



**JOINT STATEMENT OF  
THE TWELFTH ASEAN PLUS THREE LABOUR MINISTERS MEETING  
(12<sup>TH</sup> ALMM+3)**

**MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES**

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1. The 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting (12<sup>th</sup> ALMM+3) was held on 29 October 2022 in Manila, the Philippines and chaired by His Excellency Bienvenido E. Laguesma, Secretary of Labour and Employment of the Philippines.

**Exchange of Views on the 12<sup>th</sup> ALMM+3's Theme "Together as One: Reshaping the World of Work in the ASEAN Community Through Digitalized, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery and Growth"**

2. We shared knowledge and experiences in recovering labour markets from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic while adapting to the rapid transformation in the world of work due to technological advancement, digitalisation and greening of economies and ageing societies, among others. We were committed to attain our common goal of an inclusive and sustainable recovery and growth in our region that ensures decent work for all and supports the quality of life of the people. Opportunities for skills development, decent wages, employment and entrepreneurship should be accessible to all especially those living in poverty and rural areas, persons with disabilities, vulnerable women, older persons, low-skilled and informal workers, as well as other vulnerable groups.
3. We supported the three priorities during the Philippines' Chairmanship in 2022-2024 on promoting ICT and digitisation to narrowing the digital divide and exclusion; modernisation of agriculture for food security and employment growth; and efficient and inclusive human resources development.

**Status of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in Labour**

4. We acknowledged the COVID-19 pandemic's adverse impacts on the livelihoods and well-being of workers, more so the vulnerable groups, in our region. The adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Competitiveness, Resilience, and Agility of Workers by the ASEAN Leaders during the 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits last year served as a collective stand of the ASEAN labour sector to respond to the impact of double disruptions caused by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and COVID-19 pandemic with the engagement of the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders in building effective solutions. We expressed our appreciation to the Plus Three Countries for their continued cooperation and partnerships with ASEAN during the pandemic.

5. We underscored the importance of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on labour towards the long-term goal of building a resilient East Asia community, with ASEAN as the driving force. We noted with satisfaction the progress made in the SLOM+3 Work Plan 2021-2025. We reiterated our commitment to further promote human resources development (HRD), inclusive growth, sustainable development as a response to the ASEAN economic integration, social dialogue, and occupational safety and health in the workplace. Such priorities will support the attainment of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 as well as the development of the Post-2025 Community Vision.
6. We noted with appreciation the support of China in the implementation of the ILO-China Project on Strengthening Skills Development in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar through South-South and Triangular Cooperation. We noted the conduct of six training workshops on the unemployment registry for social security members using the labour market information systems on 19-30 July 2021 and the establishment of the TVET networks among Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and China TVET institutions in October 2021. The ASEAN Plus Three E-Forum on Skills Development was held on 20-21 September 2022 with the theme “Promoting Effective Policies Towards a Human-centered, Inclusive and Resilient Recovery: Improving Lifelong Learning Systems Allowing for Equitable Access to Training”. We looked forward to closer cooperation with China in the areas of HRD, occupational safety and health, social security of workers and employment, among others.
7. We appreciated the continuous support of Japan to the ASEAN projects, particularly in the implementation of the Follow-up Analysis of the ACMW Self-Assessment of the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML) Recommendations. Furthermore, we noted with appreciation the Phase 4 of the Promoting and Building Social Protection in Asia Project which aimed to extend social security coverage and improve the implementation of the insurance scheme and the linkage to employment services in the region. We noted the successful convening of the annual ASEAN-Japan High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) on Caring Societies on 30 October 2020 with the theme “Promoting Inclusive Society for the Children’s Future-Focusing on Support for Children with Developmental Disorders Including Autism Spectrum Disorders and Their Families” and on 9-10 December 2021 with the theme “Approaches to Maintaining Mental Wellbeing in Response to COVID-19”. We encouraged Japan to support ASEAN’s efforts in TVET to equip our people for the future world of work and 4IR disruptions.
8. We noted with appreciation the support of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to numerous ASEAN initiatives towards the advancement of skills development policies and skilled workforce, including the development and implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies to Promote Decent Work for All, the Study on Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Human Resources through Responsive TVET Curriculum Supported by Involvement of Industries and Labour Market Information, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Research and Development Platforms: Future of Work and Future of Education. We noted the successful convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ROK-ASEAN Policy Sharing Workshops in the Employment and Labor Sector on 26 March 2021 and 2 December 2021,

respectively, as well as the annual ASEAN+3 HRD Forum on 17 November 2020 with the theme “Skills Development and Employment During/After COVID-19: Reforms and Technology” and on 3 November 2021 with the theme “Towards Green, Resilient and Inclusive Growth: Building Back Better through Skills Development and Employment”. We looked forward to its continuity from 2022 onwards.

9. We agreed to collaborate in the area of entrepreneurship through enhancing cooperation and partnerships with business incubator institutions among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries, and providing capacity building and pilot projects in AMS focusing on promotion of green, sustainable entrepreneurship and digital skills.
10. We recognised the efforts of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) of Viet Nam and the support of the ROK for spearheading the development of the ASEAN Guideline on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies towards Decent Work for All which was adopted at the 26<sup>th</sup> ALMM in October 2020. We supported gender mainstreaming in four focus areas of the Guideline: employment promotion, decent working conditions, social protection and maternity, and international labour migration.
11. We expressed our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Philippines, particularly the Department of Labor and Employment, for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement of the 12<sup>th</sup> ALMM+3. We also expressed our appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for its technical support to the Meeting.
12. We agreed to meet again in 2024 under the 28<sup>th</sup> ALMM Chairmanship of Singapore.