



ASEAN DECLARATION ON THE ADOPTION OF THE ASEAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

WE, the Heads of States or Governments representing the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (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, on the occasion of the 31st ASEAN Summit: in Manila, the Philippines;

REAFFIRMING the mandate of ASEAN Member States (AMS) since 2009 and the intention of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025 aimed at evaluating the outcomes and effectiveness of youth development programmes and policies in ASEAN;

REITERATING the continuing discussion of ASEAN Youth Development Index (ASEAN YDI) and with the persistence of the AMS through the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY), this initiative has become a major activity in the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020, which the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth agreed to pursue;

ACKNOWLEDGING that since the establishment of ASEAN, various efforts and initiatives fostering progress have already been at the centerpiece of its thrusts for development;

RECOGNIZING the important role of the youth in ASEAN and in consideration of the various thrusts and initiatives of ASEAN Member States (AMS);

NOTING that the youth's age range is a critical time for them to realize their capabilities through gainful and rewarding employment, education opportunities, health and well-being, and participation and engagement;

REALIZING the need to measure youth development in ASEAN as concrete basis in formulating youth policies and programmes through the creation of ASEAN YDI that defines the overall landscape of youth development and emphasizing the need for the collection of youth related data;

REALIZING further that the development of an ASEAN YDI has significant contribution to the need of ASEAN in profiling its youth and to determine areas that need greater attention and further investment;

COMMENDING the Task Force for the Development of ASEAN Youth Development Index under the leadership of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY), and in consultation with concerned ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, and other relevant stakeholders;

DO HEREBY:

1. Adopt the ASEAN Youth Development Index;
2. Affirm our commitment to sustain the initiatives on the ASEAN YDI through collection and management of youth data to be endorsed by the ASEAN Youth Development Index Task Force;
3. Pursue and provide all necessary support and assistance to realize the goals and objectives of the ASEAN Youth Development Index consistent with ASEAN Member States' respective national interests;
4. Promote the use of ASEAN YDI in the formulation of responsive and relevant policies and programmes that will address youth issues and concerns in our respective countries;
5. Encourage the provision of resources for the continuous expansion of opportunities for the youth informed by the results of implementation of the ASEAN YDI;

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 take necessary efforts to implement the ASEAN Youth Development Index, including mobilizing appropriate resources.

ADOPTED in Manila, the Philippines, on this Thirteenth Day of November in the year Two Thousand and Seventeen, in a single original copy, in the English language.