



ASEAN DECLARATION ON THE ADOPTION OF THE ASEAN YOUTH IN CLIMATE ACTION AND DISASTER RESILIENCE DAY

WE, the Heads of States/Governments 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 (Lao PDR), 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 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore City, Singapore on 13 November 2018;

RECALLING previous ASEAN Joint Statements on Climate Change and ASEAN Leaders Statements on Climate Change to the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

RECALLING the commitments of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) that in addressing disaster risks, shall involve, as appropriate, all stakeholders including local communities, non-governmental organisations and private enterprises, utilizing, among others, community-based disaster preparedness and early response approaches.

REAFFIRMING the mandate of ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the vision of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025 of a disaster resilient ASEAN that is able to anticipate, respond, cope, adapt, and build back better, smarter and faster strategic measures, and a climate adaptive ASEAN;

NOTING that changing climatic conditions resulted in the rising of sea level, extreme weather events, climate-driven migration, changed river-flow, and climate-related food security risks;

NOTING FURTHER that climate change and disasters are serious and urgent concerns in Southeast Asia, being the most disaster-prone region in the world, because of its geography, location, and poverty situation, which may greatly affect its Member States estimated at 600 million population;

UNDERSCORING that the ASEAN has continuously helped in promoting cooperation and integration of climate policy among its Member States, and has repeatedly identified climate change as a priority issue through various statements such as the Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change (2010), ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (2012), and the Annual Joint Statements on Climate Change to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

REALIZING that the youth is an important sector as it comprises a third of the ASEAN's total population, and whose talents and skills may be utilized for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster resilience activities;

ACKNOWLEDGING the output of the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) 2017, encouraging the ASEAN youth to play a more active role to promote greater inclusiveness and tolerance towards achieving a peaceful, resilient, societies and for the well-being of ASEAN citizens, as well as the youth;

RECOGNIZING that ASEAN Senior Officials on Youth, namely, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam met for the #NowASEAN Conference 2017, and proposed to celebrate the ASEAN Youth in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience Day on November 25 of every year;

UNDERSCORING that the celebration shall promote awareness among the youth, and strengthen their responsible participation and significant representation in addressing climate change and disaster risks;

DO HEREBY:

1. Declare November 25 of every year as the ASEAN Youth in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience Day;
2. Affirm our commitment to encourage each ASEAN Member State to conduct activities and to provide a platform for participation and further local and regional collaboration among the ASEAN youth towards climate change consciousness and initiatives;
3. Pursue education and capacity development and strengthen youth participation in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction;
4. Commit to uniting and empowering young people and communities in climate action and disaster resilience by engaging advocates, and establishing partnerships at all levels through relevant and appropriate strategies consistent with ASEAN Member States' respective national interests;

WE TASK the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY), with the support of the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Youth (SOMY), and other relevant ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies to endeavor to faithfully commemorate young peoples' meaningful climate action in realizing this Declaration.

ADOPTED in Singapore, on this Thirteenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Eighteen in a single original copy, in the English language.
