



**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE
FIFTH EAST ASIA SUMMIT EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING**

1 October 2021
Video Conference, Manila Philippines

1. The Fifth East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting (5th EAS EMM) was convened online on 1 October 2021, in conjunction with the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting (5th APT EMM). The Meeting was preceded by the 6th East Asia Summit Senior Officials Meeting on Education (6th EAS-SOM-ED) held on 30 September 2021. The Meeting was chaired by H.E Leonor Magtolis Briones, Secretary of Education of the Republic of the Philippines.
2. We note with appreciation the substantive progress and contribution of EAS participating countries in the implementation of the 14 priority areas of cooperation under the education component of the Manila Plan of Action to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the East Asia Summit Development Initiative (2018-2022).
3. We are cognisant and concerned of the profound impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our national education systems and regional education cooperation. In this regard, we appreciate the commitment and prompt actions of EAS participating countries and partners in protecting education and addressing the challenges in light of this global crisis.
4. We note the recent adoption of the ASEAN Workplan on Education 2021-2025 and the on-going consultation for the adoption of the ASEAN-Russia Plan of Action on Education 2021-2025. We emphasise the importance of continued synergy and complementarity of the activities of the Manila Plan of Action to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the East Asia Summit Development Initiative (2018-2022) to these two workplans.
5. We support the centrepiece of ASEAN recovery efforts, namely the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) which was adopted at the 37th ASEAN Summit in November 2020. To advance ACRF's initiatives, we reiterate to prioritise digital transformation of education systems by fostering digital skills and literacy, and 21st century skills and competencies among all children and young people, and by promoting ICT-enabled teaching and learning. In this regard, we emphasise the importance of sharing the best practices mutually among the EAS participating countries and highly appreciate the publication of

the ASED magazine featuring COVID-19 response and recovery plans by countries. We look forward to the support of EAS countries in realising these.

6. We commend Australia and New Zealand's long-standing and substantial contribution on the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework initiatives which serves as a catalyst for many significant reforms across ASEAN Member States' education and training systems including the development and implementation of national qualifications frameworks and underlying quality assurance and governance mechanisms.
7. We are pleased to note the positive development and on-going approval of the ASEAN-India Network of Universities Faculty Exchange Programme and look forward to its implementation in 2022. We reaffirm the importance of boosting student mobility and appreciate the continued support of the Peoples Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and the United States in providing scholarships and promoting quality-assured student mobility programmes in the region.
8. In response to the UNESCO World Conference on ESD held in May 2021, we recognise the importance of promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and reaffirm the importance of implementing various activities to achieve SDGs among EAS countries.
9. We reconfirm our commitment to achieving SDGs through education, with an emphasis on Global Citizenship Education (GCED) under emerging global crises, and support the Republic of Korea's initiatives on GCED in the EAS region. We also recognise ROK's continuous and effective contribution in TVET Model development through the EAS TVET knowledge and experience sharing network and in reducing skills gap among ASEAN Member States through its student and teacher mobility programme for vocational education institutes.
10. We recognise the increasing importance of collaborative efforts across sectors and highly encourage all participating EAS countries to continue to explore collaborations in implementing relevant programmes/projects/activities with emphasis on inclusive and quality primary, secondary and higher education including technical and vocational education and training.
11. We express our sincere appreciation to the Philippines for the effective chairmanship and excellent arrangements made in hosting the 5th EAS EMM, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, for their valuable support to the Meeting.
12. We further noted that the 6th EAS EMM will be hosted by Viet Nam in 2022.