



ASEAN STATEMENT ON PROMOTION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ACCELERATION OF AN AGILE CIVIL SERVICE IN A DIGITAL ECONOMY

WE, the Heads of Civil Service of Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN"), consisting 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 3rd ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Retreat in Bangkok, Thailand, on 23 August 2019;

RECALLING the purposes and principles of ASEAN as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, particularly on enhancement of good governance and development of human resources for empowerment of the peoples of ASEAN and for the strengthening of the ASEAN Community;

FURTHER RECALLING the aspiration to realise a rules-based, people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN as committed in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, adopted at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of creating a high performing and dynamic and people-oriented, people-centred civil service to support a prosperous and resilient ASEAN Community as committed in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on A People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN adopted at the 26th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 27 April 2015;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the significance of the civil service as the backbone of good governance, the national development, the regional integration, the ethical responsibility for public resources, public leadership and public relations as well as the commitment to further promote the roles of the civil service as agreed in the ASEAN Declaration on the Role of the Civil Service as a Catalyst for Achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 adopted at the 30th ASEAN Summit in Manila, the Philippines, on 29 April 2017;

REAFFIRMING the commitment to promote a culture of good governance at all levels as one of the thrusts fostering a culture of prevention as aspired in the ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society adopted at the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila, the Philippines, on 13 November 2017;

RESONATING the ASEAN Leaders' Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN adopted at the 32nd ASEAN Summit in Singapore on 28 April 2018; to build a resilient and innovative ASEAN that embraces both the challenges and the opportunities afforded by new technologies and innovation while building resilience against potential disruptive effects;

COGNISANT of the worldwide phenomenon of rapid digital transformation and disruptive technology which bring opportunities and challenges in the people's life and political-security, economic and socio-cultural dimensions of national development;

RECOGNISING that such phenomenon leads to an increasing public expectation for a civil service to be more ethical, professional, accountable, transparent, responsive, reliable, efficient, rule-based, participatory and all-inclusive;

ACKNOWLEDGING that it is imperative for ASEAN Member States to continuously enhance the capacities and capabilities of their civil service to maximize disruptive technology for the promotion of good governance and an agile civil service;

ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER the priorities of ASEAN, under the Chairmanship of the Kingdom of Thailand in 2019 with the theme “Advancing Partnership for Sustainability”, to capitalise on technology evolution, enhance competitiveness, promote partnerships with Dialogue Partners and the global community, and support sustainability in all dimensions;

DO HEREBY AGREE TO ENDEAVOR TO:

1. Accelerate the enhancement of capacities of the ASEAN civil service to be agile, efficient and people-centred in order to respond effectively to the era of disruptive technology by improving its policies, guidelines, processes, systems, organisations, human resource and change-ready mindsets;
2. Collaborate among the ASEAN civil service to support responsiveness to the impact of global technological and digital transformation and to encourage for greater innovations through various mechanisms, strategies, frameworks and platforms, notably:
 - i. Strengthening networks of cooperation, knowledge sharing and mutual assistance among ASEAN Member States through the initiatives of the ASEAN Resource Centres (ARCs) and ASEAN Network of Public Service Training Institutes (PSTIs) that promote upskilling and reskilling of civil servants and provide them with life-long opportunities;

- ii. Developing a framework for strategic partnerships with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, international organisations and other stakeholders to promote good governance and an agile civil service in the digital era;
3. Promote a culture of good governance and e-governance among civil servants at all levels and across public sector agencies in order to sustain prosperity and development of the ASEAN Community.

WE task the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) to undertake the necessary efforts and the effective implementation of the commitments contained in this Statement through concrete follow-up initiatives in the ACCSM Work Plan 2021-2025.

Done at Bangkok, Thailand, this Twenty Third Day of August in the Year Two Thousand and Nineteen, in a single original copy in the English language.

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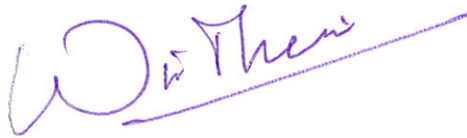
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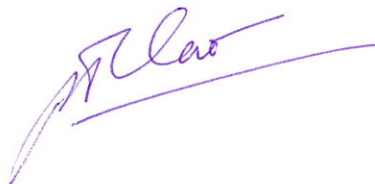
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