundary haze issues is necessary. Malaysia and Singapore extended offers to renew existing bilateral collaboration projects and extend the cooperative activities to other provinces in Sumatra. Indonesia welcomed the offers and is currently identifying the areas of cooperation which will maximize and bring mutual benefits for all the parties concerned.
10. The Ministers noted the progress of implementation of the project on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia (funded by Global Environment Facility) and the SEApeat Project (funded by European Union), including the various activities conducted at the pilot sites in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Viet Nam. The Ministers emphasized sustainable management of fire prone areas especially peatlands remain a high priority for prevention of fires and smoke haze, as well as the mitigation of the impact of climate change. The Ministers supported the proposed development of a second phase for further sustainable management of peatlands building on the achievements of the current phase. A concept proposal would be further elaborated for consideration by the Ministers at the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.
11. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for organising the 15th MSC Meeting and the excellent arrangements made and hospitality provided.

ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE)

Joint Statement of the 8th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (8th AMRDPE)

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 5 July 2013

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

H.E. Pehin Dato Hazair Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Brunei Darussalam; Mr. Chann Rotana, Minister Counselor and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to ASEAN Cambodia; H.E. K.R.M.T. Roy Suryo Notodiprodo, Minister of Youth and Sports Indonesia; H.E. Ambassador Yuli Mumpuni, Primary Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports Indonesia; H.E. Bounheuang Douangphachanh, Minister to the Government Office Chairman of Lao National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Haji Mohd Shafie Bin Haji Apdal, Minister for Rural and Regional Development Malaysia; H.E. Thet Naing Win, Union Minister for Border Affairs Myanmar; H.E. Jose Eliseo M. Rocamora, Secretary, National Anti-Poverty Commission The Philippines; Mr. Chan Heng Kee, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development Singapore; Mr. Kanpetch Chuangrungsi, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior Thailand; H.E. Ha Cong Tuan, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD)

Joint Statement of the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (8th AMMSWD)

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 6 September 2013

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers/Heads of Delegations responsible for social welfare and development, convened the Eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) with the theme "Social Development for All" on 6 September 2013 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.
2. The Opening Ceremony of the 8th AMMSWD was officiated by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In his Opening Speech, Samdech Techo Prime Minister welcomed all the Ministers/Heads of Delegations and delegates of ASEAN Member States to the Meeting. Samdech Techo Prime Minister underlined the importance of social welfare and development sectors in poverty reduction, raising ASEAN identity in the region, and complementing the political and economic development of ASEAN. Samdech Techo Prime Minister believed that ASEAN plays an important role in addressing social issues in the region and globally by ensuring equitable access to services, social welfare and justice, and development of social services for all, as well as by strengthening social protection to bring about prosperity in the region. Samdech Techo Prime Minister highlighted Cambodia's commitment to, among others, enhance employment, reduce vulnerabilities of the poor, strengthen services for victims of natural and other disasters, expand rehabilitation programme for persons with disabilities, and enhance welfare of vulnerable groups, through its implementation of the CRC, CEDAW, CRPD, National Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020), Asia and

Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2013-2022) and Incheon Strategy to Make the Rights Real for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. As the ASEAN Community building by 2015 is drawing closer, Samdech Techo Prime Minister recommended for the strengthening of ASCC pillar by promoting social protection at national and sub-national levels according to the context of each ASEAN Member State. Samdech Techo Prime Minister emphasized that ASEAN Member States need to continue working together in strengthening appropriate strategies and mechanisms to implement effective social protection. Samdech Techo Prime Minister also called for closer collaboration amongst the ASEAN Plus Three Countries and with stakeholders to ensure the realisation of social welfare for all.

Towards A Socially-Responsible and People-Centred ASEAN Community

3. We were pleased to note the progress of implementation of Actions to promote social welfare and protection of vulnerable groups in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint. We encouraged the Senior Officials to accelerate their efforts to ensure that activities and projects will be implemented in a timely manner to support the ASEAN Community building by 2015.
4. We acknowledged the significance of the ASCC Scorecard and mid-term review of the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint, with emphasis on social welfare and development, as feedback to AMMSWD and SOMSWD in assessing the achievement and impact of our initiatives, and visioning ASEAN's social welfare and development agenda and priorities beyond 2015 that are inclusive, rights-based, socially-responsive, people-centred, and sustainable.

Social Development for All

5. We reiterated our commitment to continue strengthening social protection and mainstream the perspectives and concerns of the vulnerable groups, particularly children, older people and persons with disabilities, in the ASEAN Community. We applauded the Senior Officials for the progress of projects and activities planned in the Strategic Framework

on Social Welfare and Development 2011-2015, including the completion and outcomes of the Second ASEAN Conference on Working Toward a Cyber-Pornography and Cyber Prostitution-Free Southeast Asia held on 23-25 April 2013 in Bohol, the Philippines; Training Workshop on Strengthening Capacities of Communities, Practitioners and Policy Makers to Address Violence Against Women (VAW) held on 26-30 November 2012 in Manila, the Philippines; Second ASEAN Workshop on CRPD: "An Inclusive and Accessible Society for All: Employability and Employment" held on 18-20 February 2013 in Chiang Mai, Thailand; Regional Planning Workshop for Child Rights Practitioners on the Implementation of CRC held on 29-30 July 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand; Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) held on 24-27 September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand; and ASEAN Dialogue between GOs and NGOs on Disability Issues held on 24-25 September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.

6. We noted the convening of the 8th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development on 3 September 2013 and supported the Forum's recommendations on the need to further promote the social protection, quality of life and well-being of vulnerable groups in ASEAN, in particular children, older people, and persons with disabilities, and to reduce the risks that they are facing, including through the engagement of vulnerable groups in policy and planning, facilitation of sharing of good practices in responding to the needs of the vulnerable sector, and building collaboration with relevant stakeholders in delivering care for vulnerable sectors.

Strengthening Social Protection in ASEAN

7. We adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection for submission to the Leaders at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in October 2013 in Brunei Darussalam. The Declaration affirms that everyone, especially those who are poor, at risk, persons with disabilities, older persons, out-of-school youth, children, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups are entitled to equitable access to social protection that is a basic human right.
8. We recognized that social protection is a cross cutting issue that requires inclusive, holistic, and

adaptive approaches in strong collaboration of the Governments with private sectors, development partners, civil society, service providers, and other stakeholders where appropriate.

Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Women and Children

9. We adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN for submission to the Leaders at the 23rd ASEAN Summit. The Declaration reaffirms the need to strengthen a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to promote the rights of women and children and adopt a gender responsive, child sensitive, and age-responsive approach in prevention and elimination of violence against women and violence against children.
10. We recognised that violence against women and violence against children which occur irrespective of the stages of the life cycle, whether at home, in school, in the workplace, in public or private spaces (including cyber space) as a result of gender bias, discriminatory and harmful traditional practices must be eliminated.

Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development

11. We expressed appreciation to Indonesia for its confirmation to host the Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development in 2016.
12. We were most thankful to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia for its warm and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegation, and the excellent arrangements for the Meeting. We also expressed our sincere appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for its support to the Meeting.

List of Ministers or Their Representatives Attending the Eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development

The Honourable Penin Dato Haji Hazair Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Lth Samheng, Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation Cambodia; H.E. DR. Salim Segaf Al-Jufri

M.A., Minister of Social Affairs Indonesia; H.E. Onechanh Thammavong, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Rohani Abdul Karim, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Myanmar; H.E. Corazon Juliano-Soliman, Secretary/Minister Department of Social Welfare and Development The Philippines; H.E. Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Social and Family Development Singapore; Mr. Vichien Chavalit, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Social Development and Human Security Thailand; H.E. Pham Thi Hai Chuyen, Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY)

Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Volunteerism and Entrepreneurship

Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 22 May 2013

WE, the Ministers Responsible for Youth of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

HAVING gathered in Bandar Seri Begawan on 22 May 2013, for the Eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY VIII);

RECOGNISING that the theme of "Our People, Our Future Together" during Brunei Darussalam's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2013 highlights the role of people in advancing

cooperation to ensure the development of the whole region as it moves towards an ASEAN Community in 2015;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the theme of the Ministerial Meeting, “Young People: Building Tomorrow’s ASEAN Today”, reflects the 22nd ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan on 24-25 April, which highlighted the importance of nurturing the role of youth, the region’s future assets, in promoting socio-economic development to benefit the next generation particularly the marginalized youth and the unique position of young professionals in boosting ASEAN solidarity;

RECALLING the Manila Declaration on Strengthening Participation in Sustainable Youth Employment at AMMY IV in 2003, which recognised the importance of youth entrepreneurship in addressing issues such as unemployment among young people, and the Hanoi Initiative at AMMY VII in 2011, which reflected the commitment to strengthen Southeast Asia’s future generation of leaders and entrepreneurs;

GUIDED BY the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint adopted in 2009, which has 15 youth-related actions including the establishment of an ASEAN youth peace corps and an ASEAN forum on youth entrepreneurship as well as a regional network of experts to train entrepreneurial skills to out-of-school youth;

AGREE that youth volunteerism and entrepreneurship are very important for ASEAN community building to forge a common regional identity and build a caring and sharing society, with the ultimate goal of achieving unity and solidarity among all nations and people in Southeast Asia;

ACKNOWLEDGE the First ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Seminar and Expo held back-to-back with the Ministerial Meeting as a platform for promoting greater economic self-reliance among young people through enterprise and entrepreneurship development;

NOTE the resolution adopted by the Seminar, which highlighted the challenges of youth employment and called for actions to establish an enabling environment that supports pro-employment growth and the economic empowerment of all youth subsectors;

AGREE to organize regular Young Entrepreneurs Seminars to move forward the resolution of the first seminar;

WELCOME progress in implementing and finalizing the operating arrangements for the ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme (AYVP) established by Malaysia, noting that the programme is to create a multiplier effect for the development of volunteerism across ASEAN with an inaugural project namely ASEAN Youth Eco-Leaders, and ASEAN Youth Heritage Ambassador;

CALL ON young professionals, who are in a unique position to boost ASEAN solidarity, to offer voluntary community services in areas such as rural development and poverty eradication, disaster relief, health, education and the environment, supporting vulnerable groups such as the physically challenged and fostering entrepreneurial skills;

ENDORSE a proposal by Brunei Darussalam to engage young professionals through a youth volunteer corps that will complement AYVP with three initial short-term projects scheduled to be carried out in Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines this year;

URGE our officials and partners to develop and implement the youth volunteer programmes in a complementary and sustainable manner;

FURTHER URGE our officials to promote greater awareness of ASEAN among young people and engage young volunteers and entrepreneurs through different platforms to promote dialogue and people-to-people exchanges with the aim of sharing the dreams and aspirations of the region;

ENCOURAGE our officials to include young volunteers and entrepreneurs among key stakeholders in the comprehensive communications plan being developed to explain the objectives, benefits and challenges of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community;

WELCOME the agreement to set up the ASEAN Youth Programme Fund aimed to improve the quality of life of the ASEAN Youth through the implementation of enabling regional youth policies and programmes along with the readiness of Member States to make an initial contribution;

ENCOURAGE the further mobilization of existing resources including the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund and other resources from ASEAN Dialogue Partners to support the youth cooperation towards peace, stability and a brighter future for younger generations; and

URGE our officials to bring together activities and initiatives to realise the Declaration.

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

“Young People- Building Tomorrow’s ASEAN Today”

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 22 May 2013**

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 an 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

ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

6th Press Release of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

Jakarta, Indonesia, 1-2 April 2013

The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) successfully concluded its Sixth Meeting which was convened from 1-2 April 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Meeting was updated on 15 projects under the ACWC Work Plan 2012-2016 while 3 new projects were tabled for adoption. Projects that are on-going this year include the compilation of country of best practices in eliminating violence against women and children which will be published in mid-2013. Public campaign, which was inaugurated last year, will be undertaken in conjunction with the International Day to Stop Violence against Women on 25 November 2013. Acknowledging common issues concerning women and girls in the CEDAW and CRC Concluding Observations, the ACWC planned for a regional workshop to look into those common issues towards effective promotion and protection of the rights of women and children in June 2013 in Da Nang, Viet Nam. As part of children's rights promotion, development of guidelines for non violent approach to child rearing and child caring in various settings has started with annotated bibliographies being compiled.

Acknowledging that prevention and elimination of violence against women and children is its core, the ACWC drafted the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children. After several reviews since 2011, the final draft of the Declaration was accepted at this Meeting and was aimed to be adopted by the ASEAN Leaders this year. The Declaration aims to reflect ASEAN's collective efforts to, among others, strengthen legal and policy frameworks and institutional capacity to combat

violence against women and children, and assist victims through protection, services, rehabilitation, recovery and reintegration of victims.

Recognising the importance of collaboration for efficiency and better impact of projects in its Work Plan, the ACWC identified potential common areas and projects in the work plans of other ASEAN sectoral bodies. The ACWC will explore collaboration with those ASEAN sectoral bodies. The ACWC will also engage civil society in the implementation of its projects by tapping on their expertise. For this purpose, the Meeting discussed workable mechanisms of civil society engagement in the implementation of the ACWC Work Plan.

On 3 April 2013, the ACWC Representatives prepared the ground work towards the establishment of a network of social service providers helping women and children victims of violence. It was considered that the network would spearhead, among others, trainings, exchange programmes and scholarships for social service agencies, awards to recognise outstanding social workers in the region, case studies of successful rehabilitation and reintegration of victims.

The Seventh ACWC Meeting was scheduled for later part of 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

7th Press Release of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 22-24 July 2013

The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) concluded its Seventh Meeting convened on 22-24 July 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was participated by ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the main event was the finalisation of the draft Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (VAW) and Elimination of Violence Against Children (VAC). The said Declaration addresses the concern of VAW and VAC as obstacles to achieving

equality, peace and development, and reflects the collective efforts of ASEAN to intensify and strengthen policy, legal frameworks and institutional capacity to counter VAW and VAC. The ACWC reaffirmed its commitment to remove such obstacles in the context of strengthening regional cooperation, collaboration, and coordination endeavored to eliminate VAW and VAC. Goals and commitments made related to such were reaffirmed and key measures, such as building adequate resourced national welfare systems, protection, recovery and rehabilitation of victims, promotion of legislation against VAW and VAC, protection of the right of women and children, were highlighted. The Declaration further enhanced the coverage of vulnerabilities and emerging forms of abuse confronted by women and children such as conflict, migration, disaster, emergency situation, climate change, human trafficking, labor, cyber based abuses, persons with disabilities, statelessness and belonging to ethnic and/or indigenous groups were to be addressed.

The Meeting recognised the contributions of AMS, sectoral bodies and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in providing relevant inputs in enriching the Declaration period. The Meeting further accentuated the need for intensified collaboration and partnership among AMS, CSOs, governments, and relevant institutions, both local and international, to effectively eliminate VAW and VAC. The Declaration will be presented to the 23rd ASEAN Summit in October 2013 for adoption.

Other matter taken up was the progress of implementation of projects and activities led by AMS under the ACWC Work Plan 2012-2016. A total of ten proposals for funding by EU under the READI Facility were taken up and plans were firmed up to proceed with implementation. Likewise country coordinators appraised AMS of respective initiatives to promote rights of women and children, justice for women victims, strengthening economic rights of women, impact of climate change, standards on service delivery for children with disabilities, review mechanism in managing and treatment of trafficked women and children, promotion of best practices in eliminating VAW and VAC, economic empowerment of women, and key action points to campaign, legislate, document and strengthen efforts to stop VAW and VAC. Supports extended by external parties from the EU, USA, and New Zealand were recognized and follow up activities with said parties were discussed in pushing forward the ACWC's efforts in eliminating VAW and VAC.

The Meeting culminated with a visit to the Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development of Malaysia and the TASKA Nur, Child Care Center.

The eighth ACWC meeting was scheduled in early 2014 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

8th Press Release of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 26-27 November 2013**

The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) concluded its Special Meeting convened on 26-27 September 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

Subsequent to the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN by the Leaders at the 23rd ASEAN Summit on 9 October 2013, the ACWC discussed strategies to implement the eight areas of commitments reflected in the Declaration. A framework of actions was discussed based on the corresponding projects under the ACWC Work Plan 2012-2016. An inter-sectoral consultation meeting with other relevant ASEAN bodies and dialogue session with civil society organisations were planned for February 2014 to socialize the Declaration and explore their potential contribution to its implementation.

Progress of completed, on-going and planned projects under the ACWC Work Plan 2012-2016 was reviewed at the Meeting. Follow-ups to the projects completed this year were discussed, notably the launching of the publication of ASEAN best practices in elimination violence against women and violence against children was planned for 11 December 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Promoting the Rights of ASEAN Women and Children through Effective Implementation of the Common Issues in CEDAW and CRC Concluding Observations with Focus

on Girl Child which was held on 20-22 August 2013 in Da Nang, Viet Nam, were also discussed.

Moving forward, the Social Service Agencies Conference and Training were planned for April 2014 in Singapore. The Workshop on the Promotion of Access to Justice for Women Victims of VAW Trafficking Cases was scheduled for 3-5 February 2014 in Brunei Darussalam. The Regional Conference on the Social Impact of Climate Change on Women and Children in ASEAN was scheduled for March 2014 in Cambodia. Preparation of the annual public campaign to stop violence against women to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November next year was discussed. The Regional Study on Strengthening Economic Rights of Women with regard to Feminization of Poverty Particularly Women's Rights to Land and Property was also planned to begin next year.

On 27 November, the ACWC visited "Pusat Bahagia" which is an institution responsible in conducting programmes and activities to support persons with disabilities / people with special needs (intellectual, physical, visual and hearing impairment).

The eighth ACWC meeting was scheduled for 17-20 February 2014 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS)

Chairman's Statement of the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS)

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 5 December 2013

1. The Second ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS) was held on 05 December 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Phankham VIPHAVANH, Minister of Education and Sports of Lao PDR and attended by Ministers and Senior Officials from the Sports or Sports-related Ministries of the ten ASEAN Member States. The Secretary-General of ASEAN also attended the Meeting.
2. The Ministers expressed their appreciations to the efforts of ASEAN Member States in conducting various activities to celebrate 2013 as ASEAN Sports Industry Year. The Ministers look forward to continuing the implementation of sports-related initiatives in the coming years.
3. The Ministers reiterated their commitment in enhancing sports cooperation in ASEAN, so as to foster friendship and solidarity as well as promote healthy and active lifestyles among the peoples of ASEAN. The Ministers recognized that sports play an important role in realizing the vision of an ASEAN Community in 2015.
4. The Ministers agreed that necessary actions to enhance football development in the region should be prioritised. The Ministers further agreed that in light of ASEAN's possible bid for the FIFA World Cup in 2034, the recommendations of the ASEAN Football Federation on said ASEAN bid be referred back to all relevant stakeholders in ASEAN Member States for further review.
5. The Ministers adopted the Vientiane Declaration on Sports Cooperation in ASEAN and tasked the Senior Officials Meeting on Sports to finalise the work plan

on Sports to ensure the successful implementation of the Declaration and review its progress through appropriate instruments and actions with the support of ASEAN Member States.

Download Vientiane Declaration on Sports Cooperation

6. The Ministers welcomed the proposals of the ROK to engage ASEAN in sports-related activities. This includes the informal consultations with Senior Sports Officials as a side event during the celebration of the 25th years of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Partnership in December 2014 in Seoul. The Ministers also welcomed the offer of the ROK for one scholarship slot per ASEAN Member State in the Global Sports Industry Graduate Program of the Hanyang University.
7. The Ministers agreed to convene the Third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports in Malaysia in the second half of 2015.

Vientiane Declaration on Sports Cooperation in ASEAN

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 5 December 2013

WE, the Ministers responsible for Sports of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;

HAVING gathered in Vientiane on 5 December 2013, for the Second ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (2nd AMMS);

RECALLING the mandate given by the Leaders at the 19th ASEAN Summit to enhance cooperation in sports and sports-related activities to promote healthier lifestyles among the citizens of ASEAN Member States, encourage more interaction among the peoples of ASEAN, as well as contributing to ASEAN integration and community building;

GUIDED by the decision of the Leaders at the 20th ASEAN Summit, who agreed on the new elements of the ASCC Blueprints on sports, together with its strategic objectives and proposed actions as well as its goal of contributing to the realization of an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented and socially responsible;

RECOGNISING that sports is one of the most effective instruments in bringing about friendship, development, peace and integration through greater interaction and understanding among the ASEAN peoples;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of sports in nurturing the youth of ASEAN as the region's future asset, particularly by recognizing their role in sports leadership;

DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT WE:

AGREE that cooperation in sports has to be strengthened in realising the vision of an ASEAN Community, to forge a common regional identity and build a caring and sharing society, with the ultimate goal of achieving unity and solidarity among all nations and peoples of ASEAN;

FURTHER AGREE that all stakeholders including other relevant ministerial bodies, the private sectors and non-governmental organisations should be engaged fully so as to realize the aforesaid vision;

REMAIN COMMITTED to promote Sports as a tool to raise public awareness of ASEAN; through regional sports activities and events and sharing of best practices and expertise including the establishment of an ASEAN Football League and mechanism to implement and promote ASEAN Sports Volunteerism;

CONTINUE to explore and consult relevant national bodies and stakeholders on ASEAN's bid for possible hosting of the FIFA World Cup;

WELCOME the resolution from the ASEAN Sports for All Conference which was held on 30th to 31st October 2013 in Putrajaya, Malaysia;

AGREE to regularize the conduct of the 'ASEAN Youth Sports Camp' which was first hosted by Brunei Darussalam from 25th to 29th November 2013 and brought together young talented athletes to participate in sport and

cultural activities with the objectives of realising an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented and socially responsible which contribute towards enduring solidarity, peace and unity amongst all nations and people of Southeast Asia by 2015;

EMPHASIZE the promotion of healthy and active lifestyle among citizens of ASEAN Member States through a Sports-for-All policy and support the establishment of mechanisms to effectively mobilise resources, including the engagement of the private sector, the media and ASEAN Dialogue Partners, to support these initiatives;

STRIVE to strengthen cooperation in sport R&D and Sports-related activities through the conduct of training and/or exchange programmes; by exploring possible cooperation and support from relevant stakeholders towards establishing common policies in sports in ASEAN;

ENDEAVOUR to promote community-based, non-discriminatory, affordable, accessible programmes, sports and physical activities for all facilities including open space and suitable neighborhood and environmental conditions, for all ages and performance levels;

SUSTAIN the contribution of the ASEAN Sports Industry in enhancing the socio- economic development of ASEAN;

ENDEAVOUR to raise the level of performance of ASEAN athletes in the regional and international competitions and enhance the achievements of ASEAN in competitive sports;

FURTHER SUPPORT the establishment of support centers of excellence in sports training in ASEAN; including the development and implementation of the plan for the establishment of Training Centre for coaches and referees in ASEAN.

TASK the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting in Sports (SOMS) to finalise the work plan on Sports to ensure the successful implementation of this Declaration and review its progress through appropriate instruments and actions with the support of ASEAN Member States.

ADOPT in Vientiane, Lao PDR, this Fifth Day of December in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen in a single original copy in the English language.

V. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ASEAN-Canada

Joint Media Statement of the 2nd AEM-Canada Consultations

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 21 August 2013**

1. The second ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-Canada Consultations were held on 21 August 2013, in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Consultations were co-chaired by The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Brunei Darussalam's Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Honourable Ed Fast, Canada's Minister of International Trade.
2. The Ministers were pleased with the encouraging growth of total merchandise trade between ASEAN and Canada, despite the continued uncertainty in the global economy. According to Canadian trade statistics, between 2007 and 2012, ASEAN-Canada bilateral merchandise trade expanded by 27.4% which averages 5.0% annual growth. Bilateral trade was valued at US\$15.8 billion in 2012.
3. Known Canadian direct investment in ASEAN exceeds that in Japan or in China and India combined in 2012.
4. Minister Fast congratulated ASEAN on the substantial progress it has made toward its 2015 ASEAN Economic Community objective. He commended his ASEAN colleagues on their great efforts toward market integration and pledged Canada's continued support.
5. The ASEAN Economic Ministers applauded Canada for its increased engagement with ASEAN and the initiatives undertaken towards achieving the objectives of the 2012-2015 Work Plan to Implement the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment. The Work Plan includes enhancing senior-level dialogue on trade and investment, promoting increased trade and investment between ASEAN and Canada, as well as increasing the private sector's involvement in promoting trade and investment. Several interrelated key activities have been or will be implemented, including the first ASEAN-Canada Corporate Social Responsibility Workshop, held on February 27, 2013, in Singapore, and Canada's active participation at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit. The Ministers also acknowledged Canada's recent announcements supporting ASEAN's economic integration agenda, specifically US\$2 million to provide ASEAN with financial regulations training and US\$4.3 million over three years to support an ASEAN public-private partnership centre of excellence, in partnership with Singapore and the Asian Development Bank.
6. The Ministers held a dialogue with the Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) during the consultations and were impressed with the initiatives carried out by the Council since its establishment last year. The initiatives include the ASEAN Business Opportunities Study, which outlined the key commercial opportunities for Canadian and ASEAN private sector companies, the ASEAN Business Climate Survey, which aims to generate concrete suggestions to improve the ASEAN Economic Community from the business perspective, and the Canada-ASEAN Business Forum, scheduled for October 8 and 9, 2013, in Singapore. The Ministers commended the CABC for its efforts and encouraged the Council to continue working closely with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council.
7. The Ministers acknowledged that there are significant and growing opportunities to further develop trade and investment between ASEAN and Canada. The

Ministers agreed that bringing an ASEAN Roadshow to Canada in 2014 would be a timely way to promote the ASEAN Economic Community to the business community and other stakeholders in Canada. The Ministers concluded the meeting by agreeing to meet next year for the third AEM-Canada Consultation.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; Hon. Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade, Canada; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Bayu Krisnamurthi, Vice Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao People's Democratic Republic; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Vietnam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN-China

Joint Media Statement of the 12th AEM-MOFCOM Consultations

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 20 August 2013**

1. The Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and the Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China met on 20 August 2013 for the 12th AEM-MOFCOM Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam and H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce of China.
2. The Ministers noted the general performance of ASEAN-China bilateral trade and investments and were pleased that, despite the uncertainty in the global economy, China maintained its position as ASEAN's largest trading partner. ASEAN-China bilateral trade, based on ASEAN statistics, expanded at an annual growth rate of 21.6% from 2009 to 2012. By the end of 2012, ASEAN total trade with China reached US\$ 318.6 billion, increasing by 13.6% from US\$ 280.4 billion in 2011. The Ministers were confident that the goal set by the Leaders to bring bilateral trade to US\$ 500 billion by 2015 would be achieved, if the trend continues up to 2015.

ASEAN-China Free Trade Area

3. The Ministers noted the progress made in implementing the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) and were pleased with the ACFTA Joint Committee's ongoing efforts in upgrading the ACFTA agreements to ensure that the ACFTA remains dynamic and commercially relevant. The Ministers underscored that, with the liberalisation objectives of the ACFTA almost realised, at least for ASEAN-6 (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) and China, efforts should now be directed towards facilitating ASEAN-China bilateral trade and improving the ACFTA through the ongoing review of the Sensitive Track and Rules of Origin.
4. In this context, China briefed the ASEAN Economic Ministers its proposal on building an upgraded version of ACFTA by improving the liberalisation level and expanding the scope and coverage of the agreement. The ASEAN Economic Ministers noted with appreciation this proposal and welcomed the intent for the overall enhancement of the ACFTA.
5. The Ministers noted that the Protocol to Incorporate Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures into the ASEAN-China TIG Agreement (Protocol on TBT/SPS), signed on 18 November 2012, has entered into force on 1 January 2013 for Brunei Darussalam, China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Also noted was the progress made in finalising the draft Chapter text for Customs Procedures and Trade

- Facilitation (CPTF), which would subsequently be incorporated into the ASEAN-China Trade in Goods (TIG) Agreement.
6. Stressing the importance of facilitating ASEAN-China bilateral trade, the Ministers urged officials to expedite the conclusion of CPTF negotiations and the review of the Sensitive Track and Rules of Origin, prior to the next AEM-MOFCOM Consultations in 2014.
 7. The Ministers also encouraged the ACFTA Joint Committee in its efforts to review the ASEAN-China Trade in Services Agreement, Investment Agreement and the Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism on a regular basis.
 9. The Ministers were pleased with the preliminary work undertaken by ASEAN and Hong Kong to realise the ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement and looked forward to the commencement of the negotiations in early 2014.
 10. The Ministers noted the progress made to finalise the roadmap for Pan-Beibu Gulf Economic Cooperation. In this regard, the Ministers encouraged relevant officials to undertake practical approach in advancing the initiative and also to identify concrete and feasible projects.

LIST OF MINISTER:

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce, China; H.E. Bayu Krisnamurthi, Vice Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN Roadshow to China

8. The Ministers looked forward to the AEM Roadshow to China scheduled on 23-25 October 2013. The Ministers anticipated that the Roadshow – which would cover the cities of Beijing, Chengdu and Shanghai – would boost the confidence level of the Chinese people, including central and local government officials and business people, in taking advantage of the opportunities arising from the various initiatives not only under the robust ASEAN-China economic relations but also from ASEAN's economic integration efforts.

Other Areas of Cooperation

7. The Ministers were pleased with the success of the 9th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) held on 21-25 September 2012 in Nanning, China and looked forward to the convening of the 10th CAEXPO scheduled on 3-6 September 2013.
8. The Minister noted the outcomes of the first meeting of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the Chinese Working Committee of China-ASEAN Connectivity Cooperation Committee (ACWC-ACCC) which was held on 7 November 2012. The Ministers viewed that the outcomes of this Meeting would be very important for the future cooperation between ASEAN and China to support Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. The Ministers requested the ACCC and CWC-CACCC to continue working closely and effectively to ensure a better connectivity between ASEAN and China.

Joint Statement of the ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Special Meeting on Connectivity

Nanning, China, 2 September 2013

1. The ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Special Meeting on Connectivity was held in Nanning, China, on September 2nd, 2013, on the sidelines of the 10th China-ASEAN Expo. H.E. YANG Chuantang, Minister of Transport of the People's Republic of China, and H.E. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR, co-chaired the Meeting. The Ministers of Transport from China and ASEAN Member States conducted in-depth discussions on transport connectivity and had constructive exchanges of views and ideas with representatives from industry.
 - (i) to optimise the working mechanism. The ATM+China is the highest-level dialogue mechanism between the two sides in the transport sector, and plays a vital role in the implementation of transport cooperation initiatives agreed on by Chinese and ASEAN Transport Ministers and the realisation of the common development and prosperity of the transport sector. As such, the Ministers agreed to make full use of the existing ASEAN-China Senior Transport Officials' Meeting (STOM+China) under ATM+China to maintain communication and coordination regarding connectivity cooperation activities.
 - (ii) to consider establishing a financing platform. Recognising that the funding shortage has been a bottleneck in hindering transport infrastructure connectivity, the Ministers felt it a compelling need to diversify financing channels and innovate financing modalities, acknowledging ASEAN and other development partners' efforts for infrastructure development with the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF); and at the same time effectively utilise the available funds on the highly needed connectivity projects. As such, the Ministers agreed to consider the establishment of a financing platform dedicated to ASEAN-China infrastructure connectivity to secure sustained and stable funding resources for projects on connectivity cooperation. This idea can be further studied by the relevant Senior Officials from both sides.
 - (iii) to dovetail with the connectivity master plans of both sides. The strengthening of connectivity not only provides a strong support for ASEAN Member States to materialise the ASEAN Economic Community by the end of 2015, but also lays a solid foundation for future economic integration in this area. With the aim of building a ASEAN-China integrated transport infrastructure network, the Ministers agreed to make efforts to better dovetail the master plan for China's transport development with the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity so as to optimise the general layout and structure of this regionally integrated network and raise the level of regional connectivity.
 - (iv) to encourage the participation of enterprises in the connectivity cooperation. The Ministers agreed
2. The Ministers noted that since the official launch of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area, a large ASEAN-China trade and economic region is taking shape, with a population of more than 1.9 billion, land area of over 14 million square kilometers and a gross value of production of nearly 10 trillion USD, and is now becoming the fastest-growing and most promising region in the world. The Ministers acknowledged that the convening of the Meeting is of great significance in strengthening transport infrastructure connectivity between and among China and ASEAN Member States, facilitating the establishment of a green, safe and efficient transport network, and promoting the economic prosperity and sustainable development in this region.
3. The Ministers considered it opportune to continue to build upon the existing collaborative mechanisms of and under the annual ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Meeting (ATM+China) to deepen transport connectivity cooperation as both China and ASEAN Member States are working to upgrade the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area and advance negotiations on the "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership". In this connection, the Ministers reached consensus as follows:
 - (i) to optimise the working mechanism. The ATM+China is the highest-level dialogue

to encourage competent enterprises to directly engage in the investment, construction and operation of projects so as to steadily advance the implementation of major projects.

(v) to strengthen maritime transport connectivity. The Ministers agreed to utilise the China-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation Fund, where feasible, to accelerate the implementation of major port projects identified in the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity so as to boost cooperation between ports in China and ASEAN Member States and promote maritime transport connectivity to enhance intra-ASEAN China shipping trades.

(vi) to strengthen air connectivity. The Ministers noted the commendable strides made by both sides in strengthening and integrating transport network between the two regions to facilitate regional and global air connections, raise business efficiencies, enhance competitiveness of the economies as well as support tourism. The Air Transport Agreement between ASEAN and China and its Protocol 1 on third and fourth freedom traffic rights, the first air agreement between ASEAN and an ASEAN Dialogue Partner, entered into force in August 2012. The Ministers welcomed a subsequent expansion of the Air Transport Agreement in September 2012, and looked forward to signing Protocol 2 on fifth freedom traffic rights as early as possible. The Ministers supported regular dialogue between both sides to work towards comprehensive civil aviation cooperation, including further expansion of the Air Transport Agreement in the years ahead.

(vii) to maintain a balanced development. Recognising the importance of a balanced development of ASEAN-China connectivity cooperation and the different stage of infrastructure development in this region, the Ministers agreed to further enhance the existing transport cooperation and improve connectivity both within ASEAN and between ASEAN and China, to the mutual benefit of both ASEAN Member States and China, with special emphasis on the least developed member states. To intensify connectivity of transport infrastructure network holistically which will include roads, railways, airports, and ports, the

Ministers also committed that more support will be provided to implement the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. To this end, the Ministers tasked the senior officials to identify the key projects connecting China with ASEAN Member States or those linking ASEAN Member States at an early date.

4. The Ministers of Transport from ASEAN Member States extended gratitude to China's Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, for their thoughtful arrangements of the meeting as well as warm hospitality rendered to each delegation. The Ministers are also grateful for the technical support provided by the ASEAN Secretariat.

Joint Statement of the ASEAN Plus People's Republic of China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (2nd AMMTC + China) Consultation to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Ministerial Law Enforcement Cooperation

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18 September 2013

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China handling transnational crime matters, met on 18 September 2013 in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic on the occasion of the Third Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (3rd AMMTC + China) Consultation, to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of ASEAN-China Ministerial law enforcement cooperation.
2. We reached the common understanding on the ever strengthened ASEAN-China law enforcement relationship and significant progress and substantive achievements recorded in the cooperation in fields such as fighting against terrorism, arms smuggling, sea piracy, money laundering, cybercrime international economic crime, trafficking in persons especially women and children, trafficking in illegal

drugs; and law enforcement capacity building. Since the 1st AMMTC + China Consultation in 2009 and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China and on Cooperation in the Field of Non-traditional Security Issues (MoU) in 2004 and its renewal in 2009, developing law enforcement cooperation has been an important part of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership. In this regard, we note with satisfaction on the results yielded.

3. We note with appreciation China's dedication in developing law enforcement cooperation, establishing the AMMTC + China Consultation mechanism with ASEAN, and contributing to regional peace, stability and prosperity.
4. We acknowledged the transnational character of illegal and criminal activities in this region, as interaction and connectivity increases between ASEAN and China. In this regard, we will view and approach our law enforcement cooperation strategically, and constantly aim to move our cooperation forward.
5. We were determined to explore the potential and expand the areas of cooperation, maintain security and stability, and safeguard the economic development and people's well-being in the region by further improving our ability against transnational crimes.
6. We take note of the following law enforcement cooperation measures to further enhance ASEAN-China law enforcement and security cooperation:
 - i. Promote high-level exchange of visits and mutual trust, and build ever closer law enforcement cooperation;
 - ii. Renew the MoU and reformulate its implementation document to ensure continued cooperation between ASEAN and China in addressing Non-Traditional Security issues, taking into consideration ASEAN's needs in addressing current transnational challenges;
 - iii. Strengthen cooperation in the nine fields listed in the MoU, namely terrorism, trafficking in illegal drugs, people smuggling, trafficking in persons especially women and children, arms smuggling, sea piracy, money laundering, international economic crime and particularly, in the area of cybercrime, to promote exchange and sharing of experiences on combating cybercrime incidents.
- iv. Offer each other the fullest law enforcement cooperation possible on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit and where appropriate carry out coordinated law enforcement operations on a case by case basis on fighting against prominent criminal problems in the region subject to respective national laws and policies.
- v. Establish the ASEAN Plus China Forum on Law Enforcement Cooperation, in order to provide focused analysis on the various areas of transnational crime in the region, and recommend countermeasures, so as to improve law enforcement capacity together and better build ASEAN Political Security Community and Drug-Free ASEAN;
- vi. China will invite 1500 law enforcement officials from ASEAN Member States to attend training courses and workshops in China, and to provide 100 Chinese language learning scholarships over the next five years (2014-2018); and
- vii. Establish the ASEAN-China Law Enforcement College and enhance exchanges and cooperation between law enforcement institutions of ASEAN and China, so as to better deliver cooperation in law enforcement training.
7. We tasked the Senior Officials on Transnational Crime from ASEAN and China to expeditiously work on and develop the plan of activities for implementing the MoU which would be conducive to both ASEAN and China. In this regard, we delegated the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime + China (SOMTC + China) to finalise and oversee the successful implementation of activities annually.
8. We welcomed the kind offer by Malaysia to host the 4th AMMTC + China Consultation in Kuala Lumpur in 2015.
9. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Lao People's

Democratic Republic for their warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

Joint Statement of the 16th ASEAN-China Summit on Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 9 October 2013**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China gathered on 9 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, at the 16th ASEAN-China Summit, to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership;

RECALLING our commitment under the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity, signed on 8 October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia, to foster friendly relations, mutually beneficial cooperation and good neighbourliness between ASEAN and China;

RECOGNISING that for the past ten years, the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership has significantly boosted economic and social development of both sides as well as contributed significantly to peace, stability and prosperity of the region;

WELCOMING the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership, and appreciating the series of commemorative activities held by the two sides to jointly celebrate the auspicious occasion in a meaningful way, which demonstrated the vigorous, dynamic and mutually beneficial relations between ASEAN and China, including, among others, the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Beijing and the High-Level Forum on 10th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in

Bangkok in August, and the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Roadshow to China in October 2013;

REAFFIRMING the importance for China to continue supporting ASEAN Community building efforts, ASEAN Connectivity, as well as ASEAN's unity and centrality in the evolving regional architecture;

APPRECIATING China as the first among ASEAN's Dialogue Partners to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), establish a Strategic Partnership and complete a Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN;

REAFFIRMING that the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III), the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (the Bali Principles), the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and other universally recognized principles of international law, will continue to guide ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and friendly cooperation;

REAFFIRMING further that the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) is a milestone document which embodies the collective commitment of ASEAN Member States and China to promote peace, stability and mutual trust, as well as peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982 UNCLOS);

WELCOMING the progress in the implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), the issuance of the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on the 10th Anniversary of the Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in 2012, the adoption of the Guidelines to implement the DOC in 2011, and the commencement of official consultations on a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC);

HEREBY agree with the followings:

1. We are committed to advancing, enhancing and deepening the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for mutual benefit, and will continue to fully and

- effectively implement the 2011-2015 Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity and work for greater achievements of ASEAN-China relationship in the next 10 years.
2. China reaffirms that ASEAN that is united, prosperous and dynamic is in China's strategic interests. China views ASEAN as a priority in its relations with neighboring countries and is committed to consolidating and developing a strategic partnership with ASEAN and resolving differences with relevant ASEAN countries through peaceful means and friendly consultations.
 3. ASEAN reaffirms that China's development is an important opportunity for this region. ASEAN supports China's peaceful development. The ASEAN countries reaffirm their adherence to one-China policy.
 7. China firmly and fully supports ASEAN's efforts to realize the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and stands ready to sign the SEANWFZ Protocol at an early date.
 8. China is ready to provide development assistance to ASEAN and its relevant institutions to support its community building efforts. We agree to continue to strengthen cooperation in disaster prevention and relief. China is ready to expand exchanges and cooperation with the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management.
 9. We emphasize the importance of maintaining peace and stability, respecting maritime security and upholding freedom of navigation, ensuring peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS and enhancing maritime cooperation, as well as adhering to the principles stated in the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the Joint Statement on the 10th Anniversary of the DOC. We reiterate our commitment and strong determination to fully and effectively implement the DOC in all its aspects. In this regard, we will work towards the conclusion of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) on the basis of consensus.

Political and Security Cooperation

4. We are committed to promoting strategic relations and maintaining close high-level exchanges and contacts, and in this respect, both sides agree to explore ways to continue to deepen political mutual trust and confidence through good neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation. ASEAN countries note with appreciation China's proposed treaty on good neighbourliness and friendly cooperation.
5. We reaffirm our mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with international law, and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. We remain committed to resolving disputes peacefully in accordance with international law without resorting to the threat or use of force.
6. We agree to deepen and support defence exchanges and security cooperation, strengthen communication and coordination, which will enhance ASEAN-China engagement, contribute towards mutual understanding, and promote peace, stability and prosperity of the region. ASEAN notes China's proposal to hold an Informal ASEAN-China Defence Ministers' Meeting in China at a convenient time in the future.
10. In this connection, we welcome the positive outcomes of the 6th Senior Officials' Meeting and the 9th Joint Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC on 14-15 September 2013 in Suzhou, China, including the progress made on strengthening practical maritime cooperation and the official consultations on a COC. We look forward to the development of hotline communications in order to respond expeditiously to situations at sea, including search and rescue of persons and vessels in distress. We agree to promote trust, build confidence, and encourage concerned parties to prevent incidents at sea if they occur. We will continue to strengthen the implementation of the DOC and maintain the momentum of the regular official consultations and work towards the adoption of the COC as provided for by the DOC, so as to enhance confidence, mutual trust and maintain peace, stability and prosperity in the region, among others.

Economic Cooperation

11. We reaffirm our opposition to trade protectionism and will actively uphold this position at multilateral and regional trade negotiations. We highly appreciate the positive role that the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) has played in promoting economic and trade relations, and welcome the initiative for the upgrading of the ACFTA by, among others, improving market conditions and trade balance between both sides as well as expanding the scope and coverage of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and China. We task our officials to commence discussions on the upgrading of the ACFTA as early as possible.
12. We will endeavor to achieve the goal of two-way trade of USD 500 billion by 2015 and USD 1 trillion by 2020, and two-way investment of USD 150 billion in the next eight years.
13. We will work together to actively push forward the negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to ensure conclusion of the negotiations in accordance with the RCEP work programme, endorsed by the first RCEP Ministers' Meeting in August 2013, in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, contributing to vigorously promote economic integration of East Asia.
14. We support the work of the ASEAN-China Centre in facilitating trade, investment and tourism between ASEAN and China, to achieve two-way trade and investment goals by 2020.
15. We reiterate the significance of the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Roadshow to China on 23-25 October 2013, which would boost the confidence of the Chinese central and local government officials and business people, in the opportunities arising from the various initiatives not only under the robust ASEAN-China economic relations but also from ASEAN's economic integration.
16. We believe that the China-ASEAN EXPO is an important platform for economic and trade exchange and cooperation, and will continue our support and active participation in the China-ASEAN EXPO.
17. We will join hands in promoting sustainable development and narrowing ASEAN's development gap, especially through effective implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II (2009-2015) and sub-regional cooperation such as the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Economic Cooperation, the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), and the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). We agree to conduct the further maintenance and improvement of Lancang-Mekong River navigation channel. We encourage local governments to give full play to their advantages and actively participate in ASEAN-China cooperation. China is ready to discuss with ASEAN countries on establishing cross-border economic cooperation zones in border areas.
18. We will continue joint efforts to strengthen financial cooperation, deepen cooperation on the "Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization", and continue to improve the early-warning and liquidity support facilities to prevent regional financial risks. The two sides will give better play to the role of the China-ASEAN Inter-Bank Association.
19. ASEAN appreciates China's continued support to the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and better connectivity by road, rail, air and water between ASEAN countries and China through active engagements of the Chinese Working Committee of the China-ASEAN Connectivity Cooperation Committee with the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee. We welcome the convening of the Special ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Meeting in Nanning, China on 2 September 2013. To ease the financing bottleneck for infrastructure projects, we agree to work towards the set-up of a financing platform for infrastructure development in Asia. In this regard, ASEAN appreciates China's proposal on an Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to give priority support to ASEAN connectivity projects. We will look for early and substantive progress in the construction of the Pan-Asia Railway.
20. We will strengthen civil aviation cooperation under the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement (AC-ATA) which was signed at the 9th ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Meeting in November 2010 to deepen

connectivity between China and ASEAN countries in support of the establishment of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area.

21. We support the work towards developing the ASEAN-China Maritime Cooperation Partnership, including the utilization of the ASEAN-China Maritime Cooperation Fund and strengthening cooperation in ports connectivity, fishery, marine science and technology, environment protection, safety of navigation, search and rescue, oceanic culture, etc. We agree to promote dialogue and exchanges between maritime law-enforcement agencies of ASEAN countries and China, and consider the possible set-up of relevant mechanisms.
22. We will enhance cooperation in the fields of environment, agriculture, information and communication technology (ICT), human resource development (HRD) mutual investment, Mekong basin development, tourism, transportation and energy. We will formulate a framework for ASEAN-China cooperation in environmental technology and industry and set up an ASEAN-China demonstration base forex change and cooperation on environmental technology and industry.
23. We will work together to implement the ASEAN-China Science and Technology Partnership Programme and strengthen cooperation in technology transfer, capacity building and innovation, including SMEs. We are open to exploring the establishment of an ASEAN-China Innovation Center and an ASEAN-China Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Center and formulate an action plan for ASEAN-China cooperation on new and renewable energy.

Socio-Cultural Cooperation

24. We will work closely to promote socio-cultural exchange and cooperation, particularly in the fields of youth, culture, media, education, tourism, social development, public health, disaster management, and support the building of the Network of ASEAN-China Think-tanks.
 25. We agree to designate the year 2014 as the "ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year." ASEAN appreciates
- China's decision to provide 15,000 government scholarships to young students from ASEAN Member States in the next three to five years starting from 2014.
26. We are committed to supporting the work of the ASEAN-China Centre as platform for better understanding, communication and cooperation through cultural exchanges and education.
 27. We welcome the use of the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund, the ASEAN-China Investment Cooperation Fund and the ASEAN-China Public Health Cooperation Fund and agree to make good use of the Special Fund for Asian Regional Cooperation set up by the Chinese government, in order to support cooperation and exchanges between the two sides in various fields.

Regional and International Cooperation

28. We agree to enhance region economic cooperation through the RCEP, and welcome proposals to cooperate on a possible Asian financial stability system, an Asian investment and financing cooperation system, and an Asian credit system.
29. China reaffirms its commitment to working closely with ASEAN through the various ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), in supporting the long-term goal of building an East Asia community. China reaffirms its continued support for ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture.
30. Recognising the global dimension of the prevailing economic situation, we encourage all countries to adopt responsible economic policies and sustain the momentum of global economic recovery.
31. We will enhance communication and cooperation in international and regional affairs, particularly on issues of common interest. China will continue to support ASEAN in playing a bigger role in the United Nations, the G20, and the APEC.

Chairman's Statement of the 16th ASEAN-China Summit

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 9 October 2013**

1. The 16th ASEAN-China Summit chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, was held on 9 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and H.E. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.
2. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed H.E. Li Keqiang to the Meeting, who attended the ASEAN-China Summit for the first time since taking up the post of Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.
3. We acknowledged that China continues to be one of ASEAN's most active dialogue partners as it contributes to the development and the promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in the region. In this context, the ASEAN Leaders appreciated China's continued support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, including the ASEAN Plus Three (APT), the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in the ASEAN Community building process towards the long-term goal of building an East Asia community.
4. The ASEAN Leaders also encouraged China to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) as well as the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III). As ASEAN is embarking towards an ASEAN Community, we acknowledged the need to deepen and enhance ASEAN's dialogue partnership and external relations, with the aim of having an equal, mutually beneficial and meaningful partnership. We noted ASEAN's initiative to develop an ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision and welcomed the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision.
5. We reaffirmed our strong commitment in further strengthening the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership particularly in the eleven priority areas, namely agriculture, information and communication technology, human resource development, investment, Mekong Basin Development, transportation, energy, culture, tourism, public health and environment.
6. We welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the period of 2011-2015 to implement the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. In this regard, we noted the third progress report for the implementation of the 2011-2015 Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity.
7. We recognised that this year marks the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership and we welcomed its various commemorative activities held in ASEAN Member States and China, including the High Level Forum on the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership on 2 August 2013 in Bangkok, the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 29 August 2013 in Beijing and the Workshop on the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership: Achievements, Challenges, Opportunities and Future Direction on 17-18 September 2013 in Siem Reap. We underscored the importance of the discussions of the said meetings, especially in reviewing the past achievements and charting the future direction of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership.
8. We agreed to adopt the Joint Statement of the 16th ASEAN-China Summit on Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership which expresses ASEAN and China's collective commitment in further strengthening the ASEAN-China relationship.
9. We recalled the successful outcomes of the 19th ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultation held on 2 April 2013 in Beijing where it was agreed that ASEAN and China could deepen existing cooperation in trade and investment facilitation, connectivity, and maritime cooperation, while expanding the scope

of cooperation to encompass other areas such as food and energy security, science and technology, transportation, and education.

10. We are committed to promoting strategic relations and maintaining close high-level exchanges and contacts, and continuing to deepen political mutual trust and confidence. We noted with appreciation China's proposed treaty on good-neighbourliness and friendly cooperation. We acknowledged Indonesia's idea in having a treaty of friendship and cooperation that includes a wider Indo-Pacific region, beyond ASEAN and China.
11. We agreed to step up dialogue and cooperation among our defence establishments, and looked forward to holding an informal ASEAN-China defence ministers meeting in China at a convenient time in the future. We appreciated China's contributions in ensuring the success of the ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMM-Plus HADR and MM Ex) that was held in Brunei Darussalam in June 2013 especially in enhancing confidence building, regional capacity, interoperability and coordination in addressing non-traditional security challenges, in particular disaster management. In other areas of non-traditional security, we also looked forward to enhancing cooperation with China under the Plan of Action to Implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues, particularly in addressing transnational crime, especially the trafficking of illegal drugs and narcotics.
12. We welcomed the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) by ASEAN Leaders, which would serve as a centre of excellence to encourage efforts to address explosive remnants of war for interested ASEAN Member States, and shall facilitate cooperation with relevant institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.
13. We noted with satisfaction the substantive work undertaken by China's Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, in further strengthening the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership.
14. We welcomed China's proposal to establish an ASEAN-China Port Cities Cooperation Network to promote exchanges and cooperation in port development, port-related industries, international trade, culture and tourism. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated China's comprehensive plan for utilising the ASEAN-China Maritime Cooperation Fund to provide financial support to ASEAN-China cooperation in the areas of maritime connectivity, marine science and technology as well as maritime scientific research, search and rescue, disaster management, and navigation safety.
15. We reaffirmed the importance of the maintenance of peace, stability and maritime security in the region. We further stressed the importance of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), the Joint Statement of the 15th ASEAN-China Summit on the 10th Anniversary of the DOC in 2012 and the adoption of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC in 2011. In this regard, we reaffirmed our commitment to continue to fully and effectively implement the DOC, to build trust and confidence in order to enhance maritime security, and encourage the concerned parties to resolve their disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), without resorting to the threat or use of force, while exercising self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability.
16. We welcomed the positive outcomes achieved in the first official consultations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) and the implementation of the DOC at the successful convening of the 6th Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on the Implementation of the DOC and the 9th Joint Working Group (JWG) on the Implementation of the DOC on 14-15 September 2013 in Suzhou, China. We will continue to maintain the momentum of the regular official consultations and work towards the adoption of the COC as provided for by the DOC. We welcomed with appreciation the idea of developing hotlines of communications in

- order to respond expeditiously to incidents at sea, including search and rescue.
17. We noted that China continues to be ASEAN's largest trading partner since 2009, while ASEAN continues to be China's third largest trading partner since 2010. We also noted that, based on ASEAN statistics, the two-way trade volume has expanded at an annual growth rate of 21.6% from 2009. We expressed confidence in our goal to achieve bilateral trade of US\$500 billion by 2015.
 18. We reaffirmed our opposition to trade protectionism. We welcomed the progress achieved in implementing the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA). In view of the changing circumstances after the signing of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and China in 2002, we believed it is necessary to explore ways on how the ACFTA could be further improved so as to better respond to the evolving global economic architecture. In this regard, we welcomed the initiative for an upgraded ACFTA by, among others, improving overall market access conditions and trade balance between both sides as well as expanding the scope and coverage of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and China and therefore, tasked our officials to commence discussions within this year with an aim to conclude the process as early as possible.
 19. We noted the progress of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which would build upon the ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements, including the ACFTA. We acknowledged that the RCEP recognises ASEAN Centrality in the emerging regional economic architecture and contribute to economic integration, equitable economic development, and strengthening economic cooperation among participating countries. In this regard, we agreed to actively push forward the negotiations of the RCEP for the greater economic integration of East Asia.
 20. We welcomed the convening of the first ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Roadshow to China on 23-25 October 2013 as a landmark in ASEAN-China trade relations. We looked forward to showcasing ASEAN as a single investment destination featuring the benefits and advantages of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA) and ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS), as well as fruitful dialogue between private sectors and investors from ASEAN and China.
 21. We welcomed the 10th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) that was held on 3-6 September 2013 in Nanning, China under the theme of "Regional Cooperation and Development: New Opportunities, New Impetus, New Stages." We commended the success of the CAEXPO in boosting trade and investment relations between ASEAN and China.
 22. We congratulated Indonesia for its able Chairmanship of APEC in 2013. We welcomed China's Chairmanship of APEC in 2014 and hoped that the synergy between ASEAN and APEC would be further strengthened. We also underlined the importance of the continuation of connectivity, infrastructure development and investment agenda in APEC in 2014 and other issues of common concern.
 23. The ASEAN leaders appreciated China's strong support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC). We welcomed the Special ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Meeting on Connectivity on 2 September 2013 in Nanning and the 2nd Meeting between the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the Chinese Working Committee on China-ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (CWC-CACCC) on 28 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, and would work together to determine and implement key projects to support ASEAN Connectivity.
 24. We prioritised connectivity as an important area of cooperation under the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership. In this regard, we agreed to accelerate regional infrastructure connectivity efforts as well as welcomed China's initiative to set up an Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to provide financial support to regional infrastructure projects, with priority on ASEAN connectivity.
 25. We welcomed the work of the ASEAN-China Centre in Beijing in facilitating trade, investment, tourism, and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and China.

We noted the work of the Joint Council of the ASEAN-China Centre in ensuring the effective work of the ASEAN-China Centre to promote economic and cultural cooperation.

26. We agreed to designate the year 2014 as the ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year. We noted the great progress that ASEAN and China have achieved in tourism and that China has become the second biggest source of tourists for ASEAN countries, where in 2012, ASEAN received almost 8.76 million tourists from China while China received nearly 5.9 million tourists from ASEAN. In this regard, we looked forward to China's initiative to hold a China-ASEAN Tourism Forum in China and the ongoing efforts to increase further two-way tourists visits between ASEAN and China.
27. We noted the progress made in ASEAN and China collaboration on health in the areas of communicable diseases, emerging infectious diseases, and traditional and complementary alternative medicine. We looked forward to further strengthening the joint collaboration in health development as agreed in the signed ASEAN-China MOU on Health Cooperation.
28. We recognised that the launching of the ASEAN-China Science and Technology Partnership Programme (STEP) in 2012 was an important milestone in ASEAN-China Science and Technology Cooperation. We recognised that the launching of the ASEAN-China Science and Technology Partnership Programme (STEP) in 2012 was an important milestone in ASEAN-China Science and Technology Cooperation. We noted with satisfaction that under STEP, 4 major cooperation programs including 10 ASEAN-China joint laboratories, ASEAN-China Remote Sensing Satellite Data Sharing and Service Platform, ASEAN-China Technology Transfer Center, and Talented Young Scientist Visiting China have yielded concrete progress. We looked forward to the finalisation of the MOU on ASEAN-China Cooperation on Science and Technology. We looked forward to the finalisation of the MOU on ASEAN-China Cooperation on Science and Technology.
29. We welcomed the establishment of the Network of ASEAN-China Think Tanks (NACT) and expressed our hope that this would provide a good platform for

the increase of academic exchanges between ASEAN and China.

30. We congratulated Thailand for a successful first year as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations. We looked forward to further enhancing the ASEAN-China relationship.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 12th ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting (12th ATM+China)

**Pakse City, Champasak Province,
Lao PDR, 19 December 2013**

1. The Twelfth ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM+China) was held on 19 December 2013 in Pakse City, Champasak Province, Lao PDR. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR and, H.E. Mr. Yang Chuantang, Minister of Transport of the People's Republic of China. The Meeting was preceded by the Twelfth ASEAN and China Senior Transport Officials Meeting (12th STOM+China) held on 17 December 2013.
2. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of 16th ASEAN-China Summit held on 9 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, particularly the Leaders' commitment to further strengthen ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership; China's proposals to establish an ASEAN-China Port Cities Cooperation Network and utilise ASEAN-China Maritime Fund for maritime connectivity, search and rescue, disaster management and navigational safety.
3. The Ministers recalled their decisions during the ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Special Meeting on Connectivity held on 2 September 2013 in Nanning, China to deepen transport connectivity to support the upgrading of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area and on-going negotiations for the "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership", amongst others, including optimising existing working

- mechanism, establishing financing platform for infrastructure development, strengthening air and maritime connectivity.
4. The Ministers signed the Protocol 2 on the Fifth Freedom Traffic Rights of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement to further facilitate business and leisure connectivity between ASEAN Member States and China by providing more opportunities for their airlines to fly to more cities in ASEAN and China.
 5. The Ministers encouraged senior officials to build upon the ASEAN-China Maritime Consultation Mechanism to come up with technical and capacity building proposals for funding under the ASEAN-China Maritime Cooperation Fund to advance maritime transport cooperation between ASEAN and China.
 6. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in the construction of the Singapore – Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) and encouraged senior officials to explore possible synergy in expediting the work on SKRL which will not only further enhance connectivity between ASEAN and China but also provide impetus to regional connectivity in ASEAN.
 7. The Ministers commended the successful conclusion of the overall planning for the National Highway Network of Lao PDR and construction of the Houayxay-Chiang Khong Mekong Bridge which links Lao PDR and Thailand. The completion of this project signified the official inception of transport facilitation along the Kunming-Bangkok Highway which linked China, Lao PDR and Thailand.
 8. The Ministers welcomed the successful conclusion of the following ASEAN-China transport meetings/ events held in 2013:
 - (a) The Second Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for the ASEAN-China Transport Cooperation on Guilin, China held on 19-21 March 2013 in Guilin, China ;
 - (b) The Seventh ASEAN-China Working Group Meeting on Regional Air Services Arrangements held on 20-22 November 2013 in Beijing, China;
 - (c) The Ninth Meeting of ASEAN-China Maritime Consultation Mechanism held on 7-8 November 2013 in Shanghai, China; and
 - (d) Workshop of Airworthiness Certification of MA60 Airplane in China on 9-18 December 2013 in Xi'an, China.
 9. The Ministers also welcomed a series of projects/ activities earmarked for implementation in 2014, among others:
 - (a) Eighth ASEAN-China Working Group Meeting on Regional Air Services Arrangements;
 - (b) Tenth Meeting of ASEAN-China Maritime Consultation Mechanism in Tianjin;
 - (c) The Implementation of the Feasibility Study for Further Improvement of the Navigation Channel of Lancang-Mekong River;
 - (d) China-ASEAN Joint Maritime Search and Rescue Table and Operational Exercises and hold a multilateral, multi-task joint maritime exercise during 2014 East Asia Summit;
 - (e) Initiation of China-ASEAN Port Cities Cooperation Network;
 - (f) Implementation of the Package of ASEAN-China Maritime Transport Studies;
 - (g) Development study for the Inland Waterway Improvement project in Thailand and CLMV countries;
 - (h) Workshops on Maritime Search and Rescue and Oil Spill Prevention in Qingdao; and
 - (i) Scholarship for Master Programme in Dalian Maritime University.
 10. The Thirteenth ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting will be held in Myanmar in 2014.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

H.E. Pehin Dato Abdullah Bakar, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Yang Chuantang, Minister of Transport of the People's Republic of China; H.E. Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice Minister for Transportation of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Ab Aziz Bin Kaprawi, Deputy Minister of Transport of Malaysia; H.E. Mr. Nyan Htun Aung, Union Minister for Transport of Myanmar; H.E. Atty. Catherine Jennifer P. Gonzales, Undersecretary of Transportation and Communications of the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lui Tuck Yew, Minister of Transport of Singapore; Mr. Teerapong Rodprasert, Deputy Permanent Secretary, representing; H.E. Mr. Chadchart Sittipunt, Minister of Transport of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Dinh La Thang, Minister

of Transport of Viet Nam; and; H.E. Mr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.

ASEAN-European Union

Joint Press Release of the 20th Meeting of the ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee

Jakarta, Indonesia, 17 January 2013

The Meeting confirmed the positive momentum of EU-ASEAN Dialogue Relations and looked forward to further strengthening the partnership and cooperation for mutual benefit. Since the adoption in April 2012 of the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to strengthen the ASEAN-EU enhanced partnership 2013-2017 and the EU's accession to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in July 2012, the relationship has broadened and deepened substantially.

ASEAN and the EU exchanged views on developments in their respective region. The EU welcomed the progress achieved in ASEAN integration and Community-building and reaffirmed its support to the centrality of ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture.

ASEAN and the EU exchanged views on their increasingly close trade and investment relations. They underlined the value of the Consultations between the ASEAN and EU Economic Ministers to further strengthen trade and investments ties.

ASEAN and the EU welcomed the progress achieved in ASEAN-EU cooperation. They were satisfied with the progress made to strengthen cooperation in the area of science, technology and research and welcomed the EU-ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Days, which took place in Bangkok from 21 to 23 January 2014. Both sides were satisfied with the cooperation on civil aviation and looked forward to the EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit to take place on 11-12 February 2014

in Singapore. Significant progress has been made in the area of Information and communications technology (ICT) and several workshops planned next year. Cooperation on human rights was intensifying. Members of the ASEAN Commission on the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) visited Brussels on 19-22 February 2013 and the EU looked forward to welcoming the second visit of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to Brussels later in 2014. ASEAN and the EU discussed their increasing cooperation in the context of the ASEAN Regional Forum and looked forward to the next session of the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Brussels on 7-9 April 2014.

The Meeting discussed ASEAN-EU cooperation on the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and the possibility of establishing effective mechanisms to enhance cooperation on Connectivity. ASEAN and the EU looked forward to the first ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Connectivity in Brussels on 24 – 28 February 2014. The Dialogue will be a good opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices as well as explore public and private financing for connectivity. An outcome document will be presented to the next ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM).

ASEAN and the EU welcomed the successful ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Maritime Cooperation, held on 18-19 November 2013 in Jakarta. The Dialogue allowed for an in-depth exchange on different aspects of maritime security and the identification of different follow-up actions. An outcome document will be presented to the next ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM).

ASEAN and the EU discussed and welcomed the progress in the implementation of the ongoing ASEAN-EU cooperation programmes in support of ASEAN. They also looked into proposals to simplify the procedures as urged by the 19th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in 2012.

Both parties discussed the programming of the 2014-2020 cycle of financial support for ASEAN under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) and the EU expressed its intention to substantially increase its financing for projects and programmes with ASEAN. Cooperation under this Instrument would focus on (i) connectivity; sustainable and inclusive economic integration and trade; (ii) climate change and disaster management; and (iii) a

comprehensive dialogue facility. This agreement would be reflected in a document, which will be presented to the next ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM). ASEAN and EU also discussed other financing possibilities for regional integration, such as the Asia Investment Facility, Erasmus Mundus and the Instrument for Stability.

In their closing remarks, ASEAN and the EU underlined the importance of the partnership between both regional organisations. The ASEAN-EU partnership has lived up to the promise of the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action as political relations intensify, impressive progress is registered in many fields, and new areas of cooperation are being developed.

The 21st Meeting of the ASEAN-EU JCC was co-chaired by His Excellency Mr. Vu Dang Dzung, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to ASEAN, Country Coordinator for the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations, and by Mr. Ranieri Sabatucci, Head of the South-East Asia Division of the European External Action Service, together with Mr. Jean-Claude Boidin, Head of Unit of the European Commission Directorate General for Development Cooperation. The Meeting was opened by His Excellency Mr. Vu Dang Dzung, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to ASEAN and His Excellency Mr. Olof Skoog, Ambassador of the EU to ASEAN and attended by members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, officials from the ASEAN Secretariat and EU, as well as representatives of EU Member States.

Joint Media Statement of the 12th AEM-EU Trade Commissioner Consultations

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 8 March 2013

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the EU Trade Commissioner held their Twelfth Consultations on 8 March 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The 12th AEM-EU Trade Commissioner Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam, and H.E. Karel De Gucht, the EU Trade Commissioner.
2. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner exchanged views on current developments in their respective regions and noted that trade and investment between ASEAN and the EU continued to expand despite the world economic slowdown. Trade between ASEAN and the EU grew by 12.6%, amounting to US\$234.8 billion in 2011. Meanwhile, foreign direct investment flow from the EU into ASEAN increased by 7.2% totalling US\$18.2 billion. In 2012, the EU was ASEAN's third largest trading partner and continues to be ASEAN's biggest source of foreign direct investment.
3. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner underscored their continued support and commitment to a stable, transparent and rules-based multilateral trading system and to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner agreed to work together to move the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations forward with a view to reaching agreement on a focused set of issues, including Trade Facilitation, at the 9th Ministerial Conference later this year in Bali, Indonesia. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner congratulated Lao PDR on its accession to the WTO. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner expressed their utmost appreciation for the hard work and commitment of His Excellency Pascal Lamy during his tenure as the WTO Director-General. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner noted ASEAN's candidature of Her Excellency Mari Pangestu, Minister of Tourism and Creative Industries of the Republic of Indonesia, as well as former Minister of Trade and 2011 Chair of the AEM, as the next WTO Director-General.
4. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner exchanged views on regional and international issues particularly those significant to regional economic integration in ASEAN and EU, and noted the progress of the bilateral free trade agreement negotiations and discussions between individual ASEAN Member State and the EU. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation between the two regions including the possibility of resuming negotiations of an ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement, upon realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community by the end of 2015.

5. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner exchanged views on how to enhance ASEAN-EU investment relations. In particular they shared updated information on their investment policies as well as on on-going initiatives in terms of their investment agreements' negotiations. Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner stressed the importance of increased flow of investment both ways to create jobs and stimulate the economy of both regions.
6. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner welcomed the third ASEAN-EU Business Summit held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam at the sidelines of the AEM-EU Trade Commissioner Consultations. The Business Summit, which has been organised annually since 2011, continued to attract many business people from both regions and provide the opportunity for public-private sector dialogue. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner expressed hope that the event would generate more business opportunities and expand economic cooperation between the two regions.
7. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen trade and investment between ASEAN and the EU, and endorsed the ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme for 2013-2014. The Work Programme aims at improving two-way trade relations and investment between ASEAN and the EU as well as supporting broader integration within ASEAN as well as between ASEAN and the EU.
8. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner were pleased to note the status of the implementation of the various ASEAN-EU economic cooperation programmes in support of ASEAN's economic integration, institutional capacity-building, statistics, ASEAN's FTA negotiating capacity, intellectual property rights and air transport. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner welcomed the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE) project which is aimed at supporting the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by enhancing the capacities of ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner agreed that the experience drawn from the EU's economic integration would substantially benefit ASEAN.
9. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner welcomed H.E. Le Luong Minh, as new Secretary-General of ASEAN and wished him a successful term.

LIST OF MINISTERS AND THE EU TRADE COMMISSIONER

H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Karel De Gucht, European Commissioner for Trade; Mr. Iman Pambagyo, Director-General of Ministry of Trade and Industry, Indonesia (representing H.E. Gita Wirjawan, Minister of Trade of Indonesia); H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; Datuk Dr. Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, Secretary General, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia (representing H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia); H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Boonsong Teriyapirom, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; and; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN-India

Joint Media Statement of the 4th Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers (4th M-ATM+India)

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 21 January 2013

1. The Fourth Meeting of ASEAN and India Tourism Ministers (4th M-ATM+India) was held on 21 January 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2013 (ATF 2013). The Meeting was jointly co-chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR, and H.E. Dr. K. Chiranjeevi, Minister for Tourism, Government of India.

2. The Ministers were pleased to note the strengthened tourism exchange between ASEAN and India during the year 2012. In 2011, the number of tourist arrivals between ASEAN and India recorded steady growth, with the total number of tourist arrivals from India to ASEAN recording 2.7 million arrivals and ASEAN to India 521,755 arrivals in 2011.
3. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Vision Statement of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit held on 20 December 2012 in New Delhi, India, particularly on enhancing the ASEAN Connectivity through supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. The Ministers also supported the close collaboration of ASEAN and India to enhance air, sea and land connectivity within ASEAN and between ASEAN and India through ASEAN-India connectivity project.
4. The Ministers signed the Protocol to amend the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and India on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation, which would further strengthen the tourism collaboration between ASEAN and India national tourism organisations. The Ministers were pleased with the implementation progress of the MOU in 2012, through the following projects and activities:
 - India organising Familiarization trip for travel writers from ASEAN Member States.
 - India sending 25 members delegation of teachers and faculty members from hospitality institutes to Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.
 - India inviting 48 delegates from ASEAN Member States for international Buddhist Conclave held in Varanasi and Bodhgaya in September-October 2012.
 - India inviting 131 journalists, photographers, tour operators, travel agents and opinion makers from ASEAN countries in the year 2012.
 - India inviting 42 delegates from ASEAN Member States for International Tourism Mart 2013 being held in Guwahati, Assam from 18-20 January 2013.
5. The Ministers welcomed the conclusion of the 8000km ASEAN-India Car Rally organised as one of the highlighted events in commemorating the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations in 2012. The Car Rally has successfully created public awareness on ASEAN-India relations that would further strengthen tourism and people-to-people linkages.
6. For promoting tourism exchange between ASEAN and India further, the Ministers launched the ASEAN-India tourism website (www.indiaasean.org) as a platform to jointly promote tourism destinations, sharing basic information about ASEAN Member States and India, and a visitor guide.
7. The Meeting expressed sympathy and deepest condolences to the family of the late H.E. Chumpol Silapa-archa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism and Sports of Thailand, and to the Government and people of Thailand for his passing away. It is a great loss not only to Thailand, but also to the ASEAN Tourism Community for his significant contribution to the development of ASEAN tourism cooperation.
8. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Lao PDR for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the Meetings.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. K. Chiranjeevi, Minister for Tourism, Government of India; Mr. I Gusti Putu Laksaguna, Inspector General of Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of Indonesia, representing; H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Indonesia; H.E. Prof. Dr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Dr. Ng Yen Yen, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia; U Aung Zaw Win, Director General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar representing; H.E. Mr. Htay Aung, Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr. Secretary of Tourism, Philippines; Mr. Lionel Yeo, Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board, representing; H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Sombat Kuruphan, Vice Minister for Tourism and Sports, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Ho Anh Tuan, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Culture, Sports,

and Tourism of Viet Nam; and; H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement the 12th AEM-MOFCOM Consultations

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 20 August 2013**

1. The Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and the Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China met on 20 August 2013 for the 12th AEM-MOFCOM Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam and H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce of China.
2. The Ministers noted the general performance of ASEAN-China bilateral trade and investments and were pleased that, despite the uncertainty in the global economy, China maintained its position as ASEAN's largest trading partner. ASEAN-China bilateral trade, based on ASEAN statistics, expanded at an annual growth rate of 21.6% from 2009 to 2012. By the end of 2012, ASEAN total trade with China reached US\$ 318.6 billion, increasing by 13.6% from US\$ 280.4 billion in 2011. The Ministers were confident that the goal set by the Leaders to bring bilateral trade to US\$ 500 billion by 2015 would be achieved, if the trend continues up to 2015.

ASEAN-China Free Trade Area

3. The Ministers noted the progress made in implementing the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) and were pleased with the ACFTA Joint Committee's ongoing efforts in upgrading the ACFTA agreements to ensure that the ACFTA remains dynamic and commercially relevant. The Ministers underscored that, with the liberalisation objectives of the ACFTA almost realised, at least for ASEAN-6 (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) and China, efforts should now be directed

towards facilitating ASEAN-China bilateral trade and improving the ACFTA through the ongoing review of the Sensitive Track and Rules of Origin.

4. In this context, China briefed the ASEAN Economic Ministers its proposal on building an upgraded version of ACFTA by improving the liberalisation level and expanding the scope and coverage of the agreement. The ASEAN Economic Ministers noted with appreciation this proposal and welcomed the intent for the overall enhancement of the ACFTA.
5. The Ministers noted that the Protocol to Incorporate Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures into the ASEAN-China TIG Agreement (Protocol on TBT/SPS), signed on 18 November 2012, has entered into force on 1 January 2013 for Brunei Darussalam, China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Also noted was the progress made in finalising the draft Chapter text for Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation (CPTF), which would subsequently be incorporated into the ASEAN-China Trade in Goods (TIG) Agreement.
6. Stressing the importance of facilitating ASEAN-China bilateral trade, the Ministers urged officials to expedite the conclusion of CPTF negotiations and the review of the Sensitive Track and Rules of Origin, prior to the next AEM-MOFCOM Consultations in 2014.
7. The Ministers also encouraged the ACFTA Joint Committee in its efforts to review the ASEAN-China Trade in Services Agreement, Investment Agreement and the Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism on a regular basis.

ASEAN Roadshow to China

8. The Ministers looked forward to the AEM Roadshow to China scheduled on 23-25 October 2013. The Ministers anticipated that the Roadshow – which would cover the cities of Beijing, Chengdu and Shanghai – would boost the confidence level of the Chinese people, including central and local government officials and business people, in taking advantage of the opportunities arising from the various initiatives not only under the robust ASEAN-China economic relations but also from ASEAN's economic integration efforts.

Other Areas of Cooperation

7. The Ministers were pleased with the success of the 9th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) held on 21-25 September 2012 in Nanning, China and looked forward to the convening of the 10th CAEXPO scheduled on 3-6 September 2013.
8. The Minister noted the outcomes of the first meeting of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the Chinese Working Committee of China-ASEAN Connectivity Cooperation Committee (ACWC-ACCC) which was held on 7 November 2012. The Ministers viewed that the outcomes of this Meeting would be very important for the future cooperation between ASEAN and China to support Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. The Ministers requested the ACCC and CWC-CACCC to continue working closely and effectively to ensure a better connectivity between ASEAN and China.
9. The Ministers were pleased with the preliminary work undertaken by ASEAN and Hong Kong to realise the ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement and looked forward to the commencement of the negotiations in early 2014.
10. The Ministers noted the progress made to finalise the roadmap for Pan-Beibu Gulf Economic Cooperation. In this regard, the Ministers encouraged relevant officials to undertake practical approach in advancing the initiative and also to identify concrete and feasible projects.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce, China; H.E. Bayu Krisnamurthi, Vice Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and

Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement of the 11th AEM-India Consultations

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 21 August 2013**

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India met at the 11th AEM-India Consultations on 21 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Consultations were co-chaired by The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam and H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry of India.
2. The Ministers noted the increase in trade between ASEAN and India amounting to US\$ 75.6 billion in 2012 from US\$ 74.6 in 2011, according to India's trade statistics. India remained as ASEAN's sixth largest trading partner in 2012. According to ASEAN's statistics, Foreign Direct Investment flow from India to ASEAN totalled US\$2.6 billion.
3. The Ministers tasked the senior economic officials to monitor the implementation of the Trade in Goods Agreement as well as identify and address the obstacles that may hinder the smooth flow of cross-border trade. These efforts are important to achieve the target of US\$100 billion ASEAN-India trade by 2015 set by the Leaders at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit on 20 December 2012 in New Delhi, India. The Ministers noted that the tariff for products in the Normal Track 1 (NT1) for India and related ASEAN Member States will be eliminated in accordance with the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement.
4. The Ministers recalled the completion of the negotiations on trade in services and investment in December last year. The Ministers were pleased to

note that the legal texts of the two (2) agreements have been finalised and the signing will be done as soon as all Parties complete their respective domestic procedures. Thereafter, the Agreement on Trade in Services and Investment between the Republic of India and the ASEAN will be implemented.

5. The Ministers expressed confidence that the implementation of the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements will further contribute towards deepening economic engagement and contribute towards elevating the ASEAN-India relation to a strategic partnership, which they agreed upon in December 2012.
6. In this regard, the Ministers were pleased to note the progress in the establishment of the ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre in India which will further facilitate ASEAN-India business relations.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, India; H.E. Bayu Krisnamurthi, Vice Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Press Statement of the 3rd ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
28 September 2013

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and the Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries of India, held our Third ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF) on 28 September 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was Co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia and H.E. Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries of India.
2. We welcomed the significant progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action on ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015), and reaffirmed our commitment to ensure ASEAN-India cooperation in agriculture and forestry substantially to contribute further in deepening of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership and support the ASEAN Community building efforts.
3. We were pleased with the progress of the ASEAN-India cooperation in agriculture and forestry in 2012-2013 through the implementation of numerous activities under the Medium-term Programme of Action for ASEAN-India Cooperation on Agriculture and Forestry (2011-2015). These include the ASEAN-India Agri Expo and the Symposium on Indo-ASEAN Export Potential of Agriculture Products that were organised on 17 – 19 October 2012 and 18 October 2012, respectively, in New Delhi. The inaugural edition of the ASEAN-India Newsletter on Agriculture and Forestry was released in October 2012, and the 2nd and 3rd edition had been published in May and September 2013, respectively. Under the ASEAN-India Farmers Exchange Programme, farmers from the ASEAN Member States visited India in December 2012 and Indian farmers visited Malaysia in April 2013. These exchange visits provided a good platform for the young, progressive and

enterprising farmers of ASEAN Member States and India to be informed of the new opportunities and developments in the agriculture sector, exchange views and to share best practices and innovations in agriculture. As part of the initiative to enhance the quality of higher agricultural education and research as well as extension through cooperation between agricultural universities, the Conference of Heads of Agriculture Universities and Research Institutions of India and ASEAN was organised on 18-21 February 2013 in New Delhi.

5. Building on these achievements, we reaffirmed our support and commitment to enhance further ASEAN-India cooperation in agriculture, with special emphasis on our joint efforts to address the challenges of food security that is becoming the global issue through capacity building, agricultural education, and research and development. We looked forward to the capacity building programmes on IT Application for Agricultural Extension (e-Extension); on Organic Certification for Fruit and Vegetables; and on National Seed Quality Control System later this year. We also welcomed the new initiatives on Managing Food Security and Price Volatility, and Training on Conventional and Molecular Techniques for Diagnosis of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases to be implemented as part of our efforts to enhance agriculture production and productivity towards food security.
6. agreed to meet again at the Fourth ASEAN India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry to be held in India in September/October 2014.
7. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Malaysia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. San Vanty, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Suswono, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob,

Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia; H.E. U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Jose Eduardo E. Malaya III, the Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia, Philippines; H.E. Ms. Tan Poh Hong, Chief Executive Officer, Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Yukol Limlamthong, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand; H.E. Dr. Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries of India; Mr. Tran Dong Phuong, Director of Finance, Industries and Infrastructure Directorate, ASEAN Economic Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat.

Chairman's Statement of the 11th ASEAN-India Summit

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 10 October 2013**

1. The 11th ASEAN-India Summit, chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, was held on 10 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.
2. The ASEAN Leaders congratulated India on the successful hosting of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in December 2012 and welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-India Vision Statement at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and the elevation of the partnership to a Strategic level. The Leaders noted with satisfaction the various meaningful activities conducted in 2012 to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, including the ASEAN-India Car Rally, the Expedition of naval INS Sudarshini to ASEAN countries, ASEAN-India Sectoral Ministerial Meetings namely on Environment; Agriculture and Forestry, New and Renewable Energy, and Trade and Tourism, and their related business and cultural events, which helped to make the calendar of activities fully participative of the people of the region.

3. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed India's 'Look East Policy' within the framework of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership, particularly India's continued support to the ASEAN Community Building process covering the three pillars of ASEAN Community, enhancing connectivity, and in strengthening ASEAN Centrality.
4. The ASEAN Leaders also encouraged India to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and contribute to the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision, as well as to the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III).
5. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed India's announcement of a separate Mission to the ASEAN with a Resident Ambassador as an illustration of the intensification of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership.
6. We noted with satisfaction the significant achievements made in ASEAN-India partnership over the past twenty years. We appreciated India's consistent support and participation in the activities of the ARF and ADMM Plus in an effort to address contemporary regional and international issues facing our region. We also expressed appreciation for India's contributions to the 2nd ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise that was held in Brunei Darussalam from 16 to 20 June 2013.
7. We recognized the importance of security, peace and stability in the region. In this connection, ASEAN Leaders agreed to further enhance cooperation and strengthen the effective implementation of the ASEAN-India 2003 Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism.
8. We noted with satisfaction the good progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action (POA) 2010-2015 to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity and tasked our Ministers for the timely and full implementation of the PoA which would help to further deepen and enhance the ASEAN-India cooperation as well as contribute towards ASEAN's community building targets by 2015. We agreed on the utility of continuing the activities in Environment and Renewable Energy, initiated during the Commemorative Year.
9. We hoped that the process of finalisation of some key projects including the creation of a sustainable IT infrastructure in CLMV countries; establishment of a Tracking and Data Reception Station and Data Processing Facility for ASEAN in Ho Chi Minh City and the Upgradation of Biak II in Indonesia; and progress towards cooperation between the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) of India would provide further momentum.
10. We welcomed the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action and the incorporation of the short-term actionable goals from the Vision Statement, particularly the establishment of the ASEAN-India Centre. In this regard, we welcomed the launching of the Centre and looked forward to the finalisation of the required modalities for operationalisation of the Centre. We also noted India's intent to set up the separate ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre, announced by the ASEAN India Economic Ministers, to promote trade and investment cooperation between ASEAN and India.
11. We were heartened to note that the total trade between ASEAN and India reached US\$ 75.6 billion in 2012, surpassing our bilateral trade target of US\$70 billion. We recall the target of US\$100 billion by 2015 set at the 10th ASEAN-India Summit last year and looked forward to the signing of the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreement by the end of 2013 and its operationalisation by July 2014. We also tasked our officials to continue their efforts in facilitating trade and investment between the two sides.
12. We note with satisfaction the progress of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which would build upon the ASEAN+1 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) including the ASEAN-India FTA. We acknowledge that the RCEP recognises ASEAN Centrality in the emerging regional economic architecture and contribute to economic integration, equitable economic development, and strengthening economic cooperation among participating countries. In this regard, we looked forward to its timely conclusion by 2015.

13. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed India's commitment to support the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and connectivity in the wider East Asia region and underscored the importance of promoting stronger linkages between ASEAN and South Asia. In this regard, we welcomed the convening of the Inaugural ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and India Consultation in Balikpapan, Indonesia, on 10 June 2013. The Leaders noted India's suggestion to establish a Working Group on Maritime Cooperation and a Working Group to discuss soft infrastructure requirements to facilitate movement of goods and services across connectivity corridors. They also took note of the suggestion from India that officials begin discussions on an ASEAN-India Transit Transport Agreement (AITTA), to conclude by end 2015.
14. The Leaders also encouraged both sides to look into the possibility of taking concrete steps towards the development of the Mekong India Economic Corridor. In this context, we welcomed the Mekong India Economic Conference to be organised by ADS-Confederation of Indian Industries in New Delhi on 19 November 2013. We also welcomed the Symposium on "Towards Realization of the ASEAN Connectivity Plus: Moving Forward with ASEAN-India Connectivity" to be organized by Thailand on 27 November 2013 in Bangkok. We took note of the progress made in the development of the Thailand-Myanmar-India Trilateral Highway. We also noted that Lao PDR undertook to expedite sending coordinated route alignments through Cambodia, Lao PDR and VietNam for consideration of connectivity related activities.
15. We welcomed the convening of the 2nd Round Table of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks on 10th September 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, which is one important fora that provides policy inputs and recommendations to the Governments of ASEAN Member States and India on future ASEAN-India dialogue relations.
16. We encouraged the strengthening of ASEAN-India connectivity in information and communication technology (ICT), in particular digital connectivity, through sharing of best practices in policy, regulations and technological development and capacity building programmes.
17. We welcomed the progress on the revival of Nalanda University and the beginning of the process of signatures on the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Nalanda University at the 8th East Asia Summit on 10th Octo in Bandar Seri Begawan, to facilitate its setting up as a non-state, non-profit and self governing international institution of excellence.
18. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated India's commitment to support ASEAN Community building efforts, through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), particularly the Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs) and Centres for English Language Training (CELTs) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and VietNam. It was agreed that issues of sustainability and suitable location of such Centres would be given immediate attention.
19. The Leaders encouraged further promoting and maintaining ASEAN-India maritime cooperation, in order to ensure maritime security and to effectively address all the challenges at sea. In this regard, the Leaders welcomed India's support to the Second Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) in Malaysia on 3 October 2013, which was held back-to-back with the Fourth ASEAN Maritime Forum.
20. We welcomed greater people-to-people connectivity, through culture, education, exchange of media and tourism, among other, to foster mutual understanding and friendship between ASEAN and India. In this regard, we are committed to advance our cooperation in tourism under the framework of the 2012 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ASEAN and India on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation, including by promoting tourist arrivals from India to ASEAN and vice versa. We also highlighted the need to enhance efforts in visa facilitation between ASEAN and India specifically to promote a mutually beneficial business visa regime and to promote greater people-to-people interaction. In this regard, we noted the usefulness of the on-going annual programmes for people-to-people exchanges between students, diplomats, farmers, media and members of the strategic communities in ASEAN Member States and India.
21. We encouraged for more cooperation in the field of energy security, as it is a common concern for both

ASEAN and India. We commended our relevant ministers and officials to initiate efforts to address energy security through joint research, exchange of best practices, transfer of technology and cooperation among energy centres in ASEAN and India.

22. We welcomed the convening of the 3rd ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry held on 28th September 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We noted, with appreciation, the progress in the implementation of numerous activities under the Medium-term Programme of Action for ASEAN-India Cooperation on Agriculture and Forestry (2011-2015), such as the ASEAN-India Agri Expo, launching of ASEAN-India Newsletter on Agriculture and Forestry, and series of training and capacity building programmes. We took note of the enhancement and strengthening of cooperation on food security through the widening of food production exchange of expertise between ASEAN and India to enhance resilience in food security planning to address price volatility of food commodities.
23. We identified disaster management as a common priority for both ASEAN and India. ASEAN region and India are well known as natural disaster prone areas. In this regard, the ASEAN Leaders encouraged India to support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme and to collaborate with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).
24. We welcomed India's commitment in environmental cooperation, particularly the establishment and operationalisation of the ASEAN-India Green Fund for the promotion of technologies aimed at promoting adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. We encouraged early finalisation of a work plan envisaging collaborative activities in climate change.
25. We are committed to working closely together on common regional and international issues of mutual concern and supporting each other's role at the global level as well as working together to promote and strengthen inclusive and multi-track arrangements.

ASEAN-Japan

Joint Media Statement of the 19th AEM-METI Consultations

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 20 August 2013**

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan met on 20 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam for the 19th AEM-METI Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam and H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.
2. The Ministers noted the performance of ASEAN-Japan bilateral trade and investment for the period 2011-2012, which showed, in the area of trade, a 4.0% decline from US\$273.3 billion in 2011 to US\$262.4 billion in 2012. The decline was due to the drop in ASEAN's exports to Japan by 13.0% from US\$145.2 billion in 2011 to US\$126.3 billion in 2012. ASEAN's imports from Japan however increased by 6.2% amounting from US\$128.1 in 2011 to US\$136.1 billion in 2012. Notwithstanding, Japan maintained its position as ASEAN's second largest trading partner after China.
3. The Ministers were pleased to note that foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows from Japan to ASEAN increased by 26.4% from US\$16.4 billion in 2011 to US\$20.8 billion in 2012. Japan remained the second largest source of FDI for ASEAN with a share of nearly one fifth of total inward investments to ASEAN in 2012.

ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement

4. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitments to further promote trade and investment between ASEAN and Japan through the implementation of the AJCEP. Noting the challenges relating to the transposition of tariff reduction schedules and product specific rules (PSRs) brought about by periodic amendments

to the Harmonised System (HS) Code, the Ministers encouraged the AJCEP Joint Committee to find a medium- to long-term solution to the transposition issues to ensure that the migration of the tariff reduction schedules and PSRs into the new HS are carried out in a timely and more efficient manner. The Ministers underscored the importance of continuously seeking ways to facilitate the flow of trade in goods under the AJCEP to encourage its utilisation.

5. The Ministers noted the on-going negotiations for the Trade in Services and Investment Chapters of the AJCEP and encouraged officials to substantially conclude negotiations for an agreement of further mutual benefit before the Commemorative Summit.
6. Noting the support provided by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), which has been extended to end-2013, to ASEAN-Japan economic cooperation activities, the AEM expressed their appreciation to the contribution of the Government of Japan, through JAIF, and requested for information on any alternative source of funding for the effective implementation of the AJCEP economic cooperation projects and the ASEAN-Japan 10-Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap.

ASEAN-Japan 10-Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap

7. The Ministers emphasized the importance of a steady implementation of activities under the ASEAN-Japan 10-Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap, endorsed at the 18th AEM-METI held in 2012, for ASEAN and Japan to strengthen their relationship with further integrated markets and production networks. The Ministers also welcomed the progress in economic cooperation activities listed in the Roadmap, including expanding cooperation in the areas of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), developing a website to increase the utilisation of AJCEP, improving information technology and cyber security environment in ASEAN, and developing industrial human resources in ASEAN with all ASEAN Member States' participation in the Asia Professional Education Network (APEN), and enhancing medical collaboration between ASEAN and Japan.
8. The Ministers instructed the officials to accelerate the implementation of the activities that have yet to be implemented, and to further improve the Roadmap reflecting the outcomes of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in December 2013 and inputs from industries, to achieve the goals of the Roadmap including doubling trade and investment flows between ASEAN and Japan by 2022.

Dialogue between Secretary-General of ASEAN with the Federation of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA)

9. The Ministers were pleased with the outcomes of the 6th Dialogue between the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the FJCCIA held on 12 July 2013 in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Stressing that the improvement of business environment in ASEAN would benefit both ASEAN and Japan, the Ministers agreed to take into consideration the FJCCIA's requests which would be submitted at the next dialogue in 2014 into the efforts to deepen economic integration by 2015 and beyond. The Ministers noted that these requests could include elimination of non-tariff barriers/measures, coordinating the level of liberalisation and scope of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Trade in Services (AFAS) among ASEAN Member States, as well as addressing the remaining issues from current requests.
10. The Ministers called on the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA) participants to swiftly conclude the negotiations on the expanded product coverage of the ITA, to enable a commercially significant outcome by the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in December this year.

AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC) Activities

11. The Ministers appreciated the progress of AMEICC working group activities, and especially welcomed the proposed cooperation projects under the Working Group on Small & Medium Enterprises (SME-WG), such as strengthening business-academia networking for fostering competitive

SMEs in ASEAN, and enhancing ASEAN SMEs' FTA utilization. The Ministers also noted the discussion at the Working Group on Automotive Industry (WG-AI), on developing user-friendly self-certification system in ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) while continuing the current Form D system. In relation with the AMEICC working group activities, the Ministers reiterated the importance of closer communication between the AMEICC Secretariat and the ASEAN Secretariat to effectively develop/implement these cooperation projects as major components of the ASEAN-Japan 10-Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap.

Recent Economic Initiatives

12. The ASEAN Ministers appreciated Japan's briefing on its new growth strategy, "Japan Revitalisation Strategy – Japan is Back", and shared the conviction that ASEAN and Japan would be able to grow together with the new growth strategy which signifies Japan's confidence to invigorate its economy, and hence contribute to the growth of the region together. The ASEAN Ministers also welcomed Japan's policy to relax visa requirements for tourists from certain ASEAN Member States.

ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

13. The Ministers noted that this year marks the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations, and looked forward to the successful convening of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, scheduled in Tokyo, Japan on 13-15 December 2013.
14. The Ministers welcomed the proposal from Japan to hold the ASEAN-Japan 40th Year Commemorative Forum after the Commemorative Summit in order to exchange views on the medium- and long-term vision and policies of the ASEAN-Japan relations. The Ministers noted the tentative program of the Commemorative Forum submitted by Japan, and looked forward to gaining insights from industries and academia to further deepen economic integration between ASEAN and Japan.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Bayu Krisnamurthi, Vice Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Policy Meeting on Cybersecurity Cooperation

Tokyo, Japan, 13 September 2013

1. We, the Ministers of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN"), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and Japan (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN-Japan"), gathered in Tokyo, Japan on 12 and 13 September 2013, the 40th year of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation for the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Policy Meeting on Cybersecurity Cooperation.

2. We believe that a secure cyberspace is one of the major drivers in innovation as well as being essential in promoting social and economic activities and strengthening ASEAN connectivity.
3. Towards this, we acknowledge the efforts of our senior officials in promoting cooperation in this field and the outcome of the ASEAN-Japan Information Security Policy Meetings held since 2009.
4. Further, we note the importance of strengthening our collective efforts in cybersecurity* in order to create a secure business environment in the knowledge economy, build an environment for secure Information and Communication Technology use, and support government driven cybersecurity strategy, through cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies within the government of each ASEAN Member State and Japan, and mutual cooperation between ASEAN Member States and Japan.

* Recommendation ITU-T X.1205 provides a definition of cybersecurity.

5. Recognizing that ASEAN Member States are at different levels of development, we should take into account the following principles when we make efforts to promote cybersecurity:
 - Any measures to foster a reliable cyberspace should continue to encourage information flow, interoperability and economic prosperity and should not disrupt the smooth technical functioning of the Internet;
 - Especially when regulatory measures are introduced, sufficient consideration should be taken in order to maintain the information flow and foster economic activities;
 - Individual Internet users should be encouraged to develop their literacy regarding cybersecurity, including self-regulation;
 - Policy makers and regulators should collaborate with the private sector in order to effectively and promptly address cyber threats and risks.
6. Taking into account domestic laws, rules, regulations and available resources, we encourage our senior officials to promote our joint efforts further in the following areas:

I. Creating A Secure Business Environment

- Encouraging public and private entities to enhance the level of cybersecurity through referencing best practices such as Information Security Management System (ISMS);
- Promoting cooperation and collaboration among relevant ministries and agencies such as Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) of ASEAN Member States and Japan through initiatives like Internet Traffic Monitoring Data Sharing Project (TSUBAME Project);

II. Building A Secure Information and Communication Network

- Enhancing network security through activities such as information exchanges on anti-botnet and anti-spam measures;
- Enhancing technical cooperation for security through activities such as Japan-ASEAN Security Partnership (JASPER) composed of the Proactive Response Against Cyber-attacks Through International Collaborative Exchange (PRACTICE) project and infection alerting;
- Promoting the exchange of technical expertise such as cooperation among Internet Service Providers (ISPs) facilitated by relevant authorities of the ASEAN Member States and Japan and exchange of researchers;

III. Enhancing Capacity For Cybersecurity

- Promoting cooperation in the areas of cybersecurity strategies including critical infrastructure protection, public-private partnership, business continuity plans for ICT, protection of vulnerable groups online especially children, cloud computing security, and smartphone security;
- Fostering human resource development through activities such as ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity-Building Initiatives;
- Establishing a mechanism for ASEAN Member States and Japan to enable information sharing, and quick responses to cyber incidents through activities such as cyber exercises;

- Promoting joint awareness raising activities among ASEAN Member States and Japan.
7. We believe that by applying the above principles and focusing our continued joint efforts in the areas mentioned above in the spirit of consensus, taking into consideration the different stages of development of ASEAN Member States, we will be able to develop measures which will result in a more secure cyberspace for our citizens, business communities and government.

The meeting was attended by the following:

Ms. Hajjah Airah Haji Abdullah, Director of Communications, Ministry of Communications, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Heng Touch, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Kingdom of Cambodia; H.E. Tifatul Sembiring, Minister, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Republic of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Hiem Phommachanh, Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Lao People's Democratic Republic; H.E. Dato' Sri Ahmad Shabery Cheek, Minister of Communications and Multimedia, Malaysia; H.E. Mr. U Myat Hein, Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Republic of the Union of Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Mario G. Montejo, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, Republic of the Philippines; H.E. Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information, Republic of Singapore; H. E. Gp. Capt. Anudith Nakornthap, Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Kingdom of Thailand; H.E. Dr. Nguyen Minh Hong, Vice Minister, Ministry of Information and Communications, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka Shindo, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan; H.E. Mr. Masaaki Taira, Parliamentary Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan; and; H.E. Dr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Statement of the 1st ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (1st AMMTC + Japan) Consultation

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18 September 2013

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States and Japan responsible for combating Transnational Crime, convened the 1st Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (the 1st AMMTC + Japan), in Vientiane, Lao People Democratic Republic on 18th September 2013. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by ASEAN + Japan Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime for the 1st AMMTC + Japan on 16 September 2013.
2. The Ministers celebrated the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, and confirmed their recognition that ASEAN and Japan have forged close cooperation towards peace, stability, development and prosperity in Asia throughout the years.
3. The Ministers welcomed the launch of the AMMTC + Japan and shared intention to enhance their cooperation to fight against terrorism and other forms of transnational crime, which threatens peace and stability of the region.
4. The Ministers exchanged views on issues of mutual interest relating to ASEAN-Japan cooperation in countering terrorism and combating transnational crime. The discussions focused on Counter-Terrorism, Cybercrime and other matters of interests.
5. The Ministers underscored the need for enhanced dialogue among the counter-terrorism officials in the region through various forums including ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism Dialogue and expected further sharing of experience and knowledge in the field of counter-terrorism.
6. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the initiatives of Japan such as the launch of SDWAN (the Shared Database of Websites related to terrorism), Regional Counter-Terrorism Conference which focused on terrorism situation and counter-terrorism measures in

Southeast Asia, and Training and Dialogue Programs for Counter International Terrorism.

7. The Ministers stressed the importance of enhancing joint cooperation to address Cybercrime as a new challenge in the whole region. The Ministers reached a common view that capacity building in the region is essential in combating Cybercrime.
8. The Ministers emphasised the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, such as the abduction issue.
9. The Ministers decided to report the outcome of this meeting to the upcoming ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting and expressed their hope that the Summit will take further steps to address the challenge posed by terrorism and transnational crime in the region.
10. The Ministers welcomed the kind offer of Malaysia to host the 2nd AMMTC + Japan Consultation in 2015.
11. The Ministers expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the meeting. They also expressed appreciation to ASEAN Secretariat for its coordination and assistance.

Chairman's Statement of the 16th ASEAN-Japan Summit

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 9 October 2013**

1. The 16th ASEAN-Japan Summit, chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, was held on 9 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and H.E. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.
2. We noted with satisfaction the steady progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action (POA) 2011-2015 to Implement the Joint Declaration for Enhancing ASEAN-Japan Partnership for Prospering Together. This important instrument would help to further deepen and enhance the ASEAN-Japan cooperation as well as contribute towards ASEAN's community building targets by 2015. In this regard, we agreed to speed up the full and effective implementation of the POA.
3. As ASEAN is embarking towards an ASEAN Community and an ASEAN Community's Post 2015 Vision, we acknowledged the need to deepen and enhance ASEAN's relationship with its dialogue partners and external parties, and noted Indonesia's idea to promote second generation external relations and dialogue partnership, with the aim of having an equal, mutually beneficial and meaningful partnership.
4. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated Japan's continued support for ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, including the ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus and ASEAN Regional Forum in the East Asian community building process. We also expressed appreciation for Japan's contributions to the ADMM-Plus Humanitarian and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise that was held in Brunei Darussalam on 17-20 June 2013.
5. The ASEAN Leaders encouraged Japan to continue to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and contribute to the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision, as well as to the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) to bring the ASEAN Community platform on global issues into reality by 2022.
6. We welcomed the various commemorative activities held in ASEAN Member States and Japan to mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations in 2013. We looked forward to the successful convening of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, to be held on 13-15 December 2013 in Tokyo, Japan which would launch a medium and long term vision to further enhance ASEAN-Japan dialogue relations. We also took note of Cambodia's

- proposal to host two commemorative activities entitled “ASEAN-Japan Youth Leaders Forum: Roles of Youth in the ASEAN-Japan relations in the 21st Century” and “ASEAN-Japan Young Entrepreneurs Forum: Partnership for Growth” by end of 2013.
7. We noted with satisfaction the substantive work undertaken by Japan’s Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, in further strengthening the strategic partnership between ASEAN and Japan.
 8. We reaffirmed our commitments to further promote trade and investment between ASEAN and Japan through the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement. We welcomed the progress in the negotiations on ASEAN-Japan Trade in Services and Investment Chapters and at the same time, called for the substantial conclusion with further mutual benefit of these Chapters, before the Commemorative Summit to pave the way for the realisation of the AJCEP.
 9. We noted with satisfaction the progress of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which would build upon the ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including the AJCEP. We acknowledge that the RCEP would recognise ASEAN Centrality in the emerging regional economic architecture and contribute to economic integration, equitable economic development, and the enhancement of economic cooperation among participating countries. In this regard, we looked forward to its timely conclusion by the end of 2015.
 10. We welcomed the progress of the ASEAN-Japan 0-Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap, where 66 activities or 84.6% of the activities have been implemented, especially in the areas of intellectual property, information and communication technology, industrial human resource development and medical collaboration. We reiterate the need for our officials to effectively implement the activities under the Roadmap to help move towards our goal of doubling trade and investment flows by 2022. We also looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-Japan Economic Forum scheduled to be held after the Commemorative Summit for the purpose of gaining insight from industries and academia to further strengthen economic ties between ASEAN and Japan.
 11. The ASEAN Leaders acknowledged and highly appreciated the significant contribution of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) for the implementation of various projects under ASEAN-Japan cooperation. As JAIF would FINAL 3 expire on 31 December 2013, the ASEAN Leaders encouraged the Government of Japan to consider the continuation of JAIF to fund mutually beneficial cooperation activities.
 12. We appreciated the efforts for improving business environments through the dialogue between the Economic Ministers of ASEAN and Japan, the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the Federation of the Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA) and recognised that the improvement of business environment in ASEAN would be of mutual benefit to both ASEAN and Japan. In this regard, we underlined the importance of swift conclusion of the negotiations on the expanded product coverage of the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA) to enable a commercially significant outcome by the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2013.
 13. We valued Japan’s active support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), through the 33 flagship projects identified by Japan under the “Formation of the Vital Artery for East-West and Southern Economic Corridor” and “Maritime Economic Corridor” for enhancing ASEAN Connectivity. We welcomed the completion of the Master Plan Study and feasibility study on the Establishment of an ASEAN RO-RO Shipping Network and Short Sea Shipping and looked forward to the concrete implementation of the development of such networks. We encouraged Japan’s Task Force to continuously support ASEAN in its timely and effective implementation of the MPAC. We further encouraged Japan to establish greater maritime connectivity as well as to share its experience in promoting Public-Private Partnership (PPP). We also noted with appreciation the support provided by Japan to mobilise financing for ASEAN connectivity, including the convening of a workshop to identify a possible framework for PPP infrastructure development to accelerate the implementation of the MPAC.

14. We welcomed the progress of the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership for enhancement of transport connectivity and the new initiative to further promote “Quality Transport”. We looked forward to the new project to strengthen transport connectivity such as a New ASEAN-Japan Aviation Security Project and the expansion of air services arrangements between ASEAN and Japan.
15. We welcomed the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) by the ASEAN Leaders, which would serve as a centre of excellence to encourage efforts to address explosive remnants of war for interested ASEAN Member States, and shall facilitate cooperation with relevant institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.
16. We underscored the importance of people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges in order to build mutual understanding and friendship between ASEAN and Japan in a continued manner. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the active role of Japan in promoting closer ties and nurturing friendship among the youths of ASEAN and Japan, particularly through the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS 2.0), Kizuna Project and the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP). We also shared views on the importance of cultural exchanges between ASEAN and Japan and the ASEAN Leaders took note of Japan’s intention to announce its new cultural exchange policy at the forthcoming ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit. We also welcomed initiatives for young leaders to exchange their views on the future direction of ASEAN-Japan dialogue relations.
17. We reaffirmed the need to enhance human resource development through education cooperation. In this context, the ASEAN Leaders appreciated Japan’s positive contributions, especially on the third phase of the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) in March 2013.
18. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation for Japan’s continued support of community building efforts in ASEAN, especially in the narrowing of development gaps. In this connection, we recognised the importance of accelerating efforts towards the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals by involving all relevant stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society.
19. We reaffirmed our support in the strengthening of health systems in providing access to health services and promotion of healthy lifestyle for ASEAN people, and agreed to contribute to the implementation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in line with the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015). 20. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated Japan’s contribution to human resources development, including through the annual Attachment Programme at the ASEAN Secretariat, with the additional Attachment Programme for two officers from each of the CLMV countries in 2013 to gain experience under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) pillars at the ASEAN Secretariat.
21. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated Japan’s support to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and looked forward to its further contribution to the implementation of the second phase of the Work Programme of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) 2013-2015. We welcomed the on-going work to develop the Disaster Management Network for the ASEAN Region. We also recognised the importance of strengthening international cooperation in disaster reduction and in this regard, looked forward to the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in June 2014 in Thailand and the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 in Japan. We also underscored the importance of disaster prevention through information sharing and use of satellite technology for effective early warning systems.
22. We underlined the importance of enhancing our cooperation to fight against terrorism and other forms of organised crime including cybercrime, which threatens the peace and stability of the region. In this regard, we welcomed the launch of the 1st ASEAN+Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational

Crime (1st AMMTC+Japan) on 18 September 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR and the successful convening of the 8th ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism Dialogue on 29-31 May 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. We also shared our intention to deepen our cooperation to address cybercrime as a new challenge in the region and recognised that capacity building is essential in combating cybercrime. We decided to upgrade the cooperation on countering terrorism and other forms of transnational crime and hold further discussions on concrete measures to be announced at the upcoming ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the proposal by Japan to work towards the adoption of a Joint Declaration for cooperation in the fight against terrorism and other forms of organised crime and instructed relevant Ministers to work on this matter.

23. We reaffirmed our support for the maintenance of peace, stability and prosperity, and underscored the importance of maritime security, freedom of navigation, unimpeded commerce, and to ensure the resolution of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in our Asia-Pacific region.
24. We welcomed the 2nd Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) which was held back-to-back with the 4th ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 2-3 October 2013, including the agreement to hold the 3rd EAMF in 2014.
25. We reaffirmed the importance of attaining low carbon growth which is key to achieving sustainable economic growth and in this regard, welcomed the outcome of the Second East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue held in Tokyo, Japan on 18 May 2013 which was co-chaired by Cambodia and Japan. We also underscored the importance of exchange of personnel, knowledge sharing, and transfer of environmentally-friendly technology as important tools for achieving low carbon growth in the region. In this regard, Japan briefed the meeting on its promotion of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).
26. We welcomed the successful convening of the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE)-Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) Seminar on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, Non-proliferation and Security held on 4-5 June 2013 in Vietnam, where information on international efforts and experience in national regulatory frameworks in enhancing nuclear security was exchanged.
27. We acknowledged that urbanisation is a potential challenge for ASEAN and Japan, due to the rapid increase of population and economic growth, hence welcomed Japan's interest to further promote this area of cooperation.
28. We acknowledged the important role played by the ASEAN-Japan Centre in promoting trade, investment, tourism, and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and Japan and agreed to continue our support to the Centre.
29. We stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula and called for the denuclearisation of the Peninsula through peaceful dialogue including creating the conditions for the resumption of the Six Party Talks. We reaffirmed our commitments to fully implement the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions to this end. We encouraged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to fully comply with its obligations under all relevant UNSC Resolutions, and commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks. We also emphasised the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.

Joint Statement of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

“Hand in Hand, Facing Regional and Global Challenges”

Tokyo, Japan, 14 December 2013

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan, gathered in Tokyo, on 14 December 2013 at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan relations. The Summit was attended by Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and H.E. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.
2. We recognised the important role that ASEAN and Japan could play to address regional and global challenges and exchanged our views on issues of common interests.

Regional Issues

3. Regional Architecture: We recognised the need to further strengthen regional cooperation frameworks for peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and stressed the importance of ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture through the various ASEAN-led processes, including the ASEAN Plus Three (APT), the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus, all of which Japan has been an important part. We emphasised the role of the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on issues of strategic importance to the region, including political, security, economic and development issues so as to further promote peace, stability, economic prosperity and integration in East Asia.
4. Maritime Security and Cooperation: We underscored the importance of maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the region and promoting maritime

security and safety, freedom of navigation, unimpeded commerce, exercise of self-restraint and resolution of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

We resolved to enhance maritime security and safety cooperation, such as information sharing and capacity building including through the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum. The ASEAN Leaders also appreciated Japan's initiatives and active participation in the efforts to fostering the dialogue with ASEAN Member States on maritime issues. Japan welcomed the official consultations between ASEAN and China on the Code of Conduct in the South

China Sea

5. Free and safe maritime navigation and aviation: Recognising the benefits of enhanced connectivity between ASEAN and Japan, we agreed to strengthen cooperation on air and maritime linkages. We also agreed to enhance cooperation in ensuring the freedom of overflight and civil aviation safety in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, and the relevant standards and recommended practices by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).
6. Korean Peninsula: We stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula and called for the denuclearisation of the Peninsula through peaceful dialogue including creating the conditions for the resumption of the Six Party Talks. We reaffirmed our commitments to fully implement the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions to this end. We encouraged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with its obligations under all relevant UNSC Resolutions and commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks. We also emphasised the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.

Global Issues

7. **Global Economy:** We renewed our determination to continue our contribution to the strong, sustainable, inclusive and balanced growth of the world economy. We expressed our strong expectations that a revitalisation of the Japanese economy would greatly benefit the regional and global economy. Prime Minister Abe commended ASEAN's economic integration efforts. We underscored the importance of efforts to achieve economic growth, address fiscal problems, and eliminate protectionism, among other challenges.

In this regard, we welcomed the substantial conclusion of the negotiations on the Services and Investment Chapters of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement, and will also continue to enhance our regional economic partnerships such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in order to enhance the welfare and livelihoods of the people of ASEAN and Japan. Recognising the importance of a strong multilateral trading system (MTS) in safeguarding global trade expansion that serves as a source of economic development, job creation and sustainable development, we also welcomed the outcomes of the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali and call on its members to keep up their efforts to strengthen the MTS.

8. **A Society in which all women shine:** We recognised the importance of promoting gender equality and women empowerment that would foster women's role as a development driver and improve their share to development gain. In the end, efforts to eliminate gender disparities would result in tremendous social improvements and lead to equitable and inclusive growth for all. Therefore, we welcomed Japan's initiative to create "a society in which all women shine", as announced by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2013.
9. **Societal Issues:** We resolved to share experiences and lessons, and strengthen cooperation on societal issues emerging as common challenges, such as demographic challenges and their impacts on social

welfare and employment, as well as problems caused by urbanisation.

10. **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), post-2015 development agenda:** We underlined the importance of accelerating the progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and formulating post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, we welcomed the vision to end extreme poverty in the context of sustainable development and promote issues such as disaster risk reduction and universal health coverage, within the framework of renewed global partnership. In this regard, we supported ASEAN's decision to develop an ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision.
11. **Climate Change:** We emphasised that climate change is a common challenge for regional and international community. We reaffirmed our goal of agreeing on the fair and effective framework under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We recognised the importance of enhancing our cooperation in the field of climate change, including the exchange of personnel, knowledge sharing, and transfer of environmentally-friendly technology as important tools for achieving low carbon growth in the region and in this regard, noted the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) promoted by Japan.
12. **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief:** We recognised the need to enhance the capacities of the region to be more resilient and self-reliant in mitigating the impact of disasters and reaffirmed the importance and urgency of enhancing cooperation in disaster management. We welcomed activities such as the ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMM-Plus HADR & MM Ex) held in Brunei Darussalam on 17-20 June 2013, as a landmark cooperation among the defence forces of the ADMM-Plus countries. In this regard, ASEAN welcomed Japan's interest in this area of cooperation and noted its offer to host an informal meeting between ASEAN and Japan involving ministers in charge of defence matters to discuss this issue and other non-traditional security challenges.
13. **Sustainable utilisation and management of water and natural resources and environmental protection:** We stressed the importance of the sustainable

development, namely the crucial link between sustainable use and management of our scarce natural and water resources and the environmental protection. In this regard, we emphasised the need to work closely in addressing these issues in order to serve the interest of both ASEAN and Japan and demonstrate the common responsibility to the international community, and in ensuring sustainable development in the ASEAN region in order to reach the objectives of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, including to the realisation of the MDGs, and the fight against the Global Warming in the region.

14. **Transnational Threats:** We underscored the importance of collaboration in addressing transnational threats such as terrorism and transnational organised crimes including trafficking in persons, drug trafficking. We resolved to strengthen regional cooperation in enhancing capabilities to counter these transnational threats.
15. **Middle East:** We reaffirmed that ASEAN and Japan would continue positive contributions toward peace and stability in the Middle East. We expressed our concern over the continued conflict in Syria, and call for immediate cessation of violence, initiation of inclusive political dialogue and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance. With regard to the Middle East Peace Process, we supported the ongoing talks between both sides and appreciated the efforts of the relevant countries to help in Palestinian state-building efforts at the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD).
16. **The United Nations Reform:** We reaffirmed the urgent need for the United Nations reform, including that of the Security Council. We reaffirmed our determination to work closely with other member states and relevant UN agencies to achieve this endeavour.
17. **Japan's Proactive Contribution to Peace:** We reaffirmed our commitment for the maintenance of peace, stability and prosperity in our region. In this regard, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe elaborated his security policy to proactively contribute even further to the peace and stability of the region and the international community from the perspective of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on Japan's long-standing principle of international cooperation. The ASEAN Leaders looked

forward to Japan's efforts in contributing constructively to peace, stability, and development in the region.

Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

Shared Vision, Shared Identity, Shared Future

Tokyo, Japan, 14 December 2013

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of the Joint Declaration for Enhancing ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership for Prospering Together (Bali Declaration);

NOTING the Five Principles of Japan's ASEAN diplomacy announced by the Prime Minister of Japan on 18 January 2013;

COMMITTED to the principles, common values and norms stipulated in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC);

HEREBY reaffirm that ASEAN and Japan strengthen cooperation in the following four areas of partnership:

Partners for Peace and Stability

We reaffirm our enhanced commitment for the maintenance of peace, security, and stability, which is in the regional and global interests through:

- Further maintaining the stance as peace-loving nations and strengthening peace-oriented values through, inter alia, respect for universally recognised principles of international law, and upholding the principle of moderation;
- Resolving disputes by peaceful means including through dialogue and consultations, renunciation of the threat or use of force and in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law;

- Enhancing dialogue and cooperation to promote the rule of law, good governance, democracy, and human rights; and
- Strengthening cooperation on disaster management, UN Peacekeeping Operations, non-proliferation and disarmament, counter-terrorism, transnational crime and maritime security, among others.

Partners for Prosperity

We are committed to further enhancing our comprehensive economic partnership through:

- Strengthening cooperation in areas of mutual interest related to trade in goods, trade in services and investment, including to enhance the utilisation of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan 10-Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap;
- Supporting efforts to enhance ASEAN Connectivity and a wider regional connectivity, as well as the utilisation of enhanced connectivity by business sectors, further promoting sustainable economic development, knowledge-based and innovation-driven industries, and continuing cooperation to narrow the development gap in the region; and
- Strengthening cooperation in air and maritime linkages between ASEAN and Japan in the region as well as ensuring freedom and safety of navigation and overflight, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the relevant standards and recommended practices by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Partners for Quality of Life

We are committed to promoting human resource development and overcoming socio-economic and environmental issues by:

- Promoting cooperation in science, technology and innovation, information and communications technology and cyber security;

- Strengthening partnership in agriculture, food security, energy security, nuclear safety, environmental protection and water resources management;
- Enhancing cooperation to eradicate poverty and tackle challenges arising from climate change, disasters, urbanisation, and aging population;
- Sharing experience and knowledge in improving healthcare systems toward universal health coverage, social safety-net, and in empowering women to participate in political, economic, and socio-cultural development; and
- Continuing to cooperate for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and beyond, as well as enhancing human security in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 66/290, in particular to further improve the wellbeing and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN and Japan.

Heart-to-Heart Partners

We will continue to strengthen mutual trust and “heart-to-heart” understanding as well as nurture friendship by:

- Promoting cultural and art exchange, and people-to-people exchanges in tourism, youth, and sports;
- Enhancing cooperation in education, including, among others, language learning; and
- Preserving diverse cultures and traditions.

Adopted in Tokyo, with its Implementation Plan on the Fourteenth Day of December of the Year Two Thousand Thirteen.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 11th ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting (11th ATM+Japan)

**Pakse City, Champasak Province,
Lao PDR, 19 December 2013**

1. The 11th ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM+Japan) was held in Pakse City, Champasak Province, Lao PDR on 19 December 2013. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR and, H.E. Mr. Yaichi Nakahara, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, co-chaired the Meeting. The Meeting was preceded by the Twelfth ASEAN and Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting (12th STOM+Japan) held on 18 December 2013.
2. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of 16th ASEAN-Japan Summit held on 8 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam including Japan's new initiative to further promote 'Quality Transport', new ASEAN-Japan Aviation Security project and, expansion of air services arrangements between ASEAN and Japan. The Ministers also welcomed the outcomes of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit held on 13-15 December 2013 in Tokyo to mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relation including strengthening cooperation on air and maritime linkages and in ensuring the freedom of overflight and civil aviation safety.
3. The Ministers welcomed significant progress made under ASEAN Japan Transport Partnership (AJTP) since its inception ten years ago which has helped to facilitate the implementation of ASEAN Strategic Transport Plan/Brunei Action Plan as well as the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. One of the key deliverables was the completion and launching of the "ASEAN-Japan Transport Statistics Book" which will serve as a useful reference to further develop transport policy in the region.
4. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen AJTP by adopting a new action plan, "Pakse Action Plan" for the next ten years. The new action plan will include 23 projects/activities on "Transport Facilitation", "Transport Infrastructure", "Quality and Sustainable Transport" and "Human Resource Development which appears as **ANNEX 1**.
5. The Ministers endorsed the AJTP Work Plan for 2013-2014, which include several projects/activities under the New Action Plan, among others, including "ASEAN-Japan Logistics Project", "Automobile Technical Cooperation Project on Safety and Environment", "Technical cooperation in field of Port Electronic Data Interchange", "Project for Improvement and Harmonisation of Safety Standards and Ship Inspection for Coastal Ships", "Eco-Airport" and "Preliminary Study on Land Bridge".
6. The Ministers welcomed Japan's initiative to conclude a regional air services agreement with ASEAN as announced at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit and agreed to establish a working group under STOM+Japan to facilitate the air transport negotiation between ASEAN and Japan. The Working Group will discuss various matters related to enhancing air connectivity for ASEAN Member States and Japan.
7. The Ministers endorsed Japan's new initiatives to further enhance ASEAN transport connectivity including "New ASEAN-Japan Aviation Security Project", "Promotion of ASEAN-Japan Road Technology Exchange" and "Cooperation for Promotion of Public-Private Partnership (PPP)."
8. The Twelfth ATM+Japan Meeting will be convened in Myanmar in 2014.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

H.E. Pehin Dato Abdullah Bakar, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice Minister for Transportation of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Yaichi Nakahara, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan; H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Ab Aziz Bin Kaprawi, Deputy Minister of Transport of Malaysia; H.E. Mr. Nyan Htun Aung, Union Minister for Transport of Myanmar;

H.E. Atty. Catherine Jennifer P. Gonzales, Undersecretary of Transportation and Communications of the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport of Singapore; Mr. Teerapong Rodprasert, Deputy Permanent Secretary, representing H.E. Mr. Chadchart Sittipunt, Minister of Transport of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Dinh La Thang, Minister of Transport of Viet Nam; and; H.E. Mr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.

ASEAN-Republic of Korea

Joint Media Statement of the 10th AEM-ROK Consultations

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 20 August 2013**

1. The Tenth Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea were held on 20 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Consultations were co-chaired by The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam and H.E. Yoon Sang-jick, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea.
2. The Ministers noted that according to the ASEAN statistics, two-way trade between ASEAN and Korea in 2012 grew 5.2% amounting to US\$131.0 billion compared with US\$124.5 billion the previous year. Meanwhile foreign direct investment (FDI) flow from Korea to ASEAN declined for the second consecutive year from US\$2.4 billion in 2011 to US\$1.9 billion in 2012. Korea was ASEAN's sixth largest source of FDI.
3. Against the backdrop of a fragile global economy, the Ministers underscored the importance of maintaining the momentum of bilateral trade and investment. Toward this end, the Ministers commended the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA) Implementing Committee's efforts in upgrading the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement which could provide new impetus to bilateral trade and investment, through further liberalisation of products in the Sensitive Track (ST), addressing the problems of the reciprocal arrangement, removing non-tariff barriers and introducing trade facilitating measures.
4. The Ministers were pleased to note the finalisation of the amendments to the Operational Certification Procedures for the Rules of Origin, which would be implemented starting 1 January 2014 and the continued work to simplify the Product Specific Rules. The Ministers underscored that such initiatives were commendable as they encouraged the utilisation of tariff preferences under the AKFTA.
5. The Ministers noted the on-going review of the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Services Agreement and the completion of the Joint Study on the Economic Impact of the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Services Agreement which would be used as reference in undertaking the review of the TIS Agreement.
6. The Ministers endorsed the re-activation of the Working Group on Investment which had been tasked to commence work on the Work Programme that was part of the built-in agenda under the ASEAN-Korea Investment Agreement.
7. The ASEAN Ministers also expressed their appreciation to the Government of Korea for the continued support in the economic cooperation and contribution towards the ASEAN-Korea Economic Cooperation Fund. The Ministers noted the adoption of the AKFTA Guidelines on Project Appraisal and Approval Process by the AKFTA Implementing Committee and welcomed the efforts of the Working Group on Economic Cooperation in ensuring that the projects were approved covered the various areas of cooperation stipulated in the AKFTA, including SMEs, tourism, science and technology, trade and investment promotion, shipbuilding and maritime transport, and environment.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Bayu Krisnamurthi, Vice Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Yoon Sang-jick, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea; H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Chairman's Statement of the 16th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 9 October 2013**

1. The 16th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit, chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, was held on 9 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States had a productive meeting with H.E. Park Geun-hye, President of the Republic of Korea.
2. We noted with satisfaction the substantive progress of ASEAN-ROK relations over the past 24 years, since the establishment of dialogue relations in 1989. We also noted the significant progress achieved in the implementation of the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity and its Plan of Action for 2011-2015.
3. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's initiative to further strengthen political and security cooperation with ASEAN, in pursuit of shared peace, including the ROK's concept paper on the proposed ASEAN-ROK security-related dialogue, in accordance with the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015).
4. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation to the ROK for its unyielding support for ASEAN's community building efforts and ASEAN's central role in the regional architecture. The ASEAN Leaders also encouraged the ROK to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009 - 2015) and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II (2009-2015) and to contribute to the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision, as well as to the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) to bring the ASEAN common platform on global issues into reality by 2022.
5. As ASEAN is embarking towards an ASEAN Community and an ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, we acknowledged the need to deepen and enhance ASEAN's dialogue partnership and external relations, with the aim of having an equal, mutually beneficial, and meaningful partnership.
6. We noted with satisfaction the substantive works undertaken by ROK's Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, in further strengthening the strategic partnership between ASEAN and ROK
7. We were encouraged by the significant growth of trade between ASEAN and the ROK, which amounted to US\$ 131.0 billion in 2012 compared with US\$ 124.5 billion in 2011, and in this regard, welcomed further efforts towards achieving the target of US\$ 150 billion by 2015 by fully utilizing the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area (AKFTA). We also underlined the need to conclude the ongoing work for further liberalization and improvement of the AKFTA by 2015 in accordance with the Work Program established at the 9th ASEAN Economic Ministers-ROK Consultations in August 2012. ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's intention to inaugurate ASEAN-ROK Business Council in 2014 in order to intensify economic cooperation in pursuit

- of a shared prosperity between ASEAN and the ROK, in accordance with the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015).
8. We also welcomed the progress of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which would build upon the ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements, including the AKFTA. We acknowledged that the RCEP recognises ASEAN Centrality in the emerging regional economic architecture and contribute to economic integration, equitable economic development, and the enhancement of economic cooperation among participating countries. In this regard, we looked forward to its timely conclusion by 2015.
 9. We reaffirmed our commitment to work together in addressing major global and transboundary challenges such as climate change and the environment, as well as disaster management, including through close cooperation on Low Carbon Green Growth Policy and the use of environment-friendly technology, water management and forestry cooperation, in which ASEAN may learn from the ROK's experience. We also noted the outcomes of the ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREX) 2013 on 7-11 May 2013 and the successful convening of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit on 19-20 May 2013 in Thailand, which provided important opportunities to enhance the capabilities of ASEAN and the ROK in the areas of disaster and water management. We expressed appreciation for the ROK's contributions to the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMM-Plus HADR and MM Ex) that was held in Brunei Darussalam from 17-20 June 2013.
 10. We welcomed ROK's continued commitment to promoting educational cooperation with ASEAN, with concrete activities such as the international college student exchange programme, ASEAN-Korea Academic Exchange Programme and the ASEAN Millennium Leaders College Student Exchange Programme.
 11. The ASEAN Leaders noted with appreciation the consultation mechanism that the ROK has established to work with the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) in exploring potential cooperation in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), especially in the areas of infrastructure and Information and Communications Technology (ICT), people-to-people and mobilisation of innovative financing for connectivity, including through public-private partnership.
 12. They further welcomed the convening of the inaugural meeting between the ACCC and the ROK's Task Force on Connectivity in Balikpapan, Indonesia on 10 June 2013. The ASEAN Leaders encouraged the ROK to support programmes under the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015 of which the goals include the expansion of broadband access to and affordability of ICT use.
 13. ASEAN Leaders encouraged the ROK to consider providing technological support to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). The ASEAN leaders also encouraged the ROK to support the implementation of the second phase of the Work Programme of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) 2013-2015.
 14. The ASEAN Leaders highlighted the ROK's constant commitment in supporting the ASEAN-Korea Centre, taking into account the ROK's generous contribution to the Centre's financial budget year 2013. We encouraged more efforts to optimize many activities held by the Centre to promote ASEAN-Korea cooperation, mainly in the three areas of trade and investment, culture and tourism, and public relations and information, which includes, among others, the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
 15. We also attached great importance to Mekong-ROK cooperation in contributing to ASEAN's endeavour to narrowing the development gaps and enhance regional connectivity, economic integration and ASEAN community building. We welcomed the good outcomes of the 3rd Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 30 June 2013 as well as the establishment of the mechanism to utilise the Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund through Mekong

Institute in Thailand. We also welcomed the successful outcomes of the 1st Mekong-ROK Business Forum held in Bangkok on 23 May 2013, which could further enhance economic linkages and improve trade relations. We looked forward to the 4th Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting in the Republic of Korea and the 2nd Mekong-ROK Business Forum in Vietnam in 2014.

16. We welcomed the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) by ASEAN Leaders, which would serve as a centre of excellence to encourage efforts to address explosive remnants of war for interested ASEAN Member States, and shall facilitate cooperation with relevant institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.
17. We stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula and encouraged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to comply fully with its obligations under all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions as well as its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks. We reiterated our support for all efforts to achieve the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner as well as creating the positive atmosphere for the resumption of the Six Party Talks conducive to substantial progress on the denuclearization. We welcomed the Trust-building Process on the Korean Peninsula and the Initiative for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia initiated by the President of the Republic of Korea.
18. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's intention to provide support to Myanmar during its chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014.
19. We looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-ROK Special Summit in the Republic of Korea in December 2014 that will give the momentum to substantively enhance partnership cooperation between ASEAN and ROK and agreed to conduct commemorative activities throughout the year to mark the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations.

ASEAN-Russian Federation

Co-Chairs' Press Release of the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN- Russia Joint Cooperation Committee (ARJCC)

Jakarta, Indonesia, 21 March 2013

The 11th Meeting of the ASEAN-Russian Joint Cooperation Committee (ARJCC) held in the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia, on 21 March 2013, was attended by the Permanent Representatives from ASEAN Member States, the delegation of the Russian Federation and representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat. The ARJCC was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Dato' Hasnudin Hamzah, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to ASEAN, and H.E. Mr. Mikhail Galuzin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to ASEAN.

The Meeting reviewed the current status of the Roadmap on the Comprehensive Programme of Action (CPA) to Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation (2005-2015). The Meeting had an in-depth exchange of views with regard to the ways to enhance ASEAN-Russian cooperation in the political and security, economic and socio-cultural priority areas, namely, combating terrorism and transnational crimes, trade and economy, investment, energy, transport, agriculture and food security, tourism, science and technology, disaster management and culture, as well as the ASEAN connectivity.

The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress achieved within the past year in the ASEAN-Russian Dialogue Partnership. Among the activities carried out recently in Russia were the special courses for the ASEAN law enforcement officials in the field of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism, workshops and expert meetings of the representatives of disaster response agencies, including the ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre).

The Meeting approved the candidature of the Director of the ASEAN Centre in the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO University), Dr. Victor Sumsky, for a second term from June 2013 to May 2016.

The Meeting also approved the Annual Report for the year 2012 and Indicative Work Plan for 2013 of the ASEAN Centre.

The Meeting exchanged views on the preparation for the 3rd ASEAN-Russia Summit and discussed a number of upcoming joint activities later this year, including the ASEAN-Russia Youth Summit, ASEAN-Russia Business Forum and ASEAN-Russia Music Festival. The Meeting also reviewed the status of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership Financial Fund as well as a number of Joint Projects sponsored by the Fund.

Joint Media Statement of the 2nd AEM-Russia Consultations

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 21 August 2013**

1. The Second AEM-Russia Consultations were held on 21 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Consultations were co-chaired by The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam and H.E. Alexey V. Ulyukaev, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.
2. The Ministers noted the trade and investment performance between ASEAN and Russia from 2011 to 2012 and were pleased with the 30% growth registered in 2012, i.e. from US\$ 14.0 billion in 2011 to US\$ 18.2 billion in 2012. The Ministers were particularly pleased with the dramatic increase in ASEAN's exports to Russia, reaching US\$ 4.9 billion in 2012 or an 80.9% growth from 2011. ASEAN's imports from Russia also grew by 17.9% totalling US\$ 13.3 billion in 2012. In 2012, Russia's direct investment flows into ASEAN only reached US\$ 0.1 billion. The Ministers viewed that these investment flows have been modest given the vast potentials there are in both regions.
3. The Ministers underscored the opportunities for deepening economic ties and reiterated their commitment to further building the trade and investment relationship between ASEAN and Russia. The Ministers endorsed the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Work Programme, confident that this, together with the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap which they endorsed in 2012, would catalyse the expansion of ASEAN-Russia economic relations. These areas include trade and investment facilitation and liberalisation, energy, logistics chain development, human resources development, tourism, SME development, innovation and modernisation and intellectual property creation, and business dialogue. The Ministers tasked Senior Officials to look into the possibility of expanding the scope of the ASEAN-Russia Joint Experts Group, which was originally established to draft the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap, or to establish an Implementing Committee to coordinate and monitor the implementation of both the Roadmap and the Work Programme.
4. The Ministers recalled the Comprehensive Programme of Action to Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation (2005-2015), adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2005, and noted that it might be timely to start discussions on the post-2015 activities to enhance ASEAN-Russia trade relations.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Bayu Krisnamurthi, Vice Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Alexey V. Ulyukaev, Minister of Economic Development, the Russian Federation; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN-United States

Joint Media Statement of the AEM-USTR Consultations

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 21 August 2013**

1. Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the United States Trade Representative (“the Ministers”) were held on 21 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Consultations were co-chaired by The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam and H.E. Michael Froman, United States Trade Representative.
2. The Ministers noted that merchandise trade between ASEAN and the United States remained strong despite the uncertainty in the global economy. Total merchandise trade between ASEAN and the United States reached US\$200.2 billion in 2012. The United States remained the fourth largest trading partner of ASEAN.
3. The Ministers also noted that foreign direct investment (FDI) flow from the United States to ASEAN amounted to US\$6.9 billion in 2012. The United States is the third largest foreign direct investor in ASEAN.

ASEAN- US Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) and Expanded Economic Engagement (E3)

4. The Ministers took note of the on-going work to implement the ASEAN-US TIFA and E3 which included:
 - a. Continued cooperation on ethical business practices among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), where an “ASEAN SME Business Ethics Workshop” was held on 27 June 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR;
 - b. Progress on the non-binding draft ASEAN-US Statement on Shared Principles for International

Investment and ASEAN-US Trade Principles for Information and Communication Technology Services; and

- c. Continued commitment to standards cooperation and good regulatory practices cooperation.
5. The Ministers agreed to seek to conclude the Shared Principles for International Investment by the 1st ASEAN-U.S. Summit in October.
6. The Ministers underscored the vast opportunities for trade and investment between both regions. In this regard, the ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation to the United States for organizing the AEM Roadshow to the US on 10-13 June 2013, which covered Los Angeles, San Francisco (Silicon Valley) and Washington D.C. The Roadshow provided the ASEAN Ministers the opportunity to discuss with relevant stakeholders in the United States including business leaders, venture capitalists, think tanks and the United States’ Congressional representatives the opportunities brought about by ASEAN economic integration initiatives and robust engagement with the U.S. The Ministers were pleased with the outcomes of the Roadshow.

9th WTO Ministerial Conference

7. Given continuing global economic uncertainties, the Ministers emphasized that a strong, rules-based multilateral trading system, continues to be essential in sustaining international trade flows and ensuring the growth of the global economy. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to a successful outcome at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali on trade facilitation, some elements of agriculture and a set of development issues, which would be a stepping stone towards seeking to successfully conclude the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) Round and providing renewed confidence in the multilateral trading system.

Consultation with the US-ASEAN Business Council

8. The Ministers held a dialogue with the US-ASEAN Business Council, which reported the results of their work on doing business in the ASEAN region.

The Ministers acknowledged the value of private sector engagement in developing relevant bilateral cooperation and formulating national policies that would promote expansion of trade and investment between both regions.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Bayu Krisnamurthi, Vice Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Michael Froman, United States Trade Representative, United States of America; H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Chairman's Statement of the 1st ASEAN-U.S. Summit

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 9 October 2013**

1. The 1st ASEAN-U.S. Summit, chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, was held on 9 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The meeting was attended by all Heads of States/Government of ASEAN Member States and The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States of America. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance at the meeting.
2. Recognising our shared vision of a stable, peaceful and prosperous Southeast Asia, we are satisfied with the progress of the Plan of Action to Implement

the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity 2011-2015, which has further deepened ASEAN-U.S. relations, and contributed to the work in ASEAN's political security, economic and socio-cultural pillars; at the same time contributing to the achievement of an ASEAN Community by 2015.

3. The ASEAN Leaders also encouraged the United States to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and support the development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, as well as to the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) to bring the ASEAN common platform on global issues into reality by 2022.
4. We acknowledged that the commencement of this 1st ASEAN-U.S. Summit, symbolised efforts on both sides to elevate the ASEAN-U.S. partnership to a strategic level, at the same time, deepening and widening our existing cooperation to further promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
5. We noted with appreciation the substantive work undertaken by the U.S. Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) as well as the ASEAN Secretariat in further strengthening the ASEAN-US cooperation.
6. ASEAN Leaders welcomed the enhanced engagement and support of the U.S. in the region through ASEAN-led processes such as on confidence building measures and preventive diplomacy through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF); the East Asia Summit (EAS), the premier leaders-led forum for discussion of important political and security issues facing the region; and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting - Plus (ADMM - Plus) and reaffirmed the importance of ASEAN as the driving force of these processes. We commended the success of the exercises under the frameworks of the ARF and the ADMM-Plus, namely, the 2013 ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx), the ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine (ADMM-Plus HADR/ Military Merline Exercise), the ADMM-Plus Counter-Terrorism Exercise (CTX) and the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Field Training Exercise (FTX). ASEAN Leaders expressed appreciation to the U.S. for participating in this exercise.

7. We welcome the United States' policy of promoting greater engagement in Asia which signifies the United States' stronger interest in our region. We hold the view that such a policy gives the United States and countries in the region an opportunity for closer cooperation in areas of mutual interest and benefit such as in development cooperation, building connectivity, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and addressing trans border issues (transnational crimes and emerging infectious diseases).
8. Reaffirming the importance of strengthening economic cooperation between ASEAN and the United States, we welcomed the progress under the 2013 Trade and Investment Facilitation Arrangement (TIFA) Work Plan and the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) initiative launched at the 4th ASEAN-U.S. Leaders Meeting in 2012, which will provide opportunities for further growth of trade and investment, and lay the groundwork for preparing ASEAN Member States to pursue trade agreements. In this regard, we commended the successful outcomes of the ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Roadshow to Los Angeles, Silicon Valley and Washington D.C. from 10- 13 June 2013, and on-going cooperation between ASEAN and the United States on developing a code of ethics for Small and Medium Enterprises. We further noted the progress of discussions for Shared Principles on Investment, as well as Information Communications Technology (ICT), and look forward to the adoption of these Principles, towards further facilitating investment and trade between ASEAN Member States and the United States.
9. We also encouraged the participation of more ASEAN Member States into the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), in promoting stronger economic ties throughout the Asia Pacific region and beyond.
10. We welcomed the outcomes of the G-20 Summit held in St. Petersburg, Russia, from 5-6 September 2013. The United States re-affirmed her support for the continued participation of the ASEAN Chair in the G20 process, and both the Leaders of ASEAN and the United States stressed the importance of continuing efforts to strengthen the global economy, by focusing upon initiatives that will support growth.
11. We welcomed the successful convening of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia from 7 - 8 October 2013 under the theme of 'Resilient Asia Pacific, Engine of Global Growth', and congratulated Indonesia for her able Chairmanship. We reaffirmed our commitment to ensure strong regional resilience to address future economic crises and the forging of economic cooperation and curtailment of protectionist policies to sustain a climate of open trade, in support of APEC's trade and investment agenda, as well as to attain the Bogor Goals, sustainable and inclusive growth, and connectivity.
12. Given continuing global economic uncertainties, we emphasised that a strong, rules based multilateral trading system, continues to be essential in sustaining international trade flows and ensuring the growth of the global economy. We reaffirmed our commitment to a successful outcome at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali on trade facilitation, some elements of agriculture and a set of development issues, which would be a stepping stone towards seeking to successfully conclude the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) Round and providing renewed confidence in the multilateral trading system.
13. ASEAN Leaders valued the United States' active involvement in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), with the launching of the ASEAN-U.S. Connectivity Initiative by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), especially in the areas of disaster relief, smart grid and infrastructure development.
14. We noted with satisfaction the progress made in promoting food security, by means of Maximizing Agricultural Revenue through Knowledge, Enterprise Development and Trade (MARKET) programme which directly supports the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AFS) Framework and associated Strategic Plan of Action for Food Security (SPA-FS). We acknowledged that improved facilitation of food supplies will improve the lives of ASEAN citizens. We noted the achievement that has been made on public and private partnership in addressing sustainable fisheries and food security.
15. We looked forward to two new five-year U.S. support programmes that will be launched in November 2013 to replace the completed components of ADVANCE.

- These programmes include the ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment project (ACTI) and the ASEAN-U.S. Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (ASEAN-U.S. PROGRESS).
16. We welcomed the encouraging progress made by the United States, Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia in the inaugural year of the U.S.-Asia-Pacific Comprehensive Energy Partnership (USACEP). We also look forward to further activities, including the USACEP Public Private Partnership Conference on Power Connections for the Future on 29 October 2013 in Singapore. We welcomed the establishment of the Renewable and Alternative Power Generation Work Stream by Brunei Darussalam and the U.S. under the USACEP at the 18th EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force Meeting on 27 June 2013 in Bali, Indonesia and looked forward to the announcement of this Work Stream at the 8th EAS.
 17. Recognising the severe, global impact of climate change, we reaffirmed our commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as the ASEAN Climate Change Initiative (ACCI). ASEAN Leaders also commended the United States' renewed commitment to tackle the issue of climate change and welcomed the United States' proposal to incorporate biodiversity cooperation as a major theme.
 18. We welcomed the U.S.- Lower Mekong Initiative (U.S.- LMI) to promote cooperation in areas of environment protection and sustainable water management and usage, health, education, agriculture and food security, energy security and connectivity and the United States commitment to discuss specific activities for cooperation and follow-up, especially under the LMI Plan of Action 2011-2015. We supported the convening of ministerial meetings between the United States and Lower Mekong Basin countries on an annual basis. We also welcomed cooperation in the other sub-regional frameworks.
 19. Recognising that 2015 is fast-approaching, we stressed the need to meet the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, recognizing that efforts to meet the MDGs are part of the ASEAN Socio-cultural Community Blueprint.
 20. We also affirm the importance of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) towards narrowing the development gap among ASEAN Member States and realising an ASEAN Community by 2015. Therefore it is essential for the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) and the IAI to be more closely aligned and coordinated as both initiatives serve valuable purposes for potential collaboration and information sharing.
 21. Bearing in mind that Southeast Asia is a region prone to natural disasters, we recognised the importance of disaster preparedness, relief, and response rehabilitation efforts. We noted with satisfaction the continued cooperation between ASEAN and the United States on the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2010- 2015). ASEAN Leaders also expressed appreciation to the U.S. for their efforts in the successful operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) as well as promoting mechanisms to facilitate disaster relief through the hazard disaster monitoring and response system. We also noted the proposal tasking relevant officials to work on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Rapid Disaster Response Agreement which aims to promote confidence building between ASEAN Member States and the United States.
 22. We recognised the profound dangers of proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and their means of delivery and reaffirmed our commitment to non proliferation and disarmament. We reaffirmed our commitment to nuclear non proliferation and disarmament. We stressed the importance of promoting international peace and security including a vision of a nuclear weapons free world. We commended the engagement between the United States and ASEAN aimed at strengthening Southeast Asian countries' capacity and capabilities to prevent illicit trafficking of dual use items. We reaffirmed our support for the implementation of the Action Plan adopted by the May 2010 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and we stressed the necessity for all NPT parties to continue to fulfill their respective obligations under the NPT. We stressed the importance of promoting international peace and security including a vision of a nuclear weapons free world. In this regard, ASEAN

Leaders encouraged nuclear weapon states and States party to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty to work constructively with a view to ensuring the early accession of the nuclear weapon States to the Protocol to the Treaty to sign the Protocol of the Treaty as early as possible without reservations. In this regard, we welcomed the revised SEANWFZ Plan of Action 2013-2017 with a renewed commitment and a stronger emphasis on concrete action. We acknowledged the importance of the IAEA Additional Protocol (AP) and welcomed Myanmar's signature to the AP. We reiterated the importance of a full and non-selective application and implementation of the NPT's three pillars - nuclear disarmament, nuclear non proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

23. We stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula and encouraged the DPRK to comply fully with its obligations under all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and to its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We reiterated our support for all efforts to achieve a verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. In this context, we noted the Trust-building Process on the Korean Peninsula and the Initiative of Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia proposed by the President of the Republic of Korea. We also emphasised the importance of addressing the issues of humanitarian concerns of the international community.
24. We reaffirmed our shared interests on the importance of regional peace and stability. In this context, we underscored the importance of maritime security to regional peace, security and prosperity and noted the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, and unimpeded commerce in accordance with the relevant universally agreed principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We welcomed the deepening promotion of ASEAN-U.S. cooperation on maritime issues, including maritime security, search and rescue, and safety of navigation in the region through promotion of capacity building, information sharing and technology cooperation. In this regard, we also welcomed the United States engagement in the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum and welcomed the convening of the 2nd EAMF in Malaysia on 2-3 October 2013, which was held back-to back with the 4th ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) on 1-3 October 2013.
25. In the interest of safeguarding the region's sizeable seafarer population, we appreciated the Philippines and the U.S.' efforts to convene the 1st Expanded ASEAN Seafarer Training - Counter Piracy (EAST - CP) Workshop in Manila on 23-25 September 2013. We consider maritime piracy as one issue under the umbrella of maritime security, which requires a multi-stakeholder perspective, and look forward to follow-up action on the results of the Workshop.
26. We reaffirmed our support for the maintenance of peace, stability, and maritime security in the region and called on the parties concerned to explore all mechanisms for peaceful resolution of disputes. We welcomed the progress made by all parties concerned to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and to ensure the resolution of disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to threats or the use of force, and in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982 UNCLOS). In this regard, we welcomed the recent positive progress of dialogue on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. We encouraged relevant parties to keep dialogue and consultations for the timely attainment of the COC.
27. We share the concerns of the international community and condemn the use of chemical weapons in Syria which had caused the loss of lives as evidenced in the UN inspection report. We concur with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118 and its Framework for the Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons. We further stress the importance of ensuring the safety and security of innocent civilians and support the agreement reached in Geneva by Russia and the United States on a framework for the safeguarding and eventual destruction of Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles, and looked forward to an implementation that will contribute towards a political solution to the crisis in the country.

28. We resolved to strengthen our counter-terrorism efforts under the framework of the ASEAN-U.S. Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism.
29. We welcomed the successful convening of the Counter-Terrorism Exercise in the Indonesia Peacekeeping and Security Center (IPSC) in Bogor, Indonesia, in 9-13 September 2013, as the implementation of the Experts' Working Group on Counter Terrorism of the ADMM Plus, co-chaired by Indonesia and the United States. We hoped that the exercise would bring more benefits and insights into regional counter terrorism challenges, priorities and capabilities, and further develop opportunities for closer regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism.
30. We reaffirmed our commitments to prevent and combat transnational crimes. We commended the continuing engagement of Senior Official Meetings on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and the United States and highlighted continued efforts by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and the Senior Official Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) plus the United States to combat trafficking in persons (TIP). We looked forward to enhanced cooperation and appreciated the United States contribution to strengthening ASEAN's capacity in law enforcement collaboration and victim assistance and noted the proposed ASEAN-United States of America Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which pledges to support ASEAN's plans to develop the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), both of which were announced at the SOMTC Meeting in June 2013 in Danang, Vietnam.
31. Recognising the threat wildlife trafficking poses to the conservation of the biodiversity, security and economic development, we welcomed deeper ASEAN-U.S. cooperation to stem the growing demand that is driving the surge in wildlife trafficking and to dismantle the related criminal networks. We committed to take measures to strengthen cooperation through the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-United States contribution to strengthening ASEAN's capacity in law enforcement collaboration and victim assistance and noted the proposed ASEAN-United States of America Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which pledges to support ASEAN's plans to develop the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), both of which were announced at the SOMTC Meeting in June 2013 in Danang, Vietnam.
32. Recognising the threat wildlife trafficking poses to the conservation of the biodiversity, security and economic development, we welcomed deeper ASEAN-U.S. cooperation to stem the growing demand that is driving the surge in wildlife trafficking and to dismantle the related criminal networks. We committed to take measures to strengthen cooperation through the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN WEN) and engage with partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), for example by cooperating to implement the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution, as well as strengthen laws and regulations, on wildlife trafficking.
33. ASEAN Leaders welcomed the United States' support in realizing an ASEAN Community with adherence to the rule of law, principles of democracy, promotion and protection of human rights, and respect for fundamental freedom, with due regard to the national laws and regulations of ASEAN Member States. We reaffirmed our commitment to working closely with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission of Human Rights (AICHR) and express appreciation to the United States for their support to the work of the AICHR.
34. Recognising the importance of education in developing a prosperous ASEAN, Leaders commended the joint efforts in various educational programmes including the ASEAN Education Work Plan and the ASEAN University Network (AUN), which has increased linkages between U.S. and ASEAN universities. Leaders also lauded the on going progress of the Brunei - U.S. English Language Enrichment Project, as well as, the Fulbright ASEAN programme, both of which, have provided students and officials opportunities for increased proficiency in the English Language, while advancing mutual cultural understanding and awareness. ASEAN Leaders also recognized the United States for their role as an educational resource and destination for students from ASEAN.

35. We lauded the convening of the 1st ASEAN-U.S. Summit, and in this regard, emphasized the need to sustain dialogue at the highest level between the two sides and looked forward to the 2nd ASEAN-U.S. Summit to be held in Myanmar, 2014.

ASEAN Plus Three

Joint Media Statement of the 12th Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan and Republic of Korea) Tourism Ministers Meeting (12th M-ATM+3)

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 21 January 2013

1. The Twelfth Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) Tourism Ministers was held on 21 January 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2013 and the Sixteenth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM). The Meeting was preceded by the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) NTOs Meeting held on 19 January 2013 in Vientiane. The Meeting was jointly co-chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism of Lao PDR, H.E. Mr. Wang Zhifa, Vice-Chairman of China National Tourism Administration, H.E. Mr. Yosuke Tsuruho, Senior Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan and H.E. Mr. Kwak Youngjin, 1st Vice-Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Rep. of Korea
2. 2012 was a dynamic year for APT countries' tourism. The growth of international visitor arrivals has been significant. Enhanced connectivity particularly air accessibility amongst APT countries has contributed to this positive growth of 11.9 compared to 2011. In 2012, APT countries received more than 98 million international visitor arrivals. Intra-APT countries remained as the main source markets with the share of 64.8 per cent compared to total international visitor arrivals in 2011.
3. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 15th APT Summit and the respective ASEAN Plus One Summits held on 19 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and supported the Mid-Term Review of the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017).
4. In implementing the activities stipulated under the APT Work Plan, the Ministers adopted the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017 covering quality tourism, skills development, joint tourism marketing and promotion, cruise tourism, and tourism crisis communications. The adoption of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan would further promote linkages and strengthen cooperation among National Tourism Organisations. The Ministers agreed to establish the APT Tourism Working Group to implement the Work Plan.
5. Noting the importance of APT tourism collaboration, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to deepen and broaden the collaboration. In this regard, the Ministers tasked their senior officials to expedite the finalisation of the Memorandum of Cooperation on APT Tourism Cooperation, which would be one of the key instruments to strengthen the good relationship and cooperation in tourism sector between ASEAN and Plus Three Countries.
6. The Ministers noted the successful completion of the year 2012 as "Visit ASEAN Plus Three Year".
7. Noting the important role of accessibility amongst APT countries in sustaining tourism growth, the Ministers were pleased to note the progress of enhanced collaboration in the transport sector between ASEAN and China, Japan and ROK, particularly on initiatives of enhancing air connectivity between ASEAN and respective Plus Three Countries. The Ministers welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on Protocol 2 on the exchange of 5th freedom air traffic rights between ASEAN Member States and China under the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement that would create more air accessibility amongst cities in ASEAN and China. The Ministers appreciated Japan's ongoing efforts for expansion of air connectivity with individual ASEAN countries. The Ministers looked forward to the early conclusion of the ASEAN-ROK Air Transport Agreement.

8. The Ministers acknowledged the important role of the ASEAN-Japan Centre, the ASEAN-Korea Centre and the ASEAN-China Centre in further promoting tourism exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries, and expressed their appreciation for their technical assistance provided in the area of tourism promotion, participation in major travel fairs and capacity building.
9. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed appreciation to China for the support and assistance provided to ASEAN Member States through provision of complimentary booth at China International Travel Mart (CITM) 2012, tourism training, documentary shooting, and development of ASEAN tourism marketing website in Chinese language.
10. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers thanked Japan for assistance provided to ASEAN Member States particularly on the implementation of various ASEAN-Japan tourism projects/activities in 2012 for human resources development and promotion of travel to the ASEAN region through ASEAN-Japan Centre, including workshops on cruise tourism, training program for employees of tourism industry, and PR activities.
11. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their appreciation to ROK for its support to the development of ASEAN Tourism through several promotional activities and capacity building such as ASEAN Korean Language Training Course, ASEAN Tourism Guide Book and Mobile Application, etc. organized by ASEAN-Korean Centre and the 6th ROK-ASEAN Partnership Program organized by Korean Government inviting ASEAN tourism officials for enhancing their knowledge on Korean tourism policies.
12. The Meeting expressed sympathy and deepest condolences to the family of the late H.E. Chumpol Silapa-archa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism and Sports of Thailand, and to the Government and people of Thailand for his passing away. It is a great loss not only to Thailand, but also to the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Community for his significant contribution to the development of ASEAN Plus Three tourism cooperation.
13. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Lao PDR for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the Meetings.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Wang Zhifa, Vice Chairman of China National Tourism Administration; Mr. I Gusti Putu Laksaguna, Inspector General of Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy Indonesia, representing; Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Yosuke Tsuruho, Senior Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan; H.E. Mr. Kwak Youngjin, 1st Vice-Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Rep. of Korea; H.E. Prof. Dr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR; Dato' Dr. Ong Hong Peng, Secretary-General, Ministry of Tourism Malaysia, representing; H.E. Dato' Sri Dr. Ng Yen Yen, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia; U Aung Zaw Win, Director General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar representing; H.E. Mr. Htay Aung, Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr. Secretary of Tourism, Philippines; Mr. Lionel Yeo, Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board, representing; H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Sombat Kuruphan, Vice Minister for Tourism and Sports, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Ho Anh Tuan, Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of Viet Nam; and; H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Statement of the 16th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting

New Delhi, India, 3 May 2013

I. Introduction

1. We, the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea (ASEAN+3), convened our 16th meeting in Delhi, India, under the co-chairmanship of H.E. Pehin Dato Abd Rahman Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, and H.E. Zhu Guangyao, Vice Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China. The President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Director of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) and the Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN were also present at our meeting.
2. We exchanged views on the recent global and regional economic developments and policy responses. We reviewed the progress of regional financial cooperation achieved since our last Meeting, including the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), AMRO, the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), the ASEAN+3 Research Group (RG), and Future Priorities. We also discussed measures to further strengthen our regional financial cooperation in the future.
3. We are pleased to announce that we have finalized the amendment of the CMIM Agreement, reached consensus on the draft Agreement to transform AMRO to an international organization, and endorsed the work plan to implement the ABMI New Roadmap+. These achievements will be a significant step forward in our efforts to strengthen the regional financial safety net and contribute to sustainable economic growth and integration in the region.

II. Recent Economic and Financial Developments in the Region

4. We are pleased to note that, despite uncertainties in the global economy and financial markets, the ASEAN+3

region posted steady growth last year and is poised to sustain this momentum in 2013. Resilience of the regional economy has been underpinned by robust domestic demand, effective financial intermediation by the healthy banking system, and appropriate macroeconomic policies.

5. Global economic and financial conditions have been improving, but we recognize the remaining risks. Policy uncertainty, private deleveraging, fiscal drag and impaired credit intermediation continue to weigh on global growth prospects. We are also well aware that continuing global liquidity infusion could potentially induce excessive risk taking and leverage, credit expansion, and asset bubble. We shall remain vigilant on the unintended negative side effects stemming from extended periods of global monetary easing on the region as well as on the risk-on, risk-off sentiment in global financial markets that could amplify volatility in capital flows and adversely affect regional financial stability. We agree that monetary policy should remain oriented towards domestic purposes, namely domestic price stability, continuing to support economic recovery and securing financial stability according to the respective mandates of central banks.
6. Under these circumstances, we are strongly committed to enhancing our efforts to respond to such risks by making the necessary macroeconomic policy adjustments and where appropriate, adopting macro-prudential policies, and by further strengthening financial cooperation in the region.

III. Strengthening Regional Financial Cooperation [Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM)]

7. We appreciated the work done by our Deputies to amend the CMIM Agreement to reflect the measures to strengthen the CMIM as agreed in May 2012. In this connection, the Finance Ministers welcomed the Central Bank Governors' involvement in the fundamental decision making process of the CMIM. At the same time, we remain committed to ensuring that the CMIM is operationally ready, and we instructed the Deputies to continue work on the necessary revisions of the current CMIM Operational Guidelines by the next ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in 2014.

8. We welcomed the work of our Deputies and AMRO to develop the “Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERPD) Matrix”. The matrix will consist of economic indicators of all ASEAN+3 members and will facilitate the assessment of members’ qualification for the CMIM’s crisis prevention facility. We instructed the Deputies and AMRO to continue work on the ERPD Matrix for the smooth implementation of the CMIM should the need arise.
9. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthening the CMIM as part of the regional financial safety net. Recognizing that enhancing the use of local currencies for settlement in trade, investment and capital transactions, and reducing the volatility of capital flows in and out of the region would help mitigate the impacts of external risks, we endorsed further studies on “Ways to Improve the Use of Local Currencies under the CMIM” and “Joint Response to the Capital Flows at the ASEAN+3 Level”. We instructed the Deputies to consider ways to seek an effective cooperative relationship with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other multilateral financial institutions in the areas of surveillance, liquidity support arrangement and capacity development.
10. We welcomed the work of our Deputies and AMRO to develop the “Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERPD) Matrix”. The matrix will consist of economic indicators of all ASEAN+3 members and will facilitate the assessment of members’ qualification for the CMIM’s crisis prevention facility. We instructed the Deputies and AMRO to continue work on the ERPD Matrix for the smooth implementation of the CMIM should the need arise.
11. We also encouraged AMRO to further enhance cooperation with relevant multilateral and regional financial institutions including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the IMF, and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) particularly in areas which will be able to bolster institutional capacity of AMRO.
12. We welcomed the conclusion of the Host Country Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Singapore and AMRO, and expressed our appreciation to Singapore for its firm commitment to provide AMRO with the necessary host country support. We also welcomed the finalization of the text of the Headquarters Agreement (HQA) between Singapore and AMRO concurrently with the AMRO Agreement, which would be concluded once AMRO is reconstituted as an international organization.

[ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO)]

10. We were pleased with the solid progress of AMRO as an independent regional surveillance unit since its establishment in 2011, particularly in conducting regional economic surveillance and contributing to effective decision-making of the CMIM. We encouraged AMRO to continuously find ways to properly, and in a timely manner, identify risks and challenges facing the region. We are committed to enhancing the organizational capacity of AMRO.
11. To further consolidate our endeavor, we agreed to transform AMRO to an international organization. This marks an important milestone in our joint efforts to enhance the effectiveness of our ASEAN+3 financial cooperation. We have reached consensus on the draft of “AMRO Agreement” and will proceed with the necessary domestic processes as early as possible for its prompt signature and entry into force. This would enable AMRO to conduct objective surveillance as a credible, independent international organization, contributing further to the regional financial stability along with the strengthened CMIM.
12. We welcomed the conclusion of the Host Country Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Singapore and AMRO, and expressed our appreciation to Singapore for its firm commitment to provide AMRO with the necessary host country support. We also welcomed the finalization of the text of the Headquarters Agreement (HQA) between Singapore and AMRO concurrently with the AMRO Agreement, which would be concluded once AMRO is reconstituted as an international organization.

[Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)]

14. We acknowledged the continuous progress under the ABMI in promoting issuance and facilitating demand of local currency denominated bonds, as well as improving the regulatory framework and related infrastructure for the regional bond markets. Against the backdrop of heightened volatility in the global financial market, our efforts under the ABMI to develop efficient and liquid regional bond markets will help alleviate volatilities and contribute to the economic and financial stability in our region.
15. We welcomed the inauguration of the guarantee transaction of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF), and expect the CGIF to seek more opportunities to provide guarantee to viable bond issuances in the region. We took note of the ASEAN+3 Bond Market Forum (ABMF) second phase study report and look forward to further discussion on the remaining key issues. We stressed the importance of new public-private round table discussions among market participants, the regulators and policy makers. We welcomed the completion of the business feasibility reassessment for the establishment of the Regional Settlement Intermediary (RSI). We agreed to set up a Cross-border Settlement Infrastructure Forum, which will be based on the voluntary participation of member

countries, to discuss detailed work plans and related process for the improvement of the cross-border settlement in the region including the possibility of establishing the RSI. As part of the effort to strengthen the region's credit rating capacity, we endorsed further study based on the findings of the Research Group. We also welcomed the completion of the current phase of technical assistance programmes for Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam and note the progress of the technical assistance programme for the Philippines under the Technical Assistance Coordination Team (TACT).

16. We endorsed the work plan prepared by the ABMI Taskforces with the guidance of Deputies for the implementation of the ABMI New Roadmap+ with nine priorities adopted in May 2012. We expect the Taskforces to diligently carry out the work plan, with the support from the ADB, to achieve more tangible outcomes.
17. Furthermore, we recognized the great potential of the ABMI in developing debt instruments and fostering bond investment to help channel the substantial savings into infrastructure development in the region. In this regard, we endorsed an initiative on "Fostering Infrastructure Financing Bonds Development", which aims to promote both issuance and demand of infrastructure financing bonds. We expect the ABMI Taskforces to develop the detailed work plans while encouraging private sectors' involvement and taking into account current efforts of the region to improve synergies.
18. We note that the Asian Bond Fund (ABF) under the Executives' Meeting of East Asia Pacific Central Banks (EMEAP) has contributed to increasing the demand for the regional bond market. We advised the Deputies to consider what additional types of investment tools would further accelerate the development of the regional bond market.

[ASEAN+3 Research Group (RG)]

19. We appreciated the efforts and noted the findings made by the Research Group on the study for 2012/2013 on "The International Discussions on the Credit Rating Agencies and Enhancing Infrastructure to Strengthen the Regional Credit Rating Capacity

in the ASEAN+3 Region". We endorsed two new study topics for the 2013/2014 Research Group activities as follows: i) The Policy Recommendations for the Expansion of the Securitization Market in the ASEAN+3 Countries; and ii) SWOT Analysis on the Capital Market Infrastructures in the ASEAN+3 Member Countries and its Implications.

[Future Priorities of ASEAN+3 Financial Cooperation]

20. We welcomed the progress of the second phase studies on each of the three possible areas for ASEAN+3 financial cooperation: i) infrastructure financing, ii) disaster risk insurance, and iii) using local currencies for the regional trade settlement. We instructed the Deputies to continue in-depth studies, with the continued support from the ADB and the World Bank, and put forward policy recommendations that will contribute to the sustained and inclusive growth and development of the region.

IV. Conclusion

21. We expressed our appreciation to the governments of Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China for their excellent arrangements as the co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Process in 2013. We also thanked the government of India for its warm hospitality.
22. We agreed to meet in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2014. Myanmar and Japan will be the co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Process in 2014.

Chairman's Statement of the 14th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 30 June 2013**

1. The 14th Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 30 June 2013. The Meeting was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam.
2. The Ministers welcomed the good progress and achievements of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to deepen and broaden the process, as guided by the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Joint Statement on the Commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation, to serve as a main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community, with ASEAN as the driving force.
3. The Ministers reiterated the importance of ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture and agreed that the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation would continue to support the realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015 and pave the way towards deeper regional integration. The Ministers also took note of Indonesia's call for ASEAN to formulate aspirational goals beyond 2015, such as doubling ASEAN's combined GDP and halving the percentage of people living in poverty in the ASEAN region by 2030.
4. The Ministers recalled the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) and its Plan of Action (2013-2017) and reaffirmed the commitment to implement it with the support of ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, including within the frameworks of the ASEAN Plus Three.
5. The Ministers reviewed with satisfaction the progress made by the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation through the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). The Ministers adopted the paper on the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) and tasked the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN and the Ambassadors of the Plus Three countries to ASEAN to look into the recommendations and submit the Revised ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017) to the 16th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan in October 2013.
6. The Ministers recognised the necessity to replenish the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund (APTCF) and look forward to its replenishment in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the APTCF.
7. The Ministers took note that the East Asia Vision Group II (EAVG II) Report was submitted to the ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 19 November 2012 and in this regard, adopted the Concept Paper on the Follow-Ups to the EAVG II Report which outlined a comprehensive assessment to be taken in three phases from November 2013 to October 2014.
8. The Ministers looked forward to the implementation of the Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity which was adopted at the ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 19 November 2012, and agreed to explore the possibility of additional financing mechanisms under the APT framework to support the implementation of ASEAN connectivity projects. The Ministers also reaffirmed the need to further promote cooperation to support the implementation of the IAI Work Plan II.
9. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in maintaining peace, security and stability which are indispensable conditions for development in the East Asia region hence agreed to further strengthen political-security cooperation, to deal with emerging challenges in both traditional and non-traditional security dimensions, inter alia the threat of terrorism and emerging cybercrimes. The Ministers also underscored the need to promote common values and norms, such as good governance, rule of law, as well as the promotion and protection of human rights through policy dialogue and capacity building activities.

10. The Ministers lauded the steady growth of the East Asia region, with the developing countries poised to grow at an average of 5.5% in 2013, up from 5.1% in 2012, notwithstanding the uncertainties in the global economy and financial markets.
11. The Ministers noted and welcomed the recent milestones achieved during the 16th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting that took place in Delhi, India on 3 May 2013, in particular, finalisation of amendments to the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation Agreement, consensus on the draft Agreement to transform the ASEAN Plus Three Macroeconomic Research Office to an international organisation, endorsement of the work plan to implement the Asian Bond Markets Initiative New Roadmap+ and the initiative on "Fostering Infrastructure Financing Bonds Development" to promote both issuance and demand of infrastructure financing bonds, as well as, the inauguration of the guarantee transaction of the Credit Guarantee Investment Facility.
12. The Ministers welcomed the commencement of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in May 2013 in Brunei Darussalam which would serve to strengthen ASEAN Centrality in the emerging regional economic architecture and the interests of ASEAN Plus Three in supporting and contributing to economic integration, equitable economic development and strengthening economic cooperation among the participating countries. In this regard, the Ministers expressed their support for a process which will be in accordance with the Joint Declaration on the Launch of Negotiations for the RCEP and the Guiding Principle and Objectives for Negotiating the RCEP.
13. The Ministers reaffirmed their support to achieve greater energy security hence welcomed the decision of the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Ministers on Energy Meeting on 12 September 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to balance energy security with economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability through strengthening regional commitments to the ASEAN Plus Three energy cooperation. The Ministers welcomed the steady progress of the activities in the field of energy security and acknowledged the importance of cooperation among stakeholders to study possible energy options for the region including, among others, civilian nuclear energy, oil stockpiling, coal and clean coal technologies.
14. The Ministers underscored the importance of ensuring food security in the East Asia region. In this regard, the Ministers recalled that the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement entered into force on 12 July 2012 and commended the initiative taken by the APTERR in response to the occurrence of flood damage in late 2012 in the Philippines as its first case. The Ministers also welcomed the successful implementation of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project, looking forward to the further development of AFSIS into the ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System.
15. The Ministers also reaffirmed the importance of ensuring food safety in this region and the commitment to appropriately review and relax restrictions on imports from Japan after the nuclear accident, to promote trade, investment and travel in the region.
16. The Ministers recognised the increasing need to facilitate closer cooperation on environment and sustainable development in line with the Outcome of the United Nations on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio+20). They noted the convening of the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers' Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on 27 September 2012, the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Leadership Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Manila, the Philippines on 17-19 October 2012 and welcomed the proposal to hold the 2nd ASEAN Plus Three Youth Environment Forum with the theme "Youth and Sustainability" in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in December 2013.
17. The Ministers welcomed the decision of the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers' Meeting in Phuket, Thailand on 6 July 2012 to align health cooperation initiatives with the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015) with specific focus on areas such as Emerging Infectious Diseases, Pandemic Preparedness and Response, and Traditional Medicines. They also reiterated the need to strengthen cooperation in addressing threats of disease outbreaks in the East Asia region.

18. The Ministers looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education (2010-2017) which would help strengthen education cooperation and human resource development in the East Asia region. They also reaffirmed their support to promote quality assurance in higher education amongst the ASEAN Plus Three countries, including the convening of the 1st APT Working Group on “Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education among ASEAN Plus Three countries” and a related forum later this year in Tokyo.
19. The Ministers looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation in early 2014 which would be one of the key instruments to strengthen the good relationship and cooperation amongst the ASEAN Plus Three countries in the tourism sector.
20. The Ministers acknowledged the important and complimentary role played by the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-ROK Centre, which over the years, have helped facilitate and promote trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. In this regard, the Ministers encouraged the three centres to exchange ideas and experiences in order to consolidate cooperative projects in ASEAN.
21. The Ministers recognised the need to strengthen cooperation in the information sector to raise the awareness of ASEAN and promote mutual understanding amongst the people of East Asia. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the endorsement of the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Through Information and Media (2012-2017) at the 2nd Conference of the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Responsible for Information in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 1 March 2012.
22. The Ministers acknowledged the 4th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 23 May 2013 and the readiness of China, Japan and the ROK to continue supporting and cooperating with ASEAN youth programmes. They noted that new initiatives and programmes from the Plus Three countries offered more opportunities for further interaction and exchange of technical know-how between the young people from Southeast Asian countries and the Plus Three countries.
23. The Ministers appreciated the important role of the East Asia Forum (EAF) as a think-tank for East Asian regional cooperation between government, business, and academic circles. In this regard, the Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 11th EAF in Kyoto, Japan on 20-22 August 2013 with the theme of “Enhancing People-to-People Connectivity: Focusing on Tourism Cooperation”.
24. The Ministers appreciated the important contribution of the Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) in supporting the ASEAN Plus Three, hence shared the determination for greater involvement of the NEAT within the framework of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
25. The Ministers took note of China’s initiatives to hold several ASEAN Plus Three activities this year namely: the 5th East Asia Business Forum; APT Workshop on Law Enforcement Cooperation on Combating Telecom Fraud; 6th APT Forum on Biomass Energy; 5th APT Roundtable on Food Security Cooperation Strategy; Seminar and Training Course on the Prevention and Control of Animal Epidemic Disease; NEAT Working Group Meeting on Financing Infrastructure Connectivity in East Asia; 8th APT Workshop on Cooperation for Cultural Human Resource Development; 6th APT Media Cooperation Forum; APT Training Program on Understanding China; and International Symposium of East Asia Connectivity Partnership.
26. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance for the Chairman of ASEAN to continue to be invited to participate in the G-20 Summits on a regular basis.
27. The Ministers stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula, and encouraged peaceful dialogue including the resumption of the Six Party Talks. The Ministers reiterated the importance of fully complying with obligations in all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions and commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. The Ministers reiterated their support

for all efforts to bring about the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and reaffirmed their commitments to fully implement the relevant UNSC Resolutions to this end. The Ministers also emphasised the importance of addressing the issues of humanitarian concerns of the international community.

28. The Ministers looked forward to the 15th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in 2014.

Joint Media Statement of the 16th AEM Plus Three Consultations

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 20 August 2013**

1. The 16th Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and Economic Ministers of the People's Republic of China ("China"), Japan and the Republic of Korea ("Korea") were held on 20 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Consultations were co-chaired by The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce of China; H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; and H.E. Yoon Sang-jick, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy of Korea.
2. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the trade and investment relations between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries, which remained robust even in the light of the uncertainties of the global economy. In 2012, ASEAN total trade with the Plus 3 countries recorded an increase of 5.0%, amounting to US\$712 billion. This increase could be attributed to ASEAN's imports from the Plus Three Countries, which grew by 11.0% totalling to US\$389.1 billion in 2012. While ASEAN's export to the Plus Three Countries decreased by 1.4%. Total trade with Plus Three Countries accounted for 28.8% share of ASEAN's total trade in 2012.
3. Total foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from the Plus Three Countries into ASEAN remained on an upward trend, recording an increase of 6.6% amounting to US\$46.7 billion in 2012 from US\$43.8 billion in 2011. FDI flows from the Plus Three Countries accounted for 43.6% of the total FDI flows into ASEAN in 2012.
4. The Ministers underlined the importance of the ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements with the Plus Three Countries in strengthening the internal drivers for economic growth in East Asia, especially in the light of uncertainties in the global economy and financial markets, by boosting demand within the region and promoting intra-regional economic development. In this regard, the Ministers urged businesses in East Asia to take full advantage of these FTAs.
5. The Ministers noted the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) and welcomed the adoption of the paper on the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017) at the 14th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The Ministers looked forward to the Revised ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017) expected to be submitted to the 16th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan in October 2013.
5. The Ministers noted that the final recommendations of the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II in developing the future direction of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation for the next ten years that were submitted to the Leaders at the 15th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in November 2012 in Cambodia. Following the mandate of the Leaders, the Ministers requested relevant officials to consider the EAVG II recommendations relating to economic pillar for further action.
7. The Ministers consulted with the East Asia Business Council delegation, which reported the results of their works on doing business in the East Asian region. The Ministers appreciated EABC's initiatives and recommendations which further strengthen economic co-operation among ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries in order to establish investor confidence and create a conducive environment for business community in the region.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce, China; H.E. Bayu Krisnamurthi, Vice Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan; H.E. Yoon Sang-jick, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea; H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Statement of the 4th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (4th AMMSWD+3)

“Social Development for All”

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 7 September 2013

1. We, the Ministers/Heads of Delegations responsible for social welfare and development of ASEAN Member States, People's Republic of China, Japan, and Republic of Korea convened the Fourth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (4th AMMSWD+3) which carried the theme “Social Development for All” on 7 September 2013 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Social Development for All

2. We recognised the importance of promoting accessibility and quality of social protection schemes that are responsive to the needs of

vulnerable groups including the poor and low income households, single parents, children, older people, persons with disabilities, and victim of disasters. We shared information on the achievements made and challenges encountered by the ASEAN Plus Three Countries in implementing national legislations, policies, and programmes to promote social development for all, including one-stop services, women's economic empowerment, material health and early childhood care, education, assistance and livelihood programme for the poor, social welfare and services, social safety net, social insurance, pension, care for the elderly, and labour market intervention to promote employability.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Social Welfare and Development

4. We noted the deliveries of the Eighth ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (8th SOMSWD+3) held on 5 September 2013 including the planned project and activities initiated by ASEAN Member States for the involvement and support of the Plus Three Countries.
5. We commended the efforts of the People's Republic of China in implementing social welfare and development policies and programmes for vulnerable groups in the country. We recognised China's efforts to promote social welfare policies, from providing residual social services to building up a moderate benefit-all society. We appreciated China's initiatives on the strengthening of its substantial cooperation with the ASEAN Plus Three Countries through its support to the comparative studies on social welfare policies among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries and plan to convene a High Level Forum on Social Services for the Elderly in 2014.
6. We acknowledged the importance of long-term care systems in preparation for ageing society. We appreciated the continuing commitment of Japan to convene the annual ASEAN and Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies as an effective venue for information sharing, capacity enhancement, and building partnerships amongst the social welfare, health and labour sectors. We noted the recommendations for effective natural disaster

response and management for vulnerable groups of the 10th Meeting held on 23-25 October 2012 in Tokyo. We welcomed the plan to convene the 11th Meeting with the theme “Active Ageing” on 3-5 December 2013 in Tokyo. We also noted the joint projects of Japan and Thailand on “the Development of a Community-Based Integrated Health Care and Welfare Services Model for Thai Older Persons” and “Long-term Care Service Development for the Frail Elderly and Other Vulnerable People” as the issue of ageing is shared by most ASEAN Member States in the coming decades.

7. We acknowledged the initiative of the Republic of Korea to achieve welfare for all citizens especially in promoting community-based services for older people to ensure that they are adequately cared for. We appreciated the initiative of the Republic of Korea through the Project entitled “Community-Based Services for Older Persons” led by Help Age Korea which provides an opportunity to share good practices and lessons learnt in addressing the concerns of ageing societies through the participation of family and community in the response.
8. We recognised the valuable and continuing support of the Plus Three Countries in the joint efforts to strengthen services for vulnerable groups towards promoting a caring society. We reiterated the continued interest of ASEAN Member States to dialogue and engage with the Plus Three Countries, and to explore new initiatives in support of the realisation of the ASEAN Community building by 2015.

Fifth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development

9. We expressed appreciation to Indonesia for its readiness to host the Fifth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development in 2016.
10. We were most thankful to the Royal Government of Cambodia for its warm and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegation, and the excellent arrangements for the Meeting. We also expressed our sincere appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for its support to the Meeting.

List of Ministers or Their Representatives Attending the Fourth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development

The Honourable Penin Dato Haji Hazair Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Ith Samheng, Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Cambodia; H.E. Li Liguo, Minister of Civil Affairs, People’s Republic of China; H.E. DR. Salim Segaf Al-Jufri M.A. Minister of Social Affairs Indonesia; H.E. Keigo Masuya, Senior Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan; H.E. Park Yong Hyun, Assistant Minister of Office for Social Welfare Policy of Ministry of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea; H.E. Onechanh Thammavong, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Rohani Abdul Karim, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar; H.E. Corazon Juliano-Soliman, Secretary/Minister Department of Social Welfare and Development, The Philippines; H.E. Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Social and Family Development, Singapore; Mr. Vichien Chavalit, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand; H.E. Pham THi Hai Chuyen, Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

**Joint Statement
of the 6th ASEAN Ministerial
Meeting Plus Three on
Transnational Crimes
(6th AMMTC + 3)**

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18 September 2013

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea responsible for combating transnational crime, convened the 6th AMMTC + 3 in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 18 September 2013. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by Preparatory SOMTC + 3 for the 6th AMMTC + 3 on 16 September 2013. The 6th AMMTC + 3 was chaired by H.E. Dr. Thongbanh Seng A phone, Minister of Public Security of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
2. We remain committed to further strengthen efforts to prevent and combat transnational crimes that continue to threaten our region, in order to ensure peace and stability.
3. We acknowledged the progress in the efforts to fulfill the transnational crime component of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2007-2017.
4. We tasked the SOMTC + 3 to expedite efforts to enhance ASEAN + 3 law enforcement cooperation, in order to fulfill the transnational crime component of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan which is to be completed by 2017.
5. We welcomed the convening of the 7th AMMTC + 3 in Malaysia in 2015.
6. We expressed our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements.

**Joint Ministerial Statement
the 10th ASEAN+3
(China, Japan and Korea)
Ministers on Energy Meeting**

Bali, Indonesia, 25 September 2013

Introduction

1. The 10th ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3) was held in Bali, Indonesia on 25 September 2013. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Jero Wacik, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR) of Indonesia and co-chaired by Mr. Yang Kun, Chief Engineer, on behalf of H.E. Wu Xinxiong, Administrator of National Energy Administration (NEA) of the People's Republic of China; H.E. Mr. Kazuyoshi Akaba, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan; and H.E. Mr. Han Jin Hyun, Vice Minister for Trade and Energy of Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) of the Republic of Korea. The Meeting was participated by the Ministers of Energy of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
2. The Ministers encouraged Japan to continue to share with the international community its accumulated knowledge and lessons learned from the accident of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, including those on the safe and secure use of nuclear energy as well as on its related environmental impact. Amidst developments, such as, the volatile geopolitical situation in the Middle East and its implications on energy security, and taking into account the rising energy demand, the Ministers raised concern over energy security and environmental sustainability in the region. They agreed to strengthen their commitment to the ASEAN+3 energy cooperation towards energy security and sustainable energy future.
3. Recognizing the need for improved linkages in energy cooperation, the Ministers agreed that enhancing ASEAN connectivity would bring the region closer to its goal of achieving greater energy security.

The Ministers expressed their appreciation for the progress made by the Senior Officials Meeting on Energy +3 (SOME+3). They noted that capacity building, information sharing and exchange amongst the countries are key to the cooperation and promoting sustainable development and low-carbon growth economies.

Energy Security

4. On energy security, the Ministers recognized the importance of stakeholder cooperation to study possible energy options for the region including, among others, civilian nuclear energy, oil stockpiling, clean coal technologies, and also welcomed the steady progress of the activities. In this regard, the Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for leading the Energy Security Forum in ASEAN+3 energy cooperation.
5. The Ministers commended the progress of Republic of Korea's Second Phase Implementation Plan of the Human Resources Development for Civilian Nuclear Energy and Japan's status of activities under the Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN). The Ministers noted the ACE-Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) Seminar on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, Nonproliferation and Security, held on 4-5 June 2013 in Viet Nam, where information on international effort and experience in national regulatory frameworks in enhancing nuclear security was exchanged. The Ministers further noted ISCN's activities, namely: the Regional Training Course on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and Nuclear Facilities in July-August 2013, Regional Training Course on the Implementation of Nuclear Security on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities (INFCIRC/225/Revision 5) in August 2013, and International Training Course on State Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material to be held in November 2013. The Ministers also noted the activities on Human Resource Development on international nuclear development by JAIF International Cooperation Center.
6. On oil stockpiling, the Ministers welcomed the follow-up activities for 2013-2014, namely: (a) to finalize the Results of Questionnaire Country Needs on the Development of Oil Stockpiling in ASEAN+3 Member States, (b) to undertake a detailed assessment of the oil stockpiling situation in AMS (Country Report), (c) to develop guidelines for the Development of Oil Stockpiling in National Level through a joint study, and (d) conducting a joint study with ASCOPE on Impact of Oil Stockpiling Roadmap (OSRM) on ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA). The Ministers appreciated the efforts of the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) for jointly organizing the 1st Workshop of OSRM for ASEAN+3 under the theme "Pre-Project Phase and Decision Phase on the Development of Oil Stockpiling" held on 11 March 2013 in Korea and also appreciated the excellent hospitality and hosting arrangement provided by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) of Korea. The Ministers encouraged the ASEAN countries to steadily implement their OSRMs, with the +3 countries and International Energy Agency (IEA) providing the support and assistance where appropriate.
7. Recognizing that coal is a major fuel source for the region, the Ministers reiterated their collective call to step up efforts to develop cooperation programs on clean coal technologies, such as high efficiency coal-fired power generation, the upgrading of low rank coal technologies, carbon capture and storage (CCS), cokes making, coal gasification, coal liquefaction and develop the industry in the region. The Ministers expressed that tangible engagement by the +3 countries will contribute to future activities of the ASEAN Forum on Coal (AFOC) in order to foster closer cooperation and promote positive collaboration on clean coal utilization.
8. To enhance greater information sharing amongst the ASEAN+3 countries, the Ministers expressed the need for continued collaboration of the ACE and the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ) in developing capacity building programs to support policy research and analysis. The Ministers noted the commencement of the new study on oil products information/specification by ACE and IEEJ, to prepare for emergency response protocol and identify the potential institutional barriers for securing oil supply.

Oil Market and Natural Gas

9. Noting that excessive oil price volatility might be a source of economic instability, the Ministers recognized the need to promote transparency in the oil markets, and expressed continued support for the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI). The Ministers encouraged the ASEAN+3 countries to further share and exchange information on counter measures in response to oil prices volatility in the global market. They also encouraged the countries to share their experiences and lessons learned in addressing price volatilities and uncertainties in oil supply caused by perceived geopolitical risks.
10. Given the increasingly prominent role that natural gas will play in the global fuel mix, the Ministers agreed to enhance cooperation in the natural gas sector, in particular LNG, unconventional gas, by increasing and encouraging private sector participation. The Ministers noted the 2nd Oil Market and Natural Gas Forum and the 2nd ASEAN+3 Oil Market and Natural Gas Business Dialogue which was held on 13-14 March 2013 in Incheon, Korea.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and Conservation

11. The Ministers noted the good progress in achieving ASEAN's aspirational goals of reducing regional energy intensity by at least 8% by 2015 based on the 2005 level, and the 15% target for the share of renewable energy in the total installed power capacity by 2015. The Ministers welcomed China's initiative on Sustainable Development of New Energy, which encourages cooperation on policy and technology exchange, sharing of best practices on wind, solar, hydro, nuclear energy and low carbon town. The Ministers acknowledged the progress of the ASEAN+3 CDM Cooperation Program and supported its new name, ASEAN+3 Cooperation on Mitigation Program and thanked Korea for leading the New and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Forum.
12. The Ministers noted the good start of the new schemes of the ASEAN-Japan Energy Efficiency Partnership Programme (AJEEP) including ECAP (Energy Conservation Workshop under AJEEP)

program coordinated by The Energy Conservation Center, Japan (ECCJ) and ACE and noted the importance of continuous implementation of these new programs for the progress of the sustainable energy development in the region.

13. Recognizing that new and innovative solutions are part of the equation in meeting future energy needs, the Ministers expressed their appreciation to Korea and Japan for sharing their experiences and plans on smart grid technologies. The Ministers encouraged the ASEAN+3 countries to initiate Roundtable Discussion/Workshop on Feed-In-Tariff, Green Building and Innovative Financing Scheme and Policy Instrument for RE and EE&C to step up collaborative partnerships involving greater private sector participation to accelerate deployment of innovative practices in energy sustainability.

Next Meeting

14. The Ministers agreed to meet again in Lao PDR in 2014 for the 11th ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting.
15. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government and People of the Republic of Indonesia for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the 10th ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

Hon. Pehin Dato (Dr.) Mohammad Yasmin Umar, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Ith Praing, Secretary of State, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy of the Kingdom of Cambodia; Mr. Yang Kun, Chief Engineer, on behalf of H.E. Wu Xinxiong, Administrator of National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China; H.E. Mr. Jero Wacik, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Kazuyoshi Akaba, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; H.E. Mr. Viraphonh Viravong, Vice Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao People's Democratic Republic; Hon. Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water of Malaysia; H.E. U Zay Yar Aung, Union Minister for Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Carlos Jericho L. Petilla, Secretary, Department of Energy, the Republic of the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Han Jin Hyun, Vice Minister for Trade and Energy

of Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) of the Republic of Korea; H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry of the Republic of Singapore; I. H.E. Police Lieutenant General Dr. Wichianchot Sukchotarat, Vice Minister of Energy of the Kingdom of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Le Duong Quang, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; and; H.E. Dr. AKP. Mochtan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Press Statement of the 13th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (13th AMAF Plus Three)

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
27 September 2013**

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held our Thirteenth Meeting on 27 September 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia.
2. We reaffirmed our strong support in further enhancing cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry sector, including food security, as guided by the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Joint Statement on the Commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation.
3. In reviewing ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in 2012-2013, we were pleased with the good progress made in the implementation of the various on-going activities under the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) Framework, especially in the areas of food security, agricultural technology, climate change mitigation and adaptation, control and eradication of trans-boundary pest and animal diseases.
4. We noted with appreciation the good progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement that include the submission of instrument of ratification by all APTERR parties, the organisation of the 1st APTERR Council Meeting on 28 March 2013, the launching of the APTERR Secretariat on 29 March 2013 as well as finalisation of key documents to support the operationalisation of APTERR. We further tasked the SOM-AMAF Plus Three to expedite the nominations of Council Member, Country Coordinator and Coordinating Agency to support the full operation of the APTERR. We noted the implementation of the APTERR Tier 3 programme contributed by Japan in responding to the food emergency situations in Lao PDR and the Philippines in 2013. We encouraged to expedite the process of legal personality of APTERR Secretariat for operationalisation of APTERR.
5. We noted the progress of the transformation of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) into a permanent scheme though the evaluation on its effectiveness and usefulness at the national and regional levels. We noted the progress of project initiated in 2013, in which AFSIS and Statistics Department of the MAFF closely cooperated in developing Food Security Forecasting Model project which has been supported by Japan. We encouraged the Plus Three Countries to support the capacity building at the national level of AMS during the transformation period.
6. We expressed satisfaction with the implementation progress of various activities to support the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Comprehensive Strategy on Food Security and Bioenergy, including (i) the ASEAN-FAO Project on Bioenergy and Food Security in ASEAN; (ii) SOM-AMAF Plus Three and SOME Plus Three Consultation Meeting, held on 30-31 October 2012 in Bangkok; and (iii) the 6th ASEAN Plus Three Biomass Forum, held on 16-19 May 2013 in Wuhan, China; (iv) the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Roundtable Meeting on Food Security, held on 10-11 July 2013, Harbin, China; (v) ASEAN Plus China Senior Officers Consultation Meeting on Agricultural Strategy Cooperation Framework and field study on rice research and production in the provinces of Heilongjiang and Hunan, held on 12-18 July 2013. We reaffirmed our support for the

ASEAN-FAO Bioenergy and Food Security Project to formulate regional and national roadmaps for sustainable bioenergy.

7. We welcomed the OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) Project on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Control in Asia in collaboration with the South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) Campaign. We noted the necessity of the new OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) project under “One Health Concept”, where HPAI and Rabies planned to be covered.
8. We agreed to meet again at the 14th Meeting of AMAF Plus Three in Myanmar in 2014.
9. The Ministers from other ASEAN Member States, the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Malaysia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the 13th AMAF Plus Three Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. San Vanty, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Suswono, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Phouangparisak Pravongviengkham, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato’ Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia; H.E. U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Jose Eduardo E. Malaya III, the Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia, Philippines; H.E. Dr. Mohamad Maiki bin Osman, Minister of State for National Development and Defence, Singapore; H.E. Mr. Yukol Limlamthong, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand; H.E. Dr. Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Niu Dun, Vice Minister of Agriculture, PR China; H.E. Mr. Taku Eto, Senior Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan; H.E. Mr. Lee Junwon, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Republic of Korea; Mr. Tran Dong Phuong, Director of Finance, Industries and Infrastructure Directorate, ASEAN Economic Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat.

Chairman’s Statement of the 16th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 10 October 2013**

1. The 16th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, was held on 10 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, the People’s Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) attended the Meeting.
2. We reviewed with satisfaction the progress and achievements of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and agreed to continue deepening and broadening the process, as guided by the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation and the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders’ Joint Statement on the Commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
3. As ASEAN is embarking towards an ASEAN Community and an ASEAN Community’s Post 2015 Vision, we acknowledged the need to deepen and enhance ASEAN’s dialogue partnership and external relations.
4. We reaffirmed that the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation would serve as a main vehicle towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian community with ASEAN as the driving force. At the same time, we reiterated the importance of ASEAN’s central role in the evolving regional architecture and recognised the mutually reinforcing and complementary roles of the ASEAN Plus Three and other regional processes such as the ASEAN Plus Ones, East Asia Summit (EAS), and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in the East Asian community building process.
5. The ASEAN Leaders also encouraged the Plus Three countries to continue to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and contribute to the ASEAN Community Post-2015

- Vision, as well as to the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) to bring the ASEAN Community platform on global issues into reality by 2022.
6. We adopted the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017) which included emerging priority areas and key measures to deepen cooperation. We looked forward to its timely and effective implementation over the next five years.
 7. We noted with appreciation the replenishment of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund and encouraged the utilisation of the fund to further implement activities under the framework of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017).
 8. We reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in maintaining peace, security, and stability, which are indispensable conditions for development in the East Asia region. In this regard, we agreed to further strengthen political-security cooperation by enhancing mutual understanding, confidence and stability, in order to deal with emerging challenges in both traditional and nontraditional security dimensions. In this connection, we welcomed the outcomes of the 6th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3), 3rd ASEAN Plus People's Republic of China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+China) and 1st ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+Japan) on 18 September 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
 9. We welcomed the continuing growth of intra-regional trade in the East Asia region, with total trade figures amounting to US\$ 712 billion in 2012 compared to US\$ 678 billion in 2011. This marks an increase of 5.0% in total trade, despite the uncertainties in the global economy and financial markets. Similarly, total foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from the Plus Three Countries recorded an increase of 6.6% in 2012, amounting to US\$ 46.7 billion, and accounting for 43.6% of the total FDI flows into ASEAN. We agreed to continue strengthening regional cooperation in the areas of trade and investment facilitation, and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) development. In this connection, we reiterated the importance of strengthening and deepening existing ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the Plus Three countries and urged business communities to take full advantage of these FTAs.
 10. We welcomed the progress of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which would recognise ASEAN Centrality in the emerging regional economic architecture and the interests of the ASEAN Plus Three countries in supporting and contributing to economic integration, equitable economic development, and strengthening economic cooperation among the participating countries. In this regard, we looked forward to its timely conclusion by the end of 2015.
 11. We welcomed the achievements of the 16th ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting held in Delhi, India on 3 May 2013, including the finalisation of amendments to the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation Agreement, consensus on the draft Agreement to transform the ASEAN Plus Three Macroeconomic Research Office to an international organisation, endorsement of the work plan for the implementation of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative New Roadmap+ and the inauguration of the guarantee transaction of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility.
 12. We recognised the need to balance energy security with economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability and acknowledged the importance of stakeholder cooperation to study possible energy options for the region including, among others, civilian nuclear energy, oil stockpiling, and clean coal technologies, taking into account each country's national policy and circumstances, and to look into new energy cooperation areas such as the use of clean and environmentally-friendly technologies. In this connection, we welcomed the outcomes of the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Ministers on Energy Meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 25 September 2013.
 13. We reaffirmed the important role of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) to serve as a permanent mechanism in enhancing food security in the region and at the same time, we commended its initiatives in response to acute food emergencies. We acknowledged the good progress on the implementation of the APTERR Agreement, including

- ratification by all APTERR parties, establishment of the APTERR Council, and launching of the APTERR Secretariat. In this relation, we welcomed the outcomes of the 13th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF+3) held on 27 September 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
14. We reiterated the need to further strengthen regional cooperation in the area of disaster management and reaffirmed our commitment to create a disaster resilient society in the region. We supported the full operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2010-2015). In this regard, we welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 9 October 2013.
 15. We emphasised the importance of enhancing cooperation to address the issue of climate change. In this connection, we expressed our commitment to work closely together to ensure the successful outcome of the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP19) to the UNFCCC and the 9th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP9) to the Kyoto Protocol to be held in Warsaw, Poland on 11-22 November 2013. We recognised the importance of water resources preservation and management for sustainable development. We agreed on the need for enhanced cooperation in this area with a view to preventing floods and droughts in the region which could affect agricultural productivity and regional food security.
 16. We recognised the increasing need to facilitate closer cooperation on environment and sustainable development hence welcomed the convening of the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers' Meeting held in Surabaya, Indonesia on 26 September 2013. We also welcomed the proposal to hold the 2nd ASEAN Plus Three Youth Environment Forum with the theme "Youth and Sustainability" in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in November 2013.
 17. We noted implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education (2010-2017) which would help strengthen education cooperation and human resource development in East Asia region. We also reaffirmed the need to promote quality assurance in higher education amongst the ASEAN Plus Three countries and welcomed the convening of meetings to promote mobility of higher education and quality education assurance of higher education among ASEAN Plus Three countries in Tokyo, Japan on 30 September to 1 October in 2013. We took note that the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development would be held in Japan in November 2014.
 18. We reaffirmed our support to strengthen cooperation in addressing threats of disease outbreaks in the East Asia region and agreed to focus health cooperation on areas such as Emerging Infectious Diseases, Pandemic Preparedness and Response and Traditional Medicines in line with the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015). At the same time, we shared the intention to cooperate on the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases and work towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage.
 19. We looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation in early 2014 which would be one of the key instruments to strengthen cooperation amongst the ASEAN Plus Three countries in the tourism sector.
 20. We recognised the need to raise awareness of ASEAN and to promote mutual understanding amongst the people of ASEAN Plus Three countries hence agree to strengthen cooperation in the information sector. We also look forward to the successful implementation of the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Through Information and Media (2012-2017).
 21. We noted the convening of the 4th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 23 May 2013 and the readiness of the Plus Three countries to continue supporting and cooperating with ASEAN on youth programmes. We noted that new initiatives

- and programmes from the Plus Three countries offered more opportunities for further interaction and exchange of technical know-how between the young people of ASEAN Plus Three countries.
22. We recognised the importance of realising the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and welcomed the support of all Dialogue Partners, especially the Plus Three countries, as well as external parties and the private sector, in the implementation of the MPAC. We also looked forward to the implementation of the Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity which would harness the extensive mechanisms of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation to further enhance regional connectivity.
 23. We took note of the adoption of the Concept Paper on the Follow-Ups to the East Asia Vision Group II (EAVG II), by the 14th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 30 June 2013. The Concept Paper outlined a comprehensive assessment to be taken in three phases from November 2013 to October 2014, and in this regard, we looked forward to the final report on the follow-ups to the EAVG II Report at the 17th ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Myanmar in 2014.
 24. We acknowledged the important role played by the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-ROK Centre, in promoting trade, investment, tourism, and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. In this connection, we welcomed the suggestion for the Centres to exchange ideas and experiences in order to consolidate cooperative projects in ASEAN. We further urged for the full utilisation of the Centres in promoting trade and investment under the larger context of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.
 25. We welcomed the 11th East Asia Forum held in Kyoto, Japan on 20-22 August 2013 under the theme "Enhancing People-to-People Connectivity: Focusing on Tourism Cooperation".
 26. We noted that the 11th Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) Annual Conference was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27 August 2013. We welcomed the greater involvement of the NEAT within the framework of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and in this regard, we encouraged our officials to look into NEAT's policy recommendations.
 27. We welcomed the outcomes of the G20 Summit held in St. Petersburg, Russia on 5-6 September 2013. We reiterated our support for the Chairman of ASEAN to continue to be invited to participate in the G-20 Summits on a regular basis.
 28. We stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula, and encouraged peaceful dialogue by creating a positive atmosphere for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. We reaffirmed the importance of fully complying with the obligations in all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions and commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks.
- We reiterated our support for all efforts to bring about the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and reaffirmed our commitments to fully implement the relevant UNSC Resolutions. We also emphasised the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community. We welcomed the Trust-building Process on the Korean Peninsula and the Initiative for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia proposed by the President of the Republic of Korea.

ASEAN-CER (Australia and New Zealand)

Joint Media Statement of the 18th AEM-CER Consultations

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 21 August 2013**

1. The 18th Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Ministers of Australia and New Zealand (Closer Economic Relations – CER) was held in Brunei Darussalam on 21 August 2013. The Consultations were co-chaired by The Hon Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; the Honourable Mr. Tim Groser, Minister for Trade of New Zealand; and Ms Jan Adams, Deputy Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
2. The Ministers noted the steady growth of trade and investment within the region, in particular, the 16% increase in total merchandise trade among the Parties in 2012 valued at US \$78.8 billion. The Ministers also noted that trade and investment relations between the Parties, especially within AANZFTA, is at a critical juncture in light of the global economic developments and emerging regional architecture.

ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA Implementation

3. The Ministers, recalling that all Parties are now on board the AANZFTA Agreement, underscored the need to maintain the momentum and accord priority to delivering the FTA's commercial benefits and advancing its built-in agenda.
4. The Ministers commended the expeditious and concerted efforts of the FTA Joint Committee and its subsidiary bodies to sustain business confidence and increase utilisation of the FTA's tariff preferences. The Ministers noted the status of finalising the text of the First Protocol to Amend the AANZFTA Agreement covering the Chapters on Trade in Goods and Rules of Origin including the Ministers' decision

on the removal of FOB value from the Certificate of Origin in certain circumstances. The Ministers also noted the completion of the consolidated Product Specific Rules (PSRs) in HS 2012 and the ongoing technical verification of the tariff reduction schedules transposed from HS 2007 to HS 2012 expected to promote greater transparency and predictability for the private sector.

5. The Ministers, acknowledging the gaps and challenges in the development of a regional framework to monitoring FTA utilisation, noted the proposal to bring together all relevant agencies and implement practical and focused in-country activities to collect and report the data on utilisation of AANZFTA tariff preferences.

Moving Forward the FTA's Built-in Agenda

6. The Ministers noted the substantial progress in moving forward the FTA's key built-in agenda, which includes the agreement on a modular and iterative approach in the mandated review of Non-Tariff Measures, the preparatory work seeking to ensure that Parties arrive at common and shared understanding of the issues in the review of commitments under the services chapter; joint session between services and investment experts on cross-cutting issues in the built-in agenda on trade in services and investment; and the implementation of economic cooperation projects and activities to assist Parties in meeting their obligations in international conventions on intellectual property.
7. Highlighting the importance of competition policy and law in underpinning economic growth and integration in ASEAN and underscoring the need to provide strategic direction for cooperation in the area of competition, the Ministers endorsed the establishment of an AANZFTA Committee on Competition.

Economic Cooperation

8. The Ministers noted the progress of the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSPP) which continues to effectively support

the implementation of the FTA, particularly in operationalising the Agreement, progressing the built-in agenda and building institutional capacity to enable officials to better engage in emerging economic integration initiatives. With support from Australia and New Zealand, AECSP, at its third year, has actual and committed expenditure of more than AUD 13 million to implement AANZFTA Support Unit activities and economic cooperation projects up to 2014.

9. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the independent review of the AECSP, in particular its findings that the programme is:
 - (i) generating tangible outcomes, especially in terms of the capacity-building in the areas of intellectual property, rules of origin, SPS, standards, services and investment;
 - (ii) supporting other ASEAN priorities such as the ASEAN Economic Community-building as well as national reform agendas (e.g. OECD investment policy reviews);
 - (iii) increasingly becoming a preferred model for ASEAN-based FTA implementation and related support; and
 - (iv) characterised by strong country and regional ownership with substantial in-kind contributions (e.g., staff time) for planning and implementation by ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Member States, and Australia and New Zealand government agencies.
10. The Ministers were pleased to agree in-principle the extension of AECSP to 31 December 2015 and looked forward to strengthening engagement and disseminating the outcomes of the AECSP to all stakeholders through a communications strategy.

ASEAN-Cer Integration Partnership Forum

11. The Ministers noted the outcomes of the 3rd ASEAN-CER Integration Partnership Forum (IPF) entitled "Competition Policy: The CER Approach" held on 18 June 2013 in Cairns, demonstrating the possibility

of soft convergence in competition policy direction, through formal and informal coordination on policy development and regulatory enforcement.

12. Australia and New Zealand encouraged ASEAN to nominate topics for future Forums with the aim of continuously sharing with ASEAN the lessons learned from CER and the Australia-New Zealand Single Economic Market.

LIST OF MINISTERS:

Ms Jan Adams, Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia; The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Bayu Krisnamurthi, Vice Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; Hon. Tim Groser, Minister for Trade, New Zealand; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

East Asia Summit

Chairman's Statement of the 3rd East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 2 July 2013**

1. The 3rd East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held on 2 July 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam.
2. The Ministers acknowledged the development and growing importance of the EAS in the regional architecture. Recognising the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common concerns with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia, the Ministers emphasised the need to further consolidate and strengthen the EAS and to ensure the effective follow-up and implementation of Leaders' discussions and decisions.
3. The Ministers noted Indonesia's call for ASEAN to formulate aspirational goals beyond 2015, such as doubling ASEAN's combined GDP and halving the percentage of people living in poverty in the ASEAN region by 2030.
4. The Ministers discussed the follow-up to the 7th EAS and welcomed the progress of the implementation of the EAS cooperation, especially in the six (6) priority areas, namely environment and energy, education, finance, global health issues and pandemic diseases, natural disaster mitigation and ASEAN Connectivity.
5. The Ministers looked forward to the effective and timely implementation of the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative, which was adopted at the 7th EAS in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in 2012. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed China's proposal to formulate a Plan of Action (POA) to implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative and agreed for the officials to stock-take EAS initiatives under the Phnom Penh Declaration and develop a plan of action.
6. The Ministers commended Russia on its proposal for a framework of principles on strengthening security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. In this regard, the Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to convene a series of dialogues and workshops on this matter, taking into account the existing security cooperation. The Ministers also took note of Indonesia's idea for an Indo-Pacific framework envisaged based on the principles contained in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and in line with the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles).
7. The Ministers reiterated the importance of ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture and agreed that the EAS would continue to support the realisation of the ASEAN Community and pave the way towards broader and deeper regional integration.
8. The Ministers recalled the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the EAS, and the 2012 Chairman's Statement of the 7th EAS that welcomed Brunei Darussalam's proposal to conduct a stock-take review and reflection aimed at further consolidating and strengthening the EAS on the basis of its established principles, objectives and modalities and to provide recommendations to the 8th EAS.
9. The Ministers noted the progress of the U.S. – Asia-Pacific Comprehensive Energy Partnership (USACEP) by Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and the United States of America. The Ministers also welcomed the establishment of the Renewable and Alternative Power Generation Work Stream co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America at the 18th EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force Meeting. The Ministers also noted that the Work Stream shall be brought to the 7th EAS Energy Ministers' Meeting (EAS EMM) for endorsement in September 2013 in Bali, Indonesia, and to be announced by Leaders at the 8th EAS. The Ministers acknowledged

- the commencement of new research studies by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) with support from Japan, and the successful convening of the Workshop on the ASEAN Energy Outlook on 7 May 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, collaborated with the International Energy Agency (IEA), aiming at its launch in the 7th EAS EMM. The Ministers noted the successful convening of the 1st East Asia Summit New Energy Forum held on 15-16 April 2013 in Kunming, China.
10. The Ministers welcomed the successful convening of the 4th High-Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (HLS-ESC) held on 21-22 March 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, co-organised by Australia, Indonesia, Japan and Viet Nam. The Ministers also noted the proposal by Australia on an EAS climate change adaptation workshop and the Philippines in 2013-2014.
 11. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the Second East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue held on 18 May 2013 in Tokyo, Japan and co-chaired by Cambodia and Japan.
 12. The Ministers acknowledged the continued work under the EAS Education Action Plan (2011-2015) and the benefit of supporting education cooperation projects that would help to improve the quality and mobility of qualifications across the region. The Ministers welcomed the 2nd EAS Education Ministers' Meeting to be held in Lao PDR in 2014.
 13. The Ministers welcomed Brunei Darussalam's offer of scholarships for an 18-month Master of Public Policy and Management (MPPM) programme, which would commence on 27 December 2013 at Universiti Brunei Darussalam.
 14. The Ministers appreciated Japan's youth exchange project, entitled "Kizuna (bond) Project", which involved approximately 11,000 youths between Japan and the regions of Asia, Oceania and North America. The Ministers welcomed the launching of the Japan East-Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2.0 Project in January 2013, which would exchange a total of 30,000 young people between Japan and Asian/Oceanic region to promote mutual understanding and friendly relations.
- The Ministers also welcomed the launching of the "KAKEHASHI Project", which would exchange a total of 4,600 people between North America and Japan for the same purpose.
15. The Ministers welcomed the progress on the revival of Nalanda University and noted that the tenders for construction would be invited shortly. The Ministers noted India's proposal for the signing of an Inter-Governmental Agreement to facilitate the setting up of the Nalanda University as a non-state, non-profit and self-governing international institution of excellence.
 16. The Ministers welcomed India's suggestion that EAS members begin thinking about a multilateral agreement among interested EAS member countries for bringing in equivalence of qualifications.
 17. The Ministers looked forward to the implementation of the Declaration of the 7th EAS on Regional Responses to Malaria Control and Addressing Resistance to Antimalarial Medicines and encouraged all non-ASEAN EAS participating countries to support ASEAN's efforts to cope with the spread of this disease, either in form of financial or technical assistance. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the convening of the inaugural Asia-Pacific Leaders' Malaria Alliance (APLMA) to be co-chaired by the Prime Ministers of Australia and Viet Nam at the sidelines of the 8th EAS. The Ministers further noted that Australia and India would co-chair the Access to Quality Medicines Task Force under the APLMA. The Ministers also affirmed the importance of promoting universal health coverage in order to address diverse health needs.
 18. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation in disaster management through regional mechanisms. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the various cooperation and linkage between the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and other disaster management authorities in non-ASEAN countries, which contributes to the strengthening of capacity for disaster management in this region. The Ministers welcomed the support of the EAS participating countries to the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre).

19. The Ministers also welcomed the convening of the first open session of the ACDM on EAS Cooperation on Disaster Management held on 10 January 2013 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The Ministers also noted the ACDM's decisions to have such a session on a regular basis to discuss the linkage between the EAS paper on "A Practical Approach to Enhance Regional Cooperation on Disaster Rapid Response" and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2010-2015) and looked forward to the next session to discuss this further.
20. The Ministers affirmed their support for the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Japan in 2015.
21. The Ministers also welcomed the outcomes of the ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx) held on 7-11 May 2013 in Cha-Am, Thailand, and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMM-Plus HADR & MM Ex) held on 17-20 June 2013 in Brunei Darussalam. The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Exercise (ARDEX) to be held in October 2013 in Viet Nam and welcomed Indonesia and Australia's EAS workshop on rapid response to be held in Darwin in September 2013 as well as the Mentawai Megathrust Disaster Relief Exercise in Indonesia in March 2014.
22. As a follow-up to the outcome of the "EAS-India Workshop 2012: Building Regional Framework for Earthquake Risk Management" held in New Delhi on 8-9 November 2012, the Ministers welcomed India's proposals to establish a network of 24x7 Points of Contacts among the National Disaster Response Agencies of the EAS Participating Countries and a Virtual Knowledge Centre (VKC) to share knowledge and best practices related to natural disaster risk assessment, mitigation and response.
23. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of cooperation in finance and expressed their support to further develop this priority area of EAS cooperation.
24. The Ministers reaffirmed the need to further promote cooperation to support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and to enhance connectivity within East Asia, taking into account the Declaration of the 6th EAS on ASEAN Connectivity adopted by the Leaders in 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. The Ministers welcomed the engagement to be undertaken between the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and non-ASEAN EAS participating countries, to work out the issue of financing connectivity projects towards realising the MPAC, and noted that this would include discussion of Australia's paper on establishing an EAS Connectivity Forum.
25. The Ministers recognised the importance of mobilising financial and technical resources and the promotion of public-private partnership (PPP). In this connection, the Ministers welcomed the theme of the 4th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium entitled "Partnering Private Sector for ASEAN Connectivity" to be held in August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, with the contribution of the ERIA. The Ministers also welcomed an EAS Regulatory Roundtable to be co-chaired by Thailand and New Zealand, which is aimed at supporting ASEAN's own objectives with regard to regulatory reform and at sharing best practice in this area. The roundtable will be held back-to-back with Thailand's initiative to host the Workshop on "Enhancing Connectivity through Multi-layered Regional Frameworks: The Roles of Dialogue Partners" in July 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.
26. The Ministers also welcomed the Statement of ERIA's 6th Governing Board Meeting issued on 4 May 2013 and its work plan to undertake research and policy recommendations to enhance community-building efforts.
27. The Ministers recognized the necessity of strengthening economic relations among EAS members and underscored the importance of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which would affirm ASEAN centrality in the emerging regional economic architecture and the interests of ASEAN's FTA partners, and would provide a platform for future trade and investment integration in Asia and the rest of the world. The Ministers recognized that the RCEP complements the interests of EAS in supporting and contributing to economic integration, equitable

- economic development and strengthening economic cooperation among participating countries, through working towards a comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial agreement.
28. The Ministers recalled the 2012 Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative encouraging EAS countries to cooperate in promoting food security and nutrition. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed food security as an area of focus in the EAS in 2013 and the progress of the work by Senior Officials on an EAS Declaration on Food Security to be adopted by the Leaders at the 8th EAS.
 29. The Ministers also adopted the Terms of Reference for an EAS Track II Study Group on Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Fisheries Management and Marine Environment Conservation and looked forward to the appointment of representatives to the Study Group by September 2013.
 30. The Ministers underscored the importance of peace, stability, and maritime security in the region and reiterated the Leaders' call for regional efforts to enhance cooperation in promoting maritime cooperation. In this regard, the Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 2nd Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), back-to-back with the 4th ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) to be held in the second half of 2013 in Malaysia.
 31. The Ministers shared the view on the need to further enhance cooperation on non-traditional security issues, including terrorism, narcotics, and other transnational crimes. The Ministers also strongly supported strengthening of global regime for disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, calling for further elaboration of strict verification mechanism for non-proliferation and disarmament obligation.
 32. The Ministers underscored the importance of accelerating the efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in East Asia by 2015. The Ministers will strive to establish an effective and coherent post-2015 development framework centred on sustainable development and guided by human rights and dignity, equality and equity.
 33. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the 5th Ministerial Meeting of Gender Quality of East Asia on 15 May 2013 in Beijing, China.
 34. The Ministers underscored the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea and noted the ASEAN Statement on the Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea. The Ministers stressed the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Ministers welcomed the collective commitments of ASEAN Member States and China to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), including the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC and to work towards the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC) on the basis of consensus. In this regard, the Ministers appreciated the continued ASEAN-China consultations and dialogue for mutual trust, confidence and cooperation, and the convening of the 8th Meeting of ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC on 29 May 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Ministers were encouraged with the convening of the 6th ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC and the 9th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on the implementation of the DOC to be hosted by China in September 2013 during which all parties will have official consultations on the code of conduct. The Ministers noted that steps will be taken to establish an Eminent Persons and Experts Group (EPEG) and/or other mechanisms to provide support to such consultations.
 35. The Ministers stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula, and encouraged peaceful dialogue including the resumption of the Six Party Talks. The Ministers reiterated the importance of fully complying with the obligations in all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions, and commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to fully implementing the relevant UNSC Resolutions and their full support for all efforts to bring

about the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the Trust-building Process on the Korean Peninsula and the Peace and Cooperation Initiative proposed by the President of the Republic of Korea. The Ministers also emphasised the importance of addressing issues of humanitarian concerns of the international community.

36. The Ministers also discussed the preparations for the upcoming 8th EAS to be held on 10 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
- 36 The Ministers looked forward to the 4th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in 2014.

Joint Media Statement of the EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 21 August 2013**

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States – countries participating in the East Asia Summit (EAS) – met in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 21 August 2013. The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam, chaired the Meeting, which was also attended by the following Ministers:

Ms Jan Adams, Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia; H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China; H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, India; H.E. Bayu Krisnamurthi, ViceMinister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; H.E. Yoon Sang-jick, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea; H.E. Nam Vliaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; Hon. Tim Groser, Minister of Trade, New Zealand; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Alexey V. Ulyukhaev, Minister of Economic Development, the Russian Federation; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; H.E. Michael Froman, United States Trade Representative; and; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.
2. The Ministers welcomed the formalization of the EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting and emphasized the importance of economic cooperation within the EAS framework.
3. The Ministers exchanged views on the global economic situation and noted that according to the data of ASEAN statistics, the combined GDP of the EAS participating countries grew by 5.7% from 2011-2012 compared to the 10.6% growth registered for 2010-2011. Their combined GDP of US\$ 38,961.7 billion in 2012 still accounts for more than 50% of the global GDP.
4. The Ministers also noted that ASEAN's total trade with the non-ASEAN EAS countries expanded by only 5.2% from US\$ 1,027.10 billion in 2011 to US\$ 1,080.70 in 2012. This is in stark contrast to the 20.7% growth registered in 2011. The eight non-ASEAN EAS countries accounted for 42.3% of ASEAN's total trade.
5. The Ministers were pleased to note that foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from the non-ASEAN EAS countries performed better than in 2011 with FDI inflows reaching US\$ 58.4 billion in 2012 from US\$ 50.3 billion in 2011 and US\$ 51.0 billion in 2010. The eight non-ASEAN EAS countries accounted for 54.5% of total FDI inflows to ASEAN in 2012 compared to only 46.5% in 2011.

Enhancing Connectivity

6. The Minister emphasized the need to focus on "business connectivity". One of the critical goals of

“connectivity” is facilitation and expansion of cross-border businesses. Mere physical connectivity is not enough for this purpose. “Business connectivity” should aim to bring such impacts as upgrading of industries and development of supporting industries, leading to a broader supplychain network in ASEAN. Furthermore, the Ministers concluded that institutional connectivity including regulatory cooperation should be given further attention, as was acknowledged by Leaders at the EAS 2012.

7. For this purpose, the Ministers agreed, in cooperation with EAS Foreign Ministers’ Meeting to take stock of current regional business connectivity programs and activities, and consider what unique contributions EAS countries might be able to provide in advancing connectivity including in line with the 2011 EAS Declaration on Connectivity.
8. The Ministers welcomed the recent Regulatory Roundtable in Bangkok, co-chaired by Thailand and New Zealand, and encouraged further collaboration within the EAS on this issue, including work to gain a better understanding of regulatory practice and regulatory cooperation amongst EAS members, and related capacity building needs. The role of ERIA in assisting EAS members in better understanding and advancing regulatory connectivity was acknowledged.

Trade Liberalization

9. The Ministers agreed on the importance of trade liberalization in East Asia and therefore welcomed EAS countries’ proactive efforts to further develop a trade framework that facilitates further trade liberalization in this region including bilateral FTAs, the ASEAN plus FTAs, RCEP and TPP. The Ministers instructed negotiators to continue best efforts to achieve ambitious outcomes that facilitate regional economic integration.
10. Given continuing global economic uncertainties, the Ministers emphasized that a strong, rules-based multilateral trading system, continues to be essential in sustaining international trade flows and ensuring the growth of the global economy. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to a successful outcome at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali on trade

facilitation, some elements of agriculture and a set of development issues, which would be a stepping stone towards seeking to successfully conclude the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) Round and providing renewed confidence in the multilateral trading system.

11. The Ministers called for the swift conclusion of the negotiations to expand product coverage of the WTO information Technology Agreement (ITA), to enable a commercially significant outcome by 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in December this year.
12. The Ministers also recalled the Leader’s commitment at Phnom Penh against protectionist measures.

ASEAN Economic Integration Internally, and with the Wider Region

13. The Ministers recognized the importance of prioritizing cooperative efforts between ASEAN and EAS partners in facilitating the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community goals and further integration of ASEAN with the wider region. To this end, the Ministers decided to identify areas for prioritized cooperation with focus towards 2015 and beyond, and wider regional economic integration, by both ASEAN and EAS partners.
14. The Ministers also emphasized the importance of green technology for sustainable growth, and welcomed the outcome of the Second East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue held on 18 May 2013 in Tokyo, Japan and co-chaired by Cambodia and Japan.

Updates on ERIA Activities

15. The Ministers commended the updates provided by ERIA in various fields such as SME, AEC Scorecard, connectivity, energy, and Myanmar Comprehensive Development Vision (MCDV), and agreed on the important role of ERIA in ASEAN’s efforts to develop a blueprint for the AEC beyond 2015. The Ministers also welcomed ERIA’s presentation on the new development and integration model for East Asia, in which deepening economic integration and narrowing the development gaps would be attained

simultaneously. The Ministers looked forward to ERIA's continued support and contribution for integration and prosperity of the region as a whole.

16. The Ministers welcomed the ERIA's 6th Governing Board Meeting Statement, which expresses ERIA's strong will to formulate effective region-wide policy recommendations to achieve greater connectivity and to address the global issues, and anticipates closer communication with policy makers.
17. The Ministers agreed to provide guidance and continue their oversight of ERIA's activities. Specifically, based on their discussion of connectivity enhancement and ASEAN Economic Integration, they instructed ERIA to research and propose industry cluster policy which will attain an optimal production network to further promote growth in ASEAN from a medium-and long-term prospective.
18. The Ministers appreciated contributions from ASEAN Member States, India, Japan and New Zealand to ERIA.

Regional and Global Developments

19. The Ministers discussed the regional and global developments affecting the EAS countries individually and collectively. The Ministers underscored the need to sustain the gains from their economic integration efforts especially in the light of a volatile global economy. They agreed on the importance of collaborating in areas necessary to ensure that East Asia remains strong and resilient. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to promote broader economic integration in the East Asia/Asia Pacific region and to continue working closely within the EAS framework not only to achieve their respective economic integration objectives but also for EAS to contribute to global stability and prosperity.
20. The Ministers welcomed the accession of Lao PDR to the WTO on 2 February 2013. Lao PDR became the 158th member of the WTO.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 7th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting

Bali, Indonesia 26 September 2013

1. The Seventh East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) was held on 26 September 2013 in Bali, Indonesia. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Jero Wacik, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia and co-chaired by H.E. Kazuyoshi AKABA, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers and senior officials responsible for energy from the EAS Countries, namely ASEAN Member States, Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation and the United States. The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. Noting the volatility of the global energy markets to changes in the global economic landscape, the Ministers affirmed the importance of EAS energy cooperation with the aim of strengthening energy security and improving energy access in the EAS region. The Ministers also urged the EAS Countries to take necessary actions in areas such as improving energy efficiency, promoting alternative/renewable energy and developing open and transparent energy markets and infrastructure.
3. In reviewing EAS Energy Cooperation, the Ministers welcomed the steady progress made in the implementation of the Work Plan 2012-2013 of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) Work Stream including the development of Energy Efficiency Goals & Action Plans, the Asia Energy Efficiency & Conservation Collaboration Centre (AEECC) Energy Efficiency Cooperation, EAS Energy Saving Potential and EAS Energy Outlook, and the Energy Efficiency Conference and Roadmap. As the total energy demand of the 18 (eighteen) EAS Countries would account for almost 70% of global energy demand in 2035, the Ministers reaffirmed the pivotal role of energy efficiency going forward. The Ministers appreciated the contributions of the relevant institutions from EAS participating countries

- in organising activities for the development of human resources and disseminating information on energy efficiency. The Ministers also welcomed the EAS Work Plan of the EE&C Work Stream 2013-2014 and the new initiative by Japan to undertake the EE Potential by Smart Energy Management, which will be central to promoting energy efficiency in the future.
4. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the further progress made in the Biofuels for Transport and Other Purposes Work Stream, specifically the further development of the Biofuels Database in East Asia Countries to include good practices of utilising biofuels in respective countries, the research activities taken under the Asia Biomass Energy Researchers Invitation Programme, and the joint studies on Biodiesel Fuel Standardisation and Sustainability Assessment of Biomass Utilisation in East Asia that include sustainability indicators conducted by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). The Ministers also noted the commencement of the new joint studies on Benchmarking of Renewable Mobility Energy in EAS and Asian Potential of Biofuel Markets. The Ministers reaffirmed their interests in biofuels, believing in their potential to address many energy security concerns. In light of this, the Ministers encouraged EAS Countries to further strengthen the programmes and activities in Biofuels for Transport and Other Purposes Work Stream.
 5. The Ministers noted the successful convening of the inaugural EAS Energy Market Deregulation Forum on 23 October 2012, co-organised by the Energy Market Authority of Singapore and the New Zealand Electricity Authority, under the auspices of the EAS Energy Market Integration (EMI) Work Stream. The Ministers noted the ERIA Research Study Project on “Energy Market Integration (EMI) in East Asia”, the focus of which in 2012-2013 was the integration of renewable energy into the power transmission grid.
 6. The Ministers welcomed the United States Asia Pacific Comprehensive Energy Partnership (USACEP) announced by the United States, Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia at the 7th East Asia Summit in November 2012. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of the new and fourth Work Stream of the EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force, namely “Renewable and Alternative Power Generation Work Stream”, and congratulated Brunei Darussalam and the United States for initiating the comprehensive effort as one of the activities under USACEP and the EAS ECTF. The new Work Stream will cover seven work areas, namely: (a) Strengthening Policies to Scale-up Investments, (b) Renewable Technology Demonstration and Testing, (c) Knowledge Sharing and Renewable Energy Resource Mapping, (d) Climate Change Impacts on the Energy Sector, (e) Sustainable Hydropower Technology Development, (f) Study on Best Mix of Renewable and Conventional Energy Sources Sustainable for various Asian Countries, and (g) Sustainability Assessment of Utilising Conventional and New Type of Geothermal Resources in East Asia. The Ministers expressed their appreciation that under the new EAS ECTF Work Stream, the United States and Brunei Darussalam will coordinate the Work Stream overall and support five work areas; they welcome Japan sponsoring activities in the 2 (two) remaining work areas. The Ministers commended the outcome of the first Solar PV related workshop under RAPG Work Stream that was held on 8 to 10 September 2013 in Gadong, Brunei Darussalam. The Ministers encouraged other EAS countries to support more projects under the new Work Stream for the betterment of EAS renewable and alternative energy prospects. The Ministers also noted the successful organisation by Indonesia and the United States of the Regional Workshop on the Changing Global Gas Market and Unconventional Gas held in Jakarta in May 2013. The Ministers also welcomed the plans by Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and the United States for a Public Private Partnership (PPP) Conference, focusing on power markets and interconnectivity, to be held on 29 October 2013 at the sidelines of the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) 2013.
 7. In order to enhance EAS energy cooperation and promote energy security, the Ministers recognised the importance of sharing medium-to-long term outlooks for energy supply and demand across the EAS region, given the growing energy demand in the region and the probable implications of natural disasters and extreme weather on existing energy infrastructure. In this regard, the Ministers acknowledged the close collaboration of the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), the International Energy Agency (IEA), ERIA, and other parties in conducting energy outlook studies for the South East Asia and

EAS regions. The Ministers particularly welcomed the Special Report on “South East Asia Energy Outlook” which is published in connection with the IEA’s 2013 edition of the World Energy Outlook (WEO 2013) and ERIA’s East Asia Energy Outlook. This outlook provides a robust analysis of energy demand prospects, energy resources and supply potential, implications of energy development in balancing supply for domestic use, exports and impacts on energy security, environment and economy in the associated regions and is expected to be followed up by IEA in collaboration with ERIA. The Ministers also expressed appreciation to Thailand for hosting the IEA-ERIA Workshop on the ASEAN Energy Outlook on 7 May 2013.

8. The Ministers welcomed with appreciation the steady progress of the ERIA research studies as agreed upon at the 2012 Ministerial Meeting: namely (a) EAS energy outlooks for the medium-to-long term, (b) strategic usage of coal through Clean Coal Technology including high efficiency coal-fired power generation, (c) optimum electric power infrastructure, (d) nuclear power safety management, and (e) smart urban traffic promoting energy efficiency of the transport sector. The Ministers also endorsed the commencement of a new research study on a sustainable natural gas market in the EAS region. The Ministers appreciated the contribution of relevant institutions to the enhancement of energy cooperation and energy security in EAS region. The Ministers tasked ERIA to report the outcomes of the research studies and cooperation initiatives to future relevant ASEAN and EAS energy cooperation fora.
9. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the 2nd East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue co-chaired by Cambodia and Japan in May 2013, which focused on technology contributing to low carbon growth, as envisioned by the Leaders at the East Asia Summit 2012. The Ministers recognised that deployment of appropriate technologies is effective in the areas with high potential for emission reduction and noted that various approaches, including market mechanisms and transfer of technologies, will play a key role in promoting technology dissemination. Noting that inputs from both public and private sector are essential for the realisation of a low carbon growth, the Ministers welcomed Japan’s proposal for a high level forum to be held in 2014 with increased participation from the private sector.
10. The Ministers agreed to meet again in Lao PDR in 2014 for further development of EAS Energy Cooperation.
11. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia for the warm hospitality accorded and the excellent arrangements made for the 7th EAS EMM.

Chairman’s Statement of the 8th East Asia Summit

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 10 October 2013**

1. The 8th East Asia Summit (EAS) was held on 10 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Summit was chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The Summit was attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, Australia, the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation and the Secretary of State of the United States of America.
2. We reaffirmed our commitment to the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the EAS, the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the EAS and the 2011 Declaration of the EAS on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations, which emphasised the role of the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security and economic issues of common regional concern with the aim to promote peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia.
3. We further reaffirmed ASEAN’s central role in the EAS, and ASEAN’s commitment to work in close partnership with all EAS participating countries, to ensure that the EAS would continue to be an important integral component of the regional architecture.
4. We exchanged views on regional and international issues, including food and energy security, climate

change, sustainable development and disaster management, as well as the future direction of the EAS. We encouraged confidence building among the EAS participating countries and the continued open and frank exchange of views on the strategically important issues of common peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia.

5. We welcomed China's proposal to formulate a Plan of Action (POA) to implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on East Asia Summit Development Initiative, which was adopted at the 7th EAS in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in 2012. We noted that the POA is aimed at enhancing EAS cooperation, especially in the six (6) priority areas, namely environment and energy, education, finance, global health issues and pandemic diseases, natural disaster management and ASEAN Connectivity. We tasked our Foreign Ministers to continue to work on the POA and finalise it by the next EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting.
6. We reiterated our support for ASEAN's centrality in the regional architecture. We welcomed the EAS support for the realisation of the ASEAN Community and for broader and deeper regional integration. We therefore encouraged the EAS to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) to bring the ASEAN common platform on global issues into reality by 2022. We took note and supported ASEAN's initiative to develop the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 vision. We noted the need to deepen and enhance ASEAN's dialogue partnership and external relations, with the aim of having an equal, mutually beneficial, and meaningful partnership.
7. We expressed our appreciation for the ASEAN Secretariat's work in support of the EAS, and agreed to explore options to further strengthen its capacity to serve the growing EAS agenda. We also took note of the proposal by the Republic of Korea to host a track II forum to discuss the future direction of the EAS in 2014.
8. We commended the proposal for a framework of principles on strengthening security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region by Russia, China and Brunei

Darussalam, and appreciated Indonesia's idea of having a treaty of friendship and cooperation that includes a wider indo-pacific region based on the principles contained in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and in line with the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles). In this regard, we welcomed the convening of the first workshop and dialogue on a regional security framework to discuss these concepts, taking into account the existing security cooperation, in November 2013 in Brunei Darussalam and looked forward to the outcomes and recommendations at the 9th EAS.

Energy

9. We reaffirmed the importance of the EAS energy cooperation in strengthening energy security and improving energy access in the EAS region in view of the volatility of global energy markets to changes in the global economic landscape. We also noted with satisfaction the concrete progress of the United States – Asia-Pacific Comprehensive Energy Partnership (USACEP) announced by the United States, Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia at the 7th EAS in November 2012.
10. We welcomed the outcome of the 7th EAS Energy Ministers' Meeting (EAS EMM) on 26 September 2013 in Bali, Indonesia, especially on the steady progress made in the implementation of the EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force (EAS ECTF) Work Plan 2012-2013 for the work streams of Energy Efficiency and Conservation; Biofuels for Transport and Other Purposes; and Energy Market Integration. We welcomed the establishment of the new and fourth work stream of the EAS ECTF namely "Renewable and Alternative Power Generation Work Stream", and congratulated Brunei Darussalam and the United States for initiating the comprehensive effort as one of the activities under the USACEP and the EAS ECTF.
11. We recognised the close collaboration of the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and other parties in conducting energy outlook studies for the Southeast Asia and the EAS regions. We welcomed publication

of the Special Report on “Southeast Asia Energy Outlook” in connection with the IEA’s 2013 edition of the World Energy Outlook (WEO 2013) that manifested a robust analysis on Southeast Asia’s energy prospects.

Environment

12. We discussed various environmental issues including climate change and sustainable development, which are immediate regional and global concerns. We recalled the 2007 Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and encouraged our relevant ministers to carry out its implementation, as appropriate, including in further strengthening cooperation in environmental conservation and biodiversity preservation and protection, capacity building and information sharing in weather forecast systems.
13. We appreciated the outcome of the 4th High-Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (HLS-ESC) held on 21-22 March 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, co-organised by Australia, Indonesia, Japan and Viet Nam. We noted the proposal by Australia to work with EAS partners on climate change impacts on rural livelihoods, as a driver for migration to cities, and urban resilience through two climate change adaptation workshops to be held in 2014.
14. We welcomed the outcome of the Second East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue held on 18 May 2013 in Tokyo, Japan, co-chaired by Cambodia and Japan and appreciated Japan’s initiative to hold a high-level forum under this Partnership in 2014. We underlined the importance of promoting effective low carbon technologies including through enhanced public-private partnership in the EAS region. We also shared the view that various approaches could contribute to facilitating the diffusion of low carbon technologies, products, systems and services, and thus achieving sustainable growth in the region. In this regard, Japan briefed the meeting on its promotion of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).

Disaster Management

15. We welcomed the ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management, which reaffirms

ASEAN’s commitment to reducing vulnerabilities, and enhancing the capacities of the ASEAN community to be more resilient and self-reliant in mitigating the impact of disasters.

16. We reaffirmed the importance and urgency of enhancing cooperation in disaster management through regional mechanisms. In this regard, we welcomed the various cooperation and linkages between the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and other disaster management authorities in non-ASEAN countries, which contribute to the strengthening of capacity for disaster management in the region. We welcomed the support of the EAS participating countries to the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). In this regard, we also welcomed Japan’s support for ICT equipment for the AHA Centre and establishment of a Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN; New Zealand’s forthcoming provision of emergency response training to the AHA Centre’s staff; and Australia’s financial support for the AHA Centre. We noted Russia’s initiative on establishing a Crisis Management Centres Network in the Asia-Pacific, and we welcomed the convening of the “Seminar on Methodological Support for the Development of the AHA Centre based on Experience of the National Crisis Management Centre in Russia”, held on 3-7 March 2013 in Moscow.
17. We welcomed the ACDM’s decision to have regular sessions on EAS cooperation on disaster management to discuss the linkage between the EAS paper on “A Practical Approach to Enhance Regional Cooperation on Disaster Rapid Response” and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2010-2015). We also noted the outcome of Indonesia and Australia’s EAS Workshop on Rapid Disaster Response held on 23-24 September 2013 in Darwin, Australia, and the EAS Seminar on Risk Management of Major Natural Disaster held on 24-28 June 2013 in Beijing, China.
18. Recognising that the Asia-Pacific is the most disaster-prone area in the world, we welcomed the outcomes of the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster

Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMM-Plus HADR & MM Ex) held on 17-20 June 2013 in Brunei Darussalam and the ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise held on 7-10 May 2013 in Thailand. We looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Exercise (ARDEX) to be held in October 2013 in Viet Nam and the Mentawai Megathrust Disaster Relief Exercise in March 2014 in Indonesia. We noted India's initiatives to establish a network of 24x7 Points of Contacts among the National Disaster Response Agencies of the EAS Participating Countries and a Virtual Knowledge Centre (VKC) to share knowledge and best practices related to natural disaster risk assessment, mitigation and response.

19. We affirmed our support for the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Japan in 2015.

Education and People-to-People interactions

20. We reiterated the importance of education cooperation and the need to further strengthen human resource development in the region. In this regard, we looked forward to the outcome of the 2nd EAS Education Ministers' Meeting to be held in 2014 in Lao PDR and further implementation of the EAS Education Plan of Action (2011-2015) adopted at the 1st EAS Education Ministers' Meeting on 5 July 2012 in Jogjakarta, Indonesia. In this regard, we welcomed progress by Australia and the Republic of Korea to develop an EAS Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) provider network, which will facilitate capacity building of TVET institutions through the exchange of knowledge and experiences.
21. We welcomed the progress on the revival of Nalanda University and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Nalanda University to facilitate its setting up as a non-state, non-profit and self-governing international institution of excellence.
22. We appreciated Singapore and China's co-organisation of a EAS Conference on "Bilingualism – Policy and Practice" on 13-14 September 2013 in Singapore, which gathered over 200 international language experts, policy-makers and educators from the EAS participating countries to discuss bilingualism at all levels of education, and share their experiences in conceptualising and implementing second language initiatives.
23. We welcomed Brunei Darussalam's offer of scholarships for an 18-month Master of Public Policy and Management (MPPM) programme, which would commence on 27 December 2013 at Universiti Brunei Darussalam.
24. We noted India's suggestion that EAS participating countries begin thinking about a multilateral agreement among interested EAS participating countries for bringing in equivalence of qualifications.
25. We appreciated Japan's youth exchange project, entitled "Kizuna (bond) Project", which involved approximately 11,000 youths from Japan and the regions of Asia, Oceania and North America. We welcomed the launching of the JENESYS (Japan East-Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) 2.0 Project in January 2013, which would exchange approximately 30,000 youths between Japan and the Asian/Oceanic region to promote mutual understanding and friendly relations. We also welcomed the launching of the "KAKEHASHI Project", which would exchange 5,000 youths between North America and Japan for the same purpose.
26. We welcomed Australia's New Colombo Plan initiative, which aims to lift knowledge of the Asia-Pacific in Australia and strengthen people-to-people and institutional relationships, through study and internships undertaken by Australian undergraduate students in the region. We noted that the initiative would support increasing two-way student mobility between Australia and the region and strengthen education collaboration, and complements Australia's support for students from the Asia-Pacific studying in Australia.
27. We recognised health as a fundamental right of our people and the importance of achieving the universal health coverage to address diverse health needs and improving the health outcomes of our people. In this regard, we encouraged our Health Ministers to explore possible areas of cooperation in health.

Global Health and Pandemic Diseases

28. We reiterated our commitment to implement the Declaration of the 7th EAS on Regional Responses to Malaria Control and Addressing Resistance to Antimalarial Medicines. In this regard, we welcomed the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA), initiated by the Prime Ministers of Australia and Vietnam and encouraged all EAS participating countries to join the Alliance and support its work. We also noted that the Asian Development Bank has agreed to host the APLMA Secretariat, and that the work of the two APLMA taskforces on access to quality medicines and other technologies and regional finance would commence.
29. We welcomed India's proposal to host a "Round Table on Tertiary Healthcare with Focus on Trauma Care and Nursing" to explore future prospects of collaboration within EAS.

Finance

30. We recognised the important role of the EAS in strengthening economic and financial development in the region. We welcomed the third Informal EAS Finance Ministers' Meeting to be held on 12 October 2013 in Washington D.C., United States, and expressed our support to enhance this priority area further through cooperative work.

Connectivity

31. We reaffirmed the need to further promote cooperation to support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and to enhance connectivity within East Asia, taking into account the Declaration of the 6th EAS on ASEAN Connectivity adopted by the Leaders in 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. We welcomed the engagement to be undertaken between the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and non-ASEAN EAS participating countries to work out the issue of financing connectivity projects towards realising the MPAC, and noted that this will include discussions on several various initiatives proposed by the EAS participating countries in enhancing ASEAN Connectivity, including Australia's proposal to establish an EAS Connectivity Forum and its interest to help improve infrastructure connectivity through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and a

connectivity workshop to be co-hosted by Australia and Singapore in 2014.

32. We continued to welcome the on-going efforts in mobilising financial and technical resources and the promotion of PPP. In this connection, we welcomed the outcomes of the 4th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium entitled "Partnering Private Sector for ASEAN Connectivity" held on 27 August 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, with the contribution of ERIA. In this regard, we also welcomed the initiative to hold the ASEAN-Japan 40th Anniversary Symposium, entitled "Partnering Private Sector for ASEAN Connectivity Part II" to be held in November 2013, as a follow-up to the 4th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium. We noted the outcomes of the EAS Regulatory Roundtable, co-chaired by Thailand and New Zealand, and the Workshop on Enhancing Connectivity through Multi-layered Regional Framework: The Roles of Dialogue Partners held on 18-19 July 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. We welcomed the initiative to convene the Symposium: "Towards Realisation of the ASEAN Connectivity Plus: Moving Forward with ASEAN-India Connectivity" in November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Trade and Economics

33. We recognised the necessity of strengthening economic relations among EAS participating countries and welcomed the outcomes of the EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting, held on 21 August 2013, in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. We reaffirmed the importance of trade liberalisation in East Asia and welcomed EAS participating countries' proactive efforts to further trade liberalisation in this region through bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), the ASEAN plus FTAs, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which serve to strengthen economic relations among EAS participating countries. We noted that ASEAN centrality is recognised in RCEP negotiations, which complements the interests of the EAS in supporting and contributing to economic integration, equitable economic development and strengthening economic cooperation among participating countries, through working towards a modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership

agreement. We also recognised the necessity of focusing on “business connectivity”, which leads to building effective supply chain networks across the region with upgrading of industries and development of supporting industries, and looked forward future contributions of the EAS Economic Ministers’ Meeting to advance business connectivity in cooperation with other initiatives.

34. We also emphasised the importance of deepening economic integration through trade liberalisation initiatives such as RCEP aimed at narrowing the development gaps and maximising mutual benefits. In this regard, we appreciated analytical works and policy recommendations by the ERIA for maximising benefits of economic integration through coordinated cooperation among all EAS participating countries, and encouraged ERIA for its continued contribution to the region through its research and policy recommendations, including proposing a region-wide industrial cluster policy which will attain optimal production networks to further promote growth in ASEAN from a medium- and long- term perspective.
35. With a view to enhancing trade and investment within the region, we underscored the importance of transparency and predictability in regulations and their application. In this regard, we stressed that measures on travel and goods, including food, must be consistent with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other relevant international obligations and standards.

Economic Research institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

36. We welcomed the Statement of ERIA’s 6th Governing Board Meeting issued on 4 May 2013, which expressed ERIA’s strong will to formulate effective region-wide policy recommendations to achieve greater connectivity and to address the global issues, and anticipates closer communication with policy makers. We also commended ERIA’s activities in various fields such as Small and Medium Enterprises (SME), Energy, as well as on Connectivity including the Myanmar Comprehensive Development Vision and in this regard, encouraged ERIA to continue its support to the ASEAN and EAS activities.

Food Security

37. Recalling our commitment to cooperate in promoting food security and nutrition as stipulated in the 2012 Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative, we adopted the Declaration of the 8th East Asia Summit on Food Security. We called on various parties to carry out its implementation.
38. We welcomed the adoption of the Terms of Reference for an EAS Track II Study Group on Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Fisheries Management and Marine Environment Conservation by our Foreign Ministers at the 3rd EAS Foreign Ministers’ Meeting on 2 July 2013 and the appointment of representatives to the Study Group. In this regard, we looked forward to the outcome and recommendations of the Study Group at the 9th EAS.

Maritime Security and Cooperation

39. We emphasised the importance of maintaining peace and stability, ensuring maritime security and safety, and freedom of navigation. In this regard, we noted the contribution of enhanced maritime cooperation to this end. We further called on the parties to explore all mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes, without resorting to threats or the use of force, and in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in the region.
40. We welcomed the positive progress, including the official consultations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, at the recent Senior Officials’ Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC and the Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC in Suzhou, China. We also welcomed the positive outcomes of the 2nd Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) on 1-3 October 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia including the agreement to hold the 3rd EAMF in 2014. We also welcomed the 1st Expanded ASEAN Seafarers Training – Counter Piracy (EAST-CP) workshop on 23-25 September 2013 in Manila, the Philippines, co-chaired by the Philippines and the United States. We affirmed that piracy is one among many maritime security threats

that must be addressed through a multi-stakeholder approach, and looked forward to the conduct of more EAST workshops as a continuing initiative.

Non-traditional security and non-proliferation

41. We shared the view on the need to further enhance cooperation on non-traditional security issues, including terrorism and its financing, piracy, illicit drug trafficking, cyber-security, illicit wildlife trafficking, human trafficking and people smuggling. We underlined the importance of strengthening national laws and regulations for wildlife trafficking-related crimes.
42. We supported the strengthening of the global regime for disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including the requirements of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.
43. We emphasised the importance to global initiatives to address security, social, economic and humanitarian consequences of the illicit, unregulated and irresponsible trade in conventional arms. We welcomed the U.N. Security Council's adoption of a resolution to strengthen international action to combat the illicit trade and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the General Assembly's adoption on 2 April 2013 of the Arms Trade Treaty. We supported the Treaty's earliest effective implementation to promote peace and security in the region.
44. We welcomed ASEAN's commitment in preserving the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the Treaty of Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and the ASEAN Charter respectively.
45. We welcomed the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) by ASEAN Leaders, which would serve as a centre of excellence to encourage efforts to address explosive remnants of war for interested ASEAN Member States, and shall facilitate cooperation with relevant institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

Other areas of cooperation

46. We welcomed the outcomes of the 5th East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting on 15-16 May 2013 in Beijing, China and recognised the importance of cooperation in promoting the advancement and development of women in the region.

Regional and International Issues

Group of Twenty (G20)

47. We congratulated Russia on its G20 Presidency and on the successful outcomes of the St. Petersburg Summit held on 5-6 September 2013 and looked forward to the 2014 G20 meetings in Australia. We reiterated our support for the Chairman of ASEAN to be continuously invited to participate in the G20 meetings, including the G20 Summit.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

48. We reaffirmed our commitment to a credible outcome at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali on trade facilitation, some elements of agriculture and a set of development issues, which would be a stepping stone towards seeking to successfully conclude the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and providing renewed confidence in the multilateral trading system. We also reiterated our commitment to avoid protectionist measures affecting trade and investment that are inconsistent with the WTO commitments, reaffirmed at the 7th East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh, in 2012.

APEC

49. We underlined the important role of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in promoting regional economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region, and encouraged continued APEC-ASEAN collaboration on issues of mutual interest. In this regard, we applauded the APEC 2013 chairmanship of Indonesia for its leadership role towards the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment, achieving sustainable growth with equity, and in promoting connectivity. We further supported the forum's emphasis on strengthening economic cooperation and capacity building towards achieving regional

economic integration and economic prosperity for the APEC region. We further underlined that the EAS and APEC should be in synergy in strengthening our economic resilience. As such, we welcomed China's APEC chairmanship in 2014.

Korean Peninsula

50. We stressed the need to maintain peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula, and called for a peaceful dialogue including creating the conditions for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. We reiterated the importance of fully complying with the obligations in all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions, and commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We reaffirmed our commitment to fully implementing the relevant UNSC Resolutions and reiterated our support for all peaceful efforts to bring about denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. In this regard, we welcomed the Initiative for the Trust-building Process on the Korean Peninsula and the Initiative for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia proposed by the President of the Republic of Korea. We also emphasised the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community.

Syria

51. We shared the concerns of the international community on the use of chemical weapons in Syria, which has caused the loss of civilian lives. We condemned any use of chemical weapons in Syria and welcomed the decision of the Syrian Arab Republic to accede to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. We welcomed the decision by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution that will set up the necessary parameters to put under international control the process of destruction of chemical weapons in Syria under the leading role of the OPCW. We also welcomed the Security Council Presidential Statement issued on 2 October 2013. We called for the convening, as soon as possible, of an international conference on Syria to implement the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012 and

called upon all Syrian parties to engage seriously and constructively at the Geneva Conference on Syria.

9th East Asia Summit

52. We looked forward to the 9th East Asia Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in 2014.

Declaration of the 8th East Asia Summit on Food Security

**Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 10 October 2013**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation and the United States of America on the occasion of the 8th East Asia Summit (EAS);

RECALLING the 2012 Phnom Penh Declaration on the East Asia Summit Development Initiative encouraging EAS countries to cooperate in promoting food security and nutrition;

RECALLING the commonly accepted definition of food security adopted at the 1996 World Food Summit; nutrition as well as the four food security pillars of access, availability, utilisation, and stability are intrinsic to this definition;

ACKNOWLEDGING that food security is essential for ensuring the broader security of the people of our region;

RECOGNISING that key priority areas of the EAS intersect with a range of food security issues, such as the environment, diversifying and developing new sources of energy, global health and nutrition, ASEAN connectivity, as well as the global challenge of adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change;

RECOGNISING that millions of people in the region rely on the resources and services provided by terrestrial, marine

and freshwater aquatic ecosystems for their sustenance, livelihoods and well-being;

RECOGNISING that biodiversity conservation and sustainable management are crucial for maintaining healthy terrestrial, marine and freshwater aquatic ecosystems which underlie food security;

RECOGNISING that extreme climatic events, such as drought and flooding, undermine agricultural productivity;

RECOGNISING the necessity to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity;

RECOGNISING that unequal access to natural resources, technology and markets create additional challenges in reducing the number of poor and hungry people;

RECOGNISING that agricultural investment in a responsible manner that respects rights, livelihoods and resources plays an important role in promoting agricultural development and enhancing food security and nutrition;

RECOGNISING that post-harvest losses along food supply chains and post-consumer food waste significantly undermine food security;

RECOGNISING that eradicating poverty and building the resilience of our people through adequate social protection measures, economic growth promotion, and positive income generation are effective ways of improving food security;

RECOGNISING the critical role of smallholder and women farmers and fishers in sustaining agricultural and fishery production and ensuring household food security;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on hunger and poverty, noting that EAS participating countries have made steady progress toward the Goals but that more work needs to be done to realise them by 2015;

REAFFIRMING our collective commitment to conclude the Doha Development Agenda negotiations of the World Trade Organization which seek to ensure fair and equitable benefits of multilateral trade for all countries, including the developing world, and particularly Least Developed Countries;

RECOGNISING that open food markets are critical to sustainable access to nutritionally diverse food resources and that protectionist measures may result in excessive food price volatility and hinder regional food security;

RECOGNISING that transparent information about the status of regional and global food markets and food derivative markets, including supply and demand forecasts and the state of food stocks, will help increase food market certainty and reduce excessive food price volatility;

RECOGNISING that food security is a complex and multifaceted issue requiring multiple, integrated approaches; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the work on food security already being done by other regional and global organisations, including the ASEAN Plus Three, APEC, FAO, CFS, OECD, OIC and the G8 and G20, and recognising the imperative not to duplicate these efforts with limited resources;

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. Increase the level of food security cooperation in the EAS by:
 - a. increasing food security information sharing to ensure consistency and transparency among various agricultural market information systems, as well as drawing on private sector and academic expertise and input, and encouraging private and public sector stakeholders to make agricultural and other relevant data open and accessible to the public;
 - b. integrating existing regional and global food-security frameworks to develop best practices on improving collective food security in the EAS;
 - c. encouraging the inclusive consultation process with all stakeholders including the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to promote responsible agricultural investment, that respects rights, livelihoods and resources;
 - d. drawing on existing agricultural capacity-building initiatives regionally and sharing best practices to improve agricultural production and productivity, and dietary diversity, in the EAS;

- e. better integrating smallholder and women farmers and fishers into global supply chains and efforts to achieve food security;
 - f. expanding marine and agricultural science-and-technology research, including biotechnology and development investment and cooperation to promote sustainable food production and food safety, with due consideration for national poverty eradication and food security priorities;
 - g. expanding regional fisheries management cooperation, including encouraging the future work of the EAS Track II Study Group on Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Fisheries Management and Marine Environmental Conservation;
 - h. promoting cooperation, sustainable use, and management of water resources;
 - i. identifying possible cooperation in forest conservation and management;
 - j. encouraging the protection of natural ecosystems and the preservation of biodiversity and varieties of plant genetics and agricultural production systems;
 - k. exploring ways to reduce regional food supply chain loss and demand side loss, including post-consumer food waste due to unsustainable consumption patterns, with due consideration of the work done on regional connectivity;
 - l. encouraging greater efforts to build resilience to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change which will have an ongoing and significant impact on the ability to ensure stable and sustainable food production; and
 - m. supporting integrated approaches to improved nutrition;
2. Encourage removal of existing protectionist measures and restraint on introducing new measures that are inconsistent with WTO agreements and that may hinder food trade, as well as promoting better trade facilitation, in accordance with national laws and regulations to promote food security.
3. Task EAS relevant Ministers to hold an informal consultation with relevant government sectors and private and public stakeholders to explore ways to realise these undertakings.
- ADOPTED** by the Heads of State/Government of the participating countries of the 8th East Asia Summit on 10 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
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- ## ASEAN-United Nations
- ### **Chairman's Statement of the 5th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit**
- Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei Darussalam, 10 October 2013**
1. The 5th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit was held on 10 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, and was chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the UN. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
- ### **ASEAN-UN Cooperation and Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN**
2. Recalling further that ASEAN and the UN have held four Summits in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2011, the Summits and their outcome documents have indeed laid a strong foundation for the strengthening of the partnership between the two organisations.
3. Sharing the view that ASEAN is striving to become a Community by 2015, the Summit welcomed the first formal review of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and

the UN and the Annex on 19 November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, which further advanced and intensified the level of cooperation, as well as strengthened the framework of cooperation between ASEAN and the UN. Furthermore, the Comprehensive Partnership has begun to establish a more coordinated, coherent and cohesive cooperation among ASEAN sectoral bodies in its relations with UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes which will allow an enhanced ASEAN capacity to contribute and respond to global challenges.

4. The ASEAN Leaders also encouraged the UN to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and contribute to the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, as well as to the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III), to bring the ASEAN common platform on global issues into reality by 2022.
5. In this regard, the Summit expressed appreciation to the Secretariats of ASEAN and the UN for their 2011-2013 Joint Report on the Implementation of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN, as well as their recommendations to the ASEAN-UN Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting held on 23 September 2013 in New York, USA. The Summit also encouraged the two Secretariats to continue and coordinate its implementation of the Joint Declaration and the Annex, as well as to jointly report on the progress to the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting (AUMM), and through it to the ASEAN-UN Summit.
7. In this regard, the Summit welcomed the Outcome Document of the ASEAN-UN Workshop on Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy that was held on 5-6 April 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia, where the participants examined various cases of conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy in the Southeast Asian region and beyond, as well as identified ways and means to strengthen the ASEAN-UN partnership in peace and security.
8. The Summit looked forward to the operationalisation of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) in Jakarta, Indonesia, as soon as possible, which would promote research activities on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution in the region and, therefore, welcomed the UN's support towards its work.
9. The Summit also welcomed the Sub-Regional Seminar on International Joint Investigations for Southeast Asian States held on 26-28 June 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which was jointly organized by the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) and the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). The main objective of the Seminar was to strengthen the capacity of the ASEAN Member States' joint investigations in the region, and in detecting and preventing the illegal cross-border movement of cash, and emphasized the rule of law and the importance of respecting human rights while countering terrorism.
10. The Summit welcomed the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) by ASEAN Leaders, which would serve as a centre of excellence to encourage efforts to address explosive remnants of war for interested ASEAN Member States, and shall facilitate cooperation with relevant institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

Peace, Security and Conflict Resolution

6. The Summit noted the vital role of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security and reiterated its firm commitment to the peaceful resolution of differences in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, the ASEAN Charter and international laws. ASEAN will continue to promote confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy and peaceful approaches to conflict resolution and will continue to cooperate with the UN in the area of multi-dimensional peacekeeping.

Millennium Development Goals MDGs), Sustainable Development, Climate Change and the Global Financial Crisis

11. The Summit noted with satisfaction that ASEAN Member States are on track to attaining many of

the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), namely the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, reduction of child mortality, improvement in maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and development of global partnership for development.

12. The Summit agreed that there is a need for enhanced implementation of the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) as the progress among ASEAN Member States and across the sub-national level entities varies widely.
13. The Summit welcomed the 'ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional MDGs Report 2012/2013' and noted with appreciation the sub-regional consultations held with stakeholders from ASEAN Member States to ensure their perspectives were reflected in the report.
14. The Summit underlined as a matter of priority that the adverse impact of the global financial and economic crises should not undermine ASEAN's commitment to the achievement of the MDGs by 2015. In this context, the UN reiterated its support for the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the MDGs. The Summit also noted of ASEAN's initiative to formulate aspirational goals beyond 2015, such as doubling ASEAN's combined GDP and halving the percentage of people living in poverty in the ASEAN region by 2030.
15. The Summit emphasised the importance of narrowing development gaps in the region and welcomed the UN's interest to support the implementation of the Bali Concord III Plan of Action (2013-2017) and continued support to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II (2009-2015).
16. The Summit welcomed the convening of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development held on 20-22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which focused on two themes: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development. The Conference also highlighted seven critical issues which need to be prioritised, namely decent jobs, energy, sustainable cities, food security and sustainable agriculture, water, oceans and disaster readiness. The Conference further called for the establishment of an Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (OWG on SDGs) to work on a proposal on the SDGs and its process for consideration by the 68th session of the UN General Assembly.
17. The Summit reiterated their strong commitment to address climate change at the national, regional and global levels based on the principles contained in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. The Summit reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen efforts in mitigation and adaptation to address the adverse effects of climate change as the environmental and economic challenges of today are multifaceted and complex, and require enhanced cooperation on sustainable development. The Summit reiterated their commitment to collaborate on issues, such as promoting greater awareness on climate change as well as the concept of green economy to ensure the attainment of sustainable development and enhancing high quality of life of the people in the region. The Summit further attached importance to the current UNFCCC negotiations to produce an agreement by 2015 applicable to all Parties and to be implemented from 2020.
18. The Summit expressed its deep concern on the slower than expected global economic recovery and continuing volatilities in the global financial system, especially in commodity prices. The Summit affirmed the importance of continuing efforts towards achieving strong, inclusive, sustainable and balanced growth and in this connection, agreed on the importance of maintaining free and open markets and called for greater transparency and stronger disciplines in the financial system. The Summit also emphasised the importance of adhering to the international commitments on financing for development and welcomed the on-going initiatives of the UN Secretary General to urge G20 Leaders to mainstream the development agenda into the G20's discourses.

Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

19. The Summit welcomed the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda on 26-28 August 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, jointly organized by the Government of Thailand and the UN regional commission.
20. The Summit noted the establishment of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda in January 2012, co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UN Development Programme. The UN System Task Team assembled more than 60 UN agencies and international organisations and supported the process by providing analytical thinking and substantial inputs.
21. The Summit also noted its first report entitled, "Realising the Future We Want For All" in June 2012, in which it outlined the vision of the UN system on the global development agenda beyond 2015. The Summit further noted the second report released in March 2013 entitled, "A renewed global partnership for development", which recommended features of a renewed global partnership for development that are required for a successful post-2015 global development agenda.
22. The Summit further welcomed the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, co-chaired by the Presidents of Indonesia and Liberia and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom entitled, "A new Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development", in which several recommendations were proposed on the development agenda beyond 2015.
23. The Summit noted and supported ASEAN's initiative towards realising an ASEAN Community by 2015 and in developing the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, as well as acknowledged the need to deepen and enhance ASEAN's dialogue partnerships and external relations. In this regard, the Summit recognised the importance of continuing close consultations with each other on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision and the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Cooperation in Disaster Management

24. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation to the UN for its continued support in the area of disaster management and humanitarian assistance, including through the joint ASEAN-UN working group on disaster management in collaboration with the UN Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism. The Summit remains committed to implementing the ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management and agreed to support the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) as well as the implementation of the Work Programme of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) for 2010-2015.

ASEAN Connectivity and Integration

25. The Summit recognised that regional connectivity and integration, through stronger physical, institutional and people-to-people linkages, are vital for sustainable and equitable economic development, which is essential to eradicate poverty and narrow development gaps within an ASEAN Community. The Summit noted with satisfaction the contributions of the UN, particularly the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), to the development of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the implementation of the IAI. The Summit agreed to further strengthen joint work in these areas and looked forward to the support of relevant UN Entities in implementing the MPAC.

Human Rights

26. The Summit welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Declaration on the adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, in which ASEAN Member States reaffirmed their commitment to ensure that the implementation of the AHRD be in accordance to their commitment to the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, and other international human rights instruments to which ASEAN Member States are parties, as well as to relevant ASEAN declarations and instruments pertaining to human rights.

27. The Summit welcomed the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission for Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). The Summit encouraged the AICHR to enhance its activities, including the implementation of the AHRD, in close coordination with the various ASEAN sectoral bodies and where appropriate, in collaboration with relevant United Nations organisations as well as the ACWC's ongoing initiatives to promote public awareness through an annual public campaign to stop violence against women and children.
28. The Summit welcomed the outcomes of the International Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation between the UN and Regional Mechanisms for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held on 12-14 December 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland, where the AICHR was also invited to participate. The Summit encouraged the continuous engagement and support from the various UN human rights bodies in enhancing the work of the AICHR and ACWC.

International and Regional Issues of Common Concern

29. The Summit exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern and noted the prevalence of regional and global challenges, including the unresolved security problems in some areas, and the situation in the Middle East and North Africa. ASEAN Leaders and the UN Secretary-General are determined to strengthen their collaboration to contribute to solving these challenges.

Joint Action and Follow-up Coordination Mechanisms

30. The Summit encouraged the Secretariats of ASEAN and the UN to draft a 'roadmap on the implementation

of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership for 2014-2015', which could include immediate priorities in all four pillars of the political-security cooperation, economic cooperation, socio-cultural cooperation and secretariat-to-secretariat cooperation.

31. The Summit recalled the three-layer mechanisms of ASEAN-UN cooperation: the ASEAN-UN Summit to coordinate policy matters, the AUMM to review the implementation of cooperation activities and the S2S dialogue. In this regard, the Summit recognized that these mechanisms are useful for the implementation of the Comprehensive Partnership, and looked forward to the convening of future ASEAN-UN Summits and other mechanisms on a regular basis. The Summit welcomed the convening of an ASEAN-UN Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting at the margin of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York in addition to the existing mechanisms.
32. The Summit also encouraged the two Secretariats to consult each other to look into ways and means, including enhance liaison functions with each other, to bring about new impetus to the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership.
33. The Summit also agreed that the meetings between the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, the Secretary-General of the UN and the President of the UN General Assembly should continue to take place during the annual UN General Assembly meeting in September, and welcomed the joint press statements of successive AUMMs in the past, most recently on 26 September 2013. In addition, the Summit welcomed further meetings between relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and UN agencies to promote substantive cooperation between ASEAN and the UN.



Others

Press Statement of the 3rd High Level Meeting of the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy

Brussels, Belgium, 28 May 2013

1. The Third High Level Meeting of the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy was held from 27-28 May 2013 at the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium. The Meeting, which was hosted by Dr. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, was attended by Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Mr. Ahmed Saleem, Secretary-General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Ms. Andie Fong-Toy, Deputy Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Ambassador Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States (OAS), Ambassador Mr. Hesham Youssef, Senior Adviser to the Secretary General of the League of Arab States (Arab League), Dr. George Mukundi Wachira, Coordinator, African Governance Architecture and Platform, African Union Commission (AU) and Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General of International IDEA. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Mr. Jan Eliasson, was the Keynote Speaker of the Meeting.
2. In his welcome address, President Barroso recalled highlighted the importance of partnerships and cooperation with and among regional and international organizations as a way to reinforce inclusive global governance. Dialogue among regional organisations can provide a platform and act as an enabler of an effective multilateralism. He emphasized that the Rule of Law is one of the values on which the EU is founded, together with respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, as well as respect for human rights, including the rights of minorities.

He also stressed that democracy and rule of law are powerful enablers of peace and security at the national and international level. The EU will remain committed to strengthen the rule of law in its member states and to promote it in its external action, as clearly stated in the EU Treaties.

3. In his keynote address, Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson presented the highlights of the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels and its Declaration (A/Res/67/1), which stressed that the rule of law is an indispensable tool for the work of the United Nations in peace and security, development and human rights. For this reason, the UN Secretary-General has decided to mainstream the rule of law in the work of the entire UN system.

The Deputy Secretary-General recalled Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, and noted the important work of Regional Organizations in strengthening the rule of law. Such work spans all three pillars of UN action: strengthening international peace and security; fostering sustainable development; and protecting human rights. He also highlighted the UN's commitment to supporting national constitution-making processes, and noted examples of cooperation with Regional Organizations in this area.

The Deputy Secretary-General reaffirmed the need for further collaboration between the UN and Regional Organizations and encouraged the continuous cooperation and dialogue among Regional Organizations, as well as with the UN. In this regard, he welcomed the annual meetings and activities of the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy, facilitated by International IDEA, as a useful platform for exchanging experiences and best practices on democracy and the rule of law. He looked forward to working together with this platform in the future.

4. The Heads and representatives of the Regional Organizations, the President of the European

Commission, the UN Deputy Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of International IDEA had an open discussion on the theme “Upholding and Strengthening the Rule of Law in our Regions”. They recognised that the Rule of Law implies that all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to just, fair and equitable laws and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. This broad conception of the rule of law incorporates elements such as a legitimate constitution with constitutional limits on power, protection and promotion of human rights in all its aspects, an effective electoral system that promotes and protects electoral integrity, a commitment to gender equality, laws for the protection of minorities and vulnerable groups, and a strong civil society. They further recognised that the rule of law is fundamental for any functioning democracy.

5. The Meeting acknowledged the role that Regional Organizations play in promoting the rule of law and constitutionalism, subject to their respective mandates and regional contexts. This includes various initiatives undertaken in norms and standards setting in, among others, the fields of human rights, democracy and constitution building.
6. Regional Organizations have set up different mechanisms and bodies to promote the rule of law. These include inter alia, legal cooperation, technical support, and exchange of information and best practices, as well as initiatives to ensure accountability, subject to regional contexts. These are meant to complement the commitment of regional organizations to democracy and human rights.
7. This commitment to democracy and human rights by Regional Organizations and their member states are expressed in their founding charters. Moreover, some have adopted democracy and human rights charters and have or are in the process of setting up judicial or quasi-judicial bodies, which act as key instruments in achieving democracy and in implementing the human rights commitments of their respective member states.
8. Regional Organizations and their member states also express their adherence to constitutionalism. In this context, some are engaged in processes of democratic transition and support to the actual design of national constitutions in their member states. In some cases, this includes mediating dialogue among stakeholders as part of the constitution building process.
9. The Meeting also recognised the limitations and challenges that Regional Organizations face in these fields. Their different mandates, regional contexts, resources and capacities mean that their work in the promotion of rule of law, human rights and constitution building are not uniform and have regional variations. These initiatives have, however, been inter-related and mutually reinforcing and have thereby opened up spaces for dialogue and sharing of experiences and best practices.
10. The Meeting recognised the importance of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance as the main instrument for promoting democracy and constitutionalism in Africa. The Charter rejects unconstitutional changes of government. It promotes and enhances adherence to the principle of the rule of law premised upon the respect for, and the supremacy of the constitution and constitutional order. An unconstitutional change of government could lead to the suspension of an AU Member State. The Meeting noted and acknowledged the establishment of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and Platform by the AU and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The AGA is an important framework for enhancing synergies, coordination and cooperation among the AU organs and RECs to strengthen governance, consolidate democracy and realize human and peoples’ rights in Africa.
11. The Meeting noted that the ASEAN Charter provides that among ASEAN’s mandate is to “strengthen democracy, enhance good governance and the rule of law”. The Meeting congratulated ASEAN on the adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration. The Declaration is a landmark document that establishes a framework for human rights cooperation in the region and contributes to the ASEAN community building process. The meeting also noted the progress of the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

12. The Meeting recalled the 2009 Council conclusions on Democracy Support in the EU's External Relations, the 2011 Joint Communication of the European Commission and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the European Parliament and the Council on Human Rights and Democracy at the Heart of EU External Action-towards a more effective approach, and the 2012 EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy. These stress the will of the EU to strengthen its cooperation on human rights and democracy with regional and intergovernmental organisations, both at the political level and at the local level. The Meeting also noted the continuous work of the Court of Justice of the European Union. The Court since its establishment in 1952, ensured that "the law is observed" in the interpretation and application" of EU Treaties.
13. The Meeting welcomed the Doha Declaration of the Twenty-Fourth Arab League Summit in March 2013. The Doha Declaration emphasized the importance of pursuing efforts of reform and modernization of the Arab League. The Meeting also noted the progress of the Arab League in conducting the preparatory work for the establishment of an Arab Court on Human Rights. The Meeting recalled the Declaration of the EU-Arab League Ministers of Foreign Affairs Meeting of 13 November 2012 in which they reaffirmed their support of the process of democratic reform undertaken in a number of countries in the region and welcomed the development of cooperation between the EU and the Arab League, including in the area of human rights and electoral processes.
14. The Meeting recognised how the Inter-American Democratic Charter identifies the respect for human rights, the rule of law and the separation of powers among the essential elements of representative democracy. The Charter offers elements that guide the collective action of the Member States and the OAS Secretary General when they consider that democratic institutions or the legitimate exercise of power is at risk in one of the Member States. The Meeting also recognised efforts by the OAS to implement the Inter-American Democratic Charter, as well as the continued advancement of the Inter-American Human Rights System, most recently in the Special Session of the OAS General Assembly held on March 22, 2013 in which a resolution adopting specific measures to strengthen the Human Rights System was approved by acclamation. The Meeting noted the achievements of the OAS in the field of regional legal cooperation, especially the progress achieved in the implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the process of Meetings of Ministers of Justice or other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA).
15. The Meeting recognised the Pacific Islands Forum's commitment to the rule of law to progress the Pacific region's goals for economic growth, sustainable development, security and good governance. The Meeting recognised the achievements of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) – a regional partnership initiated under the Forum's Biketawa Declaration – in supporting Solomon Islands to lay the foundations for long-term stability, security and prosperity. The Meeting noted the Forum's ongoing work to encourage and support Fiji's return to parliamentary democracy in accordance with the Biketawa Declaration. The Meeting further acknowledged the Forum's role in promoting the rule of law by facilitating regional cooperation amongst Member States in relation to law enforcement, human rights and accountability and transparency mechanisms. The Meeting also noted the 2012 Forum Declaration on Gender Equality, including its commitments to improve women's access to justice and participation in political decision making.
16. The Meeting recognised that the SAARC Charter on Democracy is the main instrument for democracy of SAARC. In particular, the Charter shall "renounce any unconstitutional change of an elected government in a member state". The Charter guarantees the independence of Judiciary and primacy of the rule of law and renounces unconstitutional changes of government in the region. The Meeting also noted the continuous progress of legal cooperation activities in the SAARC, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation in Law, (SAARCLAW), to promote better understanding of the legal systems of SAARC Member States.
17. The UN noted its activities in strengthening the rule of law at the national and international level, inter alia through the peaceful settlements of disputes, its

normative work, fostering legal cooperation, technical cooperation and the protection of human rights. The UN particularly highlighted its fight against impunity for serious international crimes. The UN underscored that pursuant to Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, Regional Organizations are encouraged to resolve issues within their region, “provided that such arrangements or agencies and their activities are consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations”. The activities of Regional Organizations in strengthening the rule of law are therefore key to complementing UN efforts in this area, and more broadly in supporting the UN in fulfilling its purposes, as set out in the United Nations Charter.

18. Recognising the rich experiences of Regional Organizations, as well as their contribution to the promotion of rule of law, human rights and constitution building, the Meeting agreed to organize the third inter-regional workshop on constitutional governance and the rule of law. The workshop aimed at senior officials and international and regional experts will take stock of the mandates and activities of Regional Organizations; facilitate the sharing of experiences and lesson learned in the field of judicial and quasi-judicial institutions for the protection of human rights; and explore and discuss the different mechanisms for regional legal cooperation, as well as national constitution building processes. International IDEA will host this workshop in The Hague, The Netherlands from 15 to 17 October 2013.

Book Launch: Regional Organizations and Integrity of Elections

19. The Meeting formally launched the first publication of the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy, “The Integrity of Elections: The Role of Regional Organizations”, which captures the experiences of Regional Organizations in the field of elections. The first of its kind with a global scope and coverage, this publication examines both the mandates and initiatives of Regional Organizations in the field of elections. Topics covered include election observation, electoral technical assistance and gender mainstreaming. The Meeting agreed to support the development of a programme in the field of election observation, which will develop, improve and support the work of Regional Organizations.

Outcomes and Follow-Up to the Inter-Regional Workshop on Regional Organizations and Inclusive Political Participation and Representation

20. The Meeting noted the report of the Secretary-General of International IDEA, Mr. Helgesen, on the Inter-Regional Workshop on Regional Organizations and Inclusive Political Participation and Representation, which was held in New York, USA on 23-25 October 2012. The Workshop took stock of the mandates and mechanisms set up by Regional Organizations to promote and encourage inclusive political participation and representation including the participation of minorities and vulnerable groups; facilitated sharing of experiences and lessons learned by Regional Organizations in promoting gender balance and mainstreaming; discussed and recognized the role of regional parliaments and parliamentary assemblies; and explored and discussed how Regional Organizations could further collaborate with the UN in promoting and encouraging inclusive political participation and representation in particular in the context of the formulation of the post 2015 Development Agenda. International IDEA will publish the experiences of Regional Organizations in promoting inclusive political participation and representation, including those undertaken in collaboration with the UN, by the end of 2013.
21. Based on the demand and interest in the mandates, mechanisms and experiences of Regional Organizations in promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming at the regional level, the Meeting agreed to support the development of a follow-up programme on gender issues at the regional level. This programme will discuss in a more detailed manner lessons learned by Regional Organizations and develop concrete outputs that policy makers and implementers in the regions could utilise.

European Union Pledge

22. The European Union underlines its commitment to multilateralism and to cooperating with regional organisations, whose contribution is fundamental to conflict resolution. Rule of Law calls for a coordinated and consistent action at continental, regional and national levels. Regional organisations, as motors of

regional integration, have shared responsibility in this agenda.

23. In this respect, in line with the results of the UNGA High Level meeting on the rule of law, the European Union has pledged to improve access to justice and strengthen judicial cooperation; support peace and security in conflict and post-conflict situations; fight corruption; and address transnational threats, including countering violent extremism, terrorist financing and money laundering, organised crime, trafficking in human beings, as well as piracy and armed robbery at sea.

Next Meeting

24. Recognising that Regional Organizations are among the key players in the inter-play between democracy and development in their regions, the Meeting agreed to continue the constructive dialogue among the Heads of Regional Organizations on the topic of democracy and development, including the development of the post-2015 Development Agenda, on the occasion of the Fourth High Level Meeting of the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy in 2014, which the Arab League expressed its readiness to host.

Chair's Statement 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMMM 11)

“ASEM: Bridge to Partnership for Growth and Development”

New Delhi, India, 11-12 November 2013

1. The 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM11) was held in Delhi-NCR, India from November 11-12, 2013. It was attended by 34 Foreign Ministers from Asia and Europe, including the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, Mrs. Catherine Ashton and the Secretary General of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Mr. Le Luong Minh. 11 countries were represented by Deputy Foreign Ministers. The meeting was Chaired by the External Affairs Minister of India, Mr. Salman Khurshid.
2. The theme of the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting: “ASEM: Bridge to Partnership for Growth and Development” provided opportunity for the Ministers to exchange views on a number of economic and financial issues and sustainable development as also non-traditional security challenges and regional and global issues. They also assessed the achievements of ASEM in the past 17 years and its future orientation. Ministers agreed to intensify efforts to bring about greater synergy between Asian and European partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) across the three pillars of political dialogue, economic cooperation and socio-cultural exchanges.
3. Ministers commenced their deliberations with expression of solidarity and support for the victims of the typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and Viet Nam. They felt that ASEM should develop capacity to deliver immediate support for relief and rehabilitation in such instances of natural disasters. Many ASEM members committed support in response to the specific requirements conveyed by the Philippines and also indicated their readiness to do likewise for Viet Nam.
4. Ministers underlined that ASEM provides a strong foundation for a more dynamic partnership between Asia and Europe for addressing regional and global challenges. Dialogue, consensus, flexibility and informality continue to define the strength of deliberations in ASEM. There was consensus that the dynamism of the ASEM partners should find expression in tangible result-oriented initiatives amongst ASEM partners. These initiatives could define joint responses by Asia and Europe to global and regional challenges and also catalyze opportunities for growth and development in Asia and Europe. Ministers underscored the need to strengthen public support for ASEM in Asia and Europe.
5. Recalling ASEM guiding principles, including the 2006 Helsinki Declaration, Ministers endorsed recommendations of ASEM Senior Officials for further optimization of ASEM working methods to strengthen

ASEM's substance, efficiency and coherence. In this regard, Ministers welcomed the Yangzhou Initiative as an important contribution to improve ASEM working methods. It was felt that ASEM processes must continue to be responsive to the evolving international situation.

Economic Growth, Sustainable Development and Future Direction of Partnerships for Development

6. Ministers reaffirmed ASEM's utility for finding synergies to mitigate the global financial crisis and address concerns relating to weak demand and high unemployment in member economies. They noted the importance of implementing nationally defined social protection floors at the development pace of respective countries. Ministers underscored that a sustainable model for growth could be found by matching technological innovations and capacities available in many ASEM members to markets and human resource requirements in others. Such bridging of intellectual, scientific and economic capacities between Asia and Europe as well as ensuring inclusiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) could act as a force multiplier to facilitate economic growth and sustainable development. ASEM should fully reflect the strong economic and financial interdependence between Asia and Europe. Ministers encouraged early resumption of the ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting.
7. Recognizing the importance of an open rule-based multilateral trading system for global growth, Ministers expressed their deep concern about protectionism, endorsed rolling back of protectionist measures and reiterated that barriers to trade and investment, imposition of export restrictions or implementation of WTO-inconsistent measures must be avoided. Ministers strongly supported efforts for the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali in December 2013 to deliver substantial outcomes towards the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round.
8. Ministers recognized that global financial regulatory reform is an ongoing process. They reaffirmed the importance of the call for continuing reforms of international financial institutions to reflect structural changes in the world economy, including, inter alia, the priority of early ratification of the 2010 IMF quota and governance reforms. Ministers acknowledged the need for adequate protection of intellectual property rights, including genetic resources and traditional knowledge and folklore, as well as for efforts to fight counterfeiting and piracy.
9. Ministers urged intensification of efforts to utilize technological and financial capacities in Asia and Europe as well as promotion of Public-Private Partnership to meet the growing need of infrastructure in the emerging economies. This was seen as critical for sustained economic growth, poverty reduction and job creation, in particular, for tackling youth unemployment. Ministers expressed strong political will to restore sustainable and inclusive growth to the global economy.
10. Ministers welcomed the G20's efforts to coordinate common approaches to global economy and finance, including the outcome of the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg in September 2013. Australia provided a briefing on priorities for their G20 Presidency.
11. Ministers noted that ASEM is at a significant crossroads. The depth and maturity of political dialogue in ASEM over the past 17 years must lead to further strengthening of the inter-continental bridging. This would add to the vitality of ASEM. Greater balance in the three pillars of cooperation would strengthen the relevance of ASEM.
12. Ministers emphasized the need to strengthen regional and inter-regional connectivity for more efficient flow of goods, services, capital and people, especially for narrowing developmental gaps.
13. Ministers underscored the need to transform jointly the challenges related to food, water and energy security into opportunities for growth and sustainable development.
14. Ministers acknowledged the potential for human resource development through institutes of technological excellence in ASEM partner countries. It was felt that ASEM's biennial Rectors' Conference and ASEM's Higher Education Programme could be further dovetailed to take this forward. They recognized the importance of encouraging the private

sector to look at joint ventures in this sector, with transfer of technology as an element to bring about qualitative improvement in education, create jobs and foster economic development.

Non-Traditional Security Challenges

15. Ministers exchanged views on strategies to meet non-traditional security challenges such as all aspects of terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering and cyber crime. These issues were seen as having serious repercussions for regional and global security, particularly because of their tendency to come together to compound the challenge from terrorism. They underlined the need for a comprehensive global approach to counter terrorism. Ministers also called for greater cooperation to meet other emerging threats such as piracy, smuggling, transnational crimes, human trafficking, illegal migration, arms trafficking and trafficking in plant and animal products, particularly in endangered species. Ministers also emphasized the importance of collective attention to deal with the growing challenge from pandemics.
16. Ministers underscored the need to exchange information on activities of cyber crime and where cyber space is used by terrorists for financing, recruitment, communication and radicalization. They emphasized the need for ensuring cyber security, while underlining that the security of the Internet should not be achieved at the expense of freedom of expression. They noted the work of the UN Group of Government Experts and underlined that the governance of the Internet needs to be democratic, transparent and representative of all stakeholders. Ministers also noted the outcome of the 2013 Conference on Cyber Space held in Seoul on October 17-18, 2013.
17. Ministers underlined that climate change continues to be an important challenge. ASEM partners underscored their commitment to work together to address climate change and environment protection in accordance with all the principles and provisions of UNFCCC, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. They reiterated their commitment to implementation of the outcomes of previous conferences, including most recently, the Doha Conference, and developing a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the UNFCCC applicable to all parties. ASEM partners looked forward to working with Poland as the incoming COP-Presidency towards achieving a successful outcome at COP 19. Recognising the importance of climate finance, Ministers emphasized the need to work together for the early and successful operationalisation and timely resource mobilization of the Green Climate Fund.
18. Ministers supported greater collaboration and coordination in disaster risk reduction and management and mitigation, including, inter alia, through awareness programmes, early warning systems, use of innovations in technology, search, rescue and relief operations and post-disaster rehabilitation. They agreed to mainstream disaster risk reduction and management in the ASEM agenda. They welcomed the ASEM Conference on Technology and Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation to be held in the Philippines in September 2014 and the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan in 2015.
19. Ministers supported greater collaboration in ASEM for ensuring food, water and energy security for future generations. They suggested attention to the use of R&D in agricultural productivity, farm practices, conservation of agro-biodiversity and the use of advanced technologies to mitigate the effects of climate change. Ministers emphasized collective interest of members in examining measures to address the volatility of food and agricultural commodity prices, while recognizing national measures to support food security objectives and protect livelihood of farmers.
20. Ministers emphasized the importance of open, competitive and globally integrated energy markets in enhancing energy security. They underlined the importance of ensuring the full engagement of both producers and consumers in global energy governance structures. The need to attain a sustainable energy mix according to national priorities and circumstances was recognized. Ministers also reaffirmed their commitments to promote energy access and energy diversification through exchange

of information and best practices and research on new, alternative and renewable energy development. They supported energy efficiency and conservation and the use of affordable environmentally friendly technologies, particularly for developing countries.

21. Ministers supported sustainable usage and integrated management of water resources. They noted that water is a promising area of cooperation with complementarity of capacity within ASEM members, and supported collaboration between ASEM partners, especially through transfer of technology and expertise in this sector. In this context, they took note of the outcome of the ASEM Dialogue on Sustainable Development in June 2012.
22. Ministers encouraged ASEM partners to strengthen collaborations in the above sectors for joint research, development and demonstration, sharing information and knowledge, expanding technology hubs and creating networks for capacity building.

Regional and International Issues

23. Ministers had a candid and constructive discussion on a number of international and regional issues of common interest and concern in the Retreat. They exchanged views and assessments on issues such as Asia-Europe cooperation, including as a net contributor to international peace, security and development; situation in Afghanistan; Iran's nuclear programme; developments in Middle East and North Africa, including Syria, Middle East Peace Process, Libya and Egypt; situation in the Horn of Africa; threat of piracy; problem of illegal migration and increasing flows of internally displaced persons and refugees; protection of vulnerable sections in conflict situations; developments in North East Asia, including the nuclear programme of DPRK and situation in the Korean Peninsula; freedom of navigation, maritime security and other issues pertaining to South China Sea; the objective of a world free from nuclear weapons and issues of proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery; enhancement of efficacy of multilateral institutions, including UNSC reform; expectations from ongoing COP19 negotiations in Warsaw and the forthcoming 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali; and cooperation under the Arctic Council. Ministers agreed that ASEM is a valuable forum for

political dialogue and cooperation among members in Asia and Europe with diverse and complementing capacities, perspectives and approaches.

24. Ministers commended the successful outcomes from the 23rd ASEAN Summit and related Summits held in Bandar Seri Begawan on October 9-10, 2013, including the development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision. Ministers also commended the successful outcome of the European Council meetings in 2013. Ministers took note, with appreciation, of the successful conclusion of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Bali on October 8, 2013.

ASEM Initiatives for Tangible Cooperation and Future Meetings

25. Ministers welcomed the initiative of the Chair to encourage ASEM members to achieve result-oriented tangible outcomes under ASEM and the Annex I to the Chair's Statement, which would allow countries to continue work on this agenda with like-minded members. They took note of the numerous meetings to be held in 2013-14, listed in Annex II to the Chair's Statement. Ministers supported the trend to incorporate a wider stakeholding amongst business, civil society, media and academia. They suggested that the implementation reports of such initiatives feed into subsequent ASEM meetings and documents, including the SOM meetings.

ASEM Press/ Public Awareness Management Strategy

26. Ministers called for greater effort to promote public awareness and visibility of the ASEM processes for the general public, business, media, executive and parliamentary representatives in ASEM partners. They endorsed the recommendation of the Senior Officials to set up a Working Group, comprising ASEM members and ASEF, to devise a Press and Public Awareness Management Strategy to be discussed further at the ASEM SOM in April 2014 in Brussels. The Ministers noted that the suggestions and topics contained in Annex IV to the Chair's Statement would provide the starting point for discussions in the Working Group. They commended use of modern technologies and social media to strengthen the public

interface of ASEM. They supported strengthening of ASEM Info Board maintained by ASEF and welcomed the ASEM Dialogue Facility developed by the EU as an additional tool for ASEM to enhance dialogue and cooperation.

27. In this context, Ministers took note of the convening of the 9th ASEF Journalists' Colloquium in Delhi-NCR from November 10-12, 2013, organised by ASEF in collaboration with India, to take forward the on-going debate on sustainable development.

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

28. Ministers recognised ASEF's contributions to the ASEM process, particularly in enhancing awareness of ASEM in civil societies and promoting people-to-people exchanges between Asia and Europe. They recalled ASEF's important mandate as laid down in the Dublin Principles 1996 and mentioned in the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework (AECF) 2000, i.e. "to continue strong support and encouragement for ASEF which is an important vehicle to promote and catalyze cultural, intellectual and people-to-people exchanges". Ministers welcomed ASEF's result-oriented projects planned for 2014 (Annex-III) and encouraged ASEF to optimize its capacity to attract more annual financial contributions. Ministers endorsed the recommendation of Senior Officials that the Board of Governors and Executive Director of ASEF be requested to offer suggestions for closer synergy between ASEF activities and ASEM, for discussion at the ASEM SOM in April 2014.

Celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of ASEM in 2016

29. On the recommendation of Senior Officials, Ministers decided to set up a Working Group from amongst

ASEM members and ASEF to devise a detailed strategy and roadmap for the 20th Anniversary celebrations of ASEM in 2016 and took note of suggestions that were made in this regard as a starting point.

ASEM Enlargement

30. Ministers noted Croatia's request for joining ASEM following its accession to the EU as its 28th member on July 1, 2013. In keeping with the two-key approach of ASEM Enlargement, the Ministers welcomed Croatia as "Guest of Chair" for all ASEM meetings in 2014 till a decision on its membership status at the ASEM10 Summit in Milan, Italy in the second half of 2014.

Preparations for ASEM10 Summit

31. Ministers were informed by the EU and Italy about the preparations for the ASEM10 Summit to be held in Milan, Italy in the second half of 2014. They also discussed events that could be organized in conjunction with the Summit. Ministers assured the EU and Italy that ASEM partners would actively support the successful organization of the ASEM10 Summit.
32. The Ministers welcomed Luxembourg's offer to host the 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM12) in 2015.

Annex I – Collated List of Interested ASEM Members for Tangible Cooperation.

Annex II – ASEM Initiatives in 2013-2014. Annex III – ASEF Projects in 2013 and 2014.

Annex IV – List of Topics for Discussion on ASEM's Press/ Public Awareness Management Strategy.

Annex I

Collated List of Interested ASEM Members for Tangible Cooperation

S.No.	AREAS OF TANGIBLE COOPERATION	NAMES OF INTERESTED ASEM MEMBERS
1.	Disaster Management and Mitigation, Building Rescue and Relief Capacities, Technologies and Innovation in Rescue Equipments & Techniques	India, Philippines, Greece, Netherlands, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Belgium, Japan, Pakistan, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Australia, New Zealand, China
2.	Efficient and Sustainable Water Management, Innovations in Water & Waste Management	India, Denmark, Slovakia, Indonesia, Hungary, Spain, Viet Nam, Malta, Mongolia, Pakistan, China, Romania, Bulgaria, Bangladesh, Singapore
3.	SME Cooperation	India, Greece, Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Hungary, Malaysia, Pakistan, Malta, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Myanmar, Indonesia, China
4.	Renewable Energy: mitigation, adaptation, financing and technological innovations	India, Philippines, Greece, Lithuania, Brunei Darussalam, Hungary, Spain, Pakistan, Malta, Poland, Mongolia, New Zealand
5.	Energy Efficiency Technologies	India, Denmark, Lithuania, Brunei Darussalam, Hungary, Spain, Poland, Mongolia, Pakistan, China
6.	Higher Education	Philippines, Latvia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Ireland, India, Poland, Thailand, United Kingdom
7.	Vocational Training & Skills Development	India, Netherlands, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Ireland, Latvia, United Kingdom, China
8.	Food Safety Issues, including training of Farmers	China, Slovakia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Thailand, Mongolia, New Zealand
9.	Education and Human Resources Development	Greece, Hungary, Malaysia, Myanmar, India, Pakistan
10.	Waste Management: More efficient use of material resources, the waste sector as a central player in the economy with waste to energy and more efficient reuse and recycling models	India, Denmark, Lithuania, Singapore Netherlands
11.	Promote Trade and Investment/Involve Private Sectors	Lao PDR, Poland, India, Myanmar
12.	Poverty Reduction	Lao PDR, Ireland, Poland, Myanmar

Annex II

ASEM Initiatives in 2013-2014

1. ASEM Seminar on Water and River Basin Management – A Green Growth Approach, in Can Tho, Viet Nam, from March 21-22, 2013.
2. Challenges to Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Ecosystems, in Bander Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, from May 12-24, 2013.
3. 12th ASEM Conference of Directors-General of Immigration and Management of Migratory Flows held in Tokyo, Japan from October 9-10, 2013.
4. 10th ASEM Customs Directors-General/Commissioners Meeting in Vienna, Austria from October 17-18, 2013.
5. 13th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights in Copenhagen, Denmark from October 21-23, 2013.
6. ASEM Seminar on Capacity Building on Air Pollution Prevention and Control, Beijing, China, October 22-23, 2013.
7. ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety in Vilnius, Lithuania from November 4-5, 2013.
8. ASEM High-Level Meeting on Disaster Prevention and Relief in Response to Climate Change, in Vietnam from November 18-19, 2013.
9. ASEM Seminar on Youth Employment Promotion from November 20-21, 2013, in Chongqing, China.
10. ASEM Seminar on Social Dialogue to be organised in Brussels in March 2014, by Belgium and Indonesia with the support of European Commission.
11. Seminar on Urbanisation and Sustainable Management of Water Resources in Asia and Europe to be held in China, in April 2014.
12. ASEM Experience Sharing on Public Health Emergency Management to be held in China, in April/June 2014.
13. Conference on Inter-Cultural and Inter-Faith Dialogue to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia, in July 2014.
14. 3rd ASEM Sustainable Development Seminar on Water Management – “Fostering Prosperity and Stability Through (Inter) Regional Cooperation”, to be hosted by Romania, in June 2014.
15. 3rd ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in August 2014.
16. 4th ASEM Rectors’ Conference and Students’ Forum to be held in Thailand, in September 2014.
17. ASEM Conference on Technology and Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation to be held in Philippines in September 2014.
18. 6th ASEM Cultural Ministers Meeting, to be held in Rotterdam, Netherlands in October 2014.
19. ASEM Food Safety Week: Promoting Cooperation and Coordination between Asia & Europe to be held in China in October 2014.
20. ASEM Workshop to Foster Green Business of SMEs to be held in Indonesia in 2014.
21. ASEM Forum on Training of Professional Farmers to be held in China, in 2014.
22. 14th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights to be held in Viet Nam, in 2014.
23. ASEM International Experts’ Workshop on the Restitution of Hidden Wealth and Prevention of Tax Evasion, to be held in the Philippines, in 2014.
24. ASEM Seminar on Waste-Water Management – Initiative proposed by Singapore.
25. Workshop on Managing Forests in a Sustainable Manner, organised by Slovenia.
26. Sustainable Water Management through partnerships among ASEM countries – Initiative proposed by India and Denmark for 2014.
27. Innovations in Technology for Disaster Rescue – Initiative proposed by India for 2014.

Annex III

ASEF Projects in 2013 and 2014

Selected Projects in 2013

1) ASEF VISIBILITY & AWARENESS SUPPORT IN 2013 OF THE ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM) PROCESS				
#	Project	Date	Venue	ASEM Relevance
1	ASEM Info Board 2013 www.aseminfoboard.org	Throughout 2013	Online	The only official information platform of the ASEM Process; managed by ASEF.
2) DIRECT SUPPORT TO & PARTICIPATION IN 2013 IN THE ASEF FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING (FMM)				
#	Project	Date	Venue	ASEM Relevance
1	ASEF's Participation and Support to the SOM and FMM11	2013	New Delhi, India	ASEF is invited to participate in the SOM and FMM11 to present its contributions to the ASEM Process.
2	9 th ASEF Journalists' Colloquium on "Media and the Green Agenda: Reporting on Sustain-able Development in Asia and Europe"	9-12 Nov 2013	Gurgaon, India	Side-event at FMM11 to promote the FMM and the ASEM process.
3	13 th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights "Human Rights and the Environment"	21-23 Oct 2013	Copenhagen, Denmark	ASEF is the co-ordinating body for the seminar series initiated by ASEM in 1997.
4	ASEM Outlook Series (distribution of publication and results)	Throughout 2013	Online	Reviews the current state of Asia-Europe relations. Contributes to ASEM priority issues with research-based analysis. Useful tool for ASEM Officials and researchers.
3) DIRECT SUPPORT TO & PREPARATION IN 2013 IN THE ASEF CULTURE MINISTERS' MEETING (CMM)				
#	Project	Date	Venue	ASEM Relevance
1.	ASEF Cultural Policy Dialogue Series			
1.1.	ASEF Experts' Meeting and Public Forum on "Investing in Heritage Cities – Stimulus for Sustainable Tourism and Livelihoods"	24-25 June 2013	Yangon, Myanmar	CMM5 stated the "need to promote greater knowledge exchange between Asian and European experts working on the management of heritage cities". Results, incl. policy recommendations, will be presented at CMM6 in 2014.
1.2.	ASEF Experts' Meeting and Public Forum on "Creative Economy in Asia and Europe – Emerging Pillar of Economic Growth and Development"	4-5 Dec 2013	Hanoi, Viet Nam	Addressing the political agenda of ASEM CMMs, this meeting focuses on creative industries and its impact on social and economic development. Outcomes will be presented with other research and mapping activities at CMM6.
2	ASEF's culture 360.org Arts Portal www.culture360.org	Throughout 2013	Online	Tasked by the CMM in 2003 to create an "ASEM Cultural Portal", culture360 is acknowledged by CMMs as a "concrete deliverable of the ASEM process".

4) DIRECT SUPPORT TO & PARTICIPATION IN 2013 IN THE ASIA-EUROPE MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION (ASEMME)				
#	Project	Date	Venue	ASEM Relevance
1	ASEF Higher Education Programme (AHEP)			
1.1.	ASEF's Participation and Support to the SOMs and ASEMME4	28-29 Jan 2013	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Invited by the Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia and the ASEM Education Secretariat (AES), ASEF participated in the SOMs and ASEMME4 and presented ASEF's contributions to the ASEM Education Process.
		12-14 May 2013	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	
1.2.	4 th ASEM Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC4) on "Universities in Asia and Europe: Partners in Creating Sustainable Societies", Preparatory Meeting	9-10 July 2013	Singapore	ASEMME4 asked "[ASEF] through the projects of its ASEM Education Hub (AEH), particularly the ASEM Rectors' Conference (ARC), to continue the stakeholders' dialogue [...] and [to] report on the progress made in the next Ministerial Meeting". ARC is recognised as "Official Dialogue Partner" with ASEF as its permanent secretariat.
1.3.	ASEF Higher Education Programme (AHEP) Advisory Committee Meeting (AC) and Secretariat	Throughout 2013 28-29 Nov 2013	Singapore Vilnius, Lithuania	Established upon the endorsement of the leaders at ASEM2 to enable "more academic exchanges", AHEP contributes to the agenda of the ASEM Education Process on the topics 1) engaging business & industry in education, 2) balanced mobility, 3) life long learning.
5) DIRECT SUPPORT TO & PREPARATION IN 2013 IN THE ASEM ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS' MEETING (ENVMM)				
#	Project	Date	Venue	ASEM Relevance
1	Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)			
1.1.	ENVforum Conference	4-5 Nov 2013	Seoul, Korea	In response to the ASEM leaders' call for "the establishment of the inter-governmental open-ended working group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", the ENVforum works with top partners and experts to promote dialogue to support a greater focus on SDGs.
1.2.	Side Event at "MDGs to the UN Development Agenda beyond 2015"	25-28 Aug 2013	Bangkok, Thailand	
1.3.	Side Event on "SDGs at Budapest Water Summit"	8-11 Oct 2013	Budapest, Hungary	
6) DIRECT SUPPORT TO & PREPARATION IN 2013 IN THE ASEM FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING (FINMM)				
#	Project	Date	Venue	ASEM Relevance
1	Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF)			
1.1	AEEF: European Troubles, Asian Worries	21-23 Jan 2013	Brussels, Belgium	Since 2008 ASEM leaders have been calling for greater "economic integration" and "long-term sustainable and balanced growth". The AEEF focuses on these issues and its outcomes will contribute to the FinMM.
1.2.	AEEF: Challenges and Prospects for Asian and European Economies	28-29 Oct 2013	Beijing, China	

For the full overview of ASEF's 2013 activity portfolio in the fields of culture, education, sustainable development, economy, governance and public health, please refer to ASEF's website www.asef.org.

Selected Projects in 2014 (Tentative Plan and Pending Approval by the ASEF Board of Governors)

1) ASEF VISIBILITY & AWARENESS SUPPORT IN 2014 OF THE ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM) PROCESS				
#	Project	Date	Venue	ASEM Relevance
1	ASEM Info Board 2014 www.aseminfoboard.org	Throughout 2014	Online	The only official information platform of the ASEM Process; managed by ASEF.
2) DIRECT SUPPORT TO & PARTICIPATION IN 2014 IN THE ASEM SUMMIT				
#	Project	Date	Venue	ASEM Relevance
1	ASEF's Participation and Support to the SOMs and ASEM10 Summit	2014	NAsia and Europe; Milan, Italy	Upon invitation, ASEF will participate in the SOM and ASEM10 to present its contributions to the ASEM Process.
2	10 th ASEF Editors' Roundtable	November 2014	Milan, Italy	Side-event at ASEM10 to promote the Summit and the ASEM process.
3	14 th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights "Human Rights and Business"	4 th quarter 2014	Viet Nam	ASEF is the co-ordinating body for the Seminar series initiated by ASEM in 1997.
4	ASEF Report: Asia-Europe Outlook (tbc)	Throughout 2014	Online	Reviews the current state of Asia-Europe relations. Contributes to ASEM priority issues with research-based analysis. Useful tool for ASEM Officials and researchers..
3) DIRECT SUPPORT TO & PREPARATION IN 2014 IN THE ASEM CULTURE MINISTERS' MEETING (CMM)				
#	Project	Date	Venue	ASEM Relevance
1.	ASEF Participation and Support to the SOMs and CMM6	2 nd half 2014	The Netherlands	Upon invitation, ASEF will participate in the SOMs and CMM6 to present its contributions to the ASEM Culture Ministers Process.
2.	ASEF Cultural Policy Dialogue Series			
1.2.	ASEF Experts' Meeting and Public Forum on "The Emerging Significance of Creative Economy"	2 nd half 2014 (tbc)	The Netherlands	ASEF will host an experts' meeting/ public forum in conjunction with CMM6.
3	ASEF's culture 360.org Arts Portal www.culture360.org	Throughout 2014	Online	Tasked by the CMM in 2003 to create an "ASEM Cultural Portal", culture360 is acknowledged by CMMs as a "concrete deliverable of the ASEM process".
4	19 th ASEF University (AU19) on "Sustainable Urbanisation in Heritage Cities"	2 weeks in March 2014 (tbc)	New Delhi, India, tbc	CMM5 "recognised the potential of ASEF in translating some of the recommendations [...] into concrete activities such as setting up [...] heritage awareness programmes for youth."

4) DIRECT SUPPORT TO & PARTICIPATION IN 2014 IN THE ASIA-EUROPE MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION (ASEMME)				
#	Project	Date	Venue	ASEM Relevance
1.	ASEF Higher Education Programme			
1.1.	ASEF's Participation and Support to the SOMs and ASEMME5	2014	Beijing, China	Upon invitation, ASEF will participate in the SOM to present its contributions to ASEMME5 and the ASEM Education Process.
1.2.	4 th ASEM Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC4) on "Universities in Asia and Europe: Partners in Creating Sustainable Societies"	23–24 & 25–26 Sept 2014	Bangkok, Thailand	ASEMME4 asked "[ASEF] through the projects of its ASEM Education Hub (AEH), particularly the ASEM Rectors' Conference (ARC), to continue the stakeholders' dialogue [...] and [to] report on the progress made in the next Ministerial Meeting". ARC is recognised as "Official Dialogue Partner" with ASEF as its permanent secretariat.
1.3.	ASEF Higher Education Programme (AHEP) Advisory Committee Meeting (AC) and Secretariat	Throughout 2014	Singapore	Established upon the endorsement of the leaders at ASEM2 to enable "more academic exchanges", AHEP contributes to the agenda of the ASEM Education Process on the topics 1) engaging business & industry in education, 2) balanced mobility, 3) lifelong learning.
5) DIRECT SUPPORT TO & PREPARATION IN 2014 IN THE ASEM ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS' MEETING (ENVMM)				
#	Project	Date	Venue	ASEM Relevance
1	Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)			
1.1.	ENVforum Conference	2014	Europe	In response to the ASEM leaders' call for "the establishment of the inter-governmental open-ended working group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", the ENVforum works with top partners and experts to promote dialogue to support a greater focus on SDGs.
6) DIRECT SUPPORT TO & PREPARATION IN 2014 OF THE ASEM FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING (FINMM)				
#	Project	Date	Venue	ASEM Relevance
1	ASEF's Participation and Support to the SOM and FinMM11	2014	Asia and Europe	Upon invitation, ASEF will participate in the SOM and FinMM to present its contributions to the ASEM Finance Ministers' Process.
2	Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF)	April/May 2014	Berlin, Germany	Since 2008 ASEM leaders have been calling for greater "economic integration" and "long-term sustainable and balanced growth". The AEEF focuses on these issues and its outcomes will contribute to the FinMM.

For the full overview of ASEF's 2014 activity portfolio in the fields of culture, education, sustainable development, economy, governance and public health, please refer to ASEF's website www.asef.org.

Annex IV

List of Topics for Discussion on ASEM's Press/ Public Awareness Management Strategy

1. Scoping study on the enhancement of the image of ASEM

At the September 2006 ASEM 6 Summit in Helsinki, ASEM leaders adopted the Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM, in which they agreed that "in order to achieve greater visibility and promote general awareness of the ASEM process, a public communication strategy to disseminate the result of ASEM Summits, other meetings and initiatives should be developed and implemented as a matter of priority."

ASEM partners seem fully supportive of the open, high-level, but non-bureaucratic concept, and with its expansion, ASEM has a high potential of increased importance on the international stage. However as ASEM grows, it needs strategic communications and feedback for success to eliminate the possibility of dissipating efforts.

It would be valuable if ASEM partners agree that they are committed to raising the visibility of the ASEM process, because without their commitment and involvement, any potential strategy will not be successful

2. Visibility workshop and communication strategy

A visibility workshop was held in November 2007 and, following this, a communication strategy was prepared (EU-funded project). This strategy was sent to ASEM partners for consultation and their remarks included in the appendices. Much included in the strategy is still valid and can be built upon as a useful foundation.

3. Key issues for consideration

3.1 According to previous research (Visibility Workshop questionnaire 2007), ASEM's key strengths lay in:

- a) Its uniqueness as a forum of cooperation and enhanced understanding between Asian and European governments
- b) Its purpose as a strategic platform of exchange, building partnership and cooperation between the two "most dynamic regions"
- c) Its very breadth of activity and cross-sectoral connection targeting current and future global issues.

3.2 Key messages were developed at that workshop which reflect these strengths:

- a) The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is a multi-cultural forum committed to promoting a fair, just and rules-based international order. Formed in 1996, ASEM currently has 51 partners.
- b) Representing half of the world's GDP, almost 60% of the world's population and 60% of global trade, ASEM embraces virtually the whole of Asia and Europe
- c) ASEM is an important forum for members to exchange views and to enhance cooperation within its three pillars of cooperation: Political Dialogue; Economic Cooperation and Social-Cultural exchanges.

4. Ideas for discussion

- a) The low general public awareness of ASEM is not conducive to the promotion of closer Asia-Europe relations. Fundamentally, three needs to be a clear focus on a limited number of strategic priorities where ASEM can make the difference, rather than dispersing efforts across the board.
- b) A one year promotional campaign with specific activities/topics and aimed at key target

- audiences could be developed. It would seem that next year, 2014, would form the ideal „pilot’ for this as it is a „Summit’ year with a SOM in Brussels. The campaign could also form the basis for the development of an overall communication strategy.
- c) Consider integration of all electronic communications onto one website which would be accessible both to the media and general public, but which also has an intranet which is confidential and secure for partners for internal use in scheduling, passing consultation papers and so on. It can be debated whether there is a need to develop a specific website for ASEM but this also raised the question of the funding/managing.
 - d) ASEF has over the past decade become more involved in managing the public communications of ASEM itself. However, this does mean that much of the website’s visibility is ASEF-oriented rather than ASEM.
 - e) An ASEM intranet can be designed linked to the ASEF InfoBoard - a communication channel with which ASEM partners are already familiar.
 - f) An intranet facility would enable, for example, the ASEM coordinators and ACSG to easily „feed in” information on the themes above or, indeed, on interesting stories which arise either from an event or a meeting. A simple system can be established.
 - g) Social media is the fastest growing communication channel. Many governments, senior officials, civil servants etc. have Facebook pages and use Twitter or the equivalent. In countries where these services are not accessible, there are ‘local’ alternatives which can be accessed. The professional network site, Linked-in, is also another opportunity to exchange information.
 - h) As the Asia Europe People’s Forum (AEPF) is “the voice of civil society in the official ASEM Summit”, it could consider forming a partnership with the global network of “communication for development” journalists who specialize in bringing media representation from and to the so-called “grassroots level”.
 - i) Identify the „winning themes’, e.g. global threats of common concern; globalization, competitiveness and structural changes in the global economy including finance, labour issues, education and human resource development; health; science and technology including Information and Communication Technology (ICT); sustainable development with special focus on the MDGs (SDGs); climate change, environment, and energy and intercultural and interfaith dialogue as a means to promote mutual understating.
 - j) Develop templates for communication plans for ASEM events which can be downloaded and could include: fact sheets (general and thematic); news release structure; e-bulletin template; key messages and a short description of „What is ASEM?
 - k) Member countries could observe a day in the Calendar as ASEM Day. This day would be celebrated in all ASEM countries, with Foreign Ministries taking a lead role. The celebrations could be in the form of organizing a meeting with the diplomatic Missions of the member countries in the respective capitals.
 - l) In the run up to ASEM Day, state owned televisions of member countries could telecast documentaries on each member country/ organization for consecutive days. This would also enrich the host citizens with knowledge of the culture, landscape etc. of all the ASEM member countries and organizations.
 - m) At least one article every six months in a leading newspaper, where journalists, scholars, think tank experts etc. could be asked to write on ASEM. The SOM Leaders and ASEM Contact Points could provide inputs. This could start from 2014 and would be a continuous exercise.
 - n) Similarly, regular use of radio and television to reach out and strengthen the communication strategy of ASEM.
 - o) Each member country could organize an interview related to ASEM by their respective Foreign Minister and/ or SOM Leader for print/ AV/ social

media. These interviews should be at least once in six months.

- p) A media exchange programme could be started, where one representative is financed by each ASEM country to visit two ASEM member countries in one tour per year. The two host countries per year for the group of 51 journalists could be decided on a voluntary basis. These journalists would be expected to file ASEM related stories on return.
- q) ASEM could be promoted by strengthening and integrating the ASEM InfoBoard and ASEM Dialogue Facility websites and also making its presence in the social media. This would help ASEM connect with the youth and next-generation, in particular.
- r) Regular status reports and outcomes of various events and projects should be posted on the ASEM InfoBoard and ADF websites.
- s) ASEM members could link the ASEM InfoBoard and ADF websites to their official Foreign Ministry's website and vice-versa.

Joint Press Statement of the 3rd ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council Ministerial Meeting

Manama, Bahrain, 26 November 2013

At the invitation of His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, their Highnesses and Excellencies the Foreign Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) held their 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2013, in Manama, Bahrain.

Note: The above list is dynamic and ASEM members will continue to send suggestions to be discussed further as part of the agenda of the ASEM SOM in April 2014 in Brussels.

The Ministers discussed issues of common interest and concerns, with the aim of enhancing and strengthening relations of both sides, and activating mechanisms and working groups established following the 2nd Ministerial Meeting in Singapore in 2010. They also reviewed the outcomes and recommendations made by those working groups to boost cooperation and deepen relations between the organizations representing two strategic regions that have major international economic and commercial importance, and whose significance has placed them in focus of other blocs and countries.

The Ministers commended the insightful vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, presented to the Gulf Cooperation Council in 2009, which stressed the importance of developing and activating the Asian dimension of GCC ties, in general, and the GCC – ASEAN relations.

The two sides welcomed the decision to choose Manama as the first Asian capital of tourism for the year 2014. The decision enhances and deepens the cooperation and creates a vital connection between the Asian nations and their people, and develops economic, commercial and cultural ties between the two sides.

The Ministers expressed their condolences and sympathies to the Government and People of the Republic of Philippines for the devastation and the loss of lives caused by the recent Typhoon Haiyan.

The Ministers underlined the importance of the following principles and values:

- 1.1. Respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs, on the basis of the principles of good neighborliness, the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter, the Statute of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, and the principles of international law.
- 1.2. Working to strengthen the economic, cultural and scientific partnership and connectivity between the GCC and ASEAN, as well as to deepen and institutionalise relations based on the activities of the six sectoral working groups established at the 2nd GCC - ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Singapore in 2010 namely (i) Working Group on Trade and Investment, (ii) Working Group on Education, (iii) Working Group on Culture and Information, (iv) Working Group on

- Food Security & Agricultural Investment, (v) Working Group on Energy, and (vi) Working Group on Tourism.
- 1.3. Working towards global and regional peace and stability as the basis for global economic development and prosperity.
 - 1.4. Condemnation of all acts of violence, terrorism, and piracy that threaten maritime security, safety of navigation and international trade, as well as underlining the importance of protecting straits, sea lanes and other waters used for international navigation, in accordance with international law and relevant international conventions.

The Ministers welcomed initiatives to support the implementation of the Roadmap for the establishment of ASEAN Community in 2015.

The Ministers reaffirmed the recognition by all GCC states and the ASEAN Member States of the importance of enhancing economic and trade cooperation especially in the agricultural field with a view to address food security, as well as cooperation in the cultural, tourism, media and education fields. The Ministers reiterated their support for an open, fair, transparent and rules-based multilateral trading system and look forward to the successful outcome of the Doha Development Round at the 9th WTO Ministerial Meeting in Bali in December 2013 which will include trade facilitation, some elements of agriculture and a set of development issues that would be a stepping stone towards seeking the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA).

The Ministers also underlined their support for continued meetings between them, and for strengthening the working groups established at the 2nd ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting in Singapore, with proposals and recommendations to be presented to the next ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting.

The Ministers welcomed the economic and developmental progress in GCC States and the ASEAN Member States, which has made them among the most developed countries in the field of human development, according to the 2012 Human Development Report issued by the United Nations Development Programme.

The Ministers exchanged views on the importance of energy cooperation to address major energy challenges. In

this regard, the Ministers called for greater cooperation in areas including energy efficiency and renewable energy to enhance the rational use of energy.

The Ministers acknowledged the deep-rooted ties between the GCC states and the ASEAN Member States, as well as the civilizational and cultural dimension that binds them. The promotion of respect for diversity, interfaith dialogue and moderation through education, culture, media and tourism as well as and people-to-people activities are fundamental pillars to minimize extremist actions as well as to deepen mutual trust and understanding. Cooperation in these areas is among the most important pillars of strength for the two regions, which could enhance both their model for development and their international role. The Ministers also look forward to the 6th Meeting of the Global Forum of the Alliance of Civilization in 2014 in Bali, Indonesia, which aims to promote mutual understanding, respect and tolerance among various cultures and across civilizations.

The Ministers agreed to enhance their cooperation and coordination in multilateral fora such as the United Nations, on global issues of common interest including the attainment of the MDGs and preparations for the post-2015 development agenda, addressing non-traditional security issues such as terrorism, drugs trafficking, money laundering, cybercrime, pandemics and natural disasters as well as climate change.

The Ministers welcomed the exchange of accredited Ambassadors of GCC States to ASEAN and the Ambassadors of ASEAN Member States to GCC States at the two Secretariats, which aims to bolster communication and coordination between them. The Ministers also emphasized the importance of closer cooperation between the ASEAN Committee in Riyadh (ACR) and the GCC Secretariat in Riyadh as well as regular consultations between Committee Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the GCC Ambassadors accredited to ASEAN, particularly in exploring ways and means to enhance the ASEAN-GCC cooperation.

The Ministers encouraged both Secretariats of GCC and ASEAN to play a more active role, particularly to follow up activities of various working groups, enhance coordination between them, and present a follow-up report through their senior officials to the ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meetings.

The Ministers agreed that the Kingdom of Bahrain will be the GCC's country coordinator for ASEAN-GCC relations for the next three years, in coordination with the GCC Presidency.

The Ministers agreed to organise a workshop/forum in Singapore during the first half of 2014 for officials, private sector, and other relevant stakeholders, to identify concrete steps to accelerate ASEAN-GCC cooperation in areas where practical activities could be identified and implemented. They instructed the two Secretariats to

prepare working papers to serve as a basis for discussion at the workshop.

The Ministers accepted Myanmar's request to hold the next ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting in Myanmar in 2014. The Ministers expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Kingdom of Bahrain for its generous hospitality, and welcomed the excellent arrangements for this meeting.



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