

**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT
THE FIFTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MINERALS
(5th AMMIN)**

10 September 2015, Vientiane, Lao PDR

1. The Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin) was held on 10 September 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. H.E. Dr. Khammany Inthirath, Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR, chaired the Meeting, and Dr. Ye Myint Swe, Director General of Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration of Myanmar, on behalf of H.E. Dr. Myint Aung, Minister of Mines of Myanmar, was the Vice Chair.

Opening Ceremony

2. H.E. Somsavat Lengsavad, the Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR officiated the 5th AMMin and associated meetings. In his Opening Remarks, H.E. Lengsavad commended the ASEAN Senior Officials on Minerals for the remarkable achievements, particularly in the implementation of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP)-II (2011-2015). He stated that ASEAN cooperation in minerals has played significant role as one of the main engines in driving economic growth and social progress in ASEAN that has contributed greatly to the improvement of livelihood, narrowing development gap within and between ASEAN Member States.

3. He also acknowledged the significant support of the ASEAN cooperation in minerals to the ASEAN community building post-2015 and encouraged ASEAN Member States to undertake concerted efforts to: (i) further enhance Mineral cooperation through the implementation of the ASEAN Mineral Cooperation Action Plan III Phase 1 (2016-2020), once adopted, by prioritising cooperative activities contained in this Action Plan and ensuring financial resources for the implementation; (ii) strengthen the minerals development through exchange of knowledge, expertise, technical and technology transfer in minerals development in an environmentally friendly manner, promoting the application of green energy, technology and green mining development within ASEAN aiming at ensuring the use of natural resources sustainability; and (iii) enhance cooperation in capacity building for mineral officials and skilled labour development within ASEAN.

ASEAN Minerals Cooperation towards Responsible and Sustainable Mining Development

4. The Ministers recognised the enduringly strong growth prospects of mining, minerals and metals to support socio-economic development in the post-2015 integration of the ASEAN Economic Community. The Ministers were of the view that mining shall be an integral part of ASEAN community development for future decades, bringing about direct and indirect benefits to local, national and regional economies. With this in mind, the Ministers encouraged all ASEAN Member States to implement sustainable mining practices at every stage of mineral development focusing on long-life operations, including earnest consideration of environmental impacts of mining to people, biodiversity, forests and water. In this regard, the Ministers looked forward to the implementation of the first ASEAN Mineral Awards by

2017 which will support the promotion of environmentally and socially sustainable ASEAN mineral sector.

Progress of Implementation of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan 2011-2015

5. The Ministers commended the work of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Minerals (ASOMM) and its Working Groups in the implementation of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP)-II (2011-2015). The Ministers were pleased to note that four years of implementing the AMCAP-II yielded more than 50 projects/activities and about 10 more measures expected for completion by end 2015.

6. The Ministers noted that the major cooperative programmes/activities undertaken so far to implement AMCAP-II, among others: (i) launch of the ASEAN Minerals Database and Information System (AMDIS) to provide the public and business community with greater access to information on mineral resources, research and development in minerals, capacity building, regulation, as well as profiles of mineral companies in the region; (ii) capacity building activities under the cooperation framework of ASOMM+3 through series of training courses on geological mapping, ASEAN mining environment and ecological recovery and management capability, minerals database development, and sustainable development of mineral resources; (iii) capacity building activities and events carried out by ASEAN Member States such as on policy mechanisms for mineral mining licensing in ASEAN, mining business and investment opportunities of rare earth minerals, geological survey and resource mapping; (iv) research and studies undertaken by ASEAN Member States such as the Research on Low Grade Bauxite Processing and Study on Sustainability Assessment Tools for Mining and Minerals Production; and (v) establishment of the ASEAN Mining Wiki as an information sharing mechanism on social frameworks, environmental standards and legislation within ASEAN Member States.

Strategising the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Post 2015

7. To align with the ASEAN Post-2015 Vision, the Ministers adopted the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP)-III (2016-2025) Phase 1 (2016-2020). AMCAP-III Phase 1 aims to further enhance ASEAN mineral sector dynamism with revitalised strategies and new initiatives towards boosting trade and investment, closer cooperation, and strengthening capacity in sustainable mineral development for a more prosperous and integrated ASEAN. The latest action plan advances three existing strategic areas, namely on: (i) facilitating and enhancing trade and investment in minerals; (ii) promoting environmentally and socially sustainable minerals development; (iii) strengthening institutional and human capacities in the ASEAN minerals sector; and adopts a new strategic area, namely on: (iv) maintaining an efficient and up-to-date ASEAN minerals database, including the information infrastructure to support a more integrated ASEAN minerals sector.

8. To support the implementation of the ASEAN mineral cooperation programmes, projects and activities, the Ministers endorsed the Rules and Procedures of the ASEAN Minerals Trust Fund (AMTF) to cover sector enhancing

policy studies, research/feasibility studies, strategic plans, and capacity building initiatives such as training programmes, workshops and seminars.

9. The Ministers agreed to foster cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, including China, Japan and Republic of Korea – under the ASOMM+3 framework, and relevant international organisation such as with the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), in the promotion of scientific and technological research and development in mineral resources development and geosciences as well as cooperative programmes on technology transfer.

10. The Ministers further agreed that cooperation in ASEAN mineral sector shall continue to intensify private sector participation and public-private sector collaboration in ASEAN mineral cooperation programmes and activities. The Ministers agreed to enhance closer interaction and cooperation with the ASEAN Federation of Mining Associations (AFMA) comprising the national mining chambers/associations in the respective ASEAN Member States.

Next AMMin

11. 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 5th AMMin and Associated Meetings.

12. The Ministers agreed to convene the 6th AMMin in 2017 in Myanmar.

List of Ministers/Designated Representatives:

- a. **Mr. Haji Azhan bin Haji Abd Karim**, Ministry of Development of Brunei Darussalam, representing H.E. Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Hj Suyoi bin Hj Osman, Minister of Development of Brunei Darussalam;
- b. **H.E. Meng Saktheara**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Mines and Energy of Cambodia;
- c. **Mr. Sri Raharjo**, Director of Mineral and Coal Program Supervision of Directorate General of Mineral and Coal of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals Resources of Indonesia, representing H.E. Sudirman Said, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia;
- d. **H.E. Dr. Khammany Inthirath**, Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR;
- e. **H.E. Datuk Ir. Haji Hamim Samuri**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia;
- f. **Dr. Ye Myint Swe**, Director General of Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration, representing H.E. Dr. Myint Aung, Minister of Mines of Myanmar;
- g. **Dr. Elmer B. Billedo**, Assistant Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, representing Hon. Ramon J.P. Paje Secretary Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines;
- h. **Mr. Law Chung Ming**, Group Director of Transport and Logistics Group, International Enterprise Singapore, representing H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore;

- i. **Mr. Somboon Yindeeyoungyuen**, Deputy Director General, Department of Primary Industries and Mines, representing H.E. Atchaka Sibunruang, Minister of Industry of Thailand;
- j. **H.E. Dr. Ha Tran Hong**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam; and
- k. **H.E. Lim Hong Hin**, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.