



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE FIFTH ASEAN PLUS THREE EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING

1 October 2021
Online and Manila, Philippines

1. The Fifth ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting (5th APT EMM) was held online on 1 October 2021 in conjunction with the 5th East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting (5th EAS EMM). The Meeting was preceded by the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Education (11th SOM-ED+3) held on 30 September 2021.
2. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Wilfredo E. Cabral, OIC-Undersecretary of the Department of Education, Philippines and H.E. Yoo Eun-Hae, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of the Republic of Korea. The meeting was attended by Ministers and Representatives responsible for Education of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Secretariat, were also in attendance.
3. We look forward to the assumption of chairmanship of Viet Nam and China of the ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting from 2022 to 2023 and the stronger partnerships between ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea as guided by the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education 2018–2025.
4. We support the theme of the Philippines' Chairmanship *Transforming Education the ASEAN Way: Forging Partnerships in the Age of Global Disruptions*. We recognise the profound impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our national education systems and regional education cooperation.
5. We reaffirm the role of APT cooperation in mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 in education and we appreciate the support and contribution of the Plus Three countries to ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's initiatives in education among others, the (1) adoption and on-going implementation of the APT Plan of Action 2018-2025; and (2) successful convening of the 8th Meeting of the Working Group on Student Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education amongst APT Countries.
6. To accelerate collaboration between ASEAN Plus Three regions and the higher education communities in Asia, we support the expansion of Campus Asia (Collective Action for Mobility Programme of University Students in Asia) starting

this fiscal year, to include participating countries from Plus Three and ASEAN.

7. We note with appreciation the substantive progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education 2018–2025. We commend the continued cooperation and commitments made by the ASEAN Plus Three countries to lead projects and activities under the Plan of Action.
8. We reiterate the need for an adaptive and enabling environment with supporting instruments that would facilitate student mobility with quality assurance among APT countries. In this regard, we look forward to the adoption of the Guide on Making Information Available Online to Promote Student Mobility in ASEAN Plus Three Region and the finalisation of the APT Joint Guidelines on the Institutional Provision for New Modes of Higher Education in the ASEAN Plus Three Region.
9. We reiterate the importance of substantial alignment between the work of the ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education 2018–2025 and the recently adopted ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021-2025 with the aim to ensure efficiency and synergies among various ASEAN education cooperation frameworks.
10. We value the contribution of scholarships to social and economic development. In this regard, we note with appreciation the report of the People's Republic of China on ASEAN-China Young Leaders Scholarship Programme, which through the scholarships and capacity building initiatives, has benefitted scholars, professionals and senior government officials since 2019.
11. We note with appreciation the report of the Republic of Korea on the Higher Education for ASEAN Talents (HEAT) Scholarships and Global Korea Scholarship for giving ASEAN students broader access to higher education. We also value its support on ASEAN student mobility through CAMPUS Asia and AIMS programme and the progress made on the development of the Joint Guideline on Institutional Provision for New Modes of Higher Education. In addition, we commend the government's long-standing support on e-learning through the ASEAN Cyber University Project and its contribution on Global Citizenship Education.
12. To promote people to people connection and enhance understanding and respect among ASEAN Plus Three countries, we commend the continuous support by the government of Japan on scholarship and exchange programmes to boost student mobility such as MEXT scholarship, ASIA KAKEHASHI Project and Sakura Science Exchange Programme as well as the establishment of ASEAN Corner in selected universities in ASEAN Member States. We also note with appreciation its support in advancing SDGs among ASEAN Plus Three countries through the regional programmes on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) such as the SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award, UNESCO Programme on ESD, and EDU-Port Japan.
13. We remain committed and look forward to continued collaborations between ASEAN Plus Three Countries, ASEAN University Network, and other relevant entities including the ASEAN TVET Council on programmes and initiatives that

contribute to the intended outcome of APT Plan of Action on Education 2018-2025 and the ASEAN Workplan on Education 2021-2025.

14. We express our sincere appreciation to the Philippines for the effective chairmanship and excellent arrangements made in hosting the 5th APT EMM, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, for its technical assistance to the Meeting.
15. We agree to meet again in 2022 at the 6th ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting under the Chairmanship of Viet Nam.

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