

ASEAN LEADERS' STATEMENT ON THE ASEAN CULTURAL YEAR 2019

WE, the Heads of State /Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the occasion of the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, Thailand;

GUIDED by the ASEAN Charter to promote an ASEAN identity through the fostering of greater awareness of the diverse culture and heritage of the region, and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 to realise a dynamic and harmonious community that is aware and proud of its identity, culture, and heritage, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 on working towards an Open and Adaptive ASEAN;

RECALLING the 2000 ASEAN Declaration on Cultural Heritage, the 2011 Declaration on ASEAN Unity in Cultural Diversity: Towards Strengthening ASEAN Community, the 2014 Hue Declaration on Culture for ASEAN Community's Sustainable Development, the 2016 Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Culture and the Arts to Promote ASEAN's Identity towards a Dynamic and Harmonious ASEAN Community, the 2016 Vientiane Declaration on Reinforcing Cultural Heritage Cooperation, and the 2018 Yogyakarta Declaration on Embracing the Culture of Prevention to Enrich the ASEAN Identity that put high emphasis on the protection and promotion of ASEAN cultural heritage and cultural diversity as well as the role of culture for sustainable development in building the ASEAN Community;

RECOGNISING the importance of strengthening the cooperation among ASEAN Member States for shared prosperity in the areas of mutual interest related to arts, culture, and creative industries;

COMMENDING the designation of the ASEAN Cultural Year 2019 by the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) at the 8th AMCA Meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in order to consolidate and strengthen regional cooperation in the cultural related areas and to bring the best of ASEAN to the global stage;

DO HEREBY AGREE TO:

- **PROCLAIM** 2019 the ASEAN Cultural Year, and all activities under the ASEAN Cultural Year 2019 to be conducted under the theme of Diversity, Creativity, and Sustainability;
- **PROMOTE** appreciation for ASEAN culture, respect for diversity and a greater sense of ASEAN identity;
- **PROMOTE** ASEAN culture internationally as a driver for creative industries, cultural tourism, and sustainable development;

- **SHOWCASE** ASEAN culture in the form of possible modalities for implementation such as (i) expansion of existing ASEAN cultural projects, (ii) exhibition of ASEAN tangible and intangible cultural heritage in global events/forums i.e. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM), International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA), etc., (iii) ASEAN cultural roadshow/exhibition outside ASEAN, (iv) cooperation among culture centres and institutions in ASEAN and dialogue partners, and (v) national or international events;
- **ENCOURAGE** dialogue partners and invite relevant external parties as well as private sectors to facilitate and support the possible modalities for implementation under the ASEAN Cultural Year 2019;
- **SUPPORT** the operation of the ASEAN Cultural Center in Bangkok, an interactive learning center on ASEAN culture, to promote dialogue and cooperation with similar centres and institutions in ASEAN Member States, and to further strengthen cooperation with culture centres and institutions of dialogue partners; and
- **TASK** AMCA and other relevant ASEAN bodies to provide necessary support for the implementation of this Statement for the success of the ASEAN Cultural Year 2019;

ADOPTED in Bangkok, Thailand, this Twenty-Second day of June in the year Two Thousand Nineteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.